

Oregon Arts Commission funded lesbian's work

To the Editor,

In the May 1990 issue of *Just Out* you printed Carolyn Gage's article on the Oregon Arts Commission's lack of support for gay and lesbian work. She wrote: "I know lesbian women with grants from the OAC, but not for work about lesbians. This would be as oppressive as black or native American artists having to write proposals for projects that did not touch on their experiences in their own cultures." Carolyn went on to imply that male panelists were likely to turn down work by and about lesbians for funding.

In 1985, the OAC awarded me an Individual's Artist's Fellowship to complete *The Riverhouse Stories*, a work that is quite obviously about two women in love, and a portion of which I submitted as part of the proposal. The panel consisted of three men. I believe Carolyn and the person she spoke with on the Commission who could not name projects by lesbians funded by the OAC are not fully informed.

When discrimination occurs, I get angry too, but I don't generally expect it from people who serve on panels for the arts. I am writing this letter to encourage other women to step forward with other work and not expect it either. Lesbian or not, it seems to me they have a chance at funding through the OAC.

Andrea Carlisle
Portland

Appreciation and pride

To the Editor,

By now we hope that you are aware that the 1990 Starlight Parade Queen's Award went to the Lesbians and Gays of Oregon Float. We would like to thank the many individuals, organizations and businesses that made this a reality.

The individuals who made financial contributions were many and to protect their right to privacy, we will not publish their names. The organizations which contributed either financially or through other means include the Equity Foundation, Lesbian Community Project, Metropolitan Community Church, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays and Portland Gay Men's Chorus.

We received financial or in-kind support from the following businesses: Studio Concepts, Café Mocha, the Embers, the Fish Grotto, Old Wive's Tales, Kopy Kats Printing, Spinster Textiles, Starkey's, *Just Out*, the *Lavender Network*, and Frank Adams Wholesale Florist. We thank each of you for all of your contributions.

A special thank you is given to the Portland Rose Festival Association and its many supportive employees.

We also must remember that the success of the 1990 entry would not have been possible without the historic and groundbreaking float of the 1989 Starlight Parade. We thank those of you involved in 1989 for your courage and leadership.

The Lesbian and Gay
Starlight Float Committee

Minor or "minor"

To the Editor,

I would like to express my concern about an article you printed in the June edition of *Just Out*. Dell Richards wrote an article in your Just News section that spoke of several people being charged with the intentional spreading of AIDS.

While homosexual angles to hard news stories are rarely seen in the media, I took strong offense to one of Richards' sentiments. Halfway through the story, Richards called a 15-year-old contractee of the AIDS virus a "minor." Please pay particular attention to my punctuation.

Richards placed the word "minor" in quotations, alluding that it is her belief, or *Just Out's*, that a 15-year-old is not a minor. I would like to remind Richards that regardless of the state, the gender, or the sexual orientation, if you are under 18 years of age in America, you are a minor.

If this was a typographical error, I certainly understand. However, if Richards and *Just Out* feel that a 15-year-old should be considered an adult, you should rethink the maturity level of your own publication.

John Stacey
Portland

Dell Richards replies: *The question of sex with minors is a touchy one in the gay community—one we haven't begun to deal with yet.*

Although I understand, appreciate and agree with Stacey's point, I also see that juvenile boys who want to experiment sexually—as all teenagers do—have almost no outlets for sex in our society. Telling their friends would be tantamount to suicide, so

they turn to older boys—and men.

While I do not approve of the exploitation of street kids in the sex industry—and feel strongly that gays need to be speaking out on this issue and not using underage prostitutes—I do feel that there is a grey area of gay teen sexuality that we have not yet begun to address.

Despite the laws, this area is neither black and white nor easily solvable, particularly given the reprehensible stereotype of homosexuals as child molesters that heterosexuals project onto us.

Broad-based coalition is way to go in Portland

To the Editor,

It is clear to myself and others in Portland, that it is time for a change. It is time for open lines of communication, solidarity and alliance with all groups and all individuals that are interested in fighting for and protecting civil, human and political rights, no matter what our agendas are or what our differences may be.

ACT UP's efforts along with Coalition for Human Dignity, Lesbian Community Project, SHARP (Skin Heads Against Racial Prejudice), Anti Racist Action (ARA) and other community-based Portland groups have taken a stand on just that and have formed a coalition to address these and other issues with which Portland and its surrounding areas are faced.

The strong message that should be heard from this is: We are here in numbers, we are here to stay. Portland is ready for a new kind

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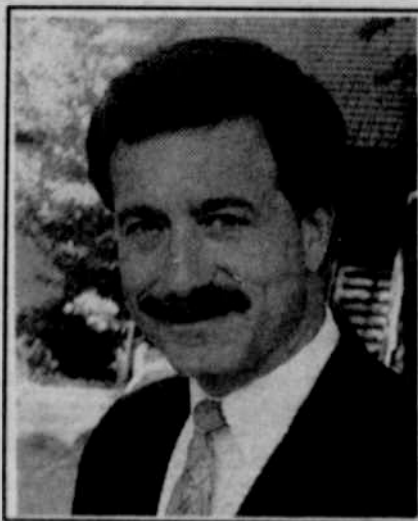
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