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steppin' out



April Fools? Where's Waldo? Where's Tom (Metzger)? Where's Lon (Mabon)? This photocopy was leaked to us and purported to be from a still photograph from a video called *Beyond Hate* which aired on the Public Broadcasting System eight years ago. The alleged ties between Lon Mabon and Tom Metzger are being investigated.



For all of you who may not know who Waldo is, he's a great little character in a children's book. This book trains the eye to find Waldo in a variety of extremely crowded places all over the world. Train your eye to find Waldo, so you can help us spot other real-life characters, they're everywhere.

editorial

Sharing an uncommon vision

It was very enlightening to put this issue together. We solicited articles from a wide range of lesbian and gay people. We certainly weren't looking for a definitive answer to the burning question: "What is the *homosexual* agenda?" But rather to create a place where people could share their vision of it.

Talking about a gay or lesbian agenda conjures up all kinds of ideas. We came up with the topic during a staff meeting when we were all joking about the Oregon Citizens Alliance and the bizarre things they have to say about lesbians and gay men, as people. The OCA talks as if we are all clones of each other. When we are all lumped together as *homosexuals*, it does seem to strip something from us. It is true that we all tend to interact with our own gender in intimate and exclusive ways. In fact, that may be *all* any of us can say we definitely have in common, and some people would even argue with that concept.

The results have been as remarkably creative as gay men and lesbians are. Every response has made us think. Each piece has touched us for the honesty and directness of the goals, ideas, and demands that are expressed. It's been good to hear the comments in the office about the different 'agendas.' They've triggered some lively debate, as well as a few tears. Queer Nations' desperate demands for help with AIDS pushed buttons and triggered debate. The interview with Caitlin, when she talks about the support she has now, as well as the support she anticipates when she grows up, brought tears to our eyes.

Each article shares a uniqueness reflective of the writer's experience or life. It has all been very rich. It is an honor to get these diverse agendas "out."

Someone asked if there was anything emerging as "the one

thing" we could all agree upon. We had to laugh. That's a lie that we tell ourselves when we call ourselves a "community." There's an assumption of agreement, or commonality. We can derail ourselves, our causes, for years trying to agree on just "one thing."

The emerging truth is that we are thoughtful people. That on some level, we have all experienced oppression because of our intimate connection with our own gender. How and where we go from there varies with as many gay men and lesbians that are involved. It does seem we all agree that the OCA is actively fighting against us ... all gay men, lesbians and bisexuals. It may be that having a common enemy has helped us to mature as an oppressed group. We have to show more tolerance for each other because we need to band together and present a strong united front to fight back.

Acceptance, respect, honor, listening, these are things we are doing more often these days as we fight for our full spectrum of human rights. This fight is putting European-American gay men and lesbians in a more obvious alignment with oppressed people everywhere. It may be that "white privilege" will finally be seen as the arbitrary facade that it is and lose its appeal entirely.

If we can only agree on who our common enemy or oppressor is, than maybe that's enough. With mutual respect, acceptance, the ability to listen, and the ability to communicate clearly, agreement isn't necessary. We just need to know, as Caitlin expressed it, that if anyone is trying to hurt us, we are there for each other ... in support against any real threat.

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