

letters

Attitude stuff

To the Editor:

After the negative energy that the last political season heaped on us, let's change attitudes and look forward to some completely positive activities and events—gay and lesbian sporting activities and events.

There is no excuse for not getting involved in gay and lesbian sports. These organizations and events stress *participation* over achievement. No doubt some participants will be competitive, but this is not what is important. Being part of the event is more important than how well you compete.

One does not have to be athletic to be involved. There is also a large cultural festival at Gay Games and plenty of chances to be a spectator to some great gay and lesbian sports events. These events don't put themselves together; lots of volunteers and organizers are always needed, so step in and give a hand.

In June 1994, New York City will be hosting Gay Games IV, named "Unity." Teams from all over the United States and the world will come together for one week in an international sports and cultural festival. Twenty-four sports are currently scheduled along with numerous cultural events including concerts, plays and art displays. More than 15,000 athletes and 5,000 cultural festival participants are expected to attend. Directly following GGIV will be the 25th Anniversary of Stonewall Celebration. This will be a Gay and Lesbian Pride to beat all Gay and Lesbian celebrations before it.

More than 170 people from Portland, members of Team Portland, attended Gay Games III in Vancouver, Canada. The spirit of acceptance, togetherness and love was nearly overwhelming. The feelings and experiences in New York are sure to surpass even Vancouver's.

Next summer Portland will be host to its third Gay and Lesbian Sportsfest. We have enjoyed putting this together as we keep sports active between Gay Games every four years. Our events include swimming, tennis, powerlifting, bowling, golf and an eight-kilometer run.

Now is the time to start planning for New York in '94 and Sportsfest '93. I would like to invite every person in our community to attend these incredible events. (In '98, it may be in Europe.) In the coming months Team Portland and Pride of Portland Athletic Association will be having fundraisers and informational meetings as we prepare for Unity in '94. Join us on the third Thursday of every month at the Embers to discuss PPAA activities.

For more information on Sportsfest '93, Gay Games IV or PPAA, write to PPAA, PO Box 6803, Portland, OR 97209.

Tyler Cole
PPAA and Team Portland board member
Portland

We might even like each other

To the Editor:

Now that Measure 9 has been defeated, are the bumperstickers "Honor Diversity" going to remain on our cars and in our hearts? Or was Nov. 4 the shut-off notice for such feelings? Do we honor diversity in our own community?

It would be so much easier for lesbians to accept each other if we were all 30 years old, 5'5", 120 lbs., white professionals making \$30,000 a year, but, unfortunately or fortunately, some of us are 18, others are in their 50s, some of us are Asian, others are Hispanic, some of us are 4'11",

others are 6'2", some of us are 95 lbs., others are 250 lbs., some of us are differently-abled, others are athletes, some of us are homeless, others own homes in the West Hills.

It is not required that we be bosom buddies with everyone in the community. That would be physically impossible. What is possible, however, is to be nicer to the wimmin we do run into at work or socially who are not of the same class, age, etc., that we are. It doesn't hurt to be courteous and show some interest in one another. As the lyrics for the song in the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical *Oklahoma* go: "Oh, the farmers and the cowboys should be friends." It could be changed to: "Oh, the blue-collar workers and the professionals should be friends." Or: "The dropouts and the Ph.D.s should be friends."

It would be nice to have a social gathering or regular talks including as many diverse segments of our community as possible. Horizontal hostility mostly derives from fear. If we get to know each other better we might discover that we might even like each other.

Carole Bryan
Portland

March on Denver

To the Editor:

Many American people and organizations have called for a boycott of Colorado, including travel to the state as well as a refusal to purchase goods and services originating there. This action protests the passage of Amendment 2, which effectively voids all non-discrimination laws and prohibits legislation protecting gay people.

Who, however, is hurt by such a boycott? The voters who approved the amendment? The gay community and its sympathizers? I believe there is a show of strength that far exceeds the power of the gay dollar.

The gay community showed its strength in October 1987 by congregating for what, according to its planners, became the largest civil-rights demonstration in history. Another march is planned there [Washington, D.C.] for April 1993.

I stand for the possibility of relocating the March on Washington to Denver, the only Colorado city large enough to house the swarm of marchers the April event will draw. Gay people and sympathizers are desperately needed by the gay community in Colorado. Boycotting their state will not help regain their legal protections as effectively as being with them in a show of unity. They are now legally discriminated against and have no protections from anti-gay forces. Washington, D.C., has seen our strength. Now we must show Colorado our power and love, as well as show the rest of the nation that we will not only recreate but we will supersede the legal protections gay Coloradans once had.

If you want to show your support for human rights where it is urgently needed, please contact your local chapter of the March on Washington immediately. (Your local gay resource or gay community center can provide the telephone number.) Urge them to move the march. If we do not stop the extreme right in Colorado, other states will follow suit.

I can assure you, this April 25 you will not find me in Washington; you will find me in the heart of our country, helping our newly-unprotected gay family promote visibility and generate acceptance.

Chris Fabbro
South Pasadena, Calif.

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