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Enter the PlanetOut Equality Rocks Sweepstakes today for a chance to win a **trip for two** (roundtrip airfare, hotel accommodations and tickets) to the **Equality Rocks Concert** in Washington D.C. on April 29, 2000. You'll also receive two **backstage passes.** See the web site for details and the chance to win other prizes.

Sweepstakes ends April 14, 2000. Enter today!
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No Purchase Necessary. Open only to legal residents of the US, 18 years or older. Void in FL, HI, AK & PR & where prohibited by law. Sweepstakes ends 4/14/00. To obtain full official rules, send SASE to Equality Rocks Sweepstakes, PO Box 647, Sayreville, NJ 08871-0647. WA & VT residents may omit return postage. Odds of winning a prize depend on the number of eligible entries received. PRIZES: (1) Grand Prize: 4 day/3 night trip for two to Washington D.C. to attend the Equality Rocks Concert. Trip includes two tickets to the Equality Rocks Concert on April 29, 2000, round trip coach air transportation for two from major airport closest to winner's home & hotel accommodations. Approximate Retail Value (ARV) \$2,500. (1) Second Prize: Digital camera. (ARV) \$500. (5) Third Prize: Digital music player. (ARV) \$300 each. Total value of all prizes: \$4,500. Grand Prize winner & guest must depart on 4/28/00 & return on 5/1/00. If winner cannot travel at this time, the prize will be forfeited & an alternate winner will be selected. To receive the names of the winners, available after 4/23/00, mail a self-addressed stamped envelope by 5/26/00 to: Equality Rocks Winners, PO Box 707, Sayreville, NJ 08871-0707.

Speak Out

The lowdown on volunteers

TO THE EDITOR:

In response to all the letters to the editor regarding volunteering for Pride Northwest, I want to apologize on behalf of the board to those folks who have tried to volunteer and have not been called back.

It is our new policy that volunteers be called back within 72 hours. This is made possible by our new volunteer coordinator, Karen Kroll. It is our goal to make first contact with everyone who calls our voice mail as soon as possible. After that, Karen will forward your information to the appropriate committee head.

At that point, it may take some time for the committee head to get back to you. Please don't take this personally. We think our volunteers are very important. However, we need the vast majority of our volunteers on June 16, 17 and 18 for security, festival setup, parade coordination, and trash patrol.

To make the event run smoothly, we need about 100 people involved on those three days in June, but before then our volunteer needs are minimal. We will do our best to make contact with you as soon as possible. If you haven't heard from Karen within a week, please call us again and let us know that we have missed you.

If you want to be part of this event, please call our voice mail, or check out our Web site at www.pridenw.com. If you are interested in letting us know what you think, or getting involved with the planning stages of Pride 2000, our board meetings are open, and they are held at Portland State University in Smith Memorial Center, Room 323, at 6:30 on Thursday nights. Please join us.

JES NELSON
 Pride Northwest Board Chair
 Portland

A perfect balance

TO THE EDITOR:

There is no maleness or femaleness as most of us have defined sexuality. Rather, God created a range of sexuality that is reflected in the perfect balance of all life on earth.

Each of us is born with his or her place predetermined by genes as to their place on the sexual continuum.

Homosexuality is but one place on the continuum, and is just as normal and needed as heterosexuality. There are no "perversions" because God created the continuum of human sexuality. To say that gays are perverted is to accuse God of being perverted because we are all God's children!

One can find references to homosexuality as far back as the written word.

Man's fear of homosexuality is the fear that we all have the potential to be gay; that like a vampire's bite, it only takes one homosexual sex act to convert an otherwise "straight" person into a homosexual. The second fear is that procreation would cease; no more babies. Both fears ignore the unique place each of us occupies in God's perfect balance. It is God who decided that there would be a range, a balance on the continuum of male/femaleness.

One does not choose to be homosexual, rather one is born with his or her place on the continuum of sexuality. Any attempts to disturb the balance that God created through genetic engineering, etc., will only result in pain for us all. When we can accept God's continuum, with its range of sexuality, then we can celebrate all of life, and not have to be ashamed or threatened by any of God's creation.

One thing is true and can not be refuted: God does not support hatred.

JEFFREY M. COHEN
 Portland

Thanks and goodbye

TO THE EDITOR:

I'd like to take this opportunity to say farewell and thank you. *Just Out* is undergoing a redesign and will no longer publish "The Amazon Trail."

The column started running in *Just Out* when the paper was in its infancy and, as a matter of fact, *Just Out* inspired "The Amazon Trail." Over the years I've appreciated the support, loyalty and fun I've had with the publishers, editors and staff.

I will especially miss this means of communicating with so many gay Oregonians. You've been warm and appreciative readers, and I thank you for the letters, posts and even friendships that have come out of touching one another's lives.

"The Amazon Trail" continues to run in

just asking *Feeling philosophical, our reporter set out to delve into the minds of readers with the question: "If you had a chance for a one-on-one conversation with any famous or historical person, living or dead, whom would you pick and why?"*



SAM ADAMS
 Portland
 Chief of Staff to
 Mayor Vera Katz

"I would pick Abraham Lincoln, as I can think of no leader who has had more difficult tasks to face."



JEFF FISHER
 Portland
 Graphic designer

"I'd talk with Hillary Rodham Clinton and ask her, 'Why the hell are you still with that man?'"



CLAY CARPENTER
 Portland
 Salesman from hell

"Al Gore...I'd like to find out just what the hell he's doing—his campaign has run amok."



WILLIAM POLSON
 Portland
 "Exciting"

"Bill Gates, because he has a zillion dollars and I want 400 million dollars."