

letters

Bad timing, big bumper

To the Editor:

I am writing on behalf of the City Repair/T-Horse project to give you some background on the regrettable conflict in timing between our event and the Pride parade.

City Repair is a community-building project which invites us to see the common ground we share as a human family. It will occur at noon on June 21, when the people of Portland join hands in a gigantic circle that brings together the Southeast, Northeast, Northwest and Southwest quadrants of the city. City Repair is an event that we can share regardless of ordinary boundaries of geography, "class," race or sex.

Although the idea may seem pointless or idealistic, we believe that this simple gesture—holding hands—has the power to transform us and our city in a profound and wide-reaching way.

So, if City Repair is all about inclusion, why did we schedule it to run through downtown on Southwest 18th Avenue, at the same time that the Pride parade is going down Broadway?

We messed up. We chose June 21 months ago, because it is the Summer Solstice and also International Peace and Justice Day. We didn't realize the conflict until hundreds of fliers and maps had already been distributed. Although sincerely bummed, we decided that it would be too confusing to try to move the event at that late date.

We hope you will think of City Repair as encircling and embracing Pride, not excluding it. And we hope very much to see our gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered brothers and sisters at the Potluck Party at Pioneer Courthouse Square at 7:30 pm on June 21. There will be live music, dancing, potluck food, and a great diversity of community art and spirit. Please come and share the strength and beauty of the queer community with your neighbors.

For more information about City Repair, call 321-5089 or visit www.millennium-cafe.com/t-horse/ on the World Wide Web.

Carol Carmick, Circle Coordinator
City Repair/T-Horse Project

Tales told statewide

To the Editor:

As a supporter of Oregon Public Broadcasting and a five-year volunteer for OPB's Audience Services, I must challenge a statement in Lee Lynch's article ["Ellen backlash," *Just Out*, June 6, 1997].

Lynch states that someone had to tape Armistead Maupin's *Tales of the City* for her "because the local public TV station didn't have Ellen's courage." Assuming that her local public TV station is OPB, I can assure you that this delightful and controversial series was indeed aired in Oregon by OPB. Furthermore, I believe that OPB was courageous enough to broadcast the version which was shown to British audiences instead of a special version for prudish American audiences.

I remember very well, the day after each of the episodes aired, having to listen to irate callers to Audience Services objecting to the "disgusting" scenes of two men shown kissing or in bed together. Each week a number of viewers (or people who had only heard about the shows) threatened (or promised!) never to contribute another penny to OPB.

So let's thank our local public television station for providing Oregon viewers the opportunity to see *Tales of the City* and for continuing to offer other programs of special interest to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered viewers and our supporters. OPB was there for us before *Ellen* and ABC were.

Lyle M. Tucker
Lake Oswego

Lee Lynch responds: I apologize to Oregon Pub-

lic Broadcasting and *Just Out* readers for confusing *Tales of the City* with another show.

Let us adopt our own labels

To the Editor:

With regard to the recent letter from Margaret Deirdre O'Hartigan [*Letters, Just Out*, June 6, 1997], I have a couple of comments. First of all, O'Hartigan repeatedly mentions "the typical transsexual." Is there such a thing? And if there is, is it fair to diminish the plight of a transsexual who is not "the typical transsexual"? Is the transsexual community so lacking in diversity that we can speak of trans issues only in how they pertain to "the typical transsexual"?

Further, O'Hartigan stated that "married men and daddies who decide to change sex should respect the choices made by the wives who would rather divorce than be forced by their husbands to become lesbian." Whoa. Forced to become lesbian? We've been accused of recruiting, but this is ridiculous. Most importantly, this places a very strict definition on what it means to be a lesbian. This statement implies that being a lesbian is something that can instantly occur if your male partner changes his biological sex and you still love him and want to be with him. It implies that being lesbian is defined by who we love, not who we are. I'm sure JoAnn Loulan would concur when I suggest that O'Hartigan allow the lesbians to adopt our own labels as we see fit and not do the labeling for us based upon the perceived biological sex of our partners.

Darla Moyer-Sims
Portland

Keep your laws off my flier

To the Editor:

Radical Women, in coalition with drag queens, lesbians, transgenders and gay groups, co-founded the first Lesbian and Gay Pride march through downtown Portland in 1977. Ironically, that same year the Portland City Council passed two ordinances that violate everyone's free speech rights. Most people don't know these ordinances exist, until they try to organize a rally or march.

Ordinance 20.12.010 (Conducting Business or Soliciting Charity) says, "It is unlawful for any person to solicit for or conduct any business, or to sell or offer to sell any article or service, or to solicit for a charitable contribution in a park unless that person has been granted a concession or a park permit by the Commissioner in Charge of the Bureau of Parks or by the Council." Ordinance 20.12.020 (Distributing Printed Material) says, "It is unlawful for any person in a park to distribute or offer for sale any written, printed or graphic material except from a sidewalk or footpath."

As more people become fed up by the injustices in our society and gather to share information, these two ordinances are used against us, especially radical and grass-roots groups, to squelch the proliferation of progressive ideas. Instead of police, city officials are using expensive fees to intimidate the community from organizing marches and demonstrations. Activists are penalized for selling their newspapers and distributing leaflets. As workers and taxpayers, we need to remind the mayor and City Council that the parks are public areas, governed by the Constitution not censorship, and demand that ordinances Title 20.12.010 and Title 20.12.020 be abolished.

Jordana Sardo
Radical Women

CORRECTION

In the cover story of our June 6 issue, "Moving Pictures," the statements attributed to Kalim Winata were actually made by C.C. Keong. *Just Out* regrets the error.

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