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Letters to the editor should be limited to 500 words. **Deadline for submissions** to the editorial department and for the **Calendar** is the Thursday before the first and third Friday for the next issue. Views expressed in letters to the editor, columns and features are not necessarily those of the publisher.

The **display advertising** deadline is the Monday after the first and third Friday for the next issue.

**Classified ads** must be received at the **just out** office by 3 pm the Monday after the first and third Friday for the next issue, along with payment. Ads will not be taken over the telephone.

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**Subscriptions to just out** are available for \$17.50 for 12 issues. First Class (in an envelope) is \$30 for 12 issues.

A copy of **just out** is available for \$2. Advertising rates are available on request.

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# steppin' out



PHOTO BY LINDA KLEWER

Joe Tower, Operations PIC at the Stadium Fred Meyer, getting his seasons mixed up, donned gay apparel for Halloween.

## guest editorial

# Fostering confusion

*Alan Lucille Hart is a transsexual hero and should be honored as such*

by Candice Hellen Brown

**T**here are some in the transgender movement that are actively fostering confusion between "transgender" and "transsexual." They are taking steps to remove access to medical care for transsexuals, like hormones and surgery.

The first step has been to elide our identity into that of "transgender," a term coined two decades ago by cross-dressing people who did not wish to have their bodies altered but merely wanted to express their personal experience of gender in ways that were culturally restricted to the other sex.

The second step is to remove the medical diagnoses by which transsexual people are vouchsafed access to medical care and legal recognition as members of that sex which matches their personal sense of gender identity. This is happening today.

Recently a transgendered person, Leslie Feinberg, nearly got the National Organization of Women to endorse a call to the American Psychiatric Association for the removal of the medical diagnosis of transsexual from the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual*. *The Advocate* ran an article asking the gay and lesbian community to write to the APA to remove the diagnosis of Gender Identity Disorder, saying that it is being used to harass gay children. This is disinformation since this is the diagnosis of transsexual, not homosexuality. Yes, gay children are being harassed by so-called health care providers, but this will continue regardless of what they call it. Health care providers can always fall back on "Oppositional Defiant Disorder," which means that the child won't live the way the parents

want him or her to. The gay community must work to protect our youth, but removing the diagnosis of transsexual will not do it.

Transsexuals have been snubbed and trashed by a minority of the gay and lesbian community for the past 25 years. We are heartened that some in the community are reaching out to us. The Lesbian Avengers joined our recent efforts to have Alan L. Hart recognized as a transsexual hero. They worked alongside transsexual men and women at the Right to Privacy dinner handing out flyers to educate and explain who Dr. Hart really was. Historian Tom Cook has been researching Dr. Hart's life and now joins us in calling for RTP to change the name of the annual dinner and prestigious award given annually to The Alan L. Hart Dinner and Award.

I am somewhat encouraged that *Just Out* recognized Dr. Alan Hart as other than a lesbian but disappointed that, after two years of working to get him recognized as a transsexual hero, he was still referred to by a feminine pronoun. It is never acceptable to refer to a transsexual in any way but by the gender of personal identity—even when referring to his or her life before transition.

It is time the Right to Privacy PAC honored Dr. Hart in a manner more respectful of his true identity.

*Candice Hellen Brown is a member of the Ad Hoc Committee of Transsexuals to Recognize Alan Hart.*

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