

Speak Out

sections by awarding Barnes & Noble its Annual Fairness Award in 1998. This honor recognizes institutions and individuals that have made long-term commitments "in the vital area of equal rights."

GLAAD said: "Since the inception of the Barnes & Noble superstore, their gay and lesbian studies section has been providing lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in even the most rural areas of our country access to very important literature and information about our community. In a *Rolling Stone* feature entitled 'To Be Young and Gay,' one gay teen in Sandy, Utah, cites the gay and lesbian studies section at his local Barnes & Noble as one of the most important places for him to go get information about himself and his community.

"Barnes & Noble is an important resource and, in some cases, a lifeline for gay teens in suburbs as well as lesbian and gay people all over the country. When faced with adversity in regards to the titles they carry, Barnes & Noble has consistently supported our community by not only keeping the titles on the shelves but, in some cases, carrying the titles in more stores.

"This inclusiveness does not end with the merchandise that they carry. Barnes & Noble was also one of the first companies to offer domestic partner benefits to their lesbian and gay employees."

Lastly, on a personal note, as an employee and a member of the gay and lesbian community, I have to say Barnes & Noble is the first of the eight different companies I have worked for where I have been able to be totally and completely "out" and accepted as a normal member of society. I value this level of comfort and acceptance within my workplace greatly.

PAGE JORDAN
Barnes & Noble Jantzen Beach
Community Relations Manager

Is fest trans-friendly?

TO THE EDITOR:

Holly Pruet's vividly phrased plug for the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival made me long to be there ["Michigan on My Mind," July 7]. But I kept waiting for her to reference the long-standing dispute over exactly what kind of womyn really are invited to this gala.

Of course, I could obtain this info easily elsewhere, so it's a good thing I wasn't depending on

Holly for details as to whether Michigan has become trans-friendly through the years. Had I been inclined to attend Michigan, my first question would be whether my trans companions are or ever can be truly welcome at an event whose organizers in the past explicitly have excluded them.

MAREA STONE
Ashland

Just say no

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing in opposition to Measure 9, the Oregon Citizens Alliance's Student Protection Act.

If passed in November, it will create a non-inclusive, unsafe environment for students and teachers alike. As a 24-year-old gay man and a former education major with several years of experience, this is an issue very dear to my heart.

If Measure 9 passes, any time students questioning their sexual orientation go to teachers for support, they theoretically will be forced to say, "Sorry kids, can't help you." Immediately, this will create a noninclusive environment for those looking for someone to trust.

In addition, teachers no longer will have the power to combat the hatred and ignorance embodied in the homophobic slander that is pervasive in our schools today. Finally, it only takes one student questioning his or her sexual orientation, seeking trust and support, to understand why the OCA's measure not only is flawed, it is wrong.

Believe me, I know. I was once that questioning student.

R. JASON HOLLAND
Eugene

just out
Writes us! Welcomes letters to the editor

Letters must be accompanied by a phone number for verification purposes. Anonymous letters and letters without sufficient contact information will not be published.

just asking Keeping with the spirit of popular trash TV, Just Out asked readers: "Who would you pick to be stranded with on a desert island?"



CAT GRANADO
Gresham
Automotive mechanic
"Somebody who is fun-loving, sensual, warm and exciting."



PATRICK ANDERSON
Portland
Entertainer
"Keanu Reeves, because I met him once in person before he was famous, and I fell in love with him."



ROB MILLS
Woodland, Wash.
Nursery owner
"My boyfriend, because he's one of the most spectacular guys that I've ever met."



RACHEL MEYER
Portland
Lover of free time
"How about Shirley MacLaine? She had all those other lives, so if she got boring, I could ask her to regress to someone else."

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