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speack out

Get over yourself

TO THE EDITOR:

Well, it sounds like some people are on a witch hunt or have a problem with themselves ["Hang the DJs," Nov. 16].

I never have read anything that has made me so mad as this short article. Being somewhat of an expert on gay and radio issues, I can assure you Nelson of KRSK-FM and Colin Cowherd of KFXX-AM are the furthest things from homophobic.

To make a statement that Nelson is homophobic is slanderous. And if he wanted to take this to court, I would be right by his side along with many other gay people, and you would lose.

I have known Nelson for more than 10 years, and he never has had a problem with gay people. If he is homophobic, I don't think he would be giving me hugs and hanging out with me in public. He even created one of his characters, Purple Beard the Gay Pirate, in comedic respect of one of his gay co-workers, Capt. Morgan.

For anyone to take Nelson dressed in women's underwear as an attack on the gay or trans community is ludicrous. If you pay attention to the commercial, he states he has switched stations so he now can be himself.

All he is referring to is that now he finally can wear women's underwear, whereas before he could not. He is not saying he is gay, trans, bi, nothing.

As for Lori Buckwalter's statement "How would people feel if he did it in blackface," how does "change" have anything to do with blackface? You can't change your race, but you can change what you were.

Ding-dong! Hello? Does anyone there have a sense of humor?

This is done to make people laugh! And judging by the many gay people who are talking about it, they know it is all done in fun and to make you laugh!

As for Cowherd's comment on University of California at Berkeley head football coach Tom Holmoe's retirement, once again it was a play on words to make you laugh, as he stated. I am gay, and I think it is hilarious. I am just jealous I did not get to say that on the radio.

My God, folks, look at what Z100 did with me three years ago with the first gay kiss on radio, then as the "token" gay contestant on Mall Survivor this year. I did not hear you scream about that! I only heard people screaming with laughter!

You need to relax! Just because there are no gay "issues" at hand now, you don't need to try to stir up one.

If you are going to do anything, try doing something positive. Stop trying to find something negative in something that is positive.

Try smiling and laughing; it really does not hurt—no, really! In short, build a bridge and get over yourself girrrll!

"GAY TIM" BIAS
 Portland

Party favors

TO THE EDITOR:

OK, I'll bite on Marty Davis' bait and admit I might consider voting for Sen. Gordon Smith because his leadership on gay issues within the Republican Party is sorely needed to pass any legislation ["Time Passages," Nov. 16].

Support is needed in all political parties. Blindly voting for Democratic Party candidates has caused the gay vote to be taken for granted, such as when President Bill Clinton, along with a Democratic majority in both houses, compromised with the "don't ask, don't tell" policy and the Defense of Marriage Act.

Smith has taken a public stand by co-sponsoring the Employment Nondiscrimination Act

just asking



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and by regularly documenting gay-bashing incidents in the *Congressional Record* to remind colleagues, "Government's first duty is to defend its citizens against the harms that come out of hate." I believe he is sincere and not just trying to get gay votes, because he will lose more votes from Oregon Citizens Alliance supporters than he will gain.

In contrast, when Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden visited Corvallis he could not provide any example of how he is furthering gay rights. I believe he takes the gay vote for granted and sees no need to risk taking a stand on gay issues.

Maybe Bill Bradbury will be a better senator, but I also need to know if reasonable accommodations can be made for his multiple sclerosis disability. I have witnessed people with MS succeed in stressful jobs, but I also have seen the disease unpredictably incapacitate individuals.

Federal laws protecting the disabled give regular employers the rights to determine what is reasonable. Voters, who might employ Bradbury as senator, also should have these rights.

Yes, Christian theocrats have attempted to hijack the Republican Party, but voters consistently have rejected their Taliban-like ideas. Republicans have had to move to the center to win elections, just as the Democrats have done. I am confident this will continue, so I have no fear voting for the best candidate, even if he is Republican.

THOMAS KRAEMER
 Corvallis

Portland's Finest

TO THE EDITOR:

Bravo to the Portland Police Bureau for fighting both terrorist threats from abroad and growing fascism from Washington, D.C. The decision not to participate in the interrogation of immigrants chosen solely on their place of birth is an excellent example of Portland's Finest protecting our rights as well as our safety.

As Attorney General John Ashcroft clambers up to the podium of power last used by Sen. Joseph McCarthy, we as Americans must remember, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, lib-

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