

letters

Potential of doing damage

To the Editor:

In response to the letter from David Rutiezer which was published in the June edition of *Just Out*, I absolutely and unequivocally deny his claims. It is a shame when someone invites a total stranger into their home, and is good enough to have a frank and open discussion with them about background, personalities, likes and dislikes, etc., to determine compatibility, and have that person turn around and make allegations such as he has.

I am amazed that *Just Out* would print such a letter as Mr. Rutiezer's, especially one that has such a potential to do damage to someone. This shows very poor editorial discretion. What he claims just did not happen. No offense intended, but I would rather (figuratively speaking) kiss my dog on the mouth.

What he states in his letter about being careful when looking for a place to live is true. However, it is also true for those of us who are looking for responsible, stable people with whom we can share our living space.

I sincerely hope that *Just Out* is not going to become the sounding board for every crank and crackpot. Your paper is one of the few places that members of the community can look for some little bit of sanity. Turning it into a tabloid will benefit no one.

Keep up the good work for the benefit of us all.

Jonathan
Portland

Dastardly deed done

To the Editor:

As an involved and concerned member of this community, I am very alarmed that your paper would print a letter to the editor that is damaging to one's character without verifying the accuracy of such inflammatory defamation.

Last month's letter from a conceivably over-reactive and excited person, naming and providing the phone number of someone who advertised in the classifieds looking for a roommate, referred to an active and highly respected member of our association. He is now left to defend himself after the dastardly deed has been done.

The accuser, as well as *Just Out* could have easily warned people to be more cautious when responding to any classified ad. Printing a phone number and name in an accusatory and defaming letter could happen to any of us without any due course except to sue your paper.

Tom Geil
Portland

Unjustly accused

To the Editor:

I was shocked to read one of the letters to the Editor in the June issue of *Just Out*. This was about a person who answered an ad in the classified section for a room that was for rent.

This person went to the address in the ad and proceeded to relate an alleged incident with the person placing the ad.

Whether or not the incident described in the letter was true or not, the name of the person placing the ad and their telephone number should not have been printed. This policy of printing such stories with names and phone numbers, means that anyone could write a letter to the editor with any kind of story, true or fictional, and unjustly condemn a person without the true facts being known.

Upon speaking with the individual that was unjustly accused, he denied that this particular incident happened.

So how is a person supposed to protect themselves from such false accusations that are printed in the *Just Out* newspaper?

I feel that the staff of *Just Out* should do some investigating and print a retraction!

Roni Lang
Beaverton

Editor's response: Thank you for your letters. They have inspired us to reevaluate our letters policy.

Politically correct bashing

To the Editor:

Having read *Just Out's* critique of the Portland Women's Theatre Company's performance of *Gays of Our Lives*, I've concluded that the advantage of living in a culture which has a history of multi-levels of exploitation, is that almost everything that is a product of our culture provides an opportunity for the truly politically correct to bash it.

After reading that the *Just Doubt* critics thought this play had a "humiliatingly racist plot," I wondered if they saw the same play I had, until I realized this was reference to a very minor aspect of the play that didn't constitute part of the plot at all.

While I firmly believe that we in the community must not perpetuate exploitation by promoting works of art that perpetuate the very stereotypes that lead to oppressions, this critique shows we've gone from being sensitive to being outright silly. A farce is by its nature an attack on stereotypes, not a serious perpetuation of them.

I am particularly upset that this type of "PC" bashing would be leveled at the Portland Women's Theatre Company. This is the oldest women's theatre company in the United States, a fact that is due more to the dedication of its members than due to support by the dominant culture. The PWTC certainly isn't supported by NEA grants. For ten years, the PWTC has been a voice for the women, gay, and lesbian communities. It has confronted very difficult issues such as homophobia, rape, anorexia, child abuse, incest, wife-beating and racism. The company has made a dedicated effort to produce the work of women of color, as well.

If *Just Out* feels that scripts provided to the company do not meet its standards of political correctness, perhaps the critics could find some scripts that do. I'm sure that the PWTC would be happy to review any the critics can find.

Deni Starr
Portland

Thanks from the moon

To the Editor:

On behalf of myself and the entire crew at Demi-Monde Productions, Inc., we would like to thank everyone that made the Premiere of *Claire of the Moon* not only the most overwhelming and fantastic night of my life, but one that served the lesbian community, in a way that will be remembered by all, for years to come.

Of special note I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to Leslie Corbin, who orchestrated the entire event.

Linda Welch, whose indefatigable support from the Right to Privacy and Kimberly Webster at Campaign for a Hate Free Oregon combined efforts to create the largest turnout the Fox has ever seen in years. And in the proudest sense, the calvacade of women that lined the block from Broadway, up Taylor, around Hamburger Mary's, down Park, stopped traffic and made this town take notice.

Thanks to so many of our community in the business sector that supported us as well: Jay and Harriette from Hobo's, Janet Welt with Paulson's, Byron Beck with the Downtowner, Holly at It's My Pleasure whose support has been warm and everpresent, In Her Image, Ladd's Edition which sold the most tickets, *Just Out* (whose support we

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