

## Speak Out

queer community, Davis invokes the self hate and shame experienced by those of us who do not fit into the racist, classist rhetoric of "good taste, good manners, and good common sense."

Assimilation is not the answer. While some of us may be able to pass and benefit from conforming, the rest of us will still be beaten, harassed, thrown out of jobs and homes and made to feel that the harassment we experience is our own fault—i.e., if only we had employed our sense of good taste, everything would be OK.

The myth that we have control over how others think about and perceive us has resulted in the fracturing of our community, as community leaders decide that the best way to win in politics is to sell out our most marginalized groups. Why further the sense of alienation felt by those who do not fit into the white, Christian, middle-class model of the Queer American dream?

I am disappointed with Davis' rhetoric. I can only hope that those who agree with Davis will realize that they are simply perpetuating oppression. Perhaps Davis should have followed her own advice and exhibited better behavior before writing an editorial advocating for the normalcy of queerness, as though our rights will grow exponentially in proportion to the percentage of us who keep our pants on during a pride parade. Ellen DeGeneres, perhaps the most visible and "normal" queer in this nation, kept her pants on and still felt the wrath of homophobia. What does that suggest to you?

TANYA PLUTH  
Portland

### Where the boys aren't

TO THE EDITOR:  
As I looked through the schedule of events for Portland pride this year, I noticed how this year, as in all years, we have such a wonderfully thorough lesbian pride festival.

I have a novel idea for Pride Northwest—why not also include some events for gay men in next year's pride month—this might make things better yet!

TOM SOPPE  
Portland

### Whose peace?

TO THE EDITOR:  
Carole Scholl's letter in the June 4 issue of *Just Out* urging support during gay pride for the Gays and Lesbians for Peace is morally and intellectually inadequate and even offensive.

Her concern for "the rights of people to live in a peaceful society" would be more convincing if it were not so outrageously selective. In her litany of complaints about "children in Belgrade sleeping in bomb shelters" and other costs of the U.S.-NATO bombing campaign, there is not one single word about the Kosovars and their suffering, not one single word about the mass expulsions, murders and rapes, the destruction of houses and villages, that Slobodan Milosevic and the Serbian authorities were carrying out months before the NATO bombing began, not one word about Milosevic's 10-year record of "ethnic cleansing" and ethnic war.

Effective work for peace requires more than pious hand-wringing directed only at those like NATO who are trying, however clumsily, to prevent the international crimes for which Milosevic and his associates have now been formally indicted. It requires moral and intellectual courage to come to grips with the proper and inevitable role of force in international relations. It requires clear-eyed rather than one-eyed judgment about the source of international

unrest and oppression—as opposed to the ideological insistence of many in the peace movement on blaming all international ills on the United States and the West. And it requires a sober recognition that "peace" and "justice" in the real international world may well be incompatible, because working for justice may in fact entail a sacrifice of peace, and working uncritically for peace may mean a real sacrifice of justice. Just ask any Bosnian or Kosovar who has been victimized by Serbian nationalism in the past 10 years.

ED SEGEL  
Portland

## Notables

### The Spirit of Pride

The Spirit of Pride Awards were handed out during Portland's annual pride festival on June 20. The honors, which have been distributed annually by Pride Northwest Inc. since 1993, recognize individuals and organizations for their contributions within the queer community.

The 1999 recipients are: the Imperial Sovereign Rose Court of Portland, a nonprofit organization that raises money for various charitable causes and scholarship funds, including the Audria M. Edwards Scholarship Fund and Esther's Pantry; Babalou (Louanne Floding), a past president of the ISRC board and the current board president of Esther's Pantry, who has worked on behalf of the sexual minorities and HIV communities for two decades; Cliff Jones, who has been active in the community since the early 1980s, recently served as a consultant on Pride Northwest's Conversations Project, and is a founding member of Brother to Brother in Portland; and Holly Mulcahey, owner of It's My Pleasure, a Portland-based gift store that doubles as a resource center for the queer community and provides free meeting space for lesbian and bi women's social events.

### Audria M. Edwards Scholarship recipients

The recipients of the Audria M. Edwards Scholarship were announced during the annual Peacock in the Park, held June 27 in Portland's Washington Park.

The scholarships benefit sexual minority adults and/or their children who are seeking to further their education.

This year's awardees are: Chelsea Bendele, Orchid Cavett, Justin H. "Jay" Clark, Chris Eglinton, Bobbi Jo Epperson, Justin Hovey, Donna Johns, Chris Reynolds and Nancy Slocum.

### More school money

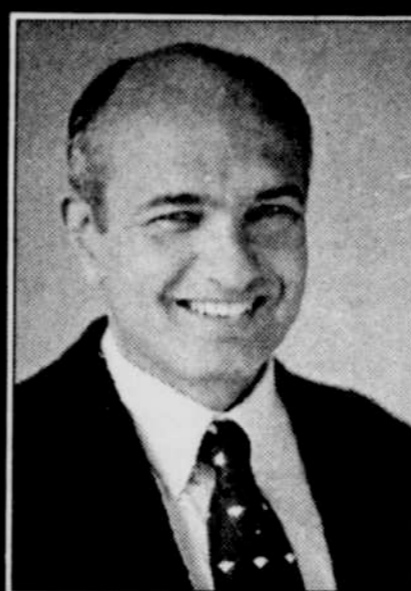
Nicole Hooper, a student pursuing an associates of arts transfer degree at Portland Community College, is the recipient of the David Evans Memorial Scholarship.

### Boardroom news

Basic Rights Oregon has added new members to its board. They are: Paige Richardson, a longtime political strategist, and queer youth activists T. Dunn, 17, Lauryn Steele, 17, and Zarah Walker, 18.

## Correction

*Just Out's* June 18 world news incorrectly identifies Australia's largest city. Sydney, which is in New South Wales, is larger than Melbourne, which is in the state of Victoria. *Just Out* regrets the error.



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