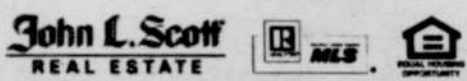




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Speak out

Bar none

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing to express my anger and frustration at the only "gay" bar in Salem. Or actually the lack of one.

This particular bar used to be gay-friendly and a fun place to go. Now, with the current ownership, it is less than gay-friendly and not a fun place to go.

This issue comes up all the time in a chat room. So many gay people refuse to go in there anymore because of the current ownership's running of the place.

I wrote to the club owner to express my opinion, and all he would tell me is that it's all about the "almighty dollar" and that gay people won't support it anymore. No wonder—they let all the straight people in instead!

Salem needs a gay bar where gay people can go and have fun and not be intimidated by all the straight people. The owner said security will stand up for gay people if there is a problem. I haven't seen that happen yet, especially when the guards are straight themselves.

What's that saying? "Protect your own"?

MICHAEL SHARP
Salem

Imagine the possibilities

TO THE EDITOR:

Marty Davis' Sept. 21 editorial "One Nation Under God?" brought up excellent points: There are alternatives to war that precious few in the media have cared to consider. With flags flying high and incidents of harassment and hate crimes against Arab Americans increasing, songs like

"Imagine" are being censored instead of truly listened to.

Like John Lennon, I can imagine a world where people take conflict resolution seriously, where violence is never the answer, where the rule of national and international laws and institutions are upheld. As the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and many others have said, fighting hate with hate only will bring more hate.

It's time to break the cycle. It's time to imagine.

CAROLE SCHOLL
Portland

Labor day

TO THE EDITOR:

In Oregon, enforcement of employment discrimination law is entrusted to the Bureau of Labor and Industries, which is under the authority of the labor commissioner, an office I am considering pursuing.

BOLI runs a mediation and conciliation program designed to help employers understand when they have violated the law and make it right without having to go to court. This process benefits both the employer, who saves money and time, and the employee, who can resolve a discrimination complaint without the publicity, expense and pain of a trial.

But BOLI has ducked the opportunity to strike this balance in cases of employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. According to the agency's Web site, "State...laws prohibiting sex discrimination in employment do not extend to sexual orientation or sexual change."

That statement is flat wrong. The court in Tanner vs. Oregon Health Sciences University

transitions

Lance Cartwright, 1950-2001

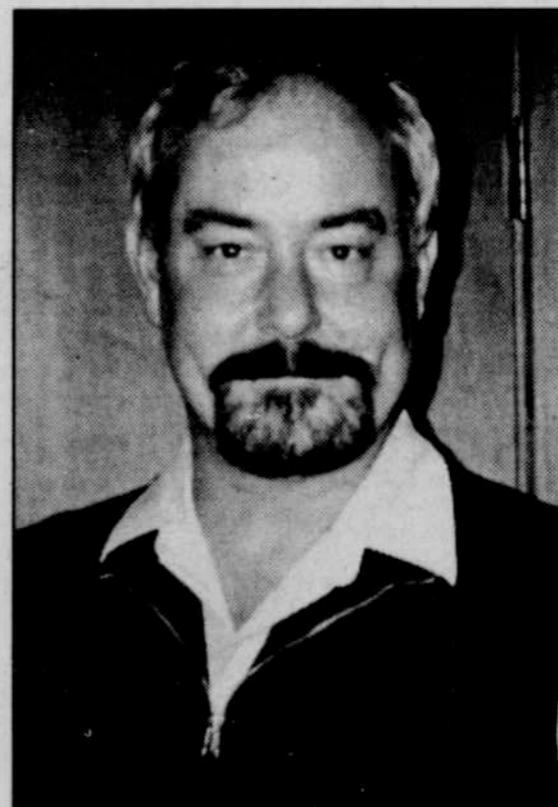
Lance Neil Cartwright, aka "Blanche de Portland," died of a massive heart attack Sept. 19.

Born April 30, 1950, he lived all his life in Portland. He graduated from Washington High School. He was a Tri-Met bus driver for the past 26 years.

Cartwright began his vacation travels at a young age. He integrated himself into the major cultural centers of San Francisco, New York and New Orleans and later Memphis, Tenn.; Key West and Orlando, Fla.; Provincetown, Mass.; Atlanta; and especially British Columbia.

He documented what he saw through a camera lens. With the advent of video, he brought Portland and San Francisco audiences the famous and infamous.

Cartwright documented the Beau Arts Ball, 20 years of Sweetlips Hangings, the bacchanal Fat Tuesday, coronations, Pensacola Memorial Day and hundreds more. He also produced a hysterically funny RuPaul music video spliced with digitally manipulated famous Hollywood women slapping the hell



out of each other. It was seen in queer establishments throughout the world.

His stage roles included Joan in *Dames at Sea*, *The Boyfriend* produced by Darcelle XV and a smashing production of *Dreamgirls*. The Independent Barony of Mount Tabor has lost its "Grand Duchess," a title he relished.

Cartwright's many dear friends considered him a creative genius and said that he had a colorful personality and that his home was a welcome mat for visitors. The "Fun Family of the Old Testament" Mame,

Lance Chilsen, Steve Suss, Kim Chidester, Greg Pitts and the infamous Sweetlips (BAR) express their condolences.

He is survived by his sisters, Lynn Duff and Suzie Gannott.

A life celebration will start noon Nov. 11 at the Fox and Hounds and continue to C.C. Slaughters, Embers Avenue and Silverado. Remembrances may be made to Camp Starlight in care of Emmy Ritter, 1608 S.E. Ankeny St., Portland, OR 97214, 503-238-4420.