

Health Care Powers of Attorney addendum

To the Editor:

A big vote of thanks to Donna Meyer and Just Out for Donna's article on the new Health Care Powers of Attorney. Every lesbian and gay person should know about these and should get one. I am one of a number of lawyers who have been drawing up our own version of medical care powers of attorney; in my case, for 11 years. Before the recent statute, we simply drew up our forms and talked with the doctors and medical care providers to see what they would honor.

I think it is very important that people be aware that the new statute may very well have invalidated all of the previous medical authorizations that were drawn up. The new statute provides that a Health Care Power of Attorney is only effective if it is witnessed by two people and accepted in writing by the person named in the Power of Attorney, in a format that is set out by the statute. In my experience, the old medical authorizations and Health Care Powers of Attorney that every (or almost every) lawyer in this area drew up prior to the legislature passing this statute, did not meet these requirements. If you got a Medical Authorization or Health Care Power of Attorney before October of this year, you should check it over and talk to your attorney to see whether it is still valid.

People using the new Health Care Powers of Attorney should also be aware that they are only good for seven years. They expire at the end of that time, unless you become incapacitated before then, and your incapacity extends past the seven-year date. Then they expire once you regain your capacity. We all need to remember to mark our calendars for this seven-year itch.

Thanks to Just Out for getting the word out so fast.

Cynthia Cumfer
Attorney at Law
Portland

Ubiquitous Just Out encouraging to reader

To the Editor:

It is encouraging to see Just Out popping up in some of the most unexpected places here in Portland including church literature racks — yeah, can you beat that — inside of churches, and the ceilings didn't cave in, much to the surprise, I'm sure, of several of the parishioners. I suspect it is finding its way into churches by some of your more supportive readers.

Prior to coming out of the closet about three years ago, I had lived in the straight world for forty years, and had been involved extensively with many churches and thousands of "Christians." I put that word in quotes as many can be referred to by name only, and certainly not by their so-called activities — all of which they justify in the name of their Christ. Any resemblance of their homophobic attitude and beliefs to the Master's teachings of love, charity and compassion is, as they say in the movies, purely coincidental! And their ignorance about gays and lesbians, which some so steadfastly maintain, would suggest that their I.Q.s fall somewhere around that of a boiled cabbage.

Nevertheless, in all fairness, I am deeply impressed with the ever-growing number of good straight Christian people who earnestly would like to know more about the gay world, but just don't know quite how to go about asking.

Yesterday, while riding MAX, I noticed a well-dressed gentleman reading a copy of Just Out which he had concealed on top of the stock quotation page of the Wall Street Journal. The poor guy was sure panting hard. Mmmmm...the stock prices must have been reflecting a bull market. I had to chuckle to myself as it brought back memories of when I was a kid of 12 down at the small town drug store, viewing a copy of Playboy magazine that I had neatly stuffed inside the cover of Field and Stream. (Sorry guys, they didn't have Play Girl back then, and my latent heterosexual tendencies sometimes surfaced.) I'm sure the druggist thought to himself that he had never known a more avid reader of Field and Stream as I returned almost every day to devour it. However, I don't think he ever quite figured out (having an I.Q. of a boiled turnip — 10 points lower than a boiled cabbage) why I kept turning Field and Stream on end to read it.

Back to my main theme, I do know of some of the more open-minded churches in Portland that would not object to having your publication in their church building if it were not for the semi-nude male photos and phone numbers for gay sex. I can respect their feelings as most congregations consist of young children, and parents do not want them exposed to any type of sexual material at their young age. Why not print the classifieds on a section that can be easily removed from the remainder of your newspaper. We need to acknowledge the reality that publications with sexually explicit photos are not going to find their way into church buildings. By having the classifieds in a section that can easily be slipped out, I'm sure Just Out will find its way in some churches without the deletion of the otherwise excellent news articles and stories. I understand that some other gay publications are already doing this, and I would encourage Just Out to follow suit.

Being that some of the vilest bigotry and homophobia comes from religious groups, we need to enlighten the minds of their members more about the gay and lesbian communities. Once they turn away from their homophobic fears, they would find that we are ladies and gentlemen just like the rest of the world, well, almost like the rest of the world. After all, we all know that a closeted gay gentleman is a guy that takes his lady friend out to dinner three times before he propositions her brother.

Jim Shurtliff
Portland

Carbon copy

William McCormick
Owner, Jake's Restaurant
401 SW 12th Avenue
Portland, OR 97205

Re: October 6, 1989 Discrimination Against Potential Customers

Dear Mr. McCormick:

It has been my pleasure as a hometown Portlander to entertain friends at Jake's and to recommend the seafood and chocolate truffle cake there for several decades. That is now history, I am sorry to say.

On the evening of Friday, October 6, 1989, five of my friends who were in town for the National Leather Association's Fourth Annual Living in Leather Conference went to Jake's to treat their dinner palates. Earlier in the day, during the course of my work, I had recommended Jake's to some new business

associates for happy hour, as is my custom when so queried. I haven't heard back from my new associates, so assume they had the good time people customarily have at Jake's. Unfortunately, I cannot say the same for my out-of-town friends.

My friends were turned down summarily at the door, with a comment to the effect of, "Please, not here." My friends are good, clean, honest, hard-working people, with money to spend when they travel. They were given no explanation for this refusal of service. They may have been dressed more creatively than your regular customers, but that is a credit to them; intolerance toward that is a deficit to the eye of the beholder. They were wearing the garb of our tribe, and they have earned the right to do so by walking with dignity through great soul-searching as to their personal identity, and refusing to be stifled by minds and hearts much smaller than their own.

It has been difficult for many minorities in Oregon to feel good about ourselves since the passage of Ballot Measure 8 last fall. The blessing of bigotry sent out by that Measure is reaffirmed with each incident of discrimination such as that dealt by your employees to my friends last week. My friends now know a new meaning of: "Oregon — Things are Different Here."

Respectfully submitted,
Susie Shepherd, International Ms. Leather
1989
Portland

cc: Oregon Commissioner of Labor & Industries Mary Wendy Roberts
Portland Chamber of Commerce
Willamette Week
Just Out

Recycled paper markets needed

To the Editor:

I was glad to see that you are now printing Just Out on recycled paper. The success of recycling programs has created a glut in the marketplace; a ton of paper that once sold for a high of \$75 is now fetching \$10. As a result small, independent recyclers are in jeopardy. At this point it's necessary to create markets for recycled paper.

The United Community Action Network has filed an initiative petition in Multnomah County that would require newspapers to use recycled paper in their newsprint. They can be contacted at 1308 SE 36th, Suite A, Portland, OR 97214 (232-8859). As consumers we need to ask for recycled packaging and products at stores, and paper at printshops. Two resources I've found that carry recycled household and office papers are: Seventh Generation, 10 Farrel St., South Burlington, VT 05403 and Earth Care Paper Co., P.O. Box 3335, Madison, WI 53704.

Thanks again for being in the forefront on this and using recycled paper.

Laurie Todd
Portland

Editor's note: Individuals interested in using recycled paper for typing, copying, printing, and computer use may contact Cheryl Welch at 230-0436 who will coordinate large purchases at lower prices.

Producing one ton of paper from discarded waste paper uses half the energy, half the water, results in 74% less air pollution and 35% less water pollution, saves 17 pulp trees, reduces solid waste going to landfills, and creates five times more jobs compared to producing a ton of paper from virgin wood pulp. From Earth Care Paper, Inc., Sept. 1989.

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