

pretending to be something I wasn't, choosing one part of myself or the other, and never feeling whole. It meant being in a closet. Remember how that feels?

I hope that *Just Out*, which has been pleasantly accepting of bisexual and transgender people in the past few years, isn't going to close those closet doors again. Bisexuality is the queerest thing around, girl. In the bisexual heart, anything goes. And I hope Renée is permanently vaccinated against being surprised by love, because believe me, it can happen.

Sallie Tisdale  
Portland

### Why waste energy?

To the Editor:

With all the real issues in the world and the gay and lesbian community, why waste energy on whether JoAnn Loulan is a lesbian or not? It seems to me with all the real attacks on us, eating our own is really stupid. If the gay and lesbian community wants tolerance and acceptance from others, we also need to extend it.

I was appalled by your wish that her relationship not last. I was appalled that acceptance of her decision appears to be such an afterthought of your editorial. You are clearly unwilling to accept Loulan as a person who needs to decide what is right for herself. I am glad that you are not my friend.

But then I expect no better from your newspaper, which rarely reports on anything important to the Portland gay and lesbian community.

Mary Anne Joyce  
Portland

### Offended by anti-male remarks

To the Editor:

I was amazed at your [Feb. 7] editorial; I thought maybe I was reading a "stereotypical" heterosexual response to the discovery that a loved one is gay. You actually felt "shock, sadness and disbelief" to discover that JoAnn Loulan had fallen in love with a man. You then go on to say that you hope "her new relationship won't last forever and that she'll again fall in love with a woman."

As a man I am offended by your anti-male remarks. One can clearly sense your belief that to love a woman is a far more beautiful, tasteful experience, and that to love a man is neither. How sad that a high-profile member of our community can blatantly display such heterophobic and sexist attitudes—and at the same time pretend to be a champion of tolerance and justice. I think that before you begin to give advice to anyone on whom they should love, perhaps you should examine your own shortcomings and biases.

I do compliment you and your paper on the fine job you have done throughout the years. However, we must all be reminded from time to time when we have succumbed to our own intolerance and bigotry. I would ask that you remember that many of your readers are male (and also perhaps heterosexual).

I understand it was not your intention to degrade or offend a large percentage of your readers. I only ask that in the future you consider the

points of view of all your readers, including your male readers.

Shawn Perkins  
Vancouver

### Surprising times

To the Editor:

Thank you for printing in the same issue that you hope that [JoAnn Loulan's] new relationship [with a man] won't last forever, that Eartha Kitt wishes that gay men "would switch," and that Eartha's interviewer, Daniel Vaillancourt (who identifies himself as gay), suggests "maybe some of them wish they could switch too!"

I have no answers for everybody as to who is really what and what it all means, but I have enjoyed finding out my own answers. I gained a lot in my search from the support of others—so I am glad to see you encouraging your readers to do the same.

Trevor Blake  
Portland

### Support Oregon ENDA

To the Editor:

It is unconscionable for a transsexual, who has legal protection under Oregon law from employment discrimination, to oppose a bill that would give the same legal protection to gay men, lesbians and bisexuals. I would encourage all transsexuals, gay men, lesbians and bisexuals to come together to support the 1997 ENDA bill that has been introduced in the Oregon Legislature.

Our collective communities are too small for factionalized fighting. If we are to achieve equal rights in Oregon, we must all support one another. In unity there is strength. As an action item, please come to the next meeting of the Metropolitan Human Rights Commission and ask them to support the ENDA bill.

JoAnna E. McNamara  
Lake Oswego

### Keep your laws off my body

To the Editor:

It took decades for government to recognize medical opinion that transsexual women such as myself were born with a correctable birth defect. Even the State of Georgia—that bastion of liberal politics—issued me a new birth certificate acknowledging that after my surgery I was indeed female.

Now Rep. George Eighmey has drafted legislation that would "grant" me civil rights protection so long as I proclaim myself to be a male. Well, thanks but no thanks, George. I am a woman, and I am not about to have you force a sex change on me to comply with your notions of political correctness.

Lon Mabon wants the State of Oregon to refuse to recognize changes of sex. George has written the bill.

Rachel S. Koteles  
Portland

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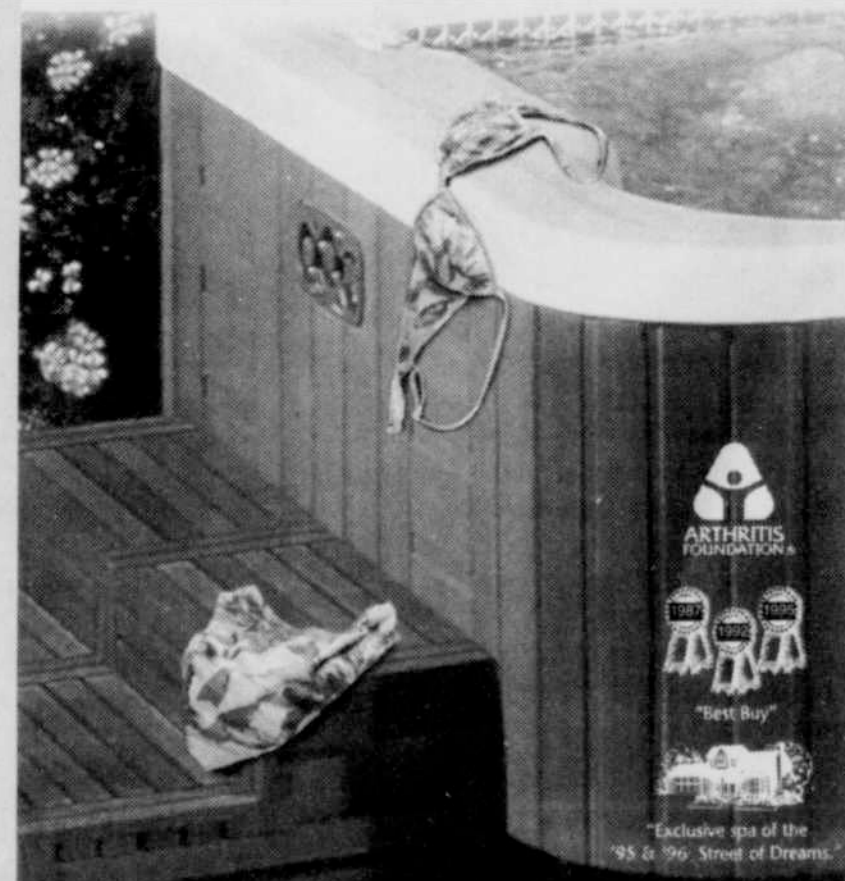
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