speak out

Peace of mind

TO THE EDITOR:

As gay pride draws near, I'm finding it increasingly difficult to feel "proud." It's true (thanks to countless activists) that I have won various "rights" as a lesbian. However, with a war going on I find it a little difficult to celebrate.

I'm not proud that children in Belgrade sleep every night in bomb shelters. I'm not proud of the U.S. pilots "just doing their job." I'm not proud that the U.S.-NATO bombing campaign has successfully destroyed the democratic opposition in Serbia-voices of peace and moderation have been silenced, including the voices of gay and lesbian organizations and trade unions.

I'm especially not proud that people look to war as a means for peace. For every soldier killed, there is a family left behind. The war never really ends for these people. "Peace" is not something these survivors, or other victims of our wars, have found.

Especially troubling as gay pride draws near is the complete lack of discussion about war and peace in this newspaper. Yet, I know that there are others like me out there, others who believe in the rights of people to live in a peaceful society, others who believe in resolving conflicts through means other than war.

If you believe as I do, please join me at gay pride, marching together as Gays and Lesbians for Peace. (Those wishing to do so can e-mail me at carolesnews@hotmail.com.)

CAROLE SCHOLL Portland

Talk about hype

TO THE EDITOR:

You've printed an editorial opinion and short sketches of people who have nothing to do with barebacking and nothing about the phenomenon itself ["Hacking Through the Hype," Just Out, May 7].

Where's the story? You know...the who, what, where, when and why of it. If you really

want to hack through the hype, we suggest you tackle the subject and put the editorial on Page 3.

STEVE CALLIHAN CLIFF SWAN Portland

School of hard knocks

TO THE EDITOR:

I read your editorial ["Cruelty Begets Cruelty," Just Out, May 7] on the Columbine killings.

Within a few hours of the shootings, I had emailed several friends my comments about the situation-comments that were reflected in your editorial-so I was glad to see that someone else out there thinks the same thing.

School has always been the most brutal place in society by far. Half the people living on the streets or in mental institutions are victims of the school systems in one way or the other. Bullying of students has always been ignored by teachers and others within the system.

The schools, which should be nurturing for all, are little more than a vehicle for the most dominant to advance themselves at the expense and destruction of others.

All students should have the right to a safe, supportive and nurturing education, regardless of race, physical appearance or ability, sexual leanings, or whether their family can afford to send them to school in the hottest car or hippest

For that to happen, bullies must be dealt with before some kid goes in to the school strapped with dynamite and a gun.

In Columbine, they are going after the people who supplied the guns-but what they should be doing is prosecuting the principal and teachers who allowed the things to take place that led up to the shooting.

When they learn to start thinking like that, then things will change at the schools.

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Wanting to make the best use of movie just asking time, Just Out queried readers on their opinions of the current crop of films-"What's good, what's bad?"



ROSE ARENA Portland Chef

"I really liked Tea with Mussolini. Cher did a great job. I like movies that evoke emotion."



MARIO DE'MEDICI Portland Owner, Ponte Vecchio

"I don't go to movies, I read. My partner would love it if I'd go."



WALLY SCHMIDT Portland Owner, Radiance

"I haven't had any time recently, but my partner will be in town soon and we have one week and a long list."



ELINOR DEMPSEY Troutdale Information systems consultant

"I haven't seen any current movies. My partner and I have a young child, so we rent."

You have questions—"Just Asking" will get the answers! To submit a query, contact Just Out via fax at 236-1257; via e-mail at justout@justout.com; or via the USPS at P.O. Box 14400, Portland, OR 97293-0400.

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