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letters

Why Wyden?

To the Editor:
I am perturbed to learn that the Keeston Lowery Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club has endorsed Ron Wyden rather than Peter DeFazio. Rep. DeFazio has an exemplary record on issues of importance to the lesbian and gay community. Despite the fact that Rep. DeFazio hails from Springfield, the first locality to pass an OCA discriminatory measure, he has been an outspoken opponent of the OCA and its attempt to write discrimination into the local and state constitutions of Oregon.

Rep. Peter DeFazio has co-sponsored the National Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Act every year he's been in Congress. Alternately, Rep. Ron Wyden, who promised to sign on to such legislation when he was first elected to Congress, failed to do so until 1991. Rep. DeFazio has supported and attended the Right to Privacy PAC Lucille Hart Dinner every year for the past 13 years, and in fact was the first congressional candidate ever to attend. Rep. Wyden attended his first Lucille Hart Dinner this year.

Rep. Peter DeFazio has raised money, organized fellow lawmakers, and created coalitions to help defeat the radical right and the OCA. Rep. Peter DeFazio has advocated for lesbians and gay men who were discharged from military service solely on the basis of their sexual orientation. Rep. Peter DeFazio has co-sponsored the Ryan White CARE Act. After reviewing his record, I don't find much reason to endorse Rep. Wyden. I find it hard to understand why a group that calls itself the Keeston Lowery Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club would fail to accept the endorsement questionnaire of and to endorse a congressman who has been such a champion for

our community.

I wholeheartedly encourage my community to join me in supporting Rep. Peter DeFazio for U.S. Senate. We would be well served [by having] our valuable friend in the U.S. Senate.

Michael Kegley
Portland

Mix-up thwarts fairness

To the Editor:

I understand that the Keeston Lowery Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club did not even review questionnaire responses by Peter DeFazio before giving their endorsement for the U.S. Senate to Ron Wyden. This is unfortunate. Apparently there was some mix-up about deadlines for return of the questionnaire even though the DeFazio campaign made every effort to return his responses in time for consideration.

With the compressed timeline for this election, such miscommunications are not particularly surprising. What is surprising is that the KLLGDC endorsement process seems to have pre-empted Peter DeFazio, a longtime friend of our communities, from getting a fair opportunity to be considered at all.

Ron Schlittler
Salem

Correction

In the Oct. 20, 1995, issue of *Just Out*, Code Blue's Lesbian Halloween Bash was incorrectly listed in the Out About Town section as being co-sponsored by Portland Brother to Brother. *Just Out* regrets this error.

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TRANSITION

James Bruce McLeod

A celebration of life for James Bruce McLeod will be held at 3 pm Saturday, Nov. 18, at Peace House, 2116 NE 18th Ave., in Portland.

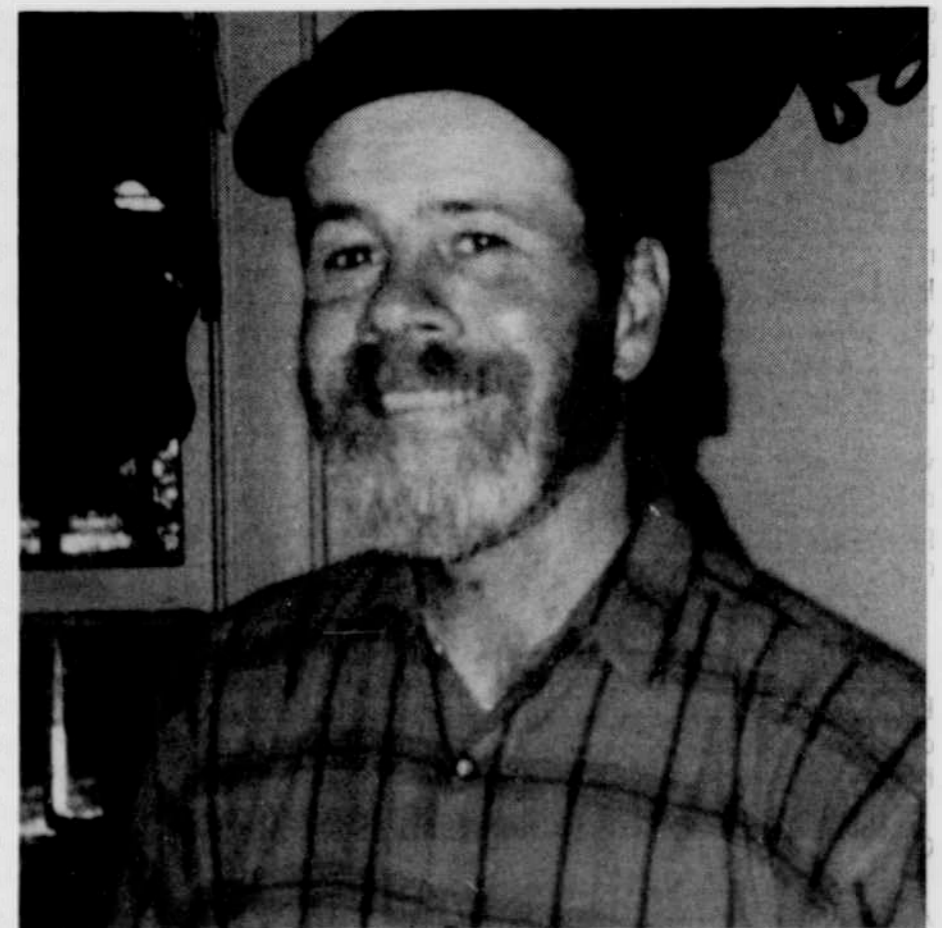
McLeod died from complications of AIDS on Saturday, Nov. 4, 1995, at age 48. He was born Dec. 29, 1946, in Ortonville, Minn., to Carroll Ray and Bernice Marlett, and then adopted to John and Geraldine McLeod at age 5.

McLeod served in the U.S. Navy as a radio operator, receiving the National Defense Service medal. He moved to Portland in 1979, earning an A.A. in horticulture technology from Mt. Hood Community College. James worked at C.C. Slaughters, acquiring the nickname "Popeye," as he was known to his many friends and acquaintances in the gay community. He retired as the facilities groundskeeper of the Oregon Humane Society SPCA in June 1994 due to health considerations. Numerous awards for roses were earned during his employ at the Humane Society through the Portland Rose Festival Society.

Surviving are his partner, Randal Jackman of Portland; sisters Karen Householder of Rapid

City, S.D.; Patty Dyer of Pasco, Wash.; and Kathi Ellis of Selah, Wash.; brothers Bill Vance of San Martin, Calif., and Michael Vance of Parachute, Colo.; and longtime friend and companion Phillip Way of Portland.

Disposition will be by cremation.



Remembrances are suggested to Peace House, 2116 NE 18th Ave., Portland, OR 97212, or to Oregon Humane Society SPCA, PO Box 11364, Portland, OR 97211.