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Speak out

Brave new world

TO THE EDITOR:

Yes, now that a vaccine may soon be available, all you young sleazoids, old crows (who survived), and generally amoral and loathsome creeps can now return to the bars, reopen the baths, free up the bushes, and boff each other's butts with wild abandon.

Armed with a vaccine and Viagra, you'll once again wear the blinders and insist that the rest of the world play along. If they don't, of course, they'll be "homophobic" and "discriminatory" because they won't approve of your complete lack of human compassion, moral grounding and ethical behavior.

Let me be the first to remind you, babies: Those who refuse to remember the lost ones are condemned to repeating their mistakes.

JEFF CLARK
Portland

A thousand thanks

TO THE EDITOR:

I wish to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to all those who supported me in my campaign for Multnomah County Commissioner. Even though I lost the race, I won in so many other ways. I met thousands of wonderful people whose stories have given me a greater understanding of the day to day struggles each of us face. I have been enriched by the friendships, the expressions of support and the show of dedication to democracy.

Thank you, one and all.

GEORGE EIGHMEY
Portland

Roberts endorsement still stings

TO THE EDITOR:

Your endorsement of Jack Roberts, the anti-labor labor commissioner, was a disgrace to the spirit of the gay and lesbian rights movement. Stonewall was a rebellion against a raid on a working-class gay bar, and the militancy of the gay and lesbian movement that followed is the source of the rights we have won. We will not win any further rights with black-tie dinners or seeking favor with the likes of career politicians such as Roberts.

Roberts has campaigned to abolish the Bureau of Labor and Industries, has cut state funding of apprenticeship committees and has reduced enforcement in the civil rights division.

We need allies, but our real allies are in the ranks of the union movement, the feminist movement and the struggles against racism.

JOE KEAR
ADRIENNE WELLER
JORDANA SARDO
JEN LAVERDURE
GLENN KIRKINDALL
Members, Portland State University gay and lesbian history study group

Give funds, lend a hand: It's your pleasure

TO THE EDITOR:

Calling all progressive queers: Your disabled brothers and sisters need your help!

I am writing to urge community members to help It's My Pleasure to make the new store wheelchair accessible. It's My Pleasure has been a community resource for a long time. Now, they are unable to serve the entire community because of accessibility issues and a lack of funds. Seven months ago, I was in the old shop.

They swore to me that their new shop would be wheelchair accessible; six months after they opened, it still is not. I tried to shop there yesterday and was completely denied service because I use a wheelchair. This is discrimination, pure and simple. No one offered to help me into the store; no one offered to bring out what I wanted, so I could get what I had come for. Instead, I was given the excuse that they "ran out of money to build the ramp."

JoLynn, the clerk who was working that day, needs to hear from community members that such discrimination is unacceptable in the sexual minorities community. Please help send a message that discrimination will not be tolerated.

On a more proactive note, Holly [Mulcahey, owner of It's My Pleasure] needs our help to make the shop accessible. She called me this morning to apologize and explained the situation. Her heart seems to be in the right place; she wants the store to be accessible. The facts are that building a ramp takes resources—time, money, materials—which are currently unavailable. I am asking community members to do the following, so that It's My Pleasure can again be a resource for the entire LBGT community:

If you are skilled with a hammer, call Holly and volunteer some time to help build the ramp. The specs are already drawn; what is needed are the resources to implement them.

If you can spare some money, please donate to the ramp fund.

If you can donate lumber or other materials, please do.

Together, we can accomplish amazing things.

SHULAMIT LEVINE
via e-mail

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing this letter to draw attention to the new location of It's My Pleasure at 3106 N.E. 64th Ave. at Sandy Boulevard. In the past few months many people in the community have found their way to the beautiful new store in the big white house with the charming garden in the front and the cozy Sacred Grounds Coffee House in the back; and many have not. Those who have visited the new location may have noticed it is still the wonderful store that this community has come to enjoy and depend on. However, you also may have noticed something very important is missing: a wheelchair ramp!

This is not an oversight, it is something It's My Pleasure is working very hard on to ensure continued accessibility to everyone in our community. This is no small task, though necessary and worthwhile, and the expense is slowing the process down. It's My Pleasure has enlisted some great women to design and build the ramp, however, we need to raise the money to pay for everything involved. A "Help Build The Ramp" donation can be on the counter at the store, and people are dropping cash, checks and even credit card receipts into it. Some have even generously donated \$100! Those donating \$100 or more will have their names on a plaque to hang at the store.

I would encourage those who have not ventured to the new location yet to do so, it really is a wonderful space. I would also encourage everyone to drop what they can into the donation can on the counter or send donations in the mail to It's My Pleasure (Wheelchair Ramp Fund), 3106 N.E. 64th Ave., Portland, OR 97213. Every little bit helps, and as soon as enough money is collected the ramp can be built and the store will be accessible to everyone in the community.

BECKY BILYEU
Portland