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■ My pledge for 1993: To donate/invest at least 10% of my commissions
back into the lesbian and gay community.

letters

Liked the play...

To the Editor:

I find Sandra de Helen's review of *Open Season* very upsetting. Why must she be so constantly negative? Has she never heard of constructive criticism? And talk about picky! "Requisite clomping around back stage" — why "requisite?"

I saw the show and enjoyed it very much. The acting was excellent and, considering the time they were portraying, realistic. After all, lesbianism in the '60s and early '70s was kept low key. To judge this play by today's standards is to view history fallaciously. As far as AIDS not being mentioned, in the '70s it was not yet discovered, and in the present it is not a large factor for lesbians. Breast cancer, yes. That does need to be discussed, considered, and agonized over.

The fact that the Portland Women's Theater Company is even producing plays is to be commended considering the state of theatrical arts in the area at this time. They are doing their best to give thought-provoking drama to all of us. Also to be considered is their location. In an area of porno shops and prostitution, they have opened a theater to draw a better-class clientele into the neighborhood.

In conclusion, to use the word "strident" to describe the play does not seem to be as just as to use it to describe the column. I think the paper

needs a reviewer who is just a little more objective than the one presently employed.

Mamie E. Senter
Portland

...hated the review

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to Sandra de Helen's review of the Portland Women's Theater Company's production of *Open Season*.

I am appalled at the scathing commentary of *Open Season*. I can't help but wonder if the reviewer saw the same play as myself; obviously she missed the point completely. It was a fine performance!

During the performance, I was moved through a full spectrum of emotions. Sandra, on the other hand was moved by one emotion—bitterness! "Where are the coffee houses and the women's centers?" she raved. Most of all, she attacked the two characters for lacking passion for each other. I saw and felt the passion—I was there. Perhaps Sandra de Helen lacks the necessary passion in her life to recognize it anywhere else?

Karen Campbell
Portland

Transitions

Goodbye, Mother

My mother, Sally Richartz, was born August 4, 1933 in St. Paul, Minnesota and died of cancer May 2, 1993 in Tualatin, Oregon.

I'm a lesbian, and have been out to my mother almost as long as I've been out to myself. She never did anything less than love and accept and support me. My circle of women friends, mostly queer, came to know and love my mother—she was a friend. In 1992, she attended the Portland Lesbian/Gay/Bi Pride march with me. And she quietly and consistently wore a "No on 9" button during that stressful campaign. Whatever personal honesty and integrity I achieve in this world, I will have been able to achieve only with her as a foundation.

R.K. Richartz

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