

## LCP hypocrisy

(Editor's note: The following letter was sent to the Lesbian Community Project. A copy was also sent to Just Out and has been edited for clarity.)

To LCP:

This letter is to tender my immediate resignation to protest LCP's elimination of the affirmative action requirement that three of the 12 board positions "be designated for women of color."

LCP's new bylaw stating the board will "strive to be at least 50 percent community members of color" is unacceptable.

Adopting "strive" in place of "shall" is abandoning an adamant "we will" in favor of a whiny "we'll try."

As to how well LCP complies with its whiny new "commitment" to "strive," LCP's bylaws were also changed to reduce the number of board members from 12 to six, and of the six people elected [at LCP's annual membership meeting on Oct. 16], five were white and only one was a person of color. The last time I checked, 50 percent of six came to three. Exacerbating LCP's hypocrisy is its upcoming "six-week series for white women" entitled *Dismantling Racism: Doing Our Part, Anti-Racism Activism and Liberation*.

According to the LCP flyer distributed at the Oct. 16 meeting, among the topics covered in this series—which is "open to all white women"—are "white privilege, internalized white supremacy [and] white culture," etc.

Apart from LCP's dangerous exclusion of women of color from its structured examination of racism, there is the irony that this organization—which has not only just abolished its affirmative action policy and betrayed its new "commitment" to racial diversity—presumes to instruct the rest of us on our shortcomings.

When I first joined LCP back in 1994, our executive director and six of our 12 board members were women of color. The LCP board's

decision to shape the world to reflect its newly adopted definition of "diversity," which includes men and "men-identified" females, seems guaranteed to succeed, given that we already live in a society biased in favor of whites, men and heterosexuality.

And since LCP is obviously unwilling to even comply with its watered-down bylaws, I have a suggestion—change the name of the organization. For some reason, "Aryan Male Community Project" immediately springs to mind.

MARGARET DEIRDRE O'HARTIGAN  
Portland

## LCP answers the charge

TO THE EDITOR:

LCP's new board is committed to being a multiracial, multigenerational, cross-class, grassroots, lesbian organization that plays a central role in multi-issue organizing and community building.

It has been 10 years since the previous bylaws were approved. The new board proposed a few revisions to reflect the times. Two of the requested revisions in the pre-existing bylaws were to change the requirement of having a minimum of 12 to 15 board members to a minimum of six. The other change was to strive for 50 percent of the board being women of color instead of 25 percent being women of color. The new bylaws were approved on Oct. 16.

LCP has in no way "abolished its affirmative action policy" nor is it instructing anyone on their shortcomings.

The Lesbian Community Project is dedicated to building a world in which all human beings experience full justice, equity, democracy and liberation in all spheres of life.

NANCY CLARK  
LCP BOARD MEMBER  
Portland

## just asking

Recently Just Out sought out readers at random to ask them how they were personally impacted by the death of Matthew Shepard.

PHOTOS BY MARTY DAVIS



GEOFFREY BATEMAN  
Portland  
HIV prevention coordinator, Cascade AIDS Project

"It jolted me back into the awareness that gay and lesbian people live in a potentially dangerous world."



TERRI POPEJOY  
Portland  
Realtor, Equity Group

"It made me aware that laws against hate crimes are not strong enough in our country. Media coverage of these events needs to

be aggressive so that more people are made aware."



GUS WOLTER  
Portland  
Licensed massage therapist

"It reminded me that I'm really lucky to live in an open community."



BOB TERRY  
Portland  
Licensed massage therapist

"It reminded me how I spent a lot of my life escaping from small town prejudice to a city

with a semblance of civility and tolerance."

Got a question that keeps you up at night? We'll get the answers you need!  
Contact Just Out via fax at (503) 236-1257;  
via e-mail at [justout@justout.com](mailto:justout@justout.com);  
or via the USPS at P.O. Box 14400, Portland, OR 97293-0400.

## WILLAMETTE MORTGAGE SERVICES, INC.



- Speed  
15-20 day closings
- Personal service  
your home or office
- Good or bad credit
- Jumbo loans available
- Self-employed
- 0% down programs

503-722-3969

Cory Graunitz  
Senior Loan Officer

Financial planning is a long-term client-advisor relationship built upon two-way communication. By listening to you, I can understand your individual needs, concerns and goals.

Then, together, we make decisions that prepare you with the solutions, strategies and honest answers that take you toward achieving those goals.

Finally,  
someone to do  
the homework.

Waddell & Reed  
FINANCIAL SERVICES

ERIC D. BROWN  
Financial Advisor  
District Manager  
503-238-6036  
800-684-5245



You have the superhuman power

to absorb stress,

convert it to steam

and return it back

to where it

came from.



Call 503-643-5002 for more information about our spas and the exceptional level of service that accompanies each one. Life has rewards. We've got one of them.

Oregon  
HotSpring Spas  
Life has rewards.

Locations in Clackamas, Beaverton, Salem & Bend. [www.orchotspas.com](http://www.orchotspas.com)