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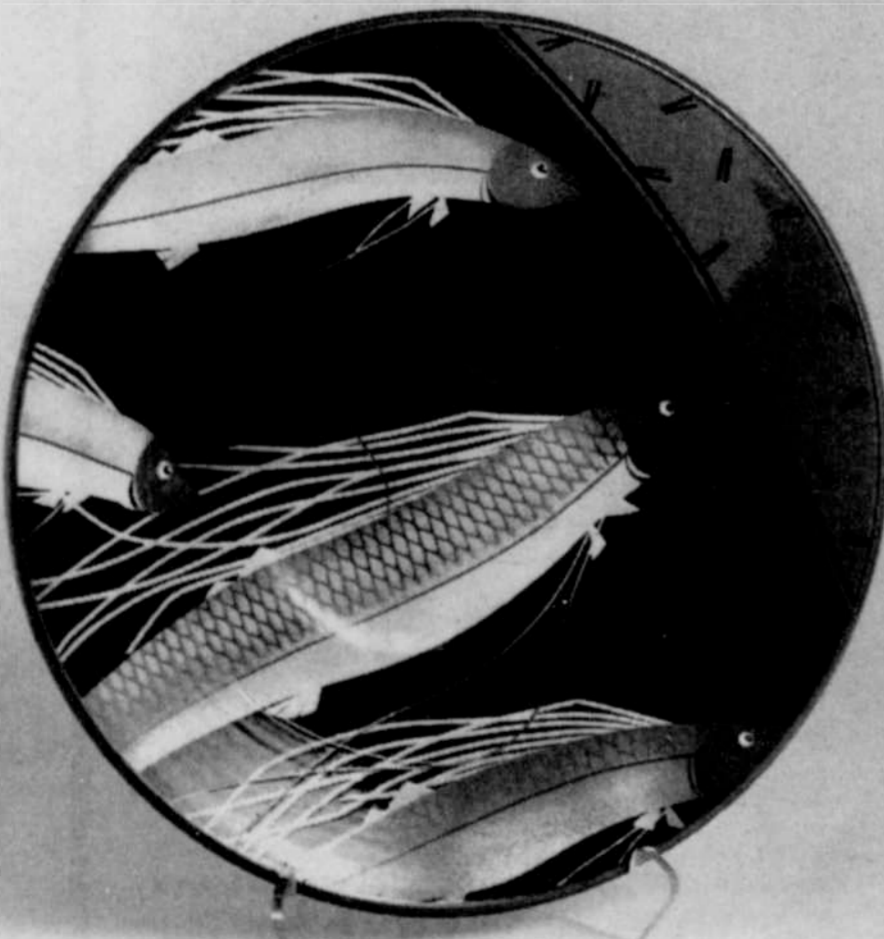
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# letters

(cont. from page 3.)  
*property of men. Most child abusers are heterosexuals. If you want to end child abuse, work for women's equality and against sexism, don't persecute the gay community. It was the feminist movement, not rightwing bigots, that made this country realize just how serious a problem abuse of women and children is.*

The effect of Shirley's column is to degrade discussion to the level of personal insult. This intimidates others into silence. It shuts down discussion in general and discussion of the developing fascist nature of the OCA and prevents grassroots policy setting in the anti-OCA campaign.

Whether readers of *Just Out* agree or not with RW that it is wrong policy to offer to work with OCA, please support the right to disagree without the threat of being trashed in the media. Support your right to a movement that you have a say in.

Demand ethical and responsible journalism from *Just Out* and all its writers. They are supported by the sexual minority community and are accountable to us.

RW urges members of all the communities under attack from the OCA to join the No On Hate Coalition to fight the OCA, and to uphold freedom of debate and dissent within the movement.

Jordana Sardo  
Radical Women  
Portland

Editor's Note: Two other letters were received representing similar opinions.

Linda Shirley responds: *Diverse and differing opinions and points of view make any community stronger. It opens our minds to perspectives we might have been unaware of. The only point of my October Just Dish column was to point out that calling Donna Red Wing a nazi collaborator because Adrienne Weller disagreed with her tactics is obscene.*

## All in our heads

To the Editor:

The topic to which Anndee Hochman refers in her article, "All in our heads?", is of great interest to me not only as a lesbian, but as a psychology instructor in a community college. I teach, among other things, a class in Life-Span Human Development (womb to tomb), and sexuality is one of the key topics.

In terms of Dr. Simon LeVay's research, first of all, he, himself, has never indicated that he has conducted some kind of conclusive research. This has been the news media's misinterpretation. All the criticisms that were cited in Hochman's article were pointed out by LeVay. Research in a new area usually begins with some type of pilot study or exploration and observation. This is what LeVay's study was. It raises questions and points to directions for further study.

It's significance, however, is within the context of scores of other studies on the biological aspects of erotic orientation, as well as clinical work being done by people like Dr. John Money at the Psychohormonal Research Unit at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. This whole body of information is pointing to "a complex interplay," as Hochman describes it, and, biology and genetics are very significant pieces.

Finally, I want to comment on Hochman's projection for medical school texts in neurobiology: "the homosexual brain: a study in deviant development." Please keep in mind (pardon the pun), that all behavior happens in the brain, including sex. All the wonderful stimulating we do to our bodies when we have sex is feeding directly into the brain—mixing with our favorite images and fantasies—for the purpose of "getting off"—which also happens in the brain as well as in the groin. Thus, the mixing of neurobiology and

sexology are a natural. I predict the chapter in the medical school texts will read: "the SEXUAL brain: a study in HUMAN development."

Kathy Bobula  
Portland

## More laughter, less judgment

To the Editor:

That outrageous Sandra Bernhardt. She's loud, obnoxious, wild and "offensive?" Her performance at the Right to Privacy dinner invoked laughter, some anger, and much confusion. Someone interrupted the evening with critical judgment on Sandra's credibility as our spokesperson. Oh, please.

She is not a politician and she never claimed to profess any particular political agenda. (But if you listen to her you can pretty much figure out where she stands.) She is an *entertainer* and was invited here. Why couldn't we sit back and enjoy our coming together for this one special evening? Why couldn't we simply celebrate the fact that 1,200 people paid \$100 each to raise money for the Political Action Committee that serves the gay community? Why did critical judgments of her "status" have to come into play? Why was it necessary to criticize one of our own?

All of us deal with labeling ourselves in our own manner and in our own time. Every step we take is a risk and nobody else can take those risks for us. Isn't it enough that she agreed to come to Portland and entertain a room full of 1,200 lesbians and gay men? That, in itself, is a risk for any celebrity.

She undoubtedly made nearly every person in that room somewhat uncomfortable at least once during her performance. That's usually what she does. She is loud, she is straight-forward in her viewpoints, and yes, she is obnoxious. She mentioned her lover more than once and joked about her "sexually ambiguous" reputation. She laughed at herself, she laughed at us, and we joined her in laughing at both. We need to laugh at ourselves more often. We need more laughter and less judgment on this planet.

Jill Hingston  
Portland

## An apology

To the Editor:

I am a member of the Visibility Committee of the No On Hate campaign, the group that put on National Coming Out Day (NCOD) in Portland, but I am writing this letter as the person who was in charge of arranging ASL interpreting for NCOD. I apologize to the deaf and hearing-impaired community for the lack of access at NCOD.

I thought I had arranged for interpreters, but I had not followed through with and had actually left them up in the air. (I apologize to them, as well). I appreciated the willingness of Laura Laughlin to jump in and interpret; she was there to perform with the [Rose City] Gay Freedom Band.

I also realize that another important part of accessibility is advertising that the event will be interpreted. About half of our posters and our ad in *Just Out* failed to mention interpretation.

NCOD is past and I can only acknowledge the inaccessibility and apologize for it. I am now educating myself on what it takes to make an event truly accessible. I will work to educate No On Hate overall, so that we can make future events accessible. I would appreciate comments and suggestions via No On Hate's post office box: PO Box 6611, Portland, OR 97228.

Katharine Babad  
Portland