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# letters

## Happy to see the end

To the Editor:

On page 38 of your May 3 issue I read with relief the "apology" of Cadillac Cafe owners Rod and Terry for any perceived discrimination. We are happy to see this matter finished. I regret that members of our own community found it necessary to prolong this event for over two years and drain resources on both sides. My partner and I (as well as most of our gay and straight friends) have always found Cadillac Cafe to be a safe and welcoming meeting place (not to mention their incredibly good food).

The coverage from *Just Out* has appeared to be somewhat biased, and we wonder if that just might be due to the fact that one of the plaintiffs has been on your staff. It is sad to see that the "community" paper didn't even bother to ever print the other side.

Oh well, we just have to chalk it up to the fact that the other side of many issues never gets printed.

Carolyn Hammett  
Milwaukie

Editor's note:

Teri Ventura has been employed at *Just Out* for a year. The incident that prompted the lawsuit happened in 1993 and the lawsuit was first filed in 1994. During the course of these events, *Just Out* has reported on several occasions the viewpoint of the owners of the Cadillac Cafe, Rod Brackenbury and Terry Hughes. Most recently, our reporter contacted Donna Sandoval, the attorney representing Brackenbury and Hughes, regarding the settlement of the lawsuit and she declined all comment.

I, too, am glad to see the issue settled. In the interest of full disclosure, a similar incident to the one that prompted the lawsuit happened in the spring of 1991 to Ariel Waterwoman and me. We were affectionately saying goodbye to one another in front of the cafe after having just had breakfast, when one of the owners came out and told us we couldn't do that in front of his restaurant. I was the publisher of *Just Out* at the time and Waterwoman became the editor in 1992. There was no city ordinance barring such discrimination at that time.

## All wet

To the Editor:

I'm writing in response to your article ["Portland at high risk for *Cryptosporidium* outbreak," *Just Out*, May 17, 1996] concerning Portland city water. I saw several articles on the Internet a few weeks before your article from ACT UP-San Francisco concerning this.

I work in an HIV clinic and had anticipated questions from our clients. I called the Portland City Water Bureau to see what they were doing about this. I spoke with a very nice woman who quickly faxed me information about this. The information is contained in two articles written by the Water Bureau, "*Cryptosporidium*" and "*Cryptosporidium* Questions and Answers."

The articles state that there is no standard for *Cryptosporidium* in drinking water. The city water department has, however, been testing for this parasite since 1986. The reports state that "there have been no reported cases of waterborne disease from *Cryptosporidium* in Portland's drinking water." In 95 percent of all samples no *Cryptosporidium* has been found, "and in the 5 percent which show positive, the testing methods cannot distinguish if the oocysts (the encapsulated form) are viable or not."

I'm concerned that many people have misinterpreted this article to mean that there is *Cryptosporidium* in Portland's water supply. I'm wondering how this group, the National Associa-

tion of People with AIDS, has determined that Portland was at "high risk" for *Cryptosporidium*? A simple checking with the Water Bureau for the facts, or with NAPWA about their sources, could have made this article less frightening for people living with HIV.

Kim Baller, R.N.  
Portland

Editor's note:

The survey was conducted by phone by the National Association of People with AIDS. Portland was listed as a high-risk city for several reasons: 1) the city does not have a notification system to alert people with suppressed immune systems when a risk for *Cryptosporidium* is present; 2) the city does not filter its water, the water is chlorinated—a less-efficient method for eradicating *Cryptosporidium*; 3) the city only tests for *Cryptosporidium* on a monthly basis, not weekly or every two weeks, which is preferred by NAPWA.

## Make that Cherry Garcia, please

To the Editor:

I just finished reading my May 17 issue of *Just Out* and wanted to comment on a couple of things.

I really enjoyed your editorial regarding *Just Out's* endorsement of Laurie Wimmer for Oregon House District 12. In my involvement with "minority rights" organizations I have often received similar criticism for supporting allies who were not enough "like" the members of the organization, regardless of whether that person was the most qualified to assist us. People are funny. You gotta love 'em or you'll just cry sometimes.

So, nice work on your editorial. You deserve something in a Ben and Jerry's now. Also, I loved your sarcasm about the purple triangle. It might be of interest to you and your readers that the purple triangle (if you wanna get picky) actually "belongs" to the Jehovah's Witnesses. It was used to identify them for persecution in the same way the yellow star identified Jews and the pink triangle identified homosexuals.

I read your article concerning Gail Shibley's campaign donation controversy (David Reinhard is such a dick) with a great deal of interest, given that Tracy Blakeslee advertises in *Exotic* and lends us videos to review. I'm always amused by people who wouldn't want "one of those places" next door to them... often without knowing much about "those places" and often when they are the kind of people that aren't, themselves, always welcome in some neighborhoods. Gay and lesbian people have worked so hard to enlighten an often hostile and ignorant world; it's hard to see them express similar ignorance concerning things they don't approve of or understand. But it's great to see Donna Red Wing speak out against censorship.

I was surprised, however, that at no point in the local news piece did you mention that Tracy is an openly gay man. Isn't he also a gay brother to be supported, and not just a porn peddler? He has been helping fight the battle for gay rights and free speech for some time. He has, by the way, an extensive collection of gay adult video, some of it very good. Finding this quality gay and lesbian adult material has been part of my development plan for *Exotic Magazine*. I hope to see all mutually consensual forms of adult loving given time in our pages.

Well, enough from me. Lovely job on the May 17 issue and I look forward to seeing what you have for us next time.

Theresa A. Reed, Editor  
*Exotic Magazine*