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Speak Out

Don't be cruel

TO THE EDITOR:

I read the letter addressed to *Just Out* entitled "Good Riddance" [Speak Out, May 19], and I was surprised at your unkindness.

Lee Lynch's "Amazon Trail" was not a column I ever read, and maybe many other people were, like me, not interested, so it may have been a good decision on your part to cut the column out.

I also suspect, and understand, that you may have received some letters from readers expressing their disappointment in not finding "Amazon Trail" in the paper after so many years, and that you felt that you needed to defend your stance. Fine, but why publish this letter! So harsh, and to top it off you title it "Good Riddance"?

How do you think Lee Lynch must have felt? Was it worth your defense to embarrass her? On

her departure from *Just Out*, wouldn't it have been better to have a little interview, a goodbye party?

What you did by publishing the letter was so unkind. Let's treat our gay friends with more respect, especially those who have tried to do well by us.

CHLOE DE SEGONZAC
Portland

For shame

TO THE EDITOR:

Sadly, we learned nothing about the long-term ramifications of this "culture of size" from your article ["Size Matters," May 5].

I have decided to "opt out" of gay subculture for the very reason that this tendency of gay men to perpetuate such superficial stereotypes.

Pity young men who, on acknowledging

just asking

In a continuing quest for answers, Just Out queries: "How old were you when you took your first job, and what did you do?"



MICHAEL MICKOW
Portland
Portland Creative

"What do you mean first job? I still don't have one!"



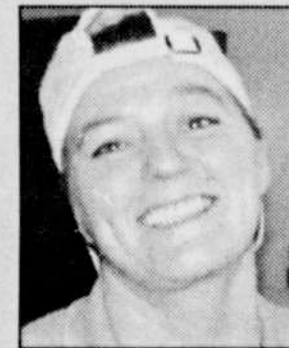
CHRISTOPHER
MCQUAIN
Portland
Free-lance writer

"I was 16, and my first job was secretarial work."



IAN BUBENIK
Portland
Hospice counselor

"I think I was about 16, and it was as a bag boy for Safeway."



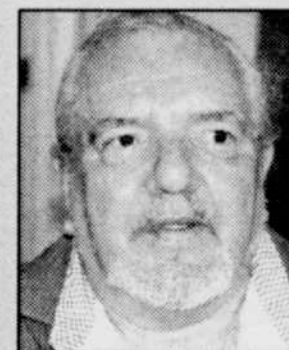
SANDY CABOT
Portland
Owner, Broadway Bento

"I was 15, working in my grandparents' restaurant in Goldendale, Washington. It was slave labor."



JAN SWANSON
Portland
Java Jans

"It was McDonald's, and I was 15. And I still have scars from the fryer."



LARRY HOBNET
Portland
Broadway Coffee Trader

"The first job I had was in a tire recap facility. I was 15 and it was hot and hard work."

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