

cation. My most sincere wish is that no one else suffer the consequences of suicide. My message to young people who may be contemplating suicide as an alternative to their lives is: *Please don't use this method to solve your problems and end your pain. I don't know what else to say other than, you will be missed way too much.*

JUNE SOMERS
Portland

OCTA claim 'deceptive'

TO THE EDITOR:

Miriam Gershow's claim that the Office of Consumer Technical Assistance would not support or fund a project that was exclusionary or homophobic in nature is deceptive, given her admission that OCTA funded Janet Foner's workshop [Speak Out, Just Out, Mar. 5].

Foner is co-author of re-evaluation counseling's policy on mental health, titled *What's Wrong with the Mental Health System and What Can Be Done About It*. This policy expressly states that re-evaluation counseling's long-range goals are to "assist 'mental health' workers to learn to use the tools of co-counseling in place of their current theories and practices," and to "ensure that all people, everywhere, use the natural recovery process we call re-evaluation counseling."

The founder and head guru of re-evaluation counseling is Harvey Jackins, whose introduction graces Foner's policy on mental health.

Jackins' published views on homosexuality should send chills down the spine of every queer. Jackins claims that "homosexuality...is the result of distress patterns (often very early in origin and chronic) and will disappear by the free choice of the individual with sufficient discharge and re-evaluation."

Jackins' homophobic theories about sexual orientation and human psychology are as disgusting as the "reparative therapy" garbage promoted by organizations like Exodus.

Had OCTA sponsored a workshop by an official from Exodus under the guise of "consumer empowerment," gays and lesbians would see through Miriam Gershow's protestations of innocence like a pane of glass. But few are aware of Harvey Jackins' and re-evaluation counseling's pejorative view of sexual orientation and therefore unlikely to recognize the significance of OCTA's funding of Foner's workshop.

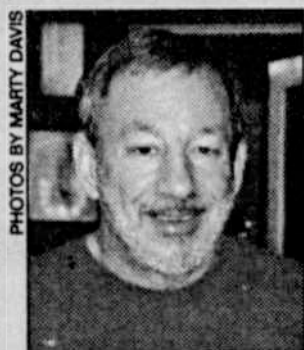
Phoenix Rising Foundation was established to provide sexual minorities with mental health resources untainted by homophobia, while Janet Foner and Harvey Jackins seek to impose re-evaluation counseling—with its homophobic view of sexual orientation—upon "all people, everywhere."

OCTA's role in promoting Foner's teachings is inimical to a community such as ours which values diversity and human freedom.

MARGARET DEIRDRE O'HARTIGAN
Portland

just asking

For this issue of Just Out, we asked readers to share a memory of a specific event that left them with a profound and lasting impression.



J.P. TEETS
Portland
Ferguson Autobody
"The space shuttle Challenger explosion, and especially the loss of Christa McAuliffe. That just really set me down hard."



PAT YOUNG
Portland
Historian, gay and lesbian history
"The assassination of Robert Kennedy, in 1968. That will forever stick in my mind."



MATT FERRIS
Portland
General manager, 12th Avenue Bar & Grill
"The movie *And the Band Played On*. I wasn't out yet, and that was my first exposure to AIDS awareness. It kept me in the closet even longer."



ERIC NIELSEN
Portland
Assistant manager, 12th Avenue Bar & Grill
"The death of Princess Diana. I was in San Francisco a week later and people were weeping openly. There was such a need for people to be united in their grief."



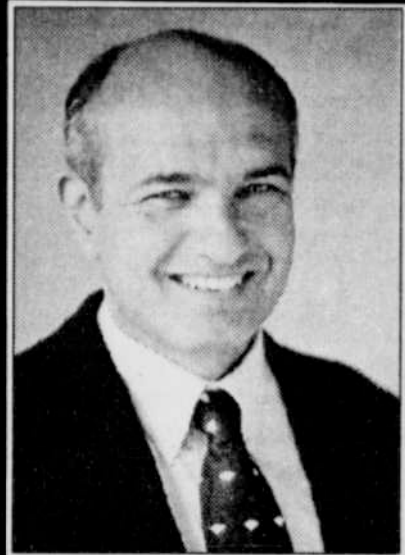
SUSIE SHEPHERD
Portland
Veteran gay activist
"The assassination of President Kennedy. It was the beginning of the madness of the '60s—it was the loss of innocence."



KATRINA COLE
Portland
Law firm receptionist
"When the OCA first reared its ugly head."


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