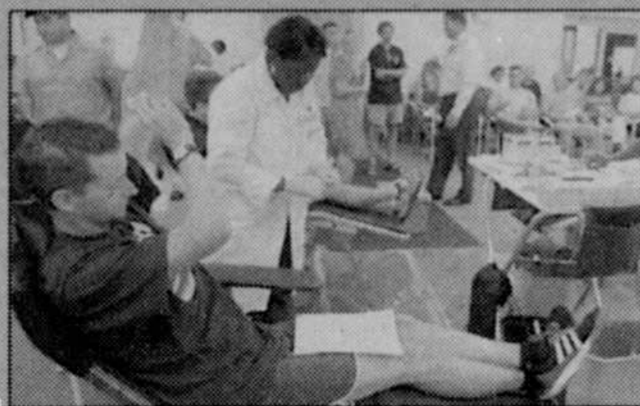


# Speak Out

## just asking

**Does the fear of HIV transmission warrant the American Red Cross ban on blood donations from sexually active gay men, or are they all being painted with the same brush?**



I do not believe a gay person's blood poses any more risk than any nongay person's blood. I do believe that all donations should be screened and that any person whose blood tests positive for HIV should be contacted and given options for treatment.

How many people do you think lie about their sexual status and donate blood? Perhaps the American Red Cross should ban *all* people who are sexually active, as HIV/AIDS is not limited to one specific group of people. Just my \$0.02 worth

DAVID MOORE  
Portland

**NEXT ISSUE: If the election were held today, who would you support in the U.S. Senate race: incumbent Gordon Smith or Secretary of State Bill Bradbury? Respond at [www.justout.com](http://www.justout.com). (Don't forget to include your name, city and daytime telephone number.)**

Continued from Page 4

said the statute does extend to sexual orientation, and for the state government to tell people the contrary is not only wrong, it's short-sighted.

That's doubly true when coupled with the rest of the discussion on this Web site, which says that because of Tanner, "BOLI's Civil Rights Division is no longer rejecting claims of sexual orientation discrimination from employees throughout Oregon."

That confuses me, and I'm a lawyer. Imagine how it sounds to an employee trying to deal with a discrimination situation at work.

If you look behind the language, what BOLI means is that it still will not use its informal procedures to resolve claims of discrimination by private employers on the basis of sexual orientation. Instead, when an employee complains to BOLI, the agency declines to investigate but issues what is called a "right to sue" letter. That means that the employee has complied with the statute by seeking help but that BOLI just said, "If you've got a problem, take 'em to court."

From every point of view that's too bad. It's a missed opportunity for BOLI to educate employers in the law. It raises the cost to employees and employers, who both must face the hazard and uncertainty of a court proceeding instead of a speedy mediation.

And finally, it discriminates against employees who have such claims—it treats those discriminated against on the basis of sexual orientation differently from how it treats others complaining of discrimination. And by an interpretation of Tanner, that kind of discrimination by a state agency is not just regret-

table, it's unconstitutional.

As an elected official, I want to spread the word about these issues. That's not just because I believe people should have their chance without being burdened by prejudice. It's because I believe all of us are richer and happier when our society lives up to both aspects of the great human revolution of our time.

PETE SORENSON  
Lane County Commissioner

### The gift that keeps on giving

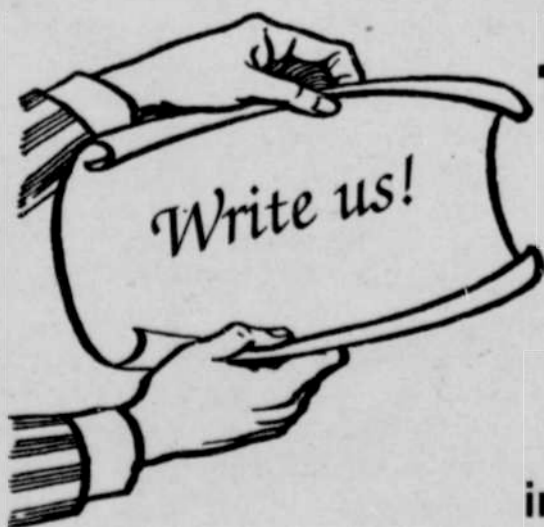
TO THE EDITOR:

Full gratitude and recognition are overdue for all those who contributed to the Loni Okaruru vigil at Pioneer Courthouse Square. They include, of course, Basic Rights Oregon, the Coalition Against Hate Crimes, the West County Coalition for Human Dignity, Pride Northwest, Rainbows and Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Thanks, too, to *Just Out* for your outstanding coverage ["Burning the Candle at Both Ends," Sept. 21].

We stand together for the safety and dignity of our community and against hatred and bigotry. As evidenced by the broad support and great attendance at this event, our community really cares for trans people and for each other.

These contributors have made it possible for us to share some hope during these troubled times. This is a precious gift.

LORI BUCKWALTER  
It's Time, Oregon! Executive Director



**justout**  
**Welcomes letters to the editor**  
**Letters must be accompanied by a phone number for verification purposes. Anonymous letters and letters without sufficient contact information will not be published.**

## Injured? ...Call me



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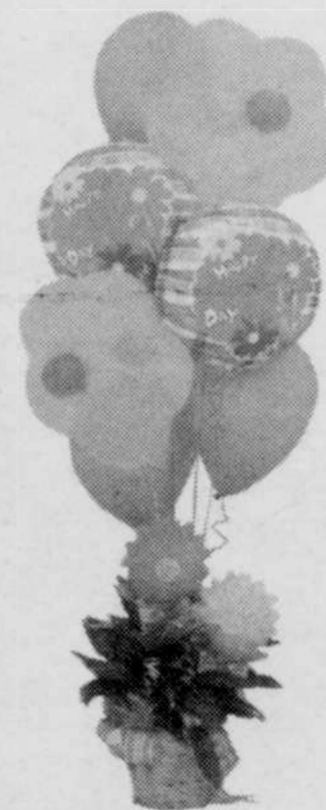


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