

Speak out

their desires, are ostracized from the larger community as a result of their size, shape, form or lack of commonly defined "beauty."

Shame upon this queer culture which, on the one hand, preaches diversity, and simultaneously practices the ugly art of discrimination.

I will be perfectly content to be alone for the rest of my days before I lay claim to any membership in this pathetic subculture if, indeed, this is their ethos.

Narcissism is its own reward. Someday these men, too, will perish. Sadly, they too will die all alone—like so many of our friends who have passed in obscurity, marginalized by a self-serving gay society which cannot see beyond the tips of their penises or the edge of their bulging biceps.

Shame all around!

JEFF COOK
Portland

Kudos times two

TO THE EDITOR:

Thank you for the two thoughtful articles, "Size Matters" and "One on One" [May 5], both of which addressed real issues in our community.

I think, in fact, there is a strong correlation between the two. As gay men, we are often so obsessed by physical looks and stereotypical images that we forget to open our hearts to our brothers at a soul level. I am more than ready to admit that I enjoy a beautiful buffed and tanned body, but at what price? Connecting with another guy from the heart enables the richness of monogamy to be possible and worthwhile.

Please keep up the thoughtful writing!

MICHAEL FINCH
Portland

Proof, please

TO THE EDITOR:

I'd like to see documentation of the study

that led Assistant Chief Mark Paresi to state that sex in public places is followed by drug use and trafficking ["Delta Demimonde," May 19]. It sounds like another smoke screen, similar to the "protect our children" bullshit spouted by conservative groups.

As for inviting predators, the Pigs are the only enemy likely to be encountered in public spaces, and men cruising for sex need to police themselves. Be aware of what's going on around you, and don't do anything stupid.

Approaching the gay community for help in solving the "problem" while acknowledging that many cruisers do not identify as gay is simply law enforcement's warning that they will continue to do what is necessary to enforce a restrictive code of public morality.

DALE C. SULLIVAN
Portland

Keep up the good work

TO THE EDITOR:

I have to agree with Scott Osburne, president of the Gay Men's Chorus, when he says that your paper looks fresh and very pertinent to gay life in Portland [Speak Out, May 5].

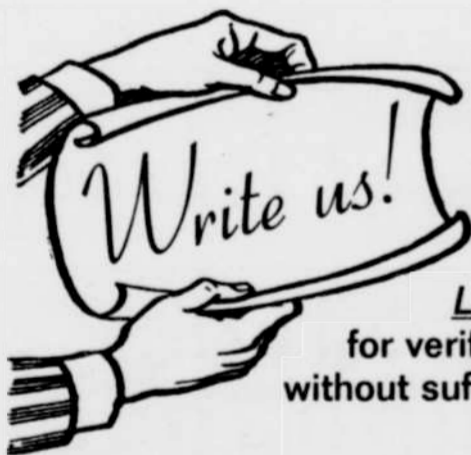
I have been reading *Just Out* periodically over the years and have found that recently you seem to be covering stories that I actually take the time to read. A recent article about foster parents and adopting children was very good. The article "One on One" by Michael Thomas Ford was very good.

I totally understand how someone who believes in monogamy, i.e., being faithful, can feel like they are obsolete. I sometimes feel like why should I be faithful, when no one else will.

And the article about "Size Matters" was also very educational. Keep up the good work.

Just Out just keeps getting better and better. So I guess it is time that I just say a great big "thank you."

RICK CALDWELL
Portland



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Welcomes letters to the editor

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