

L E T T E R S

their families were supportive or made the loss feel worse.

Recovery is the focus. Besides the obvious actions as going to therapy, I am looking for the little tricks lesbians might have found. Anything that helps one get through loss is pertinent.

I am asking writers to type their stories if possible and double space them. The maximum length is 15 pages, but they can be much shorter. I'd like a copy, not the original. Stories should be sent to Anita Pace, PO Box 57795, Sherman Oaks, CA 91413. The deadline is October 31.

Anita Pace
Sherman Oaks, California

LGP accused

To the Editor,

For Lesbian and gay Pride 1990 a forum "Lesbians of Color: Frontrunners for Freedom" featuring three dynamic speakers—native American activist Dian Million, black lesbian feminist LaVerne Lewis and organizer in the black gay community, Kebo Drew—was sponsored by Radical Women and the Freedom Socialist Party.

Much of the gay community did not know about this forum however, because the LGP Committee left this information off of its press release. Sharon Hill would not give permission to announce this forum at the June 16 LGP rally. Thanks to emcee Carol Steinell's democratic principles, the forum was finally announced.

A \$35 check from Radical Women was cashed by LGP '90 for an ad to run in the LGP program that stated "Lesbian and gay liberation through socialist feminist revolution, by

Radical Women and the Freedom Socialist Party." The ad was never run. A telephone call demanding an explanation and a refund remains unanswered.

We protest this treatment of lesbians of color, of Radical Women (RW) and of the Freedom Socialist Party (FSP). We demand that LGP Inc. immediately assure access to LGP publicity and publications to all groups in the lesbian and gay community and to all who support gay rights. We demand an apology to the lesbian and gay communities of color and to RW and the FSP for their systematic exclusion from LGP '90 publications and publicity; and a prompt refund to Radical Women of the \$35 ad fee.

LGP Committee does not own Portland lesbian and gay pride. They are accountable to the community to handle the job fairly, ensuring access to the entire movement. They must put into practice the phrase "Unity in Diversity" for the whole community.

Jordana Sardo, Michelle Merchant, Maureen C. Higgins, Adrienne Weller, Dian Million, Eric Borgerson, Micheal MacKillop, Rene Chauvin, T. Kebo Drew, Cari Anderson, Kristin Jagelski, Carol L. Steinell

Debbie Counts of Lesbian and Gay Pride replies: *First off, I would like to extend my apologies, as a member of LGP to Radical Women for the misplacement of their advertisement. It was definitely not intentional, and you should have received your refund by now. As for the announcement at the rally, Sharon Hill says that she only requested that the information be written out as it was to be read, rather than read off the flyer. The purpose was to streamline things, not to discriminate against Radical Women.*

Hill stated in her speech opening the rally that "without groups such as Radical Women

and ACT UP we wouldn't be having this event." We have never denied any group a voice, unless their statement was homophobic, racist, sexist, ageist or ablist, and we never will.

We do not own Lesbian and Gay Pride—it is a community event run by volunteers. These volunteers begin working in January to put together an event that people look forward to—a party for 5,000. This year there were less than 10 people working on this, most of those were part-timers.

The meetings were well publicized and open to any member of the community, not just those who support the status quo. If you truly believe that your voice was not represented, I invite you to join us. We'd love to have your help.

Corrections

The lesbian and gay float in the Starlight Parade (*Just Briefs*, July 1990 issue) is not the only gay-identified float in a mainstream parade. For the past five to six years a gay float has been sponsored in the "Eugene Celebration" which is held in September.

The Pride of the Rose Scholarship was said to have awarded 19 people, \$8,000 (*Just Briefs*, July 1990 issue). In fact, they have awarded 19 people \$18,000 towards their college education.

Photo credit due Kathy Bambeck for the photo of Donna Redwing holding the Starlight Float award. (*Steppin' Out*, July 1990)

In Memoriam

Amani Jabari
aka, Hal Holt, Jr.

June 6, 1948-July 22, 1990

Amani Jabari, died Sunday, July 22 of complications arising from AIDS. He was 42.

A longtime activist, Amani founded Black Lesbians and Gays United, People of Color United Against AIDS, the Oregon Minority AIDS Coalition.

Amani was involved on many levels within the lesbian and gay community and he will be greatly missed.

In Memoriam

Mike Austin

March 15, 1952-July 11, 1990

He died with strength, dignity, love and grace at 7:15 a.m., July 11.

Mike lived with AIDS for over three years. Throughout, he taught those around him how to live with courage, hope and a loving heart.

He also worked as a lawyer at Bonneville Power Administration and subsequently at the Public Power Council during this time. He advised gay activists on legal options should they be arrested. He worked on the board of the Episcopal HIV Task Force, helping to bring about a greater understanding about what it was like to live with AIDS. He spoke to high school students about AIDS as well.

Mike was a man who has made a lasting impact on those he has met. He has made a difference and, we, his friends, family and partner Jim Hanches, love him. Mike Austin was a special friend of mine.

—Aspen

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