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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.

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COMMENTARY

BY MARTY DAVIS

God rocks!

Original rainbow creator sending new messages to listeners

Any doubt that we live in the too-much-information age was dissipated with the recent and way-more-than-we-need-to-know media blitz surrounding the book, wedding and pregnancy of "complicated and fragile" actress Anne Heche.

To those who have mourned the loss of privacy that has befallen this celebrity figure I can say only, "Oh, give me a break." The day this woman gets privacy is the day she fires her publicist—and then hires a more aggressive one.

Heche's refusal to state her sexual orientation must be a tad disheartening to those who were so eager to make her the poster child for bisexuality. The past two issues of *Just Out* have included letters and "Just Asking" replies heatedly staking claim to the woman's sexual identity for the bisexual cause.

Well, gee, guess what, kids? It turns out she's neither lesbian nor bisexual nor straight.

Nah, the woman is/was simply insane. For her entire relationship with Ellen DeGeneres. While having the best sex of her life. While talking to God.

The good news about this public revelation of heavenly communication is it shows much more open-mindedness on God's part. Usually when God talks to people He tells them to go steal copies of *Just Out* and toss them all away.

Now God apparently is suggesting it's OK for women to have sex with other women. This is indicative of a much more enlightened deity, don'tcha think? You go, God!

To my regret I've never met DeGeneres. Yet.

However, it's my opinion that she always has seemed to be a genuinely nice sort of person. Of course, she is an actress, so the possibility exists that she actually could be less than charming, but even that scenario doesn't eliminate the empathy I feel for her at this time.

Can you even begin to imagine the pain of having a former partner denounce your entire relationship, on national television, in such a godawful fashion? Ouch!

This makes the challenge of avoiding ex-lovers at Portland Fire

games look positively amateurish by comparison. I hope one day soon DeGeneres will be able to find some of her unique humor in this tawdry, painful story and use it to her own advantage. Anything less than a best-selling live concert video will be inadequate recompense for having to endure this barrage of misguided and self-centered foolishness being foisted on the public.

Heche, of course, isn't the only person who talks to God. Lon and Bonnie Mabon have been adding their own warped interpretation to His mis-sives for many years now.

On Sept. 6 the fun couple were scheduled to appear in Multnomah County Circuit Court for yet another hearing in the 10-year-old lawsuit filed by photojournalist Catherine Stauffer. At 11 a.m. court was convened without the Mabons present. It seems they no longer recognize the authority of the Oregon court system and simply decided they're not going to participate.

This brings several questions to my mind, not the least of which is, "Can you get away with that?" Secondly, if they don't recognize the authority of the judicial system, why do they so rabidly embrace the initiative process? The answer is simple: The former doesn't work for them, and the latter does.

So, how do we make the initiative process less appealing and less fruitful for the Mabons and the Oregon Citizens Alliance and their ilk? Has the system evolved to the point where it too easily falls prey to abuse and manipulation?

Oregon Taxpayers United certainly has a field day with the process, resulting in absurd and poorly conceived ballot measures constantly being paraded before voters. People seldom take the time to educate themselves as to the consequence of their votes, which then leads to court challenges of ballot measures brought about by people mindlessly signing petitions with little regard to the impact of their carelessness.

The public needs to be more educated about the initiative process. They need to know the accountability of signing petitions.

Paid signature gatherers are a bad idea and violate the spirit of the Constitution. Instead of fighting ballot measure after ballot measure, how about we take that same amount of money and use it to educate voters about the consequences of their actions when they sign petitions?

Why not run ongoing campaigns showing the positive contributions gay men and lesbians make to our towns, cities and our state? Instead of beseeching voters constantly to vote for us and against them, let's teach people to understand the ramifications before they sign petitions.

Let's show voters that we're their friends, their neighbors and their family and that signing petitions is not something you do just to be polite. In the long run, a lot of people get hurt, and a lot of time, money and energy are wasted.

And when all is said and done, perhaps Lon will realize God never was speaking to him at all. Nope, he was just insane and from another planet the whole darn time. ☐



ILLUSTRATION BY KEVIN MOORE

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