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Letters to the editor should be limited to 500 words. Announcements regarding life transitions (births, deaths, unions, etc.) should be limited to 200 words; photos are welcome. **Deadline for submissions** to the editorial department and for the **Calendar** is the Thursday 15 days before the next publication date. Views expressed in letters to the editor, columns and features are not necessarily those of the publisher.

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COMMENTARY

BY MARTY DAVIS

2, 4, 6, 8... we refuse to assimilate!

But since you did, you can go ahead and pay... Publisher ponders pride, economic justice and black holes of political correctness

Hey gang, it's June again. Winter finally starts to look like spring. Spring contemplates turning into summer, and summer showers turn to rainbows while rainbows parade gaily down city streets. Yes, it's June, the month that is recognized throughout the nation as Gay Pride Month.

Yup, my favorite, gay pride, as in the mantra "where's the pride in gay pride?" People have been asking me for weeks now if I'm going to bring up everyone's favorite topic of how and how not to behave at pride again this year. Or, they ask, did I learn my lesson last year?

The answer is no, no to both. I'm not going to delve into the topic of proper or improper pride behavior simply because it's got that "been there, done that" feeling about it, and, while I learned lessons, I definitely did not change my mind. Furthermore, I doubt that anyone else did either. And besides, I've got other things on my mind this year. We'll get to those in a moment.

It's pretty clear what resulted from last year's call for "prideful" behavior. About half of Just Out readers appeared to hate me—loudly, vocally, some even with signs—and lots of letters were written and received. And we printed all of them...well, all the ones the police didn't keep. Happily, the other half of the community was strongly in agreement with me—not quite as loudly, and nary a sign was carried, but still lots of letters were received in support. And we printed all of them. When the dust finally settled, months later, or so it seemed, it was very clear that people felt very strongly about this topic and also that nobody was likely to be moved by opposing opinion. So, for this year, I'm going to stay off to the side and hold court with the "don't wrestle with pigs" theory.

Besides, as I mentioned, I have other thoughts and questions on my

mind right now...thoughts that will no doubt annoy some of you just as much as the notion of keeping your pants on at pride. For instance, I'm wondering what's up with the "committed to economic justice" theory. I am very aware of economic disparity within our community, especially among lesbians, but I can also clearly see that a great deal of this disparity is by choice. I recognize that people don't choose to have life-altering accidents, that children and young people don't choose to be kicked out of their homes by nonsupportive families, that mothers don't choose to be abandoned by fathers and husbands. On the other hand, people do

choose to lead lifestyles that place them outside the accepted norms that allow them to achieve their own economic independence and parity. If an individual can't pony up the bucks to pay to attend an event because they don't like or want to

work, or because their appearance and attitude preclude them from gaining meaningful employment, why can it then be expected that others should pay their way? In the quest for "economic justice," aren't the tables being turned on those who do faithfully toil at jobs and careers only to be expected to share the burden of others who thumb their noses at the very beliefs and ideals of those expected to provide assistance? Where's the economic justice here?

I'm oppressed in the struggle, so let's use your money, sister. I don't think so.

Finally, I fear that the world is doomed to drown in a deep, dark well of absurd political correctness. Someone has to call a truce on this ridiculous war of semantics. What's a lesbian? What's a bisexual, women who love women...inclusivity, exclusivity. God help me that I ever (mis)quote Susan Powter, but STOP THIS FUCKING INSANITY! There, I feel calmer now. We'll be talking about this again later. For sure.

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REFLECTIONS

10 years ago in



• Mollie A. B. Sidhe took over duties as editor at Just Out.

• Southwest Stark Street merchants hired their own police force to patrol the neighborhood. The merchants—both gay and straight—pooled their funds and rented a two-man uniformed patrol to keep an eye on things for their area. The upper Stark Street merchants funding this project included Fish Grotto, Silverado, Scandals, C.C. Slaughter's, Jake's, Mark Spencer Hotel, Club Portland, Spartacus Enterprises, Kent Hotel, Three Sisters Tavern and City Nightclub.

• For the first time, Women in the Woods, an annual retreat for women at Breitenbush Hot Springs and sponsored by Phoenix Rising Foundation, offered financial assistance through a scholarship fund.

• Team Portland surpassed its goal of registering 100 gay and lesbian athletes for Gay Games III in Vancouver, Canada, in August.

• The Washington, D.C., chapter of ACT UP announced plans to name names of closeted members of Congress at an early June press conference on the steps of the U.S. Capitol.

• After 17 years as Portland's only feminist book retailer, A Woman's Place Bookstore announced it would close its doors June 9. Store managers and board members planned to file for bankruptcy shortly afterward.

• The Northwest Scenic Cruisers planned a carwash to benefit the Starlight Gay Community Float Fund.

• Just Out and Cinema 21 presented Reel Proud, the third annual International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, featuring films from six different countries.

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