

letters

Silliness delightful

To the Editor:

Today I saw the comedy *In & Out* and found it delightful. I take exception to William C. Stosine's letter [*Just Out*, Oct. 17, 1997], as I felt this film did an excellent job of showing attitudes and feelings of small-town America toward something they have heard of but never seen before. The school principal couldn't even say "homosexual" at first.

At one time in my own life I was like the teacher in the movie, not knowing if I was gay, and to prove I wasn't I kept a man nearby. After coming out I became more like Tom Selleck's character, just taking it for granted and not being bothered by it.

I am grateful for this movie. The silly parts and the unbelievable parts were there for emphasis and laughter. It is, in my opinion, a good attempt to educate the movie-going public that all gay persons aren't drag queens. They can be high-school teachers or TV newsmen.

I'm glad I saw *In & Out*, and I recommend it to others who may have had similar experiences in their coming out process.

Kathy Bambeck
Portland

Dear Big O

Editor's preface: A copy of the following letter was sent to Just Out with a photocopy of an ad that ran in the Oregonian on Oct. 10, the day that National Coming Out Day was observed in many cities. The ad, placed by The Portland Fellowship, portrayed a "former lesbian" who says her Christian faith led her to marry a man and become a mother. The ad's bold type reads: "There is another way out."

To the Editor:

Per the enclosed, you need to know this is very offensive. Instead of reaching out in understanding, true compassion and humanity, this fosters more one-sided, narrow beliefs.

Christ did nothing like what you are doing with this distasteful ad.

Last year the same stunt was pulled by some insecure Christians, and you printed their ad.

To print such an ad on National Coming Out Day is bad manners at best, perhaps narrow, egotistical thinking as well; maybe just thoughtless. Where is your sense of responsibility?

Your acceptance and continuance of this sort of advertising is shameful. It says much about your ethics and standards, and your community standards.

"By their actions, you shall know them."

You can be assured I will not be continuing my subscription to the *Oregonian*.

E. Charles Engel
Portland

Carbon copy, part two

Dear Mr. Keisling:

I won't take much of your time, but on behalf of Oregon's citizens (not only those of us who happen to be gay), I want to thank you and Gov. Kitzhaber for your principled support of gay history [in proclaiming October Lesbian and Gay History Month in Oregon].

The histories of America's many minorities, whether Original Nations, African American, Chinese American, Japanese American or others, have for the past century largely been either neglected or overtly suppressed.

Things I consider sacred and vital—namely, stories of courage and accomplishment that have a liberating promise for all—have been lost each time that has happened. It is one of the great tasks of our age to recover what little we can from the precious scraps of historical record that have not been obliterated.

Certainly for us—countless women and men who were considered to be completely defined and categorized by the term "the love that dare not speak its name" or "not to be mentioned among Christians"—the sacrifices that we have offered, and the contributions that we made to the building of this nation, have never been adequately acknowledged and celebrated.

Those who stand to lose the most are the young gay people who are growing up today. They have not yet been taught that a gay man, Alan Turing, laid the intellectual foundations for the digital age; that a lesbian, Susan B. Anthony, for many decades led the nation's fight for women's rights; or that a gay poet, Walt Whitman, utterly redefined the relationship between God and believer. To withhold from our youth any longer these examples of courage and achievement poses the direst of threats to their well-being in our often harsh and intolerant society.

Thanks for your support of this effort.

Mitch Gould
Via e-mail

It brings a tear to the eye

To the Editor:

So Gov. Kitzhaber signed a proclamation Oct. 3 proclaiming that "October is the month in which annual recognition of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered history is being coordinated," adding that "the Kitzhaber administration is committed to activities that...uphold dignity, social justice and equal rights for all persons."

How special.

Perhaps Kitzhaber would care to explain why, then, on Aug. 13 of this year he signed into law Senate Bill 44, which specifically singled out transsexualism for exclusion from Oregon's requirement that employers provide reasonable accommodations for disability?

And perhaps Salem's Coalition to End Bigotry—which submitted the wording of the proclamation for Kitzhaber's signature—would care to explain why it saw fit to give Kitzhaber a chance to whitewash his transphobic endorsement of SB 44 while doing nothing to prevent passage of this discriminatory bill?

Kitzhaber and the Coalition to End Bigotry are guilty of more than just empty posturing; they are rewriting history.

Happy "Lesbian and Gay History Month."

Margaret Deirdre O'Hartigan
Portland

BIRTHS

B.K. Segall, family and friends are thrilled to announce the birth of a daughter, Ryan Victoria Segall. She was born Oct. 14, 1997, at 12:04 am and weighed 6 pounds, 7 1/2 ounces.

UNIONS



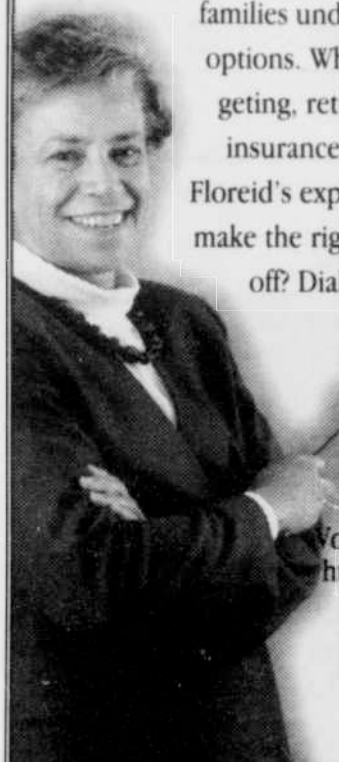
On Oct. 24, 1997, Traylee Poirier and Pamela Trimble were united in love. They look forward to raising their daughter, Catherine, together.

The ceremony was performed by Mara Kathleen Morgen and took place in Salem.

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With the recent loss of Affirmative Action it has become all too apparent that African Americans are considered less than by the powers that be in this country. It is of no consequence that the United States was built upon the backs of those same individuals. As an African American and a lesbian I ask **all** of my brothers and sisters to extend your support to the fight for Reparations because of Slavery in this country.

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