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## Speak Out

### Up to the challenge

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing to express my delight in reading "Tough Questions, Frank Answers" in your April 21 issue.

As a man who advocates nonseparatist feminism, I found the article challenging and enlightening. Though I do not agree with much of what Alix Dobkin has to say concerning feminism, I was pleased—and I am sure she would agree—to see some questions with bite rather than the standard "what kind of lip gloss, who are you screwing and here is my book" interview. I found the questions themselves challenging and interesting, and Dobkin's evasive and gender-based dismissals even more interesting. Personally, I enjoy having my ideas challenged and hearing a healthy debate on gender or GLBT issues.

It is always disappointing to read an interview with prominent academic and political figures just to find out that it's actually just a plug for an upcoming event. I was excited to see that *Just Out* had chosen to cross some boundaries by choosing a man to do the interview and ask hard questions of such a magnetic and inflammatory figure such as Ms. Dobkin. I think other publications should take note of Mr. Cuttone's and *Just Out*'s journalistic precociousness and allow more difficult and probative writing into our media.

BRENDON MORRILL  
 Portland

### Thanks for the memories

TO THE EDITOR:

Thank you for remembering in "Reflections," April 21, 2000, that Harrison Pierce's move from Portland gay theater producer to the San Francisco Opera 15 years ago left quite a gap in the local arts scene.

He was delighted to live out his dream working for the San Francisco Opera for eight years, performing administrative duties for the costume shop and the Opera Foundation, as well as performing as a supernumerary in over 20 SF Opera productions, including the toy maker in *La Bohème*.

I am very proud of my brother, Harry. His dedication to theater and his positive approach to being gay helped to launch gay-themed theater in this area. His production of *Bent* in the

mid-'80s brought a power and dynamism to the stage that is seldom seen.

It is seven years on May 31, 2000, since my brother passed on. My thanks for recognizing his talents and contribution to Portland gay theater and remembering him in print in *Just Out*.

JAN PIERCE  
 Portland

### Fond farewell

TO THE EDITOR:

What a sense of loss I felt when I read that Inga Sorensen won't be writing for *Just Out* anymore.

Over the years her political writing for *Just Out* has done so much for our community in making us aware of what is going on and getting people involved in the political process.

Inga had a way with words. She could be so insightful and clear in her writing. She helped bring us through battles with the OCA, tried to make us understand what was happening in Salem with the Legislature, and brought our heroes and heroines into our living rooms with amazing columns and interviews.

Inga continued to write for us for years when it was clear she was so talented she could do other things for a lot more money. Now, she has chosen to take her talents to New York, where she will undoubtedly be successful.

Thank you, Inga, and thank you, *Just Out*, for bringing us Inga for all these years. We're a stronger and more educated community due to her efforts.

DON POWELL  
 Portland

### Addressing dress issue

TO THE EDITOR:

I am concerned about the recent decision by Sam Barlow High School to suspend Brian Peters for dressing in a skirt and heels.

I'm tired of the age-old argument that "cross-dressing" is disruptive and distracting. As a female, I enjoy the freedom to wear slacks and button shirts during most of the rainy winter weather. Fifty years ago, I could have been jailed for doing so.

In continuing to enforce this bias and double standard disallowing males to wear traditionally "womyn's clothing," we are encouraging the

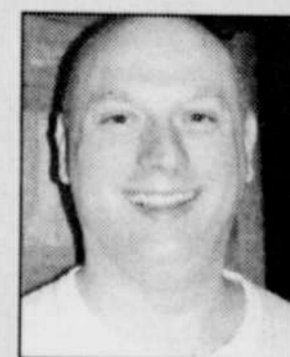
## just asking

This issue, *Just Out* asks readers: "What is one thing you learned in school that is actually useful to you today?"



MELISSA SAYLER  
 Portland  
 Newest *Just Out* staff member

"I learned how to grow my own vegetables. I learned what kohlrabi is."



CELESTE TOWERS  
 Portland  
 Showgirl, *Darcelle XV*

"Mine would have to be speech and drama class. It has helped me in my performance and love of the stage."



RIKI CLARK  
 Portland  
 Sound and lighting director, *Darcelle XV*

"Being the towel boy in PE class taught me how to appreciate..."



MICHAEL RYAN  
 Portland  
 Lighting coordinator, *Darcelle XV*

"I learned how to use the power of imagination, and that's the key to everything."