

## Speak Out

division and belittlement of our citizens by making decisions about a person's merit based on their appearance.

How many articles do we have to read about the negative impact on adolescent development by the likes of Barbie's inhuman proportions before we take note? How long will we continue to harass and endanger our youth by condoning homophobia, disguised as educational control?

Where is the line between not allowing boys to wear dresses and not allowing gay teachers in schools, or black teachers, or outspoken ones? Between labeling homosexuality a "deviant" behavior and using shock therapy to burn out the radical ideas that make us individuals?

How long are we willing to shield our eyes and allow the school systems to decide what is best for our children? Perhaps the school shootings so common these days are a signal that the system is flawed? Perhaps the daily harassment and violence against unpopular students is evidence that our teachers and administrators do not have the proper tools or training to effectively lead our youth toward a goal of tolerance and humanity? Perhaps we should examine more closely the message we are sending to America's gay youth, to the group with the highest risk for suicide in the world?

It is time we sit up and take note of the correlations between homosexuality and suicide, harassment, rape and murder. It's time we listen to the words we speak in front of our children, on television, in books, to teachers and store clerks and friends, and evaluate whether we are preaching a message of peace and love, or one of shame and judgment. America's youth are listening and taking heed. And they're armed with our values.

MIRABAI FAIRLIGHT  
Portland

### Open invitation

TO THE EDITOR:

On behalf of the sexual minority women who work with Bradley-Angle House, thank you for printing the article about our 25th birthday in your April 21 issue. *Just Out* has been a strong supporter of the work we do here, and we appreciate your continuing coverage of same-sex domestic violence issues.

We know that there are many past program participants, as well as former volunteers, staff, board members and supporters who read *Just Out*. We have lost contact with many of these folks and want to give them information about the 25th birthday celebrations.

So, if you were a past Bradley-Angle participant, volunteer, staff, board member, supporter or friend, we would really like to hear from you. Everyone has a story to tell, and we'd like to hear yours. We're putting together an archives exhibit for public displays and a commemorative video which will tell the story of Bradley-Angle House. We really want you to come to our birthday party, and we would also welcome your energy to help us plan any or all of these activities.

The birthday party is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 23, from 2 to 6 p.m. We have a great location and will have lots of fun for people of all ages.

If you are interested in being a part of these activities, which will honor each person who

has been a part of Bradley-Angle House, please call our confidential birthday hot line at (503) 203-4505.

Thank you again for helping us get the word out about our 25th birthday.

JEANNIE LA FRANCE, Outreach Coordinator  
ERIKA SILVER, Executive Director  
Bradley-Angle House

### LCP to pick up "The Amazon Trail"

TO THE EDITOR:

The Lesbian Community Project is pleased to announce that an invitation extended to Lee Lynch to continue her 12-year-old column "The Amazon Trail" in our bimonthly newsletter, *On Track*, has been graciously accepted. The first column will run in our June edition.

We recognize and appreciate the voice Lee lends to our community through her writings about the everyday life of a dyke, and feel it's important that she continues to be heard in the Pacific Northwest where she makes her home.

*On Track* is supported solely through membership donations and a handful of dedicated advertisers; it is free of charge to members and complimentary copies are available to the public at a variety of local lesbian and queer outlets. If you would like to receive your copy via mail, please send a small donation or renew your membership—\$35 single, \$50 family, or set your own fee (LCP is committed to economic justice)—to P.O. Box 5931, Portland, OR 97228.

We'd like to thank Lee for giving us the opportunity to publish her column and for her service to the lesbian community for so many years.

In the struggle to support the richness of our diverse community,

AMAZON KNIGHTLY, Board Chair  
Lesbian Community Project

### Good riddance

TO THE EDITOR:

I do not agree with Marty Davis on every point or decision she has ever made regarding the publication of *Just Out*, however, I would not want to miss this opportunity to support and give credit to her decision to discontinue Lee Lynch's "Amazon Trail" column. I totally agree with you, Marty. If something had to go to improve the budget and finances, this column was the best place to start.

I've been a *Just Out* subscriber for over 10 years and I enjoy reading all the different viewpoints of gays and lesbians contained in the paper. However, the simplistic, one-dimensional, internalized homophobic viewpoint that Lynch presents each month is one I can well do without.

P.S. Please monitor your use of the word *queer* to define the gay and lesbian community. This word *queer* appears in almost every sentence of the paper. Use the words *gay* and *lesbian* sometimes, because it is still an acceptable phrasing to use to describe specifically who our community is.

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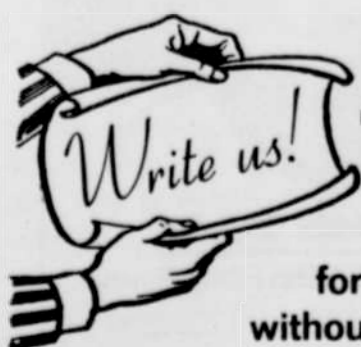
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