

letters

Take one summer off, and look what happens

To the Editor:

As a prominent country western dance instructor in our community for eight years, imagine my surprise and hurt upon seeing an extensive, in-depth feature article on country western dancing in Portland that failed to mention my name!

Over the years I have consistently brought fun, affordable, weekly or biweekly dancing and lessons to our community at venues such as Cafe Mocha, Metropolitan Community Church, and, for the past three years, a rented space in Southeast (St. David's Parish Hall, the second and fourth Fridays of the month). In addition, this summer I was the line dance instructor at Portland's own Lesbian and Gay Pride Celebration. I did take [the rest of the] summer off, which may account for my omission from the article, but I would like the community to know about the dancing alternative I provide to the smoky bar scene. (Please see *Just Out's* calendar of events for more information.) It is mostly women who attend, but everyone is welcome.

Thank you for bringing to light this wonderful, healthy activity.

Cindy Zrinyi
Portland

Political facts of life

To the Editor:

I was dismayed by John Balkler's letter suggesting that we reject our political friends who don't support us 100 percent of the time [*Just Out*, Sept. 20, 1996]. I know it can be frustrating to vote for someone whose record on lesbian and gay issues is not perfect. But we live in the real world, not a perfect world. Most of our political allies don't have perfect voting records. We should accept that as a political fact of life, and realize how disastrous the alternatives are.

Certainly Bill Clinton's record is not perfect. But we should bear in mind that a vote for Bob Dole is a vote for all of the Supreme Court appointments he would make during his tenure. A Dole presidency would virtually guarantee that the balance of power in the Supreme Court would swing from moderate to radical right. Is that really what we want?

Elizabeth Furse has always been a friend of the lesbian and gay community, and she still is. She didn't vote our way on the "marriage" bill. She doesn't have a 100 percent voting record. But her opponent, Bill Witt, is a right-wing radical who would vote against us every time. If we don't vote for Furse we will send a proven enemy to Con-

gress to represent us. Is that really what we want? To me, it sounds a lot like cutting off our nose to spite our face.

Matt Marrington
Portland

Coverage rarely seen

To the Editor:

I'd like to thank all the people at *Just Out* for the beautifully sensitive rendering of the transsexual experience in the Oct. 4 issue; the effort expended by Teri Ventura and Linda Kliewer has resulted in the best newspaper portrayal of transsexuals which I have yet seen.

I would also like to thank you for running this coverage at this particularly crucial point in time: The Metropolitan Human Rights Commission has just presented its report on discrimination experienced by transsexuals in Portland, and is making its recommendation to the City Council regarding our inclusion.

The total effect is one of understanding and support for a minority which rarely sees such from society at large. *Just Out's* focusing attention on our struggles and issues should go a long way toward changing this situation for the better.

Margaret Deirdre O'Hartigan
Portland

Save the Supreme Court

To the Editor:

Will Bob Dole or Bill Clinton be making supreme and lower court appointments over the next four years? That's really what the November election boils down to. From the Dred Scott decision to the internment of Japanese Americans in 1942, we've witnessed how the courts can affect minority peoples. Yet most of us greatly underestimate the importance of this issue. Read the ravings of Anton Scalia if you really want to get a chill up your spine, and imagine him joined by a couple of Clarence Thomases or Robert Borks. It could happen!

The Christian Coalition is perfectly willing to support Dole. Their price: judgeships. They've patiently built an enormously successful grass-roots movement that is brick by brick, stone by stone laying the foundation for theocracy. Ralph Reed and Pat Robertson aren't stupid! They know that without the judiciary in their pocket they cannot succeed. Reagan and Bush started packing the courts with ideologues, and we must not let Dole finish the job.

Doug Norseth
Portland

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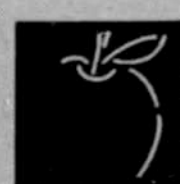
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