

Speak Out

and visible and kick-ass.

But you're right, Marty. They're all just a bunch of breasts with no brains and certainly have no other history or future of queer activism in our fine city.

Thank you, Marty, for weeding out the nasty queers and letting the queer community know who *really matters!* I give you my own special Unity Award!

Oh, walking "the higher road"! Oh, the calluses!

SARAH BARNARD
Lesbian Avengers

Tit to be fied

TO THE EDITOR:

Well, another great Pride is over, and something came to my mind.

As much as I like to see women, I had a harder time this year watching all the half-nude dykes Saturday and Sunday. Maybe getting older has something to do with it, but I could not help wondering about it.

What does running around Portland half-nude have to do with Pride? Is it something young women like to do to confront others? I could not feel proud of any of those women.

There is nothing by law Pride Northwest can or should do to stop those who choose to show it. But maybe women themselves can start thinking about it and change it.

It made me very uncomfortable watching the parade and then at Waterfront Park, where they continued. But this is only my opinion.

Second subject—protesters. One piece of advice for next year for everybody: Please, please ignore them.

Don't talk to them, because you won't change their minds. Don't do anything to aggravate the situation.

Just totally, completely ignore them. It would

make the life of the safety volunteers a lot easier.

PAT AMES
Portland

Wrong arm of the law

TO THE EDITOR:

I had two thoughts after reading the article on Fanchon Blake ["Better Late Than Never," June 1]. The first was that she has had a very interesting life.

The second was that no matter how much some of the Los Angeles Police Department did not like or feared female officers, not allowing Blake to go to a hospital emergency room immediately after her stroke was stupid beyond belief. It was stupid because the ratio of officers to the public is damn small and every single officer is needed, and it was stupid because for some decades in other countries women have been serving in police and military forces and doing as well as or better than many of the men.

Would these same "Los Angeles Finest" have let their wife or girlfriend or daughter stand around under a condition that easily could have killed or permanently paralyzed them? Being a sexist, racist, ageist homophobe in one's mind is one thing, but to use those fears, dislikes and hatred to justify endangering the life of someone should fall under the category of criminal behavior of some nature.

The male officers endangered Blake's life and the lives of the people of Los Angeles, for the civilians were depending on her and all the officers to protect them. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest in the world of stupidity, this stunt rates a 12!

JOHN BOYNTON
Portland

transitions

Ron Morrill, 1967-2001

For those who knew him, Ronald P. Morrill represented almost the purest form of friendliness they ever would encounter.

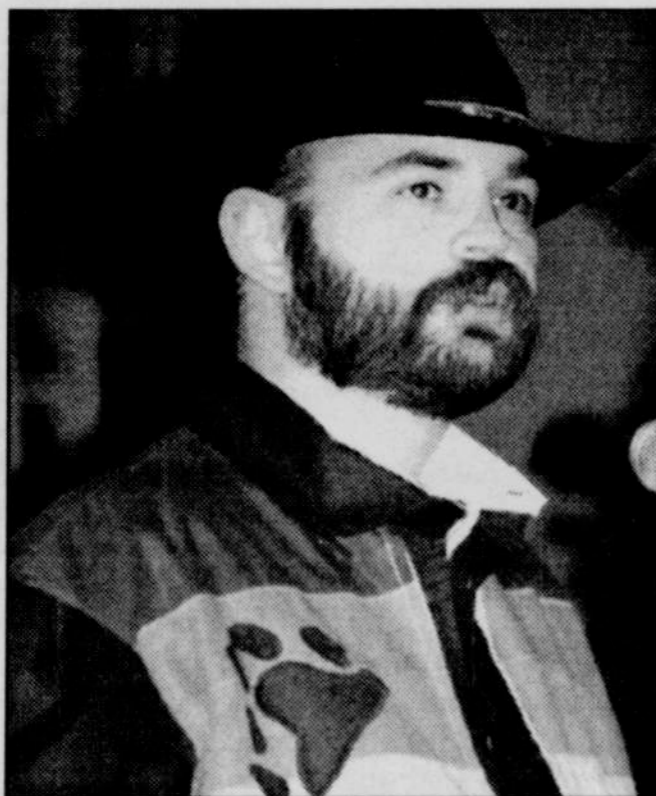
His ready smile, half-hidden underneath a dark brown mustache, was offered to almost anyone he encountered, usually followed by a hug. Whether he was dressed in his kilt, his Bear Pride shirt, his embroidered Oregon Bears jacket, his red union suit and cowboy boots, or next to nothing, he exuded comfort with who he was and acceptance of others for who they were.

Morrill died June 12. He was 34.

He was born Jan. 29, 1967, in Haverhill, Mass. One of four children in his family, he grew up in Central Florida before moving to the Portland area in the late 1980s.

Morrill was involved in many groups in Portland but was most active in the Bear clubs. He was a member of the Cascade Bears and helped in the formative years of the Oregon Bears.

He was the first Mr. Oregon Bear, in 1996-97, and proudly represented the state at International Bear Rendezvous. Although he was nervous about speaking in front of thousands of burly, hairy men, he came on stage in his Bear Pride shirt and ever-present cowboy hat and engaged



the crowd—emotionally and hormonally.

Morrill later was profiled in a *Just Out* article for Gay Pride and was a guest on the cable access program *The Snickers LaBarr Show*. He also sang as a first tenor with the Portland Gay Men's Chorus and was a member of the Rose-town Ramblers, a gay and lesbian square dance group.

At home, he often could be found doing needlepoint or crocheting, a winning contrast to the masculine image he so effortlessly portrayed. His scarves and quilts are enjoyed by many in our community. He also collected Beanie Babies and doted on his dogs, Cassandra and Stubby, and cat, Sierra.

Morrill shared the last eight years of his life with his partner, Richard Soule, who became his caregiver as his health was failing during the past year. He also is survived by his older brother, Dan; in-laws, Jim and Diane Soule; and parents, Alfred and Marion.

Remembrances may be made to Friends of People with AIDS Foundation, P.O. Box 4014, Portland, OR 97208. ☐

Contributed by ANDY MANGELS

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"Gays win benefits suit"

"First case in the country" making employer offer health insurance to its employees' same-sex domestic partners.
— The Oregonian, August 10, 1996

I handled this very important case. Let me help you seek justice, too.

Carl G. Kiss
~ Attorney at Law ~

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