

Speak out

it was obvious that these two had spent many happy hours rehearsing the singers.

Their love of music and life was communicated through and amplified by the ensemble. The standing ovation from the audience that occurred after the second bow was honestly heartfelt and deserved.

Although the message was one of "welcoming" the coming of spring and all its beauty, the finale (Bernstein's "Make Our Garden Grow") was also an invitation. Each of us has a part to play in developing ourselves and the lesbian/gay community as well as the larger community in which we live.

The PGMCM, one of our community's shining lights, reminds us of that responsibility to participate in the business of living and promoting positive attitudes toward one another. Thanks, thanks and ever thanks to the entire PGMCM organization.

ERIC DELORA
Portland

Please drive carefully

TO THE EDITOR:

I write this letter to the editor to remind people once again to please drive carefully.

It recently was March 31. For a long time I looked forward to that date, the day my youngest child would be 18.

This year, though, I did not shop for new shoes, new clothes or a favorite CD. Sadly, I shopped for the appropriate flowers to place at the spot where he lost his life.

The reality of this March 31 is it marked the second year Allen Thompson's life was celebrated without him. If my son's accidental death does anything, it will be to remind each of us to please drive carefully.

I now know more than ever that it only takes a second—the time it takes to change a CD, light a cigarette, take a drink of pop, look down at a map—to be inattentive, not careful, actually careless.

In the life of a teen-ager, words fly. Our family is fortunate and thankful that the last words we heard from our 16-year-old son were, "I love you, see you for dinner."

So here I go again, saying those words we hear so often: Slow down, drive carefully, and remember to tell the people you love that you love them. Every day!

KELLI THOMPSON
Newport

We are family

TO THE EDITOR:

Marty Davis hit the nail on the head with the statement, "And now I never will know, because there is no one left to ask" ["Jell-O Salad and Montgomery Ward," Jan. 5]. Like you, I am the oldest surviving member of the family, and I'd like to ask a lot of questions about the past, but there is no one to ask in most cases.

Some of my grandchildren are interested in our family history. I now advise them to keep journals or computer records or buy one of those new home CD-making machines so they'll be able to answer their grandchildren's questions.

Although I don't miss Jell-O salads, it is sad that Montgomery Ward has gone out of business. My farm family bought a lot of stuff from Wards. An older girl in the Polish community and I used to cut out the clothing models from the Wards catalog to play paper dolls.

ROLLIN ZAWISTOWSKI
Lake Oswego

Pet project

TO THE EDITOR:

Please do not feature remembrances of passed-away pets ["Did You Miss Me?" March 16].

Like you, I have loved pets, and I appreciate the loss of owners after the death of an animal for which they cared deeply, but I definitely have no interest in reading (or having to skip over!) this type of memorial tribute. I do not think this is appropriate or needed in *Just Out*.

I will be disappointed if you and the staff begin to include such articles. Where would it end?

LYLE M. TUCKER
Lake Oswego

Age of innocence

TO THE EDITOR:

Has anyone noticed that Showtime's *Queer as Folk* graphically portrays and endorses on some levels underage sex?

The age of consent for male-male intercourse is 18. The law imposes penalties for a man who has sex with a boy younger than that.

The main characters on *Queer as Folk*, 29-year-old Brian and 17-year-old Justin, have participated in several explicit sexual encounters during the show's first season. Where is the outcry from the gay media community?

There hardly has been any strong objection to this portrayal of underage sex. Is it that the media are willing to turn their heads when graphic sex is portrayed on cable or when the actors are muscular and beautiful, or is it because there is finally a gay show on television that showcases graphic sex?

Not too long ago, much coverage centered on gay groups across the nation condemning the actions and policies of the National Association of Man/Boy Love. Is there a difference between these two levels of underage sex?

The gay media have been at the forefront of tackling and addressing negative portrayals of gay men and women in the past. They had a problem with *The Silence of the Lambs* and *Cruising* because they portrayed gay and transsexual serial killers; also, questions were raised with *The Jackal* because Bruce Willis seduced and then killed a gay man.

The gay media continue to have concerns with rappers of old and new and their lyrics—the list goes on and on. However, no outcry regarding *Queer as Folk*.

Will there be an increase in underage sex regarding gay men—who can say? But with the current trends in today's society, the door is wide open for speculation, discrimination and more negative portrayals of gay men.

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Seattle



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just out

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