

# letters

## What about Boykin?

To the Editor:

I was glad to see the Pride celebration covered in *Just Out's* July 3 issue. However, I expected to see something about Keith Boykin, the grand marshal of the parade and executive director of the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum. There was no coverage of his excellent talk, given Sunday, June 22, at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center.

At the event he made observations about the oppression of blacks and that faced by gay people. Homophobia in the black community is generally perceived to be worse than is the reality. However, according to Boykin, racism in the gay community is far worse than most people think.

Could a *Just Out* reporter interview Boykin? Possibly he has suggestions for changes the white lesbian and gay community could make so that life would be easier and less fragmented for black lesbian and gay community members.

*Just Out* has been a place to discuss ways to develop a more inclusive community. Since the Oregon Citizens Alliance has backed off temporarily, now is the time to clean up some racist attitudes that weaken us. I look forward to a productive exchange.

Ellen Greenlaw  
Sandy

## Baptists should go farther

To the Editor:

Having been reared in rural Alabama and baptized Southern Baptist, having taught Sunday School, sung in the choir, taught vacation Bible school, even preached a few sermons as a teenager, I am somewhat disappointed that my "brothers and sisters" didn't take the notion of the Disney boycott all the way.

Disney is just the tip of the iceberg that should draw the fire of the Bible-beating Baptist.... Why not rip from the Broadman Hymnal every song that has been authored by a gay or lesbian composer or lyricist. Throw out every gay or lesbian member of the baptized body of believers—including choir directors, church musicians, deacons, Sunday school teachers, and yes, the pastors of many Baptist congregations. Remove from church buildings the stained glass, pipe organs, pianos and other artistic elements that may have been designed and executed by gay and lesbian artisans.

Why not rip from the pages of the Bible all references to same-sex love and respect. No more Ruth and Naomi, no more Jonathan and David, no more Jesus and "the disciple whom he loved."

But let's leave in that passage which the "practicing Christians" seldom seem to recall when they are in their pulpits and on television, condemning those they don't understand: "Judge not, that ye be not judged."

The ultimate boycott should be against the King James Version of the Holy Bible. After all, it is the product of the agenda of a homosexual: King James.

James O. Yeaman  
Chicago, Ill.

## Protest by post

To the Editor:

Reading the guest editorial by Kerry Lobel ["Promising vision," *Just Out*, July 18, 1997] incensed me so much that I called a local Baptist Church to obtain the address of Southern Baptist Convention President the Rev. Tom Elliff [whom Lobel quotes as calling gay men and lesbians "moral trash"]. The secretary was very helpful, putting me on hold while she called headquarters in Vancouver. She seemed very supportive, suggesting that [the quote] must have been an error.

It would be quite effective if this man of the

cloth were to be floored by an avalanche of protest. Let's get with it, girls: The Rev. Tom Elliff, First Southern Baptist Church, PO Box 15039, Dell City, OK 73155; (405) 732-1300.

Orwin E. Graham  
Portland

## Map gap

To the Editor:

I felt it necessary to write regarding [the nightspots map] I found in your June 20 issue.

I was advertising with *Just Out* and have stopped due to lack of reader response. Most of my customers have said they don't read your publication because it is often the same from issue to issue or they are upset over errors. The map is a prime example of why I am not advertising with you at this time: You left us out, and our doors had been open for two months at the time of publication. I am not speaking for Kathy at The Fox and Hounds, but you left it out also.

If you are publicizing nightspots in the Portland area you should at least do the research to report it accurately.

William Huff, owner  
The Odyssey

*Editor's note: We appreciate you writing to us and have added the two bars to our nightspots map (see page 41).*

## I love Lucy

To the Editor:

Having recently attended a reading at Powell's City of Books by my former student and graduate of Portland's Wilson High School Lucy Jane Bledsoe, I was disappointed not to find her books included in the "Booking into Summer" feature [*Just Out*, July 18, 1997]. Her work has been praised on NPR's *All Things Considered*, and author Carol Anshaw has called her "an intelligent, deeply perceptive lesbian voice of the '90s."

Bledsoe's first book, *Sweat: Stories and a Novella*, was a finalist for the Lambda Literary Award. Her latest book (her first novel), *Working Parts*, is a witty and wonderful little gem.

I hope that *Just Out* will have opportunities in the future to recommend other books by this talented raised-and-educated-in-Portland author.

Lyle M. Tucker  
Lake Oswego

*Editor's note: A review of Bledsoe's book Working Parts ran in our July 3 issue.*

## Not outrageous enough

To the Editor:

This is a response to Kevin Weiche's letter [*Just Out*, July 18, 1997]. I don't know what "explicit comments" Kevin is referring to or which speaker; I'm just glad someone managed to identify the Portland Pride Festival sexually at all. It's too bad that the events on stage were not more subversive and outrageous.


The commercialism on the festival grounds was the real embarrassment. Real estate? Air cleaners and ridiculous trinkets? It was like a cheesy county fair!

I am for detracting from the idea that I am leading a life "very much like everyone else." This year's Pride Festival was probably much closer to being just like "everyone else" than you realize. Talk about shame and embarrassment.

Thanks, Kevin, for getting me fired up enough to respond. I'm glad you made some commentary on the festival. Perhaps it was more subversive and outrageous than I realized.

Mark Jennings  
via e-mail

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