

Fingering Priscilla

To the Editor:

Last Tuesday as I was coming out of the YWCA downtown I noticed a car parked in front of the building that had two stickers on the back: one said "I ♥ Babies Born & Unborn" and the other "Abortion: the cruelest form of child abuse." Sort of struck me as being odd that someone with those stickers would be hanging out at the "Y". I kind of got a little jolt of memory of seeing that car around before.

Anyway, as I'm fixing to head on down the road, a woman started walking toward the car. I thought I'd get a good look at the kind of person who would be having those stickers, and I noticed she was the same woman that had been going in as I was going out. In other words she hadn't been "hanging out" at all, but was being brisk about her business.

She was kind of middle aged with kind of long bleached out looking blonde hair and blood red lipstick. She was wearing a blue kind of denim looking skirt and a frilly blouse buttoned up to her neck. She's maybe 5 feet 2 or 3 inches tall, slight of build, and wears round glasses. Under one arm as she fumbled with her keys was a whole stack of *Just Out* newspapers.

Now, being able to put 2+2 together fairly quickly (I didn't go to junior high for five years for nuthin'), I said, "Hey, where you goin' with all those papers?" She pretended to ignore me, but I could tell by the way her back tightened up that she heard me. So I walked over to her and said, "Hey, I said where do you think you're going with those papers?"

She looked up with an expression of concealed guilt and said, "I'm taking them to a meeting." "No doubt," I thought, with visions of Naziesque book burnings (in lieu of witches and faggots) immediately jumping up.

"Don't give me that," I said. "You're stealing those."

"They're free and I can take as many as I want," she kind of croaked.

"You know what I mean," I said. "Somebody with those stickers on their car isn't into reading gay periodicals. You're ripping them off."

By this point she had got the door open and threw the papers into the back seat, which I noticed was completely full of more *Just Outs* and some other papers which I couldn't make out.

"Well, I'm getting your license number," I said.

"You don't scare me," she squeaked.

"Okay," I said, "I'm not trying to scare you. I'm just letting you know that I'm on to your little scam and I've got your number."

"Besides," she said as she started up and drove away, "it's not even my car."

Well, I got the plate number — CDL 273 — and went on down to the motor vehicles division where for two dollars they ran a printout on it. It's a '75 Plymouth registered to Norman R. Prickett (No kidding!), 3823 NE 24th Ave., Portland, OR 97212. (288-2821)

I told the receptionist at the YWCA what was going on and also told the woman who works back where the newspapers, etc., are. She said she had noticed



that a new stack brought in earlier was all gone. I noticed, too, that a flyer for the Lesbian Art Movement had been torn off the wall and left lying on the floor.

I guess the logic of denying the public access to your publication (and others) is that of trying to make everyone else as ignorant as they are. Whether this is a systematic campaign or the crusade of one lone, warped individual bears some further investigation.

I just thought I'd share this experience with you.

A sporadic reader.

Ed. note: The person described has been identified as Priscilla Martin. Priscilla is one of the ringleaders of the terrorist group Concerned Citizens of Portland, Concerned Women of America; she has been active in anti-gay and anti-choice terrorism for several years.

"Jonah's continues active support for minority rights," says founder

To The Editor:

I would like to respond to Kerry Hart's letter to the editor as printed in the June, 1987 issue of *Just Out*.

Since Jonah's Restaurant was established in 1977, we have been very active supporters of minority rights. We have supported many organizations, giving literally thousands of dollars to various groups and organizations. We began with our support of the old Portland Town Council. We have donated goods, services and money to Metropolitan Community Church of Portland, the Portland Gay Men's Choir, the Civil Liberties Union, Radical Women, Cascade AIDS Project and Phoenix Rising, to name a few. We have also financially supported local, state and federal politicians who have been strong supporters of individual liberties and human rights. We have supported all of the new publications that have appeared in the Portland area, such as the old Cascade Voice, *Just Out* and *City Open Press*,

with advertisements. We supported them (and put our money where our mouth was) because we believed so strongly in individual freedoms and liberties for all people; gays, blacks, lesbians, hispanics, etc.

My partner, Jim, died in late 1985 and it was shortly thereafter that it became necessary for me to sell Jonah's Restaurant. I was concerned that whoever purchased Jonah's would carry on the same positive traditions of non-discrimination. And, I feel very comfortable that this has been accomplished with the new ownership. Many of the present staff and management are the same individuals who began with Jonah's in 1977. Although I am no longer the President of the Corporation, I have an interest in making certain that Jonah's continues with its positive human rights policies.

Ms. Hart's letter is full of inaccuracies. First, she states that upon transfer of ownership, she was fired without warning or explanation. This is totally untrue. PRIOR to the transfer of ownership, while I was still the owner, I personally discharged Kerry Hart. I explained to her why I was terminating her employment. It had nothing, whatsoever, to do with her sexuality or sexual preference. She may or may not have been the only lesbian on the staff at that time. I made it a point of not delving into a person's sexual preference. But I do know that over the years we have had lesbians (other than Kerry Hart) blacks, gays, women, hispanics, transsexuals, etc., employed with our organization. For Kerry Hart to indicate otherwise, is an insult!

It is also not true, as she states in her letter, that a gay/black on the staff was forced to quit under duress. It is also not true that at least one gay waiter quit before he could be fired. Nor is it true that two others were refused jobs because of their sexual preference.

Jonah's Restaurant has had a very strong history of support for minorities and has had a non-discrimination policy towards customers and employees since they opened their doors for business in 1977. Our past record speaks for itself. Along with other minorities, Jonah's has strongly supported the lesbian and gay community for many years, and I believe it deserves the continued support of the lesbian and gay community now. Thank you.

Jack Strejc
Founder and Past President
Jonah's Restaurant, Inc
Portland

Reaching out of the closet really works

Just Out received the following in response to "Pride in the Process" by Suda Neame (Just Out June 1987):

Hi GF-Suda,

Few ever get a sincere "Thank you!!" I want to say "thanks" for your definition of a closet homosexual (CH). I, too, am struggling with the self, the homosexual self.

Your article encouraged me to join my

fellow lesbian sisters in an outing. Thanks to *Just Out*, they are listed in abundance.

Keep up the thoughtful writing; you are appreciated. Thanks [from] a normal closet homosexual learning to fly in the night.

SWCH

Outdated AIDS memorial needs overhaul

To the editor:

The 1987 Lesbian and Gay Pride Program includes a memorial from the Cascade AIDS Project. The memorial reads as follows:

"To the 107 men who have died since 1983 of AIDS. To some of us, they are perfect strangers; to others, they are dear friends, loved and missed. We hold their memory in trust and can use the circumstances of their loss to fuel our own determination to survive. We are learning to treat each other with new levels of compassion, and opening new and safer doors to sexual expression. We are recognizing, as young men, our own vulnerabilities, making it easier for us to offer a caring hand to our brothers in need. By demonstrating our affection for each other, we honor the memory of our lost gay brothers. Let us continue to honor them by showing our unique and personal abilities to give."

In the year that I have become acquainted with CAP, I have learned that CAP focuses its services on gay men — a focus necessary in light of the rampant homophobia in the world. A focus CAP manages well. I have also learned that many women are involved with CAP — women on staff, on the Board of Directors, and in large numbers, as volunteers.

When I read CAP's memorial for Lesbian and Gay Pride, I was surprised to find that it is the same as was used last year (and the year before?). Only the numbers have been changed. While it is full of meaning and heart, couldn't we honor those who have suffered with a new memorial? What really disturbs me is that CAP (in this memorial) represents itself as an agency of "young men." What about the older men who give CAP part of its success? And, more so for me, what about all of the women who work so hard for CAP?

The memorial focuses only on men who have died, and specifically, gay men who have died. Don't get me wrong, I know that the majority of people who have died from AIDS in Oregon were gay men. But just for the sake of inclusiveness, let's add here that three of the four women with AIDS in our state have already died.

There are, absolutely, many women who are working extraordinarily hard in the fight against this disease — some of them work for CAP. And some of them get harassed by other women for doing the work they do.

Could the memorial be rewritten next year so that it would reflect the entire spectrum represented by CAP?

Mimi Luther
Women & AIDS Coalition
Portland