

Speak Out

TO THE EDITOR:

I am saddened and upset that you will no longer be publishing Lee Lynch's column.

Lee has been a consistent part of the lesbian saga of *Just Out*. She has provided us with humor and acknowledgment; her column has reaffirmed our desire to live as we are.

I am a native Oregonian and I have read *Just Out* for as long as it has been published. I have recently decided to move to Hawaii, and I was going to pay for a subscription so I can keep up on Portland and other Oregon gay issues. I won't do that now.

Please reconsider your position concerning Lynch. She is a talented, long-lasting icon of lesbianism.

RONI CHURCH

Newport, Ore.

TO THE EDITOR:

I have heard a rumor you are dropping Lee Lynch's column, "The Amazon Trail." I encourage you to revisit your decision. The column is one of the last remaining sinews of interconnectedness of our community throughout the years. To me, constant "redefining" of who we are must continue to include our basic values, something which Lee persistently offers us through "The Amazon Trail."

I urge you to look at community as dimensional, in which our history is essential. Include the voices of all of us who have struggled through the century. I read your magazine through country lesbian eyes. I look for words which include me in the realm of things. Lee's column is grounding and adds a piece of our overall picture.

SKY AISLING

Murphy, Ore.

TO THE EDITOR:

The *New Yorker* magazine is celebrating its 75th anniversary. In the comments section of the magazine, Anthony Lane says, referring to the fact that the magazine has had five editors, "When someone hands you a tradition, the crucial thing is not to ape it, still less to seize up with awe, but to ask yourself what, by way of homage, you can possibly bring to the party."

I would ask that of the publisher of *Just Out*. When I heard that Lee Lynch's "The Amazon Trail" had been dropped from the pages of *Just Out*, I was more than disappointed. Sixteen years of a partnership with the paper for Lee gone. Those of us who have come to expect a wide range of coverage matching the wide range of our community are disappointed again. Where was the coverage for International Women's Day? Where was the coverage for Black History Month? Where is the feminist

political philosophy that once was the driving force of *Just Out*?

The mainstream culture decries tradition like a resistant and reactive adolescent; questioning any authority, militantly ego-driven, wanting anything that is newer and bigger, using money as the mark of success. It saddens me that *Just Out* more and more reflects this culture.

Dropping "The Amazon Trail" does not demonstrate the ability or desire of the publisher to "bring something to the party" that respects the tradition *Just Out* built over the long years. I will miss Lee Lynch's stories.

ILA SUZANNE

Portland and Yachats, Ore.

Editor's note: Several of the letters addressing "The Amazon Trail" were received prior to the appearance of Lee Lynch's letter in our April 7 issue that made public—for the first time—Just Out's decision to discontinue her column.

Ila Suzanne is the partner of Just Out co-founder and former publisher Renée LaChance.

Thanks for saying it

TO THE EDITOR:

Yes! Yes! Yes! In your editorial of April ["Of Reasons and Rights," April 7], you have stated what should have been so obvious to everyone, that marriage for lesbians and gays is not the solution, but obtaining legal and civil rights is.

It always has seemed incongruous to me that the lesbian and gay community has spent so much time trying to make the straight community accept us as being different and unique but then immediately turns around and tries to take on all the trappings (marriage, for example) of straight society. I suppose that there still remains a psychological need that true acceptance comes when we can do everything they can do.

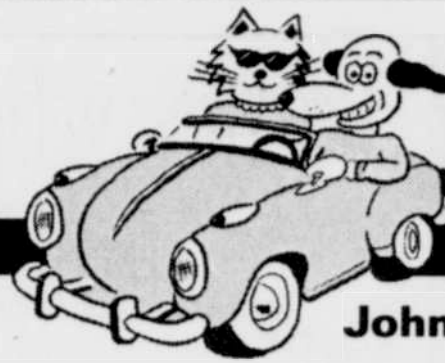
The battle for marriage rights seems to have produced the opposite of the desired effect as more and more states pass laws defining marriage as only being allowed between a man and a woman. However, on the other hand, more and more rights are being won for us in the courts. I agree with you and feel that our efforts, time and money would be more wisely used if we directed our efforts to the rights side and not the marriage side. Thanks for saying that publicly.

RAY JOHNSON

Portland

notables

Phaedrus Alexander was born at home on March 26, 2000, to proud moms Sara Kener and Tineke Bradshaw of Portland.



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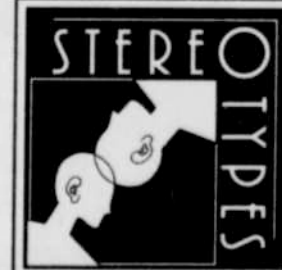
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