

letters

Is it just for the moment we live?

To the Editor:

After viewing the July 21 broadcast of NBC's newsmagazine *Dateline*, I felt compelled to write to you. The explicit subject of the program was Andrew Cunanan. It was obvious that this alleged killer was a desperate and dangerous man who was deeply disturbed. What was surprising was the show's implicit subject: What drove this charming gigolo to murder?

As reported on television, Cunanan turned from simple lying gigolo to serial killer only after being rejected by his older male keeper. It would seem that 27 is too old to be "kept" in the gay community. The reporters and interview subjects implied that Cunanan was "over the hill"! The interviewers used words like aging, faded, highly competitive and the A list. Portrayed was a world so caught up in being youthful, rich and ideal that anything less must be a social death sentence.

All of this together showed the viewing audience the shallowest and basest side of gay life. It showed the hedonistic, youth-obsessive side of our world—the side that is exclusive, discriminating and superficial.

All too often we show only one or two sides of our nature. We may haul out our defenses when we're attacked, and we may march out our pride in June. But what are we defending? We rarely show our "sameness" with the world. We have an apparent need to be anything but average. Are we just the fun-loving, frolicking hedonists we appear to be? Is the bar scene all we're about? Is it a curse to be less than handsome, charming, witty and wealthy? What about intellect, talent, kindness and generosity? Do we really honor these things? What would our world be like if the AIDS crisis had not come along? Would there be any solemnity in our "disco world"? Would we be more than *Dream Girls*, drag queens, Calvin Klein fashions and cocktails?

Is it any wonder that Cunanan went off the deep end? As he fell, was there much to grab on to? His actions seem to be those of a demonic Peter Pan fighting anything that suggested that he was not the best of the best and forever young. Like Andrew Cunanan, how many of us are out there doing whatever it takes to stay young, empowered and in the spotlight?

Jim Crino
Portland

Muchas gracias

To the Editor:

I want to thank *Just Out* very much for the profile on such a weird character as myself, hanging around the Portland gay and literary scene. It was very thorough, fun to do, and Chris is a good writer. Portland does have a gay generational history, and I hope I was able to fill in some of the gaps.

Just Out ought to continue to profile active creative folks in the community. So often, the same old celebrity types from outside the region get hyped in journalistic endeavors, and there is a need for the community to know, network with and celebrate its own. Break the mold; give us some fresh faces and vibrant Oregon and Portland personalities. Artists, writers and poets so much

struggle in the dark. Alone. And unrecognized before their demise.

So if I drop dead tomorrow, I won't go feeling unloved and forgotten. Thanks.

Walt Curtis
Oregon City

Let's hear the success stories

To the Editor:

After reading the article "Diving for dollars" [*Just Out*, Aug. 1, 1997] one may wonder exactly what I am marketing through Nationwide Auto Club. I wanted to clear up the confusion. I am selling "purchasing power," similar to the purchasing ability usually reserved for large corporations and Fortune 500 associates. Middle America knows that the corporate elite does not usually pay full price for things like cars, long distance, travel, car rentals, etc., and Nationwide's benefits package offers consumers the chance of a similar discount.

As you may suspect, women, marginalized communities and the elderly pay substantially higher prices for a car from a dealer than a white male purchasing the exact same car. Likewise, corporations like IBM, Hertz and AT&T pay \$2,000 to \$7,000 less for a new car than an individual will. With Nationwide, you can purchase cars at fleet prices with a phone call—no haggling. A \$695 benefits package can save an average \$3,000 to \$4,000 on your next car.

Nationwide is one of the fastest growing companies in the United States. It markets a practical product that makes sense for anybody, and it has the most generous compensation plan of any network marketing company I have researched.

There are two other points I would like to clear up:

Although non-profits can join Nationwide at no cost and then begin saving and earning money, the Portland Lesbian Choir is not fundraising in this way and is not affiliated with Nationwide, as the article seems to imply. Also, the associate who introduced me to this opportunity was inaccurately reported as being involved in the First Tuesday Coffeehouse. In fact, I met her through work at a previous job.

The article may have fueled skeptics and left a lot of people wary of network marketing. I would love for the community to hear from people who have had successful and positive experiences with it. (I have of course met many successful people in Nationwide, but *Just Out* did not interview them.) Are any of you out there?

Cindy Zrinyi
Portland

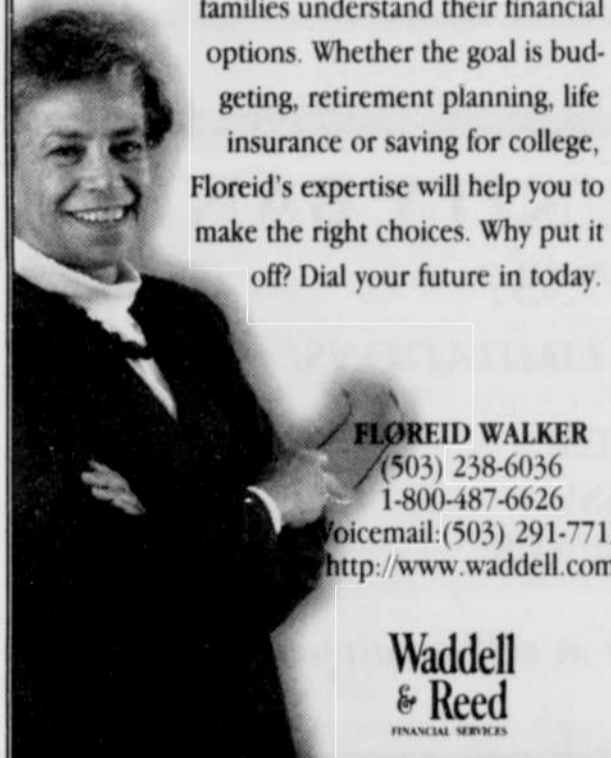
TRANSITIONS

A new man

Reid (formerly Nancy) Vanderburgh is pleased to announce a new birthday. On June 20, 1997, Vanderburgh began hormone therapy as a female-to-male transsexual. He now has "a Virgo sun, Gemini sunnier!" To honor this transition as fully as possible, Vanderburgh requests that only male pronouns be used to refer to him in the future.

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