

# letters

## A decade of thanks

To the Editor and community:

Thank you for the last decade you have shared with me. A little over a decade ago I moved to Portland, started coming out and began growing. Like many of you, I have suffered the loss of my closest friends, participated in some of the intense political fights faced by our state, and survived the emotional battles within my blood family. I have volunteered with many of the existing organizations, as well as those that no longer exist. While it hasn't always been a peaceful road in this community, it has stretched my abilities to love, accept and invest in others.

Many of you have watched me grow physically, mentally, spiritually and emotionally. Many of you had a part in my growth process. I have had the privilege of volunteering with you, working with you, grieving with you and growing with you. I want you to know how much I have appreciated your time given, our thoughts shared, your love shown and your honor bestowed.

I have enjoyed most of the last 10 years within our gay and lesbian community. From leading Lesbian and Gay Pride to swimming in Gay Games '90. From serving on No on Hate to founding Log Cabin Oregon. From worshipping at Potter's House Ministries to addressing the financial planning needs of many of you through Waddell & Reed. From developing programs for gay youth, to pursuing my humorous 10-year search for someone special through dating.

I love our community and pray the next 10 years will be easier and brighter for all of us. May we all have the energy in 1997 and beyond to grow, expanding our patience, love and acceptance as others grow with us. As the end of my 10th year in Portland comes to a close, I simply want to say to *Just Out* and all of my friends of this community, thank you.

Eric Brown  
Portland

## GID diagnosis at risk

To the Editor:

Trans youth and adults in Oregon, Washington and across the country face the loss of their health care and civil rights—and this time the threat isn't the Oregon Citizens Alliance or other right-wing groups, but national gay and lesbian organizations such as the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

These organizations have called for the elimination of one of the two diagnoses through which transsexuals receive health care and legal recognition of their new gender. Elimination of childhood gender identity disorder is sought on the basis of claims that gay and lesbian youth are hospitalized under a diagnosis appropriate only to trans youth, in order to change their sexual orientation. There is, in fact, no documentation to substantiate these claims.

Elimination of childhood GID will prevent supportive parents of trans youth from obtaining treatment for their children, or from registering their children in school in the gender of their choice.

Efforts to totally eliminate all diagnoses for

transsexuals are being made by individuals working with and within NGLTF and NCLR. Loss of all diagnoses will end sex-reassignment surgery in the United States, end the legal availability of hormones for transsexuals, and eliminate existing legal protection from discrimination in the states of Washington and Oregon.

Health care and legal protection for the disabled shouldn't be a matter of politics. If you agree, here's what you can do: Write the listed organizations and tell them to stop the attack on the diagnoses of GID.

John D'Emilio  
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force  
2320 17th St. NW  
Washington, DC 20009

Julie Dorf, Executive Director  
International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission  
1360 Mission St., Suite 200  
San Francisco, CA 94103

Kate Kendell, Executive Director  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
870 Market St., Suite 570  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Don Romesburg  
Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation  
1360 Mission St., Suite 200  
San Francisco, CA 94103

Jericho Knight  
Portland

## I don't think so

To the Editor:

"It has always been a dream of mine to be a part of the lesbian community," Lori Buckwalter is quoted as saying in the Dec. 6, 1996, *Just Out*.

Somehow I don't think my lesbian friends are going to feel like they are part of any "community" with an individual who uses his heterosexual male privilege to obtain what they are denied by law because they were born female.

Margaret Deirdre O'Hartigan  
Portland

## Disgusted with trick

To the Editor:

I'd like to thank you for your article "Here come the brides"; it was hilarious. I would like to know if anyone else saw the irony of a legal heterosexual marriage being pawned off as a same-sex marriage in a queer paper?

I identified as lesbian at the age of 21—and never would have considered legitimizing my relationships using my legal male status. I don't see how Buckwalter can enter into such a legal contract that so invalidates "her" self-proclaimed image.

I will believe same-sex marriage is at hand when the government accepts two people who are both members of the same sex—not the bureaucratic sleight-of-hand Buckwalter is perpetrating.

Rachel S. Koteles  
Portland

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