

**Y**ou may want to consider carefully who owns the restaurant you wander into the next time you're looking for some fast food that isn't the same old burger. If you're not careful, your money may be supporting a company that does not show respect for the gay and lesbian community.

Here's a look at policies toward gay and lesbian employees at TRICON Global Restaurants—owner of KFC, Pizza Hut and Taco Bell—and several of its competitors. There is a nugget or two of good news to report, but not much.

TRICON is the second largest fast food company in the world. (Tops is McDonald's.) TRICON's three chains have more total locations than the Golden Arches, though, with almost 30,000 restaurants in more than 100 countries.

The company is a 1997 spin-off of PepsiCo Inc., which had acquired Pizza Hut in 1977, Taco Bell in 1978 and KFC in 1986. Pizza Hut now accounts for more than 40 percent of TRICON's units, but KFC has the strongest sales. Taco Bell is the No. 1 Tex-Mex fast food chain and controls more than 70 percent of that niche.

Louisville, Ky.-based TRICON includes the phrase *sexual orientation* in its nondiscrimination policy, but it does not offer domestic partner benefits or have a gay and lesbian employees group, according to company spokeswoman Amy Sherwood.

But she points out that the company does comply with specific laws regarding employing gay and lesbian people in specific jurisdictions.

Sherwood says she doesn't know whether gay

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Which fast food joints offer fairness with their fries? by Gip Plaster

and lesbian issues are specifically discussed in the company's diversity training. She says the training "focuses on respect of individuals."

Things are changing at the No. 2 pizza chain. Privately held Domino's Pizza Inc. was recently sold by its founder, Tom Monaghan, who supports Catholic and conservative political causes.

In December 1998, the sale of Domino's to Bain Capital was completed.

Bain, a private equity investment firm, has invested an estimated \$4 billion in more than 115 companies. The firm has a stake in Staples, Totes, Sealy Mattress, The Learning Company and Brookstone, among others.

Domino's has more than 1,700 franchisees who operate more than 6,100 stores in the United States and 64 international markets.

Sexual orientation is not currently mentioned in the company's nondiscrimination policy, but that could change, according to spokeswoman Cozette Phifer.

"I know that it's being considered by the new owner," she says.

The company does not offer domestic part-

ner benefits or have a gay and lesbian employees group, but it does mention gay and lesbian issues in diversity training, Phifer says. "We believe in the Golden Rule," she adds. "We're in business to sell food and treat people the way we want to be treated."

Little Caesar Enterprises is the third largest pizza chain, with more than 4,000 stores in 11 countries. The Detroit-based company is owned by Michael and Marian Ilitch, a married couple who also own the Detroit Tigers baseball team, hockey's Detroit Red Wings and other enterprises.

Little Caesar officials did not return calls requesting information despite repeated requests during a three-week period.

Privately held AFC Enterprises Inc. is the second largest chicken chain. The company owns or franchises 2,500

Churchs Chicken and Popeyes Chicken and Biscuits restaurants. In addition, the Atlanta-based company franchises more than 150 Chesapeake Bagel Bakery restaurants and owns Seattle Coffee Company, Torrefazione Italia and Cinnabon.



Spokeswoman Ellen Hartman says the company includes sexual orientation in its nondiscrimination policy and includes gay and lesbian issues in diversity training. The company does not have a gay and lesbian employees group or provide domestic partner benefits.

Frank Belatti, the chairman and CEO of the company, recently spoke at the Multicultural Food Service and Hospitality Alliance conference, Hartman says. In the speech, Belatti specifically mentioned gay men and lesbians and suggested that companies should create inclusive policies rather than be subject to government regulation.

Chick-fil-A Inc. is the No. 3 chicken restaurant, with more than 760 restaurants in 35 states. The privately held company began in 1946 when S. Truett Cathy sold his car, combined his savings with his brother's and borrowed from the bank to open the Dwarf Grill, later renamed the Dwarf House, in the Atlanta suburb of Hapeville.

Atlanta's Greenbriar Mall was home to the first Chick-fil-A. The company—which claims to be the first chain to offer fast food in malls and to have invented the chicken sandwich—now has freestanding locations, too.

All locations, however, are closed on Sunday. Cathy is a devout Baptist.

Chick-fil-A refused to answer questions that were submitted in writing (at the company's request) regarding its policies toward gay and lesbian employees. The only reply was a two-sentence e-mail: "Chick-fil-A restaurants are operated by franchisees (Operators). The Chick-fil-A Inc. corporate office and its restaurant Operators follow all Department of Labor Laws."

## Pride in Professionalism Year-Round

### CLASSIC HAWTHORNE BUNGALOW LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

5 blocks from Natures, 3 blocks to Hawthorne, this captivating home awaits you—3 bedrooms, den, remodeled kitchen, wood floors, large porch, deck, new roof & new exterior paint. Under \$190,000.

See my other fine listings in the Classified Ads.

—CELIA J. LYON—

Sales Associate

(503) 287-8989 x147

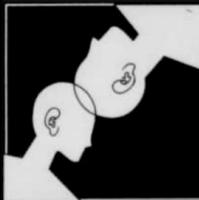
(503) 786-4959

Pager: 920-8403 Mobile: 260-6231

Fax: 284-1618



Quality  
no-nonsense hi-fi  
& home theater  
equipment



STEREOTYPES AUDIO

2627 n.e. broadway 280-0910

www.stereotypesaudio.com

A COMMUNITY RUN NATURAL FOODS STORE

SINCE 1970: FOOD FOR  
**PEOPLE,**  
NOT FOR PROFIT

all organic produce  
bulk selection • full grocery line  
all organic farmer's market  
every wednesday 2 - 7 pm



3029 SE 21ST AVE.  
PORTLAND, OR  
BETWEEN  
POWELL  
& DIVISION

(503) 232-9051

IS DISCRIMINATION DUE TO GENDER  
IDENTITY OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION  
A PROBLEM FOR YOU?

The City of Portland  
is fighting this  
discrimination.

Help is available  
to resolve conflicts or  
problems at work,  
in housing, or public  
accommodation.  
Confidential consultation  
and mediation services are  
free of charge.

For more information call:  
Mediation Pilot Program  
274-9886 or TTY  
1-800-735-2900



WHEEL ALIGNMENTS

*Ferguson*  
AUTOBODY

(503) 232-3600

2454 E. BURNSIDE  
PORTLAND, OR 97214

Family Owned  
& Operated  
Since 1952



AND  
T  
I  
R  
E  
S