

letters

Silent exodus makes a statement

To the Editor:

I just had the best time in church. The nefarious Lon [Mabon] of OCA fame, was addressing a funky little church called the Oldtime Gospel Lighthouse in McMinnville.

The Yamhill County Coalition for Human Dignity was joined by the West Valley Human Rights Coalition in staging a demonstration at the church.

After what seemed like an eternity of hymns, accompanied by pastor Norman Johnson on electric guitar, finally ceased (hallelujah!), Lon began his dull Lonologue.

Meanwhile, we subversives began to don the pink felt triangles we had stashed in our pockets. As more and more of the triangles were debuted, you could see these little beads of sweat start to form on what is becoming Lon's chrome dome. Then the appointed person gave the signal and we all stood up, then filed out of the church. The best part was that we out-numbered them by two to one. The expressions of shock and dismay at our display was priceless.

As we exited this bastion of bigotry, we were greeted by about 30 more of us with picket signs out on the highway. Pastor Johnson and brother "Tex" were all a twitter running around trying to get us off the church property. I guess we spoiled their little propaganda party.

The moral of the story is this: if a church in your area is sponsoring a nazi, a fascist or just plain old Lon, grab a bunch of friends and go. After what I witnessed I've realized there is nothing we can say to those people that will change their minds, but our silent exodus made a dignified, powerful statement. You could see it written all over their faces.

Greg LeBlanc
Roselodge

Thanks

To the Editor:

Just a note to tell you how much we enjoyed your Sept. 15 cover story on the challenges and contributions of lesbian and gay physicians.

Grant Menzies' piece was both topical and insightful. It presented the myriad issues facing lesbian and gay physicians remarkably well—especially the increasingly visible role they play in our movement. The American Association of Physicians for Human Rights was delighted to hold its annual symposium in Portland; thanks for giving us such a wonderful written record of the event!

Steve Taravella
San Francisco

Accusations are ludicrous

To the Editor:

I am a straight, white Republican male, who was very active in the No on Nine campaign, and who continues to be anti-OCA and pro-gay rights. I also have been a Mason and a Shriner for about 35 years.

Janna MacAuslan's ludicrous accusations in your last issue cry out for an answer, but they are so outrageous and ridiculous that it's almost beyond my capacity to put it into words.

Masonry has been the victim of unwarranted and undocumented criticism for more than a century, from many different sources—Catholics, Southern Baptists, Mormons, Nazis, Ku Klux Klan's, ad infinitum. We can deal with their criticism, because we know that these accusations are false.

But I must draw the line at MacAuslan's claim that Shriner's Hospitals are being used by "upper-level Masons as a cover for children maimed, injured and abused in their rituals." I am absolutely stunned that any person could even begin to subscribe to such rubbish. Our local Shriner's

Hospital is open to all visitors, and I would urge anyone with any interest—MacAuslan especially—to make such a visit post-haste.

It's especially deplorable that, as a lesbian, MacAuslan apparently lacks the common sense to realize that the absurd and unsubstantiated allegations that her own sexual orientation invites is exactly parallel to her diatribe against Masons and their charitable works.

I appeal to all clear-thinking individuals—gay and straight alike—to reject this far-fetched, hurtful mud-slinging out of hand.

Rolf D. Glerum
Portland

TRANSITIONS

A much-loved and well-respected AIDS specialist passes

James D. Simons, 34, a clinical nurse specialist in infectious diseases, died of complications related to AIDS on Sept. 25, in his Southwest Portland home.

He was born in Kansas City, Kan., on Jan. 6, 1959. He graduated from Harmon High School in 1977 and Avila College in 1982, receiving numerous community service awards before moving to Portland in 1983. He took graduate studies at the University of Missouri at KC and Lewis and Clark College.

Simons was employed as an Instructor of Medicine and Assistant Director of HIV/AIDS Programs at Oregon Health Sciences University School of Medicine from 1988 until he retired in 1992 due to illness. He also was adjunct faculty for the OHSU and Eastern Oregon State College

Schools of Nursing. He had previously worked as a field nurse and coordinator for Kaiser Permanente Home Health/Hospice for five years.

He was a nationally recognized speaker and champion of HIV/AIDS issues. He had served as Chairman of the Board and CEO of the Cascade AIDS Project in 1989. He was a member of the original group that conceived and developed the HIV Day Center now operated by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. He was founding president of the Cascade Chapter of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care and he served as Secretary of the International Society of AIDS Education in 1992. He served as an advisor to the Oregon Nurse's Association and numerous community-based organizations related to HIV/AIDS. He was elected to the Oregon Nurses Association's Cabinet of Health Policy in 1992. In addition, in 1992 he was appointed by Gov. Barbara Roberts to serve on the Public Health Advisory Board. He was active in numerous nursing, AIDS and public health organizations. With his partner, he was a major supporter of the Right to Privacy, the Human Rights Campaign Fund, the Victory Fund and other gay and human rights organizations.

Over the years, Simons also worked as a professional musician throughout the Midwest and in Portland. He performed in countless clubs, restaurants, theaters and churches from the age of 10 until his death.

He is survived by his partner, Rocky Blumhagen of Portland, mother and step-father, Jo-Anne and Josef Meditz of Kansas City, Kan., and sister Janice of Tucson, Ariz. In addition, Simons leaves many valued peers, colleagues and friends.

A memorial service was held Wednesday, Sept. 29, in the private garden of David Hopkins and Rick Young. Simons had requested donations to the OHSU AIDS Research Foundation in c/o Dr. Mark Loveless, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, and the Right to Privacy Political Action Committee.

COMMUNITY ALERT

Holladay Market at Lloyd Center needs to hear that you'd appreciate finding **just out** there. Call Rosemary or Kerry at 282-2511. They are in the process of establishing new "criteria" to decide whether or not **just out** can be distributed there.

COMMUNITY ALERT

SEE US FOR ALL YOUR COLLISION REPAIR NEEDS

Ferguson
AUTOBODY (503) 232-3600

2454 E. BURNSIDE • PORTLAND, OR 97214
Family Owned & Operated Since 1952



Unique opportunity! Owner occupied 5 plex.
Close in, fabulous owners unit, 3-2 BR & 1-1 BR
\$325,000

Richard Filia Sales Associate



Bridgetown Realty

Office (503) 287-9370 Res. (503) 283-4600



The Westside
CAPTAIN'S CORNER
at The Century Tower
1201 SW 12th Ave.
503/224-5060

Live DJ
Fridays and
Saturdays
Dancing



PORTLAND'S NEWEST COMBO



The Eastside
THE EASTSIDE
3701 SE Division St.
NE corner at 37th
503/236-5550

KARAOKE
Front Lounge
7 days
a week

Now Serving Breakfast midnight 'til 4am, Fridays and Saturdays
New menu • Come on over • Your friends are already here

Open for lunch and dinner
UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT
Check it out! • Free Parking!

Shakti
Cove
Cottages



- ◆ Beach Access
- ◆ Kitchenettes
- ◆ Secluded
- ◆ Quiet
- ◆ Affordable
- ◆ Pets Welcome



On The Long Beach Peninsula
3 1/2 hours from Seattle • 2 1/2 hours from Portland
PO Box 385 Ocean Park, WA 98640
(206) 665-4000

