

OPB audience member), I have let off steam and told nearby employees how upset I was with the caller.

Staff members have always been extremely sympathetic, sincerely concerned about me, and supportive. (I have always been open at OPB about being gay.)

We "diverse" folks are not the only ones to complain about the inconvenient hour of a program that we want offered in prime time.

I appreciate that OPB offers these gay-related programs, regardless of the hour. Most of us now possess VCRs. Videotaping makes it possible to view a program at one's convenience.

Obviously, the size of audience helps determine what is offered in the best time slots. A program on the Holocaust (to use Begley's example) is apt to draw a larger audience than the programs of interest to "diverse folks."

As for "diverse people like us" contributing to the arts, we sure do, and if the "gay community" wants to be better treated by OPB, we need to become members and let OPB know that we support it because of programs such as *The Castro* and *In the Life*. We must call or write to say thanks when these programs air, too.

OPB hears often and loudly from the anti-gay crowd. Let me and my colleagues at OPB audience services hear from our side—with your support and gratitude, as well as any legitimate complaints.

LYLE M. TUCKER
Lake Oswego

Just Out deserves some too

TO THE EDITOR:

Just a line to let you know how much I appreciate your work.

Letters must be accompanied by a phone number for verification purposes. Anonymous letters and letters without sufficient contact information will not be published.

just asking

thoughts on the following question: "What do you think will be the greatest challenge facing the sexual minorities community in the new century?"

On Saturday, Aug. 15, Just Out took part in the Mid-Willamette Pride celebration in Salem. Visitors to our table were asked to share their



LEE SWANTEK AND DON HUTCHINSON
McMinnville

Life partners for 40 years

"Coming to terms with the marriage issue.

There's a need to try new terminology, i.e., 'union' or 'domestic partner'—terms which might be more acceptable and less threatening to others."



CAROL ALICE
Waldport
PFLAG member

"I think that what I'd like to see is for more gays and lesbians to have the courage to come out, so that people can't ignore you any longer. Once you're out you can never be shoved back in that closet again."



CANDANCE GINGRICH
Washington, D.C.

Political Activist

"To remain if we are, to become if we are not, politically active. The number of Americans, in general, who participate in the political process is pathetic. As a group of people who are still fighting for the most basic of rights, it is imperative that we all vote!"



LISA WESTLUND
Salem

Coalition to End Bigotry Chairperson

"Learning to live with one another. Accepting the differences in each other and understanding the diversity within our own community."

Got a question that keeps you up at night? We'll get the answers you need! Contact Just Out via fax at (503) 236-1252; via e-mail at justout@justout.com; or via the USPS at PO Box 14400, Portland, OR 97293-0400.

I came to Portland as a result of coming out. I dumped my dresser drawers into the back seat of my old Volvo and drove 3,000 miles west because I heard that Portland was a good place to be queer. When I arrived, I found lots of beautiful new family.

Through the years, I used *Just Out* as a guide. I found supportive groups and inspiring courage from gay leaders to get me through the hate measures 9 and 13.

I wonder if you realize how much it means to your readers to count on your guidance, your insights, and entertainment in each publication.

Recently, I read about the squabble involving Carol Steinel and Howie Baggadonutz ["Pride and Prejudice?" *Just Out*, June 19].

It occurred to me that our community leaders may feel burned out and unappreciated from time to time. Thus, I am taking a moment to let them and you know that you are loved and admired.

A big lavender kiss to you all.

HERON
Portland

transition

It is with great pleasure that Mrs. Judith Weiner of White Plains, N.Y., announces the holy union of her son, Marc, to Mr. Stephane Poirier of St. Germain-en-Laye, France.

Many members of the Weiner family will be arriving in Portland for the joyous event, to be held Aug. 23 at the Metropolitan Community Church of Portland, 2400 N.E. Broadway.

Friends are encouraged to attend the 11 a.m. church services at MCC Portland, immediately after which festivities will commence.

SERIAL MONOTONY

Contemporary life offers endless opportunities to obtain good things. Our culture teaches us we are entitled to "have it all" and we intrinsically believe we should be happier when we get what we want. Yet each of us has met people who are miserable pursuing pleasure while many have known at least one person who was happy in spite of suffering.

By and large, the majority of us are neither particularly miserable nor particularly happy. Our lives tend to be a tedious succession of doing and getting which never quite adds up to fulfillment, always leaving us with a pervasive sense that "I would be happy if only..." There are endless possibilities to fill in the blank, but if we face our predicament honestly we must ultimately acknowledge that we are engaged in a meaningless pursuit to create "the good life" out of our strivings.

Jesus taught that to truly live we must first die to ourselves. This is a hard concept which we are tempted to dismiss outright. Common sense argues against the pain of putting our egos to death, but until we are emptied of the incessant demands of self-interest we will remain mired in vanity. Once freed from the compulsion to will the world as we want it however, God's indwelling spirit can transform our minds and hearts and liberate us into a life which transcends the petty monotony of ordinary human existence.

As gay men we are as much in need of God's love as anyone. It is never too soon to step back and ask, "Am I really on a path which is leading me into full and meaningful life?"

A message from the Anawim Community.

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