

Points to ponder

TO THE EDITOR:

A few points to ponder as Multnomah County considers whether to adopt the city of Portland's "civil rights" ordinance as its own:

The city's ordinance prohibits a duplex owner residing in one unit from refusing to rent the other to an unmarried heterosexual couple "living in sin" yet permits that same property owner to discriminate against a gay or lesbian couple.

By prohibiting discrimination on the basis of marital and familial status, the city's ordinance also prohibits that same property owner from refusing to rent to an unwed mother—unless the prospective tenant happens to be a lesbian mother.

The city's ordinance prohibits that same property owner—a graduate of, say, Bob Jones University—from discriminating against a mixed-race couple, married or unmarried, yet permits a homosexual couple—even one listed with the county's domestic partnership registry—to be turned away.

In legalizing these and other discriminatory acts against gays and lesbians, the exceptions contained in Portland's "civil rights" ordinance prohibiting housing discrimination impose second-class status and reinforce long-standing prejudice that homosexuals pose a threat from which society must be protected.

Just something to think about.

MARGARET DEIRDRE O'HARTIGAN
Portland

The write stuff

TO THE EDITOR:

Thank you so much for Oriana Green's beautiful article "Creating Heaven on

Earth" [March 2].

I live in Sedona, Ariz., with Kim Christensen, who originally designed the garden for Our House. We work together with Kim's partner, Christopher Grey, building gardens as spiritual havens here among the red rocks of Sedona. A friend sent your article along to us.

I was completely impressed with your writing and the stories you chose to tell. How inspiring! You are to be congratulated on a marvelous job.

I also—and this is the true measure of great writing for me—cried three times while reading your piece. How lucky Portland is to have someone of your grace and insight celebrating the community there! Many, many blessings to you, and continued good fortune with whatever gifts you choose to bring into the world.

DAVID CATES
Sedona, Ariz.

The truth is out there

TO THE EDITOR:

I am grateful that Rupert Kinnard wrote so clearly about the use and misuse of the phrase "politically correct" ["Don't Be Bamboozled," Feb. 16].

I agree with him that it consistently is used to squelch truth tellers—those who point out very real discriminatory, prejudiced words and actions. We all can learn if we have a real conversation with respect and are open to learn.

Easy labels like "PC" act as barriers. The next time you are tempted to use it, ask yourself what you might be afraid of finding out.

KATHLEEN HERRON
Portland

transitions



Harriet Stites, 1931-2001

Harriet Stites died of a heart attack March 1. She was 69.

Born in Hartford, Conn., she graduated from Northfield Mount Hermon Prep School in New Hampshire and Middlebury College in Vermont and served four years as first lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps. Her graduate studies were completed at the University of Stockholm in Sweden.

She traveled extensively in Europe, Asia and the Americas. She loved the sea, was an avid sailor and enjoyed her golf game.

She was a member of the Northwest Gender Alliance and chairperson for Esprit, a weeklong convention for cross-dressers and transgendered people held annually in Port Angeles, Wash. She also was involved in diversity training for

the Portland Police Bureau.

One of her cherished projects was the annual Bear Lift, which resulted in the collection of teddy bears for delivery to the Shriners Hospital for Children. For the past three years, she asked friends to bring the stuffed animals to her Christmas parties.

She is survived by her daughters, Roxanne Farra of Bend and Karen Leidholt of Portland; and sister, Jane Bradovchak of Avon, Conn.

Memorial services were held March 9 at St. David's Episcopal Church and March 10 at Potter's House Ministries Life Center. A wake was held March 11 at Hobo's.

Remembrances may be made by sending teddy bears to the Shriners Hospital for Children.

Intimidated by the typical jewelry stores?

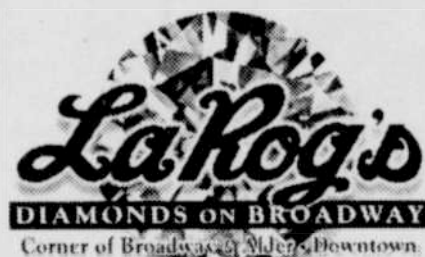
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James Giardina
manager

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