



EDITORIAL

BY WILL O'BRYAN

Don't go to pride angry

Tired of getting shafted by the Man? Don't let it get you down, just be proud you're not one of the bad guys

Congress was considering a tax cut for middle- and lower-income married couples. In the *Oregonian*, it was front-page news. That sort of got my goat. Congress won't let us get married, but neither do I hear anyone proposing a "queer tax cut." Can you imagine? Close your eyes and visualize heavy-browed Sam Donaldson rattling away on your TV: "Congress passed a new military budget today—after much squabbling—that included a last-minute tax cut for registered same-sex couples."

Taxes, as an institutional way of rewarding and punishing, have never favored us for who we are. Granted, the tax codes will accept us as parents, rich people or homeowners, but not as queers. The tax cut may not even be very substantial, but the principle is monumental. How many hoops are we supposed to jump through? How mainstream are we supposed to become before Congress accepts us?

A hetero couple married one year gets the Congressional tax-code seal of approval. Meanwhile, openly gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, one of ours who actually sits in the hallowed halls, really doesn't get as much respect from the same Congress that's giving the heteros the tax break; the same Congress he's a part of. The majority there would seemingly grant a tax break for Mr. and Mrs. Random Married People, but leave their colleague out in the cold.

Frank may not be staving off hunger or dodging his landlord's eviction notices, but the principle is still insulting. What could be *more* insulting? I'll tell you what...

I came across another story in the *Oregonian* that got my goat, which is generally pretty passive. The story sat beneath the headline: "Majority

leader calls homosexuality a treatable sin." Maybe you noticed it if you weren't too busy recruiting children on the Internet.

The headline refers to Sen. Trent Lott, the Mississippi Republican calling the GOP shots in the Senate. Regardless of party politics, this is a pretty lofty position. One would expect that the person who holds the title Senate Majority Leader wouldn't have his head so far up his ass that he would make public statements like: "You should not try to mistreat them [which means us, in not-with-a-10-foot-pole terms] or treat them as outcasts. You should try to deal with that problem, just like alcohol...or sex addiction...or kleptomaniacs."

I'm going to give the *Oregonian* staff the benefit of the doubt and assume they printed this quote correctly. That may be too generous, though, as their editor also decided the Lott story was page-12 news, unlike the tax cut story, which made page one.

Perhaps there was more pressing news that pushed this story to the back of the paper. After all, there was the hard-hitting tale of Yellowstone's ecosystem recovering after its 1988 fire. That sort of screamed, "Page one now! The story must be told!" It whispered, "Screw you, fag."

At least I can thank the U.S. Congress, Idiot Lott and the *Oregonian* for reminding me that I have plenty of reasons to be proud this upcoming pride weekend. When I think of these men who assume they're superior to me because Hooters waitresses give them erections with their chicken strips, or the Promise Keepers' wives who pity me because I don't know how to dominate them, I take pride in knowing I'm not like them.

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