

# letters

## Praying for you

To the Editor:

I just wanted to send you a note of thanks. Even though we (again) are on two opposite sides of the journey, it's good to see our story ["Don't Take That First Step," *Just Out*, Aug. 4, 1995] in your paper. I'm hoping that your readers will at least see that there are people who are making the "journey out."

I'm sorry to have read several misconceptions and deceptions from [my conversation with Inga Sorensen]. I knew through our talk, your kindness was needed to get the story. But I truly wish that you could have been honest with me with your thoughts. I would have still given you what you wanted to know.

To clarify your comment about my alleged "deception," I meant what I said. My quote was: "a support group directed toward youth which offers a safe place for those who are confused about their sexual orientation." And yes, our mission is to help youth "walk free from homosexuality." We stand on a central truth, but we are willing to work with anyone who struggles with their "sexual identity." I do not feel these missions are mutually exclusive, but I knew *Just Out* would not run an ad which claimed "freedom from homosexuality."

I'm also sorry that you saw a "lack of authority and certainty" in my personal character, I was simply being friendly. I guess you tossed that in to solidify your negative view of First Step.

I know Christians have a bad name: hypocrites, bigots, dogmatic and annoying. But I believe Christians need to be something different than all that. I hope (even though you disagree with me) you see that I've treated you with love and respect. If I've stepped on you in any way, I ask that you forgive me. I will be praying for you—not praying you "change," but that you will seek the face of your creator, who loves you so deeply.

Jason Thompson  
First Step  
Portland

## Hopes were smashed

To the Editor:

[After] receiving my Aug. 4, 1995, edition of *Just Out* and reading the letter from Gregory Franklyn, I must both applaud him and agree with him. Franklyn voiced an opinion I both agree with and have considered voicing myself. Being a firm believer that it takes more than one person to make a difference, I am choosing to voice my opinion and stand beside Franklyn and our mutual beliefs.

I thank Franklyn for giving me that final nudge...

I am currently incarcerated within the Department of Corrections. I wrote *Just Out* requesting a subscription. *Just Out* has been gracious enough not to charge me the usual fee for postage. For that, I am thankful.

In requesting *Just Out*, I had hopes and was looking forward to being kept up to date on local and community happenings. I must say, I have had my hopes smashed.

Granted, we should all be and keep informed of events across the country and even across the world, though my personal belief is that none of this is as important as what is happening in our own community.

There are hundreds of local people, events, clubs and such, right here in Oregon, that are breaking their backs at making our communities better for us, the locals. As far as I am concerned, it is insulting that *Just Out* gives them so very little recognition, applause and support. There seems to be no problem in accepting local advertisers.

You as the editor of a community paper should be singing praise to these local people, events and clubs. Let's give credit where credit is due.

I truly hope you take Franklyn's (whom I had no knowledge of having any cable access show prior to reading his letter, one case in point) and my input, also that of anyone else, and put it to good use, becoming the community paper you should be.

Mark Smith  
Pendleton

## TRANSITION

### A true Scorpio

Robert Lee Brown, better known as Bob Brown, was born on Nov. 14, 1952, in Columbus, Ohio. He joined the Army in 1973 and served for three years. Sometime after leaving the military and a brief marriage, Bob moved to San Francisco to explore his gay identity. He moved from there to Portland in the early '80s for the quieter atmosphere of Oregon. While in Portland, Bob left his job at Intel for the less financially rewarding but more personally satisfying work as a certified nurse's assistant at the Robison Jewish Home. Bob was active in the Portland gay community, volunteering his services at Cascade AIDS Project, the Ryan White Board and Phoenix Rising.

Bob was a true Scorpio, very intense in his emotions. He was very delightful, gleeful, exuberant and loving, as well as being able to sting when he was not so pleased. He loved all the arts, especially music, movies, performance art and video. He was active in community video production, with a strong interest in educating the black community about AIDS.

Bob died on Aug. 7, 1995, of renal failure due to AIDS. He is survived by his close friends Richard Francis, Nancy Birch, Jim Briones, Michael Thurman, Jeff Richard and others.

A memorial service for him is being held Sept. 3, 1995, at 2 pm at the St. Christopher House, 4713 NE 44th St., Vancouver, Wash.

SEE US FOR ALL YOUR COLLISION REPAIR NEEDS

*Ferguson*  
AUTOBODY

(503) 232-3600  
2454 E. BURNSIDE • PORTLAND, OR 97214  
Family Owned & Operated Since 1952



## SERIOUS INJURY & DEATH CLAIMS resulting from:

- Auto accidents
- Medical Malpractice
- Unsafe Products

Free Consultation

No Attorney Fee Unless You Recover


**295-1940**

621 SW Morrison, #1218



**Hala Gores**  
Attorney at Law


**I AM COMMITTED TO MAXIMIZING YOUR RECOVERY**



## Laughing Horse Books

featuring

*Safer Sexy: A Guide to  
Gay Sex Safely*  
by Peter Tatchell  
\$19.95

3652 SE Division ♦ 236-2893  
Open Mon-Sat 11-7 



## LEATHER QUEEN

Recycled leather journal \$28  
Leather trimmed photo album \$48  
Italian leather box \$60  
Untanned leather briefcase \$180

CITY OF PARIS  
2426 NE Broadway  
(503) 284-3720

▼ **Millynn's House "Sold" Word**  
*Summer's almost over, but the Portland housing market is still sizzling!*

Buying or selling real estate? *Let me give you a hand.*  
*As YOUR community real estate professional I can gently guide you through every step of the buying & selling process!*

▼ **BUYERS**, as an experienced BUYER's BROKER I'll help you find your dream home or investment at the best price & will represent you & your interests from the initial negotiations through every step to closing.

▼ **SELLERS**, I can put my top marketing & sales experience to work for you. I'll price your home for optimum return, & see that it gets the broadest possible exposure in the full marketplace, even nationally on my new tollfree line. Yes, I'm "high tech", but still "in touch".

▼ **CALL NOW to schedule your FREE CONSULTATION !**

 **Equity Group, Inc.**  
REALTORS

▼ **OUT on Broadway**  
2100 NE Broadway, Ste 1-B  
Portland, OR 97232  
503-287-9632, x122(24 hr voicemail/pager)  
▼ cellular 318-1455

fax 503-284-1618  
OUT of the area? 1-800-825-9948  
e-mail: millynnj@aol.com



**Millynn James, GRI**  
▼ Associate Broker  
*your real estate professional*

▼ Specializing in classic & restorable homes in Portland's established neighborhoods, close-in...  
▼ See me in the classifieds for this issue's selected listings ▼