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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.

The **display advertising deadline** is the Monday 12 days before the next publication date.

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COMMENTARY BY MARTY DAVIS

No rainbow flags here

Instead, publisher waves white flag of surrender

It doesn't look like I'm going to be able to march in Portland's pride parade this year. My mobility seems to have been severely impacted by a serious case of foot-in-mouth disease. This painful and awkward condition is the direct result of my poorly chosen words as presented in this space in the June 2 issue. My thoughts at that time were wandering all over the place and stopped briefly for a fuzzy focus on the concept of "economic justice," a phrase I've heard recently and frequently in the lesbian community. Actual reader feedback and response was minimal and relatively mild, yet even without a lot of people writing or calling I have the sense to know that I didn't do a very good job of presenting my thoughts and questions on this topic. As one good friend pointed out to me, "It didn't seem to be very well thought out."

The positive side of this is that now it is clear to me that I definitely have some work to do in educating myself on the dynamics of economic justice within the gay and lesbian community. What was intended to be a questioning of the rationale of those who disparage people for "assimilating" while at the same time demanding and/or accepting the benefits of assimilated lifestyles, turned out instead to be perceived as an attack on all readers falling into lower income levels. I did not clearly distinguish between quality of life and quantity of dollars and, worse yet, I apparently implied that the latter has more value than the former. This was not my intent and I regret that I so unskillfully presented my thoughts.

As an aside of sorts, I think it fair to ask that readers not resort to mudslinging and vicious name-calling when angered by my commentary. Republican! Horrors! There is certainly no need for that sort of language, ever.

Please understand, though, that while I take responsibility for the poor choice of words, I do still have questions and a desire for additional knowledge and clarity on the diverse dynamics and components of the gay and lesbian community. I do still have questions about economic justice, questions about enabling victimization, questions about who oppresses whom—lots of questions and few answers. These questions and my desire to create dialogue and sometimes just stir things up a bit need to be tem-

pered in respectful process, however. Respectful process does not mean swallowed alive in political correctness; it means following a path of openness and honesty. The goals, objectives and plans of this paper will be accomplished while maintaining the highest standards of integrity and professionalism. Attacks and unkind remarks, intended or otherwise, are not appropriate in the pages of *Just Out*—and certainly not from the publisher.

My plans for increasing my skills and knowledge include striving to be more open-minded at all times. I must work to create and take advantage of opportunities to meet and talk and develop relationships with people who aren't just mirror images of myself and my own lifestyle and my own experiences. This sounds almost simplistic in design, but in actuality it can really push comfort levels to step outside the boundaries of the safe and the familiar. I truly don't want to be a judgmental person; this is not a characteristic that draws me to others, and I can see that I have some work ahead of me in avoiding similar behavior in myself.

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OK, 'nuf said on that subject...though is it enough, I wonder, to garner me a second *Willamette Week* Loser of the Week award? I am the proud recipient of one such award already—the result of a previous apology presented in this commentary section. Regardless of the consequences, I did indeed make an error in judgment, I admit it. I'm stepping up to it, am I a loser? Guess we'll have to wait and see. (Note to WW: How about T-shirts for these dubious awards? I'll need XX large.)

And now it is time for us to enjoy Portland's pride festivities, the first of several celebrations to be held around Oregon and southwest Washington over the coming weeks. You are very cordially invited to stop by our booth, pick up a 2000 *Just Out* Pocketbook and meet the staff of *Just Out*. I look forward to meeting and talking with you all there.

■ PLEASE NOTE: June has five Fridays, so the next issue of *Just Out* won't hit the streets until July 7—an interval of three weeks rather than two.

REFLECTIONS



"You know, this nudity thing is getting out of hand."

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