

Speak Out

tion, I do remember this quote from Everett in the January 2000 issue of Playboy: "I was gay last year, I'm gay this year, I'll be gay next year and I just can't be bothered to go on about it all the time."

Having read this statement, I opted not to inquire about Everett's orientation during the interview session. Everett had, however, several opportunities in the conversation to specify his bisexuality; he did not.

Given that Everett did not identify himself as bisexual, it would have been inappropriate for me to draft him as poster boy for bisexual visibility.

Who wants to trivialize marriage?

TO THE EDITOR:

The recent airing of *Who Wants to Marry a Multi-Millionaire?* and the subsequent fiasco of marital mayhem reminded me painfully of one truth—there is nothing I can possibly do as a gay man to demean or trivialize marriage more than has already been done by married heterosexual males and the women who love them.

Opponents of same-sex marriage make two arguments in support of the position that the state has a compelling interest in prohibiting gay men and lesbians from marrying. The first is that the legal recognition of same-sex marriage would undermine the connection between marriage and reproduction. The inability to reproduce, however, by itself cannot be a compelling reason to deny two individuals the right to marry. If it were, we would be able to prohibit an older or infertile heterosexual couple from marrying. Clearly, there is more to marriage than the opportunity to have children.

The second argument relied upon by opponents of same-sex marriage is that the institution of marriage would be demeaned or trivialized if gay men and lesbians were allowed to marry.

Let me make the suggestion that most people

felt the marriage that took place on Fox was demeaning and trivializing to the institution of marriage. In this case, should the federal and state governments take as much time to argue and make illegal this type of airtime entertainment as they have the "defense of marriage" measures?

If the government were to attempt this frivolous marriage ban, almost any court in the United States would likely strike it down as interfering with the rights of two individuals to make an agreement.

When compared to the exhibition of heterosexual marriage on television between two complete strangers, same-sex marriage pursued by two people after years of commitment seems completely justified.

As the Vermont Supreme Court recently stated, state recognition of committed and loving same-sex relationships is nothing more than "a recognition of our common humanity."

But, then, are most people worried gays and lesbians would actually demean the institution, or rather bring to it a higher level of respect?

ERIC BROWN
Portland

Cool comic

TO THE EDITOR:

I just wanted to let you know how much I am enjoying the new comic strip you have been running called "The Boys Next Door."

It reminds me of some roommates I've had and makes me laugh out loud! Some comic strips aren't genuinely funny, but this one sure is. I can't wait for the next issue!

Thank you for helping us all to be reminded of the lighter side of life.

LISA SLOAN
Portland

just asking

Setting out on foot, Just Out's roving reporter asked readers: "How do you think you'll be impacted by the rapidly increasing cost of gasoline?"



ELLIE PULE
Oregon City
Computer professional
"Primarily I'll feel the impact on vacations. On a day-to-day basis, I work at home, so I don't have to commute anymore."



MATT CAMPEAU
Portland
Staff member,
Basic Rights Oregon
"It's not going to impact me, because I don't drive now."



RICHARD VOSS
Portland
Realtor
"As a Realtor, it's going to add to my expenses. It will hurt my business, as it will impact my bottom line."



PATTY PRATHER
Portland
Recreation therapist
"I won't be impacted that much, because I have a bus pass and I utilize the bus as much as possible."



TIM O'HEARN
Portland
Owner,
French Quarter
"Even though gas has gotten more expensive, compared to other countries we still have the cheapest product, and we should be thankful."



JON POTIET
Portland
Advanced Impressions
"I don't have a lot of luxury spending in my life, and the one that I will choose to keep is driving—and I do realize it's becoming a luxury."



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