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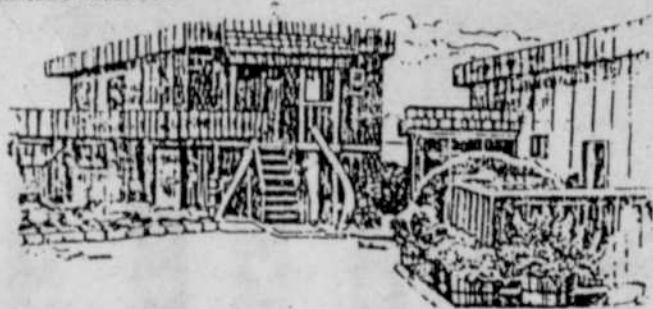


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letters

Another pearl of wisdom

To the Editor:

From the Portland Foursquare Church:
Their lighted sign at 12th and Sandy:

"Is it possible that the only truly 'safe' sex is 'SAVED SEX?'"

Is there tupperware for that?...or do you store it in the closet?

Kathryn Burlingham
Portland

Pathetic bleating

To the Editor:

Oregon Citizens Alliance attorney Bruce McCain's pathetic bleating in the Dec. 6 *Oregonian* is a transparent effort to cloud the issue of basic civil rights. Rights that the OCA wishes to deny gay women and men.

McCain's rhetorical attempt to paint the OCA as a victim is both ludicrous and insulting. Like McCain, the OCA wants Oregonians to believe that everyone will somehow be "victimized" by gays and lesbians. Again and again OCA tactics will utilize inflammatory diatribe that mischaracterizes, stereotypes, and lies about homosexuals. Further, the presumptuous OCA will continue to portray homosexuality as a "curable misbehavior," when leading psychologists and sociologists have yet to reach firm conclusions regarding anyone's particular sexual orientation.

The glass house shattered long ago when the OCA began casting its stones. Yet, however blatant the OCA bigotry, we all must be mindful that the OCA is just one part of a powerful right-wing resurgence that feeds on fear and hate. Gays won't be the only victims. Oregonians need to say no to hate now.

Carla "KC" Hanson
Oregon City

Gay life in corporate America

To the Editor:

The most recent issue of *Fortune Magazine* (12-16-91) had a very interesting article on "Gay Life in Corporate America." It mentioned several companies which were "good" to work for, versus a few homophobic companies which were "bad" to work for. I was distressed to find Shell Oil Co. listed in the "bad" column. I do quite a lot of business with Shell Oil and its stations while traveling.

This article prompted a group of us to wonder if there is a list somewhere, and is someone keeping track of the good and the bad companies?

I've enclosed a list of those companies that were listed in the article in *Fortune*. They are broken down as to good, bad, and tolerant to work for as a starting place. As for Shell Oil, I also sent them a copy of the article along with my shredded credit card.

Good: AT & T, Boeing, Coors, DuPont, Hewlett Packard, U.S. West, Sun Microsystems, Xerox, Digital, Levi Strauss, Lotus Development, Ben and Jerry's, John Hancock, Tandem Computers, Pacific Gas and Electric, Polaroid, Del Monte Foods. Tolerant: Lockheed. Bad: Bank of America, Shell Oil Co., Marshall Field.

Jim Otis
Portland

Direct from the closet

To the Editor:

Does it seem odd to anyone else that the newspaper which is constantly bleating, "Come out, come out, whoever, wherever you are!" brings us an arts/entertainment/organization critic direct from his/her closet?

Perhaps if you're *Just Out*, it's ok to practice a double standard?

Steven Mount
Portland

Jim Van Dyke, aka, Dr. Tantalus responds:
Steven Mount told me that the reason behind his letter was his dislike for my last review of *Portland Gay Men's Chorus*, of which he is a member. I am glad to address his concerns.

The name "Dr. Tantalus" was originally selected for two reasons: to protect my job and to have some fun. Chorus programs not only list some members as "anonymous" but contain statements supporting their right to privacy.

In regard to using the name for fun, a "nom de plume" is a literary device that has been used for centuries by writers more illustrious than I.

Because my job security concerns have faded (somewhat) since this column began, I am happy to sign my name to this response. However, I will continue to employ Dr. Tantalus' name in the column because it remains a source of personal enjoyment.

As for *Our Lady of the White Horse*, Nurse Consuelo, I regret to inform you that I can't "out" her because she doesn't really exist. But you could "out" all those Chorus members who's legitimate job concerns you apparently accord little respect.

Jim Van Dyke

How to rock a "quiet Nazi meeting"

To the Editor:

On Saturday, Dec. 7 anti-Nazi demonstrators on Whidbey Island protested a neo-Nazi meeting. Many Oregonians were present. We traveled on very short notice because we do not want Nazis in the Northwest. We will do all we can to keep this area from becoming an "Aryan homeland" as Richard Butler, from Idaho, and other white supremacists have declared is their goal. We had short notice because the organizers, the United Front Against Facism in Seattle, found out about the planned Nazi meeting Thursday, Dec. 5. The Justice Department and the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment kept the planned Nazi vigil quiet to prevent a counter-demonstration from being organized.

The picket and rally were inspiring. A Lutheran pastor from Whidbey Island thanked us for being there and said the Nazis were not welcome on the island. Speakers at the rally included a labor organization, a gay rights activist, a Chicana leader, a Jewish unionist, feminists, and a homeless advocate. They spoke in defense of each other and against the cowardly Nazis.

Thanks to the United Front Against Facism, the Nazis were unable to hold their "quiet Nazi meeting." We shook their puny few with our roaring chants and cheers. This is the way to stop the Nazis! Get together with everyone else under attack and confront them in large numbers.

Karen Gwaltney
Boring