

Just Out travels to the Soviet Union

To the Editor,

My name is Yuriy. I am from the Soviet Union. I live in Khabarovsk, which is situated in the Far East, I hope, you know this city.

Recently I was lucky to read your newspaper and I liked it very much. Unfortunately I've read only two issues, but they both struck me for their openness and culture.

I was deeply impressed by the high intellectual level of the newspaper.

And the only wish I had while reading your newspaper was to find friends among the readers of the newspaper, to learn more about the life in the USA.

So I have a request.

Will you help me to find friends in the USA.

If it is possible, please help me. The more friends I shall have, the happier I'll be. But please, don't publish my name and my address. It's easier to be more sincere with people who are alike.

So, I hope for the best.

A bit of information about me: I am 23, I am a student.

Please help me to find friends of any ages and professions. Thank you in advance. I wish you all the best.

Name and address withheld as requested

Editor's note: Anyone wishing to write to our friend in the Soviet Union may do so by sending their letters to Just Out. We will forward all mail to him.

Replace Helms with Gantt

To the Editor,

1990 will surely be remembered for the activities of several individuals in our nation's Senate who are pushing our nation backward. The leader of this movement is Jesse Helms of North Carolina, and it is time for him to be voted out of office. Therefore, I urge all readers of Just Out to send contributions to Helms' opponent, Harvey Gantt. Write to:

Gantt for Senate
700 East Stonewall, Suite 500
Charlotte, NC 28202

Even though this is not a local race, it is a national race to stop the censoring activities of Helms and his cronies. More than artists and musicians are affected by this, and it is not just about freedom of expression: it is about our freedom of choice. Please send whatever you can!

E. Wright
Portland

Ancient sexual practices poor guide for today

To the Editor,

Rabbi Geller's recent letter (Jewish Review, July 1990) condemning gay and lesbian sexual

practices was a disappointment. He quotes from the Torah to show that halachac law forbids homosexual activity. He further states that the Torah's authors were "specifically referring to homosexuality as practiced in those [ancient biblical] cultures."

We in the Portland Chapter of New Jewish Agenda know next to nothing about ancient sexual practices. We leave such knowledge to competent archaeologists.

Our concern is with contemporary sexual practices. New Jewish Agenda is convinced that modern gays and lesbians can have sanctified relationships filled with love, reason and compassion. Angry words written about what Canaanites did three thousand years ago are a poor guide to understanding and repairing today's world.

We praise the Reform movement for its recent stand permitting the ordination of gays and lesbians. The moral basis of this decision was presented recently in the Jewish Review, by Rabbi Rose. His logic was irrefutable.

Stew Albert
for the NJA steering committee
New Jewish Agenda
Portland

In memory of a planet

I saw her again today. I actually heard her call out to me. I knew that she was still trying to leave, but I was in her way. I attached myself to her spirit when she let go of life. I scooped her up and rode her home with me.

I saw her leave in a big way the other morning, and I see people standing around her grave at night, when it's dark. She called to me this morning. She called to remind me that it was time for her to really leave, and I needed to let go of her now.

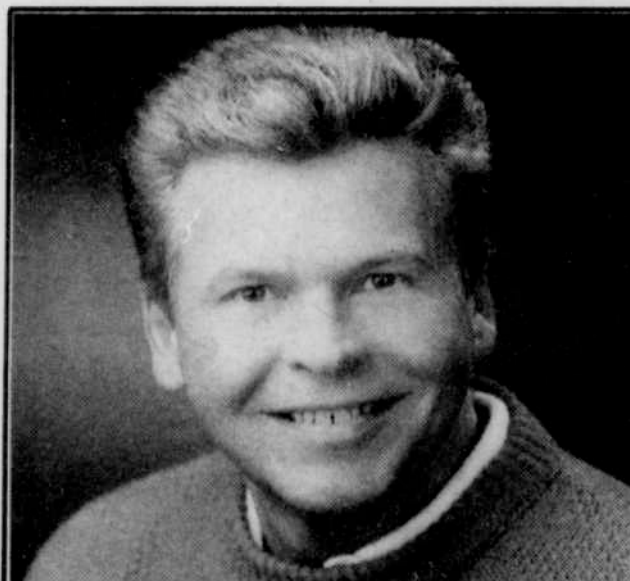
I sat with her and talked from my heart, and let go of strings, and then watched her spirit rise again. I apologized for keeping her for my comfort. She left, as was natural.

In a few days all my goats will be gone, not dead like sandy, but gone from me. My life is taking me into the thick of the city, just when I'm starting to sleep good again. It's hard for me to let totally go of sandy. She has been my mother/teacher/guide for many years now. We had a life together, now she has death, and I have a life. Not much difference on the planet these days. My heart can't take the pain of the constant destruction of wildlife that I am surrounded with here. It is truly painful. Two nights in a row, the great blue heron, female, has flown screaming over the trees. Last night, again in the pitch dark, a pair of killdeer came, with many distressing things to squeal about. The cedars where I live are ancient. This land is for sale. The owners hope to sell it to contractors. The cedars and I shout out our prayers in notes until she is the only one left standing.

I never fully believed that I would be alive to watch, and participate in, the destruction of the earth, our grandmother/teacher/guardian.

I hear the grandmother call out to me every day. I see her gathering her spirit edges to leave. Can I scoop up her spirit and cling to her for a few more desolate days, while together we watch/participate in her death?

Ariel Waterwoman



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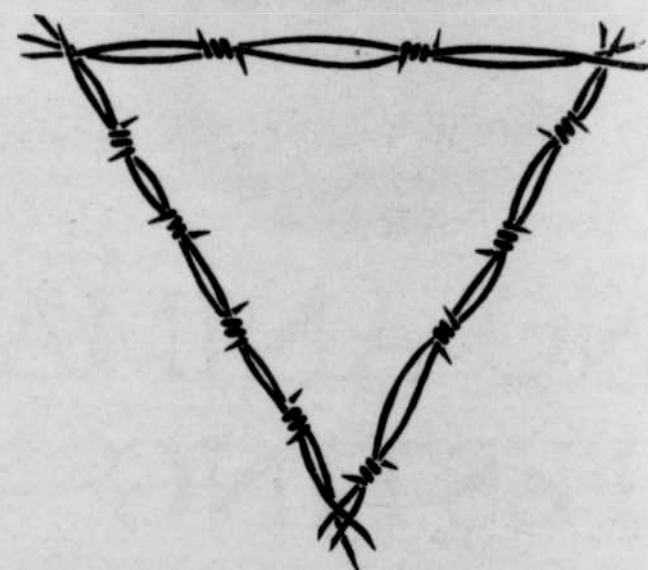
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