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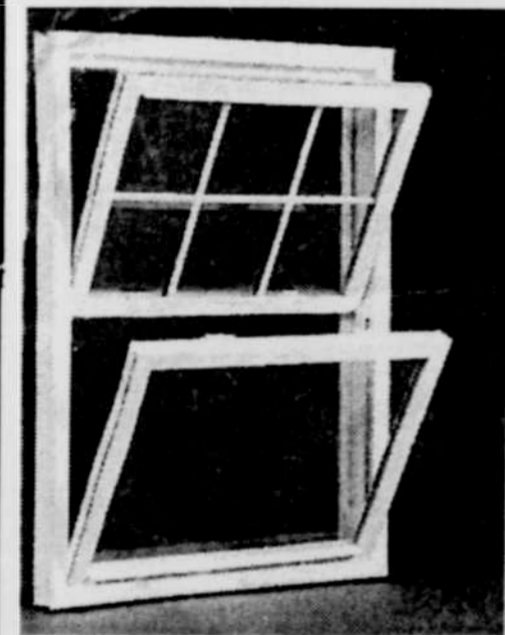
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Speak Out

Love Makes a Family opposes transphobia

TO THE EDITOR:

As an organization and as individuals we believe that discrimination and prejudice cannot be tolerated within our community. We feel particularly called upon to identify and respond to incidents of transphobia.

Many of us who are lesbian or gay have experienced discrimination that was actually based on our gender expression, or the belief of others that our body parts did not match our gender expression. Many hate crimes against lesbian, gay, bi and trans people are committed because of gender expression.

We all have a stake in fighting fear of gender expression. To engage in transphobic remarks feeds homophobia and sexism and cannot be accepted.

As a community we need to stand together against discrimination and prejudice of all types. To achieve this we have to continually express to one another that we will not accept discrimination against anyone in the LGBT community.

We believe our community is strengthened when events are as inclusive as possible. We recognize that there are times when identity groups feel a need to meet separately for support. When there are differences of opinion about identity or group definition, it is important that the community approach resolution of these differences with care and respect for all parties. This includes groups based on gender, sex and sexual identity—such as women, men, lesbian, bi and gay male, trans, etc.

We encourage members and leaders of our community to dialogue about all forms of prejudice and work to create hate-free environments. If businesses, groups or individuals participate in discriminatory words or actions, we encourage everyone to speak up and confront these actions.

KATE CHARD-HERRING
Board President, Love Makes a Family Inc.
Portland

Sincere thanks and a new attitude

TO THE EDITOR:

Thank you for your article about the gay pride parade and the changing of the guard at Pride Northwest ["Party Girl," Feb. 4].

I commend Pride Northwest for realizing it was time for a change, and for its good judgment in giving Misha Rockafeller the entertainment organizer job.

After the past two parades, I had serious doubts about its viability and purpose. Having met Misha XXXVIII at Boxxes, I am now looking forward to the parade. She'll do a great job.

I plan to get all my friends—who stopped attending because of their "if you've seen it once..." attitudes—to give pride festivities another try.

Thanks again for the article. It gives all of us who want to be excited again about gay pride weekend something to look forward to.

MARIA RILL
Portland

Family Secrets a secret to you, Just Out?

TO THE EDITOR:

Hey, Just Out! How come there was no review of *Family Secrets* at Echo Theatre? It was one of the greatest nights of theater I've ever experienced. It's the longest-running one-woman show in off-Broadway history. How did you miss this one? It's Portland's great loss.

I would think that this show passes all the

entrance requirements. It's written and performed by a bisexual woman, Sherry Glaser, produced by a gay man in the Hawthorne district, concerns family issues of a lesbian woman, contains multicultural issues, is well-written, full of heart and humor, and, most importantly, is an amazing performance of theatrical art.

Sherry Glaser became her characters. I've rarely seen such profound acting on the stage. Now I know what all the fuss over Sarah Bernhardt was about.

Some I've spoken to have suggested that they just didn't want to see Jewish stereotypes. Whoa, watch it! They may be your stereotypes, but they're my family in Baltimore. This stuff is real. Ask Frank Zappa. Ask Barry Levinson. Ask John Waters.

And the point is that Glaser's performance was so true and vivid (spooky almost) that she transcended stereotypes of Jews, lesbians, homophobic fathers, crazy people, Jewish mothers. Her characterizations came from profound understanding and love.

So, how come no review to let Portland know about this? Just Out, I'm just baffled.

B.J. CASTLEMAN
Portland

Gail for Gore

TO THE EDITOR:

I just had a Just Out sighting here in Cambridge—and wanted to make sure everyone who's interested knows (at least some of) what I'm up to.

Selected a Loeb Fellow by Harvard's Graduate School of Design, I'm here exploring how to build and enhance livable communities through integrating design, transportation and public policy. In order to devote myself full-time to this unique opportunity, I have left my position as public affairs director at the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration. Taking nine graduate courses from places like the Kennedy School, the Design School and the Divinity School keeps me incredibly busy!

Nonetheless, I'm also making time to volunteer for Al Gore's campaign for president. Al Gore knows our issues, he cares about our issues, and he's consistently delivered for us on our issues. I have a firsthand appreciation of what it takes to be effective in government. As a state legislator, I saw officials proclaim support for us publicly while abandoning us behind the scenes. As a senior lesbian official in the Clinton-Gore administration, I know the difference between talking the talk and walking the walk. I support Gore because he supports us—and has, long before he ever asked for our support.

So I volunteered in New Hampshire ["Blast from the Past," Feb. 4], and plan to travel to other states, to help make sure our GLBT family knows how important this campaign is.

In the primary, and in the general election this year, we ought to vote as if our lives depend on it. In a very real way, it does.

GAIL SHIBLEY
Cambridge, Mass.

Transformations and realizations

TO THE EDITOR:

Transsexuality was not an awareness of mine 24 years ago when I came out as a separatist in the lesbian community. And after years of struggling with perceptions of myself through the eyes of others, I knew I had not addressed all aspects of my life.

I began my transition 13 years ago. Being transgendered, which is the term I prefer, has