

letters

Not afraid of a little rain

To the Editor:

In the wake of the disappointment that was National Coming Out Day, I believe that Pride Northwest should take some time to reconsider just how much power individual board members should have in making decisions for their organization. One would have expected at least a majority vote by the board of directors in order to cancel an event and not just [the veto of] two hydrophobic individuals. This is October in Oregon. It does rain here, and this should have been properly planned for.

Even when it rained during the last [Lesbian and Gay] Pride Parade, people didn't turn around and go home. It should not have been so easy to pull the plug on this event.

As a community-based group, we rely on events like National Coming Out Day and the Pride march in order to make contact with a larger segment of the public that we might not otherwise reach through our own efforts. Pride Northwest has a large responsibility in bringing our communities together through these events. Cancellations like this only negatively impact the morale of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered communities as a whole and make us look inept and disorganized.

Adam Wills
President, Portland Bisexual Alliance

The word is unity

To the Editor:

I somehow missed the survey issue and, like many a tardy soul, would like to offer my six cents belatedly. I love your rag and wish to respond to a couple of criticisms.

No, it is not too lesbian-centered. I read it cover to cover and don't get that sense and, besides, who's counting? An issue or event of importance to one half of the "family" should be important to the other half, even if it doesn't directly impact them. Forgive my naiveté, but I believe the word is Unity, people.

No, it is not too "politically correct." PCness does go to silly extremes at times, but I don't recall any instances of that in the pages of *Just Out*. Too many people these days use the iconoclastic mantle of "un-PC" to excuse language and behavior that range from oppressive to merely disgusting. For the true spirit of political correctness, I refer your readers to the final sentence of the "Flotsam and jetsam" editorial in the Oct. 6 issue.

Finally, regarding the sex ads in the back of the paper. All things being equal, I'd say get rid of them. They tend to foster the stereotype of all gay men being sluts. On the other hand, phone sex is at least safe, and phone personals are filling up the straight papers, too, so you may as well enjoy the ad revenue. However, the ads for Tim's Hideaway and Hart's Video Arcade are inexcusable. Cruising is not safe, and you should not provide ad space for companies that encourage and profit from this aspect of gay male sexuality.

Thanks for a great paper.

Brian Burhans
Corvallis

Ignorance shouldn't hurt pride

To the Editor:

When I first got to high school, I had no idea that I was gay. But I did know that I was different and always had been. This was definitely something that bothered me and had to be figured out.

All through high school I had gone through different stages and personalities, trying to figure out who I really was. It was a very hard time for me. But by the time senior year came around, so

did I. I finally looked into the mirror, literally, and forced myself to admit that I was gay, I liked women, and always had.

When I was 10, my mom came out to me after her divorce, and it was very scary to me. I had grown comfortable around the gay scene in the following years, but still, something was scary about it to me. Not until I admitted I was gay in my senior year did I realize I was only scared because I knew that it might be me.

Of course it didn't take long for me to tell my mom, and soon after I was telling my friends at school. I then found out my friends were true, and they stuck by me.

Although I did have good friends, I still ran into a few problems. "Dyke" was shouted every now and then as I walked down the hall or into a classroom. And once in awhile someone would confront me and try to start something. But when people speak out of ignorance, I don't believe they're worth listening to. That's how I made it through each day.

Now that I've graduated, I feel very fortunate to have made it this far. I know that many gay youth have a terrible time in high school and just can't make it. Just remember that other people's ignorance shouldn't hurt your pride!

Jaine MacArthur (Spirit)
Portland

TRANSITION



Lauren (left) and Terri Gevurtz

Wedded bliss

Lauren A. Usher and Theresa A. (Terri) Loubey wish to announce that they were married on Sept. 16, 1995. The couple were joined by 120 of their friends, family and colleagues for a candlelight service on the Portland Spirit. In recognition of their marriage, they have legally changed their last names to Gevurtz. Lauren and Terri Gevurtz will be speaking at a forum sponsored by Love Makes a Family on Dec. 3. Call 228-3892 for details.

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

Coventry
Cycle
Works



**UPHILL TECHNOLOGY.
DOWN HILL PRICING.**

Come in and test ride the new 1995 models from Trek.
Mountain Bikes and City Bikes starting at \$259.
OPEN TUESDAY-SUNDAY
230-7723 • 2025 SE Hawthorne

SQUEAKY
CLEAN

- "Sensuality" bath salts \$3
- Terra cotta footscrubber \$5
- Lemon verbena soap \$5.50
- Lavender liquid handsoap \$16

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



Millynn's House "Sold" Word

Fall is in the air, and 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!**

THE EQUITY GROUP, INC.
REALTORS

▼ **OUT on Broadway**

2100 NE Broadway, Suite 1-B
Portland, OR 97232
503-287-9632, x122(24 hr voicemail/pager)
res. 234-6255 ▼ 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 ▼