

# letters

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5) is to undermine the credibility of the very women who have the training and experience to use such words as: abuse/abuser, battering/batterer accurately and responsibly.

I feel that to make a generalized statement like Lore's is highly irresponsible, potentially harmful, and probably unethical. And since Lore seems to recognize the power of words and use them carefully, I am left wondering why she said what she said. What was her intent? I seriously question the accuracy of her statement; at the same time, since she didn't just "work" at B.A. but was the director, was it not her responsibility to see that words were not used "loosely," if indeed they were?

We need to call battering/abuse what it is and hold batterers/abusers accountable. Individual or community denial will not encourage batterers to seek the help they need. We need to be responsible. Our first priority must be to the survivors of abuse. Let us not undermine their fragile sense of trust or undercut the credibility of those who offer support in their recovery and healing.

Catherine Smith  
Portland

**Lore Wintergreen responds:**

I made both statements, though both were surrounded by additional words, ideas, and concerns. I do try to "recognize the power of words and use them carefully", and had hopes that my statements would instigate discussion about these issues. The issues of lesbian battering and sexual assault and of when the terms abuse/abuser are

accurately utilized are concerns I have. The two issues I raised are disturbing. They should be. In reference to Naming the Violence, I stated that I had been given the information I shared at the Lesbian Caucus meeting of the National Coalition of Domestic Violence.

The movement and associated organizations addressing violence against women and children have reached the maturation point where we must recognize them as the institutions that they are. We must dare to challenge them, to question them, and to hold them accountable. It is always scary for oppressed peoples to scrutinize their own movement, because there are so many outsiders ready to attack and use any iota of non-perfection to discredit those working towards liberation. Yet, if we fail to take the risk, we stagnate—the internalized fear ultimately cooperates with our defilers. I thought the Lesbian Forum to be an appropriate venue in which to raise these issues. All shelters were directly sent flyers for the Forum, and I was hopeful that cross community attendance would be high and we would have the input to confront the issues from many perspectives. Of course, in two hours not everything was addressed thoroughly—so the dialogue continues.

On a more defensive note... As for Catherine's implications that I should have actively interrupted any questionable or misuse of the terms abuse/abuser, I for the most part have done so, and have myself been interrupted. Though upon occasion I admit that I have been unwilling to make the investment an interruption requires.

Lore Wintergreen  
Portland

## transitions

### Announcement

#### HANNAH FINDLING

Marlene Findling proudly announces the birth of her daughter, Hannah, on June 1st. Born at Good Samaritan with the "best birthing team there ever was." Mom and daughter are doing great!

### Obituaries

#### GARY FLOYD HORN

Gary Floyd Horn's piano has been silenced. Gary died from complications of HIV disease in his Vancouver home, Friday, May 22. Horn was a well recognized gardener, a member of the Hardy Plant Society, the American Hosta Society, and was an avid orchid grower, and a founding member of the Gay Men's Garden Club. He was 45.

Horn was born Nov. 6, 1946, and graduated from the University of Oregon in 1970. He worked 22 years for Continental Brass of Portland. He is survived by his companion of 23

years, George Oberg of Vancouver, and by his mother and father Floyd and Eleanor Horn, and his sister Pam Kuhnhehn of Eugene. He was attended by his long time friend and care-giver Michael Belec of Portland.

A celebration of Life will take place in his Vancouver home on July 4. The family suggests that contributions be made in his memory to HIV Day Center, Fr. Gary McInnis, 3835 SW Kelly, Portland, OR 97201.

#### RUSSELL T. ENGLISH

A memorial service was held for Russell T. English June 24 at the Kendall Community Center in Portland. English died of respiratory failure as a result of AIDS June 5 in a San Diego hospital. He was 55.

English was a life-long member of the Knights of Malta, and was it's president during the '70s. English wrote a series of articles for the leather community entitled "Daddy's Little Boy" in years past.

Survivors include his longtime companion, Joseph Pier of San Diego. Remembrances may be made to any AIDS charities.



### Millynn's House "Sold" Word

You may have stopped outgrowing your tennis shoes. But with your evolving lifestyle, needs and finances you can still outgrow your house. If those four walls are starting to pinch a little, it might be time to move up. Let's sit down together and talk about it. I can help you determine the market value of your present home, and introduce you to a lender who can give you a handle on your financial situation and capabilities. And of course, my knowledge of close-in Portland neighborhoods can put you on the inside track to the right home now. One phone call is all it takes.

**Summer Seclusion.** Escape to this cool and airy 1939 Cape Cod in the middle of a landscaped, private half acre. 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths. Second floor master suite opens on to huge deck surrounded by trees. New kitchen, new roof, new price.

Check this one out. \$159,500.



**Just Listed.** Hurry, don't miss this NE charmer! Meticulously maintained 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath features 2 fireplaces, hardwood floors, formal dining. All this plus garage, security system and well-landscaped fenced yard for only \$72,000!

■ **Thank you, community!** I appreciate your ongoing support and am proud to work with you in fighting bigotry. 5% of my commission will be donated to my client's choice of Campaign for a Hate Free Oregon, No On Hate, or the Lesbian Community Project.



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