

else in high school, and certainly not anywhere in the city, except in gay clubs, where we spent all our time.

I didn't come out till college because I knew I liked boys and the concept of bisexuality was continents away from my mind or the minds of anyone I talked to about sexuality. When I returned to San Antonio a few years ago and saw a "lesbian and gay community center," I was delighted. This is the city that up until a few years ago never had a pride parade. They had a quiet little please-don't-beat-us-up picnic in a park, but nothing else.

My perception of Portland is different. In Portland, I have kissed women on the street; there are rainbow flags everywhere. It feels safe to be queer in this city. Not that it's perfect—there will always be assholes everywhere. But it feels no less safe to be queer in this city than it does to be a woman, or to be Jewish, and from what I have been told, considerably more safe than it is to be African American.

So I think a queer community center in Portland would be a waste of money—money that perhaps would be better spent putting a queer community center out in eastern Oregon, or in Salem, where queers have less support, where it appears to be less safe to be openly queer.

EVE LYONS
Portland

OCTA doesn't back homophobic projects

TO THE EDITOR:

In the discussion of Phoenix Rising's potential relationship with Network Behavioral HealthCare Inc. ["Coming Clean," *Just Out*, Feb. 5], our organization, the Office of Consumer Technical Assistance, is mentioned as supporting a speaker who teaches a counseling method that "claims to cure homosexuality."

This claim [made by activist Margaret Deirdre O'Hartigan at a public meeting] is untrue.

The Office of Consumer Technical Assistance is an affiliate of NBHC. We are a

statewide consumer-run outreach organization—all employees of OCTA have received mental health services for major mental illnesses. Our mission is to increase mental health consumer voice throughout the Oregon public mental health system. To that end, we provide monthly seed grant funding to consumers and consumer-run groups for projects that increase consumer empowerment and involvement throughout the state.

One project that we partially funded was a workshop by Janet Foner, called *Take Charge of Your Mind: Crisis Prevention and Listening Skills for Community Leaders*. This workshop focused on common practices of peer counseling, such as listening skills, creating a personal support network, avoiding stress and overwork. There is nothing in this workshop about sexual orientation or curing homosexuality. A staff person from our office has attended Janet Foner's training in the past and can attest to this fact.

The Office of Consumer Technical Assistance has a mission of increased empowerment and inclusion of all mental health consumers in Oregon.

This includes lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual mental health consumers. We would not support or fund a project that was exclusionary or homophobic in nature, as O'Hartigan attests in the article. That is antithetical to the goals of our program.

As far as the potential partnership between NBHC and Phoenix Rising, I would encourage Phoenix Rising to strongly consider this option and not be swayed by false allegations about our program. NBHC allows our program to operate with full autonomy, while providing us with needed fiscal and administrative support. It is a beneficial partnership for both organizations and I am confident Phoenix Rising could find similar benefits in its own future partnership with NBHC.

MIRIAM GERSHOW

Resource and communication coordinator
Office of Consumer Technical Assistance
Portland

just asking

In a rain-induced funk, a Just Out staff member went on an expedition to find out if other water-soaked readers are also tired of this damn rain.



MICHELLE HARRIS
Portland
Administrative services assistant, Oregon Human Society

"Yes, definitely. I can't wait for summer and Peacock in the Park."



BRIAN MARKI
Portland
Owner, Brian Marki Framing

"... Leaving for Cabo on Saturday!"



DAN BAKER
Portland
Job-seeking student

"Rain is one thing, but this is ridiculous."



CLIF BURNS
Portland
Property manager

"Yes, that's why I rush away to central Oregon every chance I get."

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; or via the USPS at P.O. Box 14400, Portland, OR 97293-0400.

SWEDISH MASSAGE • POLARITY • SPORTS MASSAGE

East-West College of the Healing Arts

A Professional School of Massage & Bodywork

卓越

Training for Excellence

- Oregon's Only American Massage Therapy Association/COMTA-Approved Massage Curriculum



- Day or Night Classes
- Convenient Financing
- Bookstore and Cafe
- Student Clinic Massage



A Referral Brochure is available for Licensed Massage Therapists in the Portland area



Enrolling now for programs that begin April 5, 1999 & July 5, 1999

4531 SE Belmont Street • Portland, Oregon 97215-1635

503-231-1500 • 1-800-635-9141

503-232-4087 fax • www.ewcha.com

DEEP TISSUE MASSAGE • ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY

▼ Buying or Selling...? Make your Move this Millennium with Millynn & Karen!

"We start by listening..."

- ▼ ...to your hopes
- ▼ ...to your wishes
- ▼ ...to your dreams"

▼ **Millynn James**
Associate Broker, GRI, ABR
Multimillion-dollar Producer
Karen Sorensen, Licensed Assistant



▼ **OUT on Broadway..!**
2100 NE Broadway, Suite 1-B
Portland, OR 97232



photo by linda kiewer

▼ Blue, Karen, Millynn & Belle

▼ Office 503-287-8989 x122 ▼ Cellular/pager 330-HOME(4663)

▼ OUT of the area?... Call our 24 hour Nationwide Powerline now!
1-800-825-9948, #555

▼ e-mail: millynn@aol.com

▼ millynn's website: www.equitygroup.com/millynn

▼ Thank you, our Lesbian & Gay Community, for your Fabulous Support & Welcome Referrals! You enable our continued support of MANY community resources & progressive organizations: ask us for a list! Know where your \$\$ go!

▼ Check out our ad in the Classifieds for This Issue's HOT, Featured Listings!