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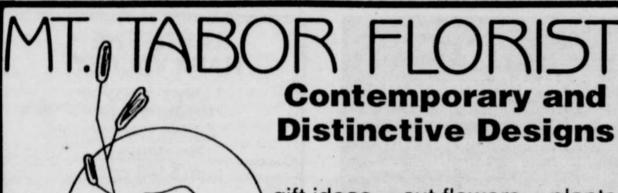


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letters

effectively \$1,000 in the red. We now have the resources to maintain our office space and phone throughout the year. The vision of Lesbian and Gay Pride is to be able to give back to the community. We have already begun this by donating \$250 to the Audria M. Edwards Scholarship Fund and are planning fundraisers and donations for other organizations.

Among the items being discussed for 1993 are doing a two-day or two-stage event!! We would like to invite you to participate with us. Our first community meeting is Tuesday, Aug. 18, 7 p.m. (call 223-1656 for location).

Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee Portland

Missed the story

To the Editor:

As an avid reader of both publications and a proud member of Portland's gay community, I was appalled by your coverage of the Other Queens' Ball. Between the two papers, only five paragraphs were written on what could be the largest gay scandal to hit Portland. Thousands of supporters of No on Hate pay between \$25 to \$75 only to find out that none of it is going to No on Hate. This is absurd!!! This is also a big story and both newspapers failed to cover it. Questions need to be asked and answered. How much did the promoters make for their work? etc.... By not asking these questions, you failed to provide proper journalism, which is needed to bring the gay news scene out of gossip columns and into the professional spotlight.

It's never too late to seek the truth.

Peter Rosenblatt Portland

Queer is queer is queer

To the Editor:

I have recently noticed a new round of bashing going on. For the first time, I am uncomfortable wearing my queer buttons and shirts because of the disgusted looks and snide remarks coming from other gay people. My roommate was treated to a few sneering words at a gay club for wearing a Keith Haring T-shirt by two men dancing together. This morning, I flipped open Willamette Week to see an ad for a GWM who felt "disgusted by the effeminacy and crudity of typical gays." What the hell is going on here? "Typical gays?" I get enough of that shit from straight 'phobes without being bashed by homophobes as well.

These people get pissed at queer groups for making it look as though a handful of radicals represent the entire gay community. I'm sick of seeing drag queens and others chewed out for "making the rest of the community look bad." Queer Nation and ACT UP represent themselves and no one else.

And if Queer Nation doesn't represent you, then for god's sake get off your ass and represent yourself. If "normal" gay people aren't adequately represented, could it be because they are too busy clutching at tolerance with one hand and covering their butts with the other? Godard said if you don't like one movie, make a different movie. If you don't like a group, start your own group, and if you can't be bothered, at least have the common class not to bitch about the people who have

Roxann McGlumphy Portland

No apologies

To the Editor:

We are writing in response to rumors regarding the activity of Queer Nation/Portland at Lesbian and Gay Pride, specifically the allegations of harassment of homophobicly overt straight couples. First, Queer Nation did not officially endorse or encourage such activities. The only messages we endorsed were those on our flyers and on our signs, like "Stop AIDS," "Smash the OCA" and "Queers fight back."

However, Queer Nation is not in the business of silencing the voices of its members. We recognize that individuals in our group, or those who may choose to march with us, have their own beliefs and have the right to express them. Queer Nation won't censor queers.

We think it is ironic that while many leaders in our community talk about "diversity" and "democracy," they scorn and silence the angry and dissenting elements in our community. We all need to face the fact that some lesbians and gays hate straight people and feel threatened by them, especially by their overt presence at Lesbian and Gay Pride.

It is clear, to the organizers of LGP and to many others in our community, that the feelings of straight people are more important than are the voices of angry, radical queers.

Like it or not though, those queers are here, and we all need to decide now exactly what we mean when we say "diversity." While we need to value alliances with straight communities, if those allies can't accept and respect our anger, then what kind of allies are they? Do we need them? Do we need to look to straight people for validation? Do we want allies who will accept us only if we kiss their asses? Furthermore, is Lesbian and Gay *Pride* the place to do that ass-kissing if we must do it? Can we ever have a space that is our own, where we don't have to deal with heterosexist privilege?

We must face the dissension within our own community over this issue and many others. Stop pretending that we all get along, that we're one big happy family. Not everyone in the community loves everyone else. We don't have to; we won't apologize for it.

Finally, if anyone screwed up at LGP, it was the organizers. They sanctioned shitty security volunteers who managed to do more to escalate at least one tense situation than to de-escalate it. And they decided having beer available was more important than who was serving it. Why the fuck was Coors Beer-a corporation that gives money to our enemies-at Lesbian and Gay Pride? This is inexcusable. No beer at all would have been better. Shame on you, LGP committee.

Tommy Strong Andrew Leavitt Portland

Bigotry?

To the Editor:

Perhaps you'll think I'm whining, or perhaps you won't think anything at all. But as I see it, whenever bullshit hits the fan in our community, something needs to be said about it, especially if no one seems to be saying anything about it.

What has me so shit-faced that screaming about it seems almost like a useless act? Try the exclusion of bisexual people as legitimate queer folks at this year's Lesbian and Gay Pride parade.

Deciding not to call the parade Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Pride is far more than just a slight cosmetic error put together by this year's organizers. Instead, it's another reminder of good old-fashioned bigotry, plain and simple, dragging its ugly head into the backyards of our minds, along with Lon and his Merry-go-round of haters.

I would like to believe that most members of the lesbian and gay community would never think of viewing my sexuality or the sexuality of any bisexual person as an abnormal myth. Of course I can't say that, especially since my own personal experience has said otherwise.

Michael La Rocco