

66 **T**he right to be let alone is the most comprehensive of rights and the right most valued by civilized people."

— Justice Louis Brandeis



Call for brochure

506 S.W. Sixth Avenue, Suite 900, Portland, OR 97204 (503)294-9998

Rogers & Rodz Attorneys at Law

Criminal defense by a former judge, state and federal prosecutor, and state and federal public defenders

HAMID'S PERSIAN RUGS

Portland's Finest Selection of New/Old Persian & Other Oriental Rugs, Tribal Kilims, Bags & Pillows

Smart Buyers
Choice
Since 1981



- Member of Oriental Rug Retailer of America
- ORRA Certified Appraiser
- Expert Cleaning & Repair
- Pads & Rug Underlays

248-9511

901 SW WASHINGTON ST.
CORNER OF 9th & WASH.
Mon-Sat 10-6 Sun 12-5

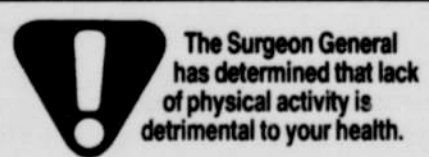
#1 TREADMILL

PRECOR^{USA}
Low Impact
Treadmills

Precor is rated the #1 treadmill supplier by *Sporting Goods Dealer* magazine.

Treadmills are the most effective calorie burning exercise machine

according to a recent report in *The Journal of the American Medical Association*.



PRECOR^{USA}
TREADMILLS

The Standard by which all others are judged.

10 models to choose.
Prices start at \$1,495

EXERCISE EQUIPMENT Northwest

659-4055
11211 SE 82nd
1 mile N. of Clackamas T.C. 1-800-659-0421

644-0615
11865 SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy.
Beaverton Town Square

letters

Mentorship project will continue

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to your article regarding Multnomah County's intention to cut funding for the PRIDE Mentorship Project ["Are you my mentor?" *Just Out*, Dec. 5, 1997]. The article seems to have given your readers the wrong impression, namely that the possibility of connecting queer youth with a caring and responsible adult in a healthy and safe way is no longer available.

Despite the significant strides made by queer and trans adults in our society today, the fact remains that many queer and questioning youth continue to grow up in a hostile homophobic and ageist environment. As queer and trans adults, we have been working passionately to develop, foster and celebrate a culture of our own, but it seems that in the process we have inadvertently failed to provide opportunities for a dialogue between young people and "the rest of us." It is our responsibility to demonstrate that queer-positive adults do exist and do care about the greater interest of queer, trans and questioning youth. It should be our obligation to invest in the futures of these talented and resilient young people.

The fact that Multnomah County committed to developing and maintaining the PRIDE Mentorship Project for one and a half years holds promise. In fact, the committed volunteers comprising the PRIDE Mentorship Project have spent a great deal of time and energy living up to that promise. The mere presence of the 11 volunteers who have actually passed through the comprehensive application and screening process sends a strong message to queer, trans and questioning youth. These volunteers are ready to spend some quality, non-judgmental and safe time with youth in hopes of buffering the damage our homophobic culture has inflicted on them.

If there is one point that has been made clear by the program thus far, it is that this process of outreach, assessment and matching of youth with a compatible mentor is not an easy one. It is imperative that the critics of this model understand that we are working with young adults who have been dealing with complex issues most of their lives. A great deal of time and energy goes into making a quality match. The program's five successful matches speak to the importance of investing this time.

With or without the county's support, Phoenix Rising's board of directors intends to continue the PRIDE Mentorship Project and to send the message to queer, trans and questioning youth that caring and responsible adults are out there.

Brandt Rigby, Coordinator
PRIDE Mentorship Project

Liar, liar

To the Editor:

With the publication of Mary Ann Stover's review of Daphne Scholinski's book *The Last Time I Wore a Dress* ["Gender Hostage," Dec. 19, 1997] *Just Out* has removed my last doubts as to whether Renée LaChance understands the meaning of the term "journalistic integrity."

Gender identity disorder is the diagnosis a transsexual must have in order to receive sex-reassignment surgery in the United States—but the word "transsexual" doesn't appear even once in the full page of unsubstantiated claims maligning our diagnosis. Instead, individuals with this life-threatening disorder are characterized merely as adults "who want to change gender."

What's the matter, *Just Out*—afraid your readers might catch on to the absurdity of gay and lesbian youth supposedly being labeled with the diagnosis for transsexualism?

For more than five years the National Center for Lesbian Rights has waged a campaign to

eradicate medical recognition of transsexualism, masking its goal by claiming—à la Lon Mabon and the Oregon Citizens Alliance—to be concerned for children. And like the OCA, the NCLR and its allies have shown themselves willing to stoop to calumny and deceit to effect their goal.

Where are the "tens of thousands of kids" that Scholinski and Stover and *Just Out* claim are institutionalized with GID? Solely in Scholinski's imagination, where they reside with her other lies.

Stover's review reports that "In [Scholinski's] years of being incarcerated, she says, nobody ever asked her if she were gay."

Oh, really? Then why almost exactly halfway through her book does Scholinski go on for page after page about how she wrote in her journal that she liked girls and then was grilled by a psychiatrist about whether she liked girls or was attracted to boys?

The more Scholinski opens her mouth the more she becomes entangled in her web of deceit—but instead of bothering with anything remotely resembling investigative journalism, *Just Out* is content to parrot her lies.

In the 1970s lesbian-feminist theologian Janice Raymond claimed that medical recognition and treatment of transsexualism posed a threat to the continued existence of women, and wrote, "I contend that the problem of transsexualism would best be served by morally mandating it out of existence."

Raymond's hate-mongering was seized upon by lesbian feminists across the United States to justify their discrimination against male-to-female transsexuals. It's the '90s now, and even lesbian-feminists can't help but have noticed the half billion or so more women living on Earth, so now the excuse for targeting the diagnosis for transsexualism is a rehash of Mabon's "Child Protection Act" campaign.

The transsexual struggle to obtain sex-reassignment services through the Oregon Health Plan has been repeatedly reported by the *Oregonian*, *Willamette Week* and Portland television stations—and not a word in *Just Out*.

What's the matter, Renée? Are you too incompetent to report the news, or are you just another bigot willing to repeat lies in order to do away with medical recognition of transsexualism?

Margaret Deirdre O'Hartigan
Portland

Let the dialogue begin

To the Editor:

As a transsexual who was a victim of psychiatric assault as a teenager, I applaud Daphne Scholinski for her courageous work on this issue. Let us hope that her book is a fatal blow to the hate rhetoric of those who say that this kind of abuse either doesn't happen or is just well-deserved "treatment" that only happens for the benefit of the victims.

Let us also hope that it encourages dialogue and collaboration between queer, transgender, transsexual and psychiatric-survivor activists, so we can all work together to put a stop to psychiatric abuse of youth as well as the institutionalized exploitation of transsexuals by the psychiatric industry.

The present state of affairs for transsexuals is a double bind. Insurance companies refuse to pay for even medically necessary surgery, as if it were merely cosmetic/elective. Even though several major court decisions in the '70s mandated that Medicare pay for sex-reassignment surgery, every state was somehow able to amend its Medicare statutes to specifically exclude SRS.

At the same time, we're forced to undergo psychotherapy to be "approved" for hormones, surgery and legal status as our new gender, as if transsexualism were a "mental illness." Obviously the motivating force behind this exploitation and neglect is money. It is not likely that changing or eliminating the label of gender iden-