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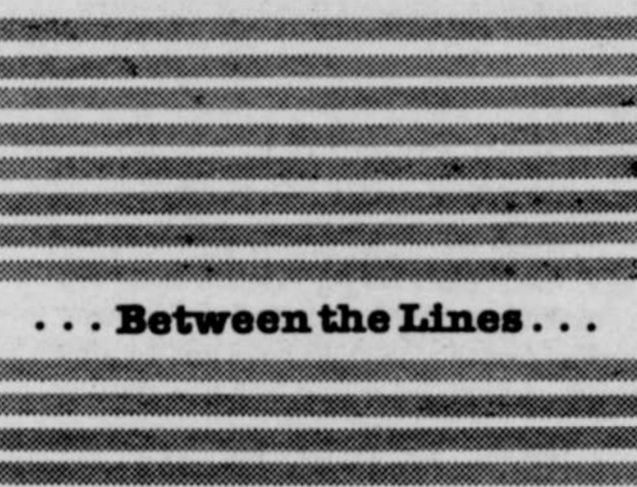
Over the past several years I had grown clairvoyant of telephone calls from Jay Brown. Somehow I knew when Jay was on the other end of a jangling phone; usually about two days before copy deadline.

But Jay's last call to my office didn't mention anything about getting off my ass and putting another column together. We just talked about things in general, and then he paused for a second or two between labored breaths and said "Jack, just keep on doin' what you are doin'."

And then we said our good-byes. It would be Jay's last phone call to me.

Thanks, Jay. You were a great editor and inspiration to me. You never told me what I should or could not write. And when one of my items ruffled some feathers or attracted attention from the established media, you were the first to call with congratulations.

Even though that phone won't be ringing again, I'll just keep on doin' what I'm doin'.



BY JACK RILEY

Can a gay or lesbian cop hurdle tests and background checks?

The Portland Police Bureau has a rare opportunity to add more women and minorities to its force when 100 new vacancies are filled in the next few months.

But while there are sizeable numbers of women and minorities among the 2,000 applicants, how many will be able to hurdle the psychological and background checks, especially if the candidate is openly gay or lesbian?

Are such checks skewed in favor of "normal" heterosexual behavior? Will background checks reveal involvement in gay organizations and activities?

As a recent Oregonian editorial pointed out, "This is not merely a matter of making jobs available to minorities; it is a matter of giving the police force officers who are able to relate to the wide variety of citizens with whom they must deal.

Government pushes "clean art" loyalty oath

In months to come, hundreds of writers and other artists whose work is funded through the National Endowment for the Arts will be forced to sign anti-obscenity agreements before cashing their checks.

The clause alerts the recipients that no NEA money may fund art that is "obscene," as outlined by last year's controversial legislation. The legislation defines obscene as "including but not limited to depictions of children, or individuals engaged in sex acts."

Those who have received the forms so far (mostly writers) say they are confused as to exactly what it means, vis-a-viz anything they wrote in the past or anything they write in the future being held against them.

The inclusion of "homosexualism" in Congress' definition of obscenity has naturally upset many gay artists, despite federal assurances that the legislation protects work deemed to have artistic merit.

This guy's no Lenny Bruce

He calls himself "the most vulgar, vicious comic ever to walk the face of the earth," and as far as I am concerned the title is his.

Andrew Dice Clay, one of the most popular standup comics today, is a swaggering tough guy in a rhinestoned leather jacket emblazoned with "Dice Rules." His verbal target is anything and everything that challenges white heterosexual male dominance. "I pick on everything," he admits.

As New York Times critic Jon Pareles observed, "Mr. Clay's persona, a kind of X-rated Archie Bunker, could be amusing in small doses. But as he lashes out against women, gays, the Japanese or anyone else who would seem to stand in the way of his gratification, his popularity shows that others identify with that anger, whether he intends to exorcise or stoke it."

Ironically, I got my first dose of Dice at a gay video bar in Portland (Boxx's to be exact) and the house was eating up his every word. Sorry the tape never got to his especially caustic remarks about gays.

Johnny Ray was openly gay

When pop 50s singer Johnny Ray died recently, we read a great deal about his meteoric rise to fame out of a small town in Oregon to some of the biggest showhouses in America. For a fleeting instant, he was on top of the charts.

What we didn't read in the Oregonian was that Johnny Ray was gay...and somewhat open about it. A recent issue of the Bay Area Reporter shows Ray and longtime friend and BAR columnist Wayne Friday out on the town just a few months before his death.

Six arrested over anti-gay housing policy

Six students at the University of California at Irvine were arrested recently for protesting against the university's denial of allowing gay and lesbian couples to live in family dormitories.

About 100 students blocked a door at a noon rally, but most left after two warnings from campus police. The demonstration organizers said the blockade was symbolic of nontraditional couples being "locked out" of campus housing.

Students and administrators said the rally was so planned that police already knew whom they were going to arrest and had finished most of the paperwork before the protests started.

The protest followed an ultimatum last month to Chancellor Jack Peltason from a student group called the Shantytown Committee. It demanded that the university recognize domestic gay relationships and hire openly homosexual teachers.

The six will be arraigned April 7th.

The Supreme Court: not for drag queens

A poll recently released by the National Law Journal reveals that Americans are generally ignorant about the US Supreme Court. For instance, less than one in four know how many justices serve on the high court and nearly two-thirds are unable to name a single one.

The poll of 805 Americans was designed to test the public's understanding of the court and Americans' views of leading court issues.

Interestingly enough, the poll found that two-thirds of those surveyed believed homosexual acts among consenting adults should be protected by privacy rights.

Also, 53 percent of those questioned said the present Supreme Court has not done enough to help women and minorities fight discrimination.

House Party is anti-gay

The hit movie *House Party* is a lot of laughs. Billed as a black version of *Animal House*, this movie has it all: dancing, music, comedy, goodlooking actors.

The only problem is that a lot of that laughter is at another minority's expense. As Oregonian film critic Ted Mahar wrote, "The film seems to go out of its way to include anti-gay humor."

We could use some Act-Up pickets down at the KOIN Center Cinemas where it is currently showing.

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