

Although Dr. Laura is entitled to her views by our Constitution, those views and the way she expresses them are dangerous, libelous and discriminatory.

With shows like *Ellen*, *Will & Grace* and *Everybody Loves Raymond* on top viewer lists, is it really so hard to see where American sympathies lie when it comes to homosexuality? Not to mention the sitcoms that don't actually have gay characters, but nearly all have run episodes that touch on this issue.

I don't notice any programs dressing their characters in white hoods or swastikas, carrying weapons designed to "purify" our country and ranting on about homosexuality being unnatural. They wouldn't dare—their ratings would certainly be affected!

Did Dr. Laura miss the candlelight vigils for Matthew Shepard and the demonstrations at the trials for the men convicted of killing a man by dragging him behind their car? Which audience does she think she's trying to reach with her message of judgment and punishment?

I implore the television industry to wake up and assert its best behavior by setting standards in programming that we'd like to see our 6-year-olds aspire to.

Instead of promoting shows and individuals who advocate violence to others for any reason—especially a reason so shallow and meaningless in the grand scheme of capitalism—let's

endeavor to make television a learning, positive environment for its viewers.

Programs using and promoting violence, bigotry and hatred will always appeal to a small population—those people in the white hoods, for instance, and anti-Semites, and many other fanatics. But do those people number so significantly that our media and entertainment industry should cater to them? Do they really control the millions in our capitalist country, influencing legislators and record labels and television networks? Not to mention wealthy, vocal sports figures—many of whom happen to be gay, yet succeed in their professions and act as models for America's youth and organize for their favorite causes and raise billions of dollars with commercials and Wheaties boxes and speeches made during press telecasts after the Super Bowl.

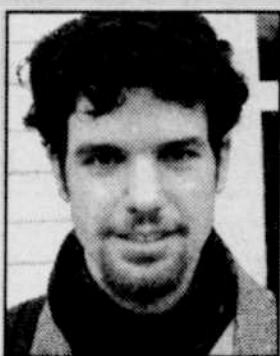
Dr. Laura must certainly be familiar with the power conservative religious groups once wielded over her Jewish ancestors with nothing more to motivate them than propaganda, rumor, mob mentality and misdirected, pointless anger. Does she really make our world a better place by advocating the extermination of a group of people because she doesn't like or understand them?

Wake up, Miss Laura, your bigotries are showing.

MIRABAI FAIRLIGHT
Portland

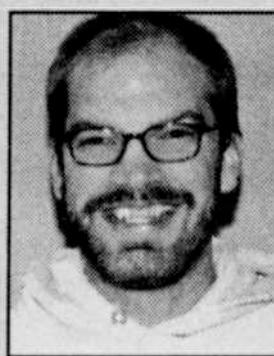
just asking

For this issue, Just Out readers were asked the following: "What are your thoughts about the April 2000 Millennium March on Washington? Are you going? Do know anyone who's going?"



JIMI GILROY
Portland
Biker boy

"I don't really have any thoughts on it. Who started it? I think equality is an ongoing issue. I wish there could be more attention called to it all the time."



DAN YONKER
Portland
Body-shop boy

"I don't know that much about it, but it will be interesting to see how it's portrayed in the mainstream media."



NANCY GALLAGHER
Eugene
Financial services

"I want very much to go to the march. I went to the one in 1993, and it was the most tremendous experience of my life."



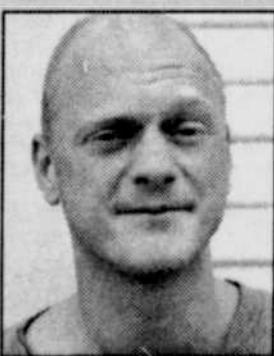
BRIAN MARKI
Portland
Brian Marki Framing

"I know a couple of people who are going—and I'd love to go, but I have conflicting travel plans."



ANDY CRUZ
Portland
Chiropractor

"I went to Stonewall in '94 and the March on Washington in the '80s and also did the Gay Games. I support group movements, but there seemed to be more politics behind those events. To be honest, I don't feel compelled to go."



JOE FUTSCHIK
Portland
Just Joe

"To be honest, I wasn't aware of it."

You have questions—Just Asking will get the answers! To submit a query, 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.

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