

# letters

## Even queers can screw up

To the Editor:

Mike Garvey allegedly broke the law. When evidence surfaced, investigations were commenced both internally by the Portland Police Bureau and by the district attorney's office.

Many of us read the reports with great interest. It's not a happy moment when a member of our community has his laundry hung out to dry in public. It's painful and it's sad and it goes to show that, yes, Virginia, even queers can screw up.

Methinks Roy Cole is way off base ["An uncomfortable silence," *Just Out*, July 5, 1996] in his scathing denouncement of the gay community if he thinks that we're going to get up in arms at this point in the process. First of all, these are allegations, hardly a Rodney King verdict. Just exactly what would you like to see us do, Roy? March down to police headquarters and make complete asses out of ourselves before the facts from the investigation are made public? No thanks. We did that before. Remember Azalea Cooley?

Has anyone asked Garvey what he wants? Considering his position and connections within the legal community, I'm quite sure he has hired what he feels is very capable counsel to handle his affairs. Has he come forward to ask the gay community for our support? It's news to me if he has.

Regarding Cole's convoluted logic regarding his perception of gay courting habits, all I can say is, "Let's talk, Roy." Inviting another person out to dinner and to a movie is hardly in the same ballpark as hiring a prostitute—at least in the world I live in. If I count my movie ticket stubs against the number of times they've led to a sexual encounter, I'd say it's probably not the most cost-effective way to get laid. If having sex was the only thing I was interested in, then hiring a call boy would probably pay off a lot quicker. However, the last I heard prostitution is illegal, and when you do illegal things you sometimes get in trouble. Remember Ben Merrill?

If the issue of unrestricted access to prostitution is what's on your agenda I suggest you take a trip to Amsterdam. It's legal there, and you're sure to get what you want—at a rate that's much less than what you probably spend calling 976 numbers.

Oh, yes, one more thing, Roy. Why don't you ask *Just Out* why we haven't heard any ink spilling onto paper to cover this issue? On this point we do agree: "the silence convicts us of our ambivalence."

David Diehnel  
Portland

Editor's note: See the June 21, 1996, issue for our report on the Garvey story.

## Sexual consumers have rights, too

To the Editor:

Please forgive me if I rant for just a moment about your July 19 guest editorial. Please don't mistake my disagreement with it as a suggestion that I found running it inappropriate. Our job, as journalists, is to entertain, educate, sometimes to amuse, but whenever possible, to make people think.

Every time I read or hear something from the Council for Prostitution Alternatives I get excited, hoping it will be something I can support. But every time I process their words I just wind up being pissed off.

Not content to discuss a topic that presumably they know at least a little about (prostitution), they have to start pontificating about things they know nothing about. "We are told," they say, "that dancing naked on stage or on top of tables in bars full of clothed men is liberating." Then they

add some unrelated comments about the media's misrepresentation of gay people. And then comes the most ironic statement of their editorial: "Let's stop buying into oppressive stereotypes." Amen to that. But it's easier to preach than it is to practice.

But I agree: Let's stop buying into the stereotype that whenever a woman removes her clothes she instantly becomes a victim and any men in her proximity immediately become predators. Let's stop buying into the idea that starring in an adult movie is a clear sign of mental dysfunction or coercion. Let's stop stripping sexuality and self-determination away from those who've got the guts to do what we'd never do. Let's stop buying into the lie that it's wrong to get turned on looking at another person unless we're going to marry them.

Jill Simons and Paddy Lazar want to make the world of sex out to be one of the predator and the prey. They fail to understand that not everyone expresses their sexuality in the same way. They do not want to see that the legal adult [sex] industry is far different from what it has been and from what Simons and Lazar's Dworkin-like hallucinations would have us believe it to be.

Many women (and men, as well) *do* find exotic dancing to be liberating. Some do it to pay the bills, some because they get to work with their friends. And, tragically, there are sick, addicted and confused men and women working as well—just as there are in all segments of our society. These people need help, but destroying an industry just because someone's on a moral crusade won't help anyone. We need more rights, not fewer. And that means rights for sexual consumers as well as sex workers.

By the way, if you like to read, write or perform sexually explicit material, your right to continue doing so legally is at risk. In November, *Just Out* readers can join me in telling censors what we think of them while continuing to extend the free-speech protections we deserve by voting No on 31. I'm a big girl and I can make up my own mind. I believe other Oregonians are just as capable.

Theresa A. Reed, Editor  
*Exotic Magazine*

## Gross generalization

To the Editor:

Having read the recent guest editorial ["Another oppression," *Just Out*, July 19, 1996] I take umbrage at the self righteous tone. First of all, people have been enjoying the freedom to buy and sell sex for thousands of years (biblically speaking, it's the oldest profession). Now while I staunchly deplore the use and abuse of minors by adults for any reason, what goes on between consenting adults is both a right and a privilege of all of us. This pleasure may include a variety of expressions—watching a video, consensual sex, masturbation, etc.—and it may involve money exchanging hands. My point is, what adults do is both the adults' responsibility and privilege. If adults decide to sell sexual pleasures, it is their right. If adults feel "oppressed" by this, they are responsible to change their situation. Perhaps the real problem is alcohol/drug abuse, which also is often a part of prostitution. The solution seems to be alcohol/drug abuse prevention, not prevention of prostitution or pornography.

Also, I take serious offense at the naming of It's My Pleasure as a shop that is "perpetuating a myth and colluding with homophobia, violence, sexism and young people's oppression." It's My Pleasure does not allow people under 18 to shop in the separate adults-only room, nor are there videos for sale or rent that portray youth in a "pornographic" or sexually explicit manner. The singling out of one shop that has done a tremendous amount of good in our gay, lesbian, transgendered community for many years and

## Medical Malpractice & Personal Injury Attorney

Free Consultation  
No Fee Unless You Recover

295-1940

12th Floor, 621 SW Morrison



Hala Gores

*Integrity,  
Experience  
&  
Results*

## It's My Pleasure Gifts & Toys

If you're Queer-

We've got what you want...  
if we don't have it we'll try to get it!

Mon-Sat 11am - 7 pm, Sun 12:00-6:00

4258 SE Hawthorne Portland, OR 97215

(503) 236-0505



Beaverton  
646-3824  
4000 SW 117th

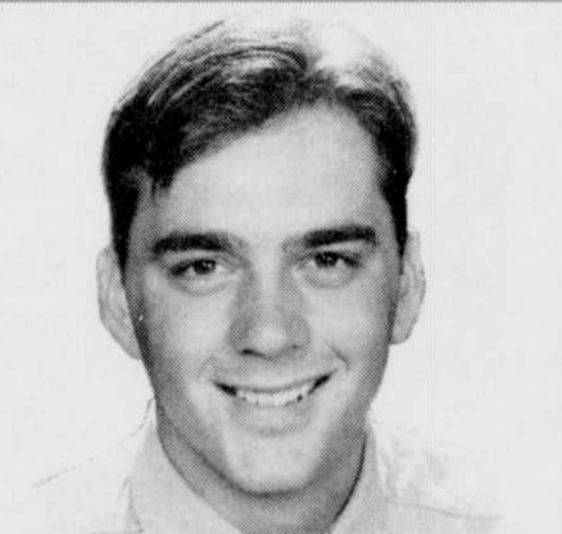
Corbett  
244-3934  
5909 SW Corbett

Division  
233-7374  
3016 SE Division

Fremont  
288-3414  
3449 NE 24th

Hillsdale  
244-3110  
6344 SW Capitol  
Highway

Marketplace at Mill Plain  
(360) 695-8878  
8024 E. Mill Plain  
Vancouver, WA



## LOOKING FOR A FRIEND?

- Friendly Sales
- Fleet Prices
- Huge Inventory
- Excellent Service
- Good Advice

CHRIS  
STEVENS

"Your friend in the auto industry"

VANCOUVER  
NISSAN-KIA

New & Used Cars & Trucks  
Mini Vans & Sport Utilities

503-226-0006  
1-800-527-7542



Exotic Home Furnishings

We have  
just uncrated  
our most  
recent finds  
from India  
& Nepal.

It's worth the trip.

120 NW 23rd Ave • 228-4388  
Open Mon-Sat 10:30-6  
Sun 12-5