

Speak Out

Give and take

TO THE EDITOR:

In the Dec. 7 issue of *Just Out*, editor Marty Davis' commentary states that the current protest against the Salvation Army is "mean-spirited" and that "it's not the time" ["Three Days That Never End..."].

She further states, "The losers in this battle will be the cold, the hungry and the downtrodden." I disagree.

When is it not the time to protest homophobia, racism or other forms of oppression? This implies that there is a time, a "season" for tolerating oppression.

It smacks of the "let's not make waves," "let's not 'cause' trouble" mentality I find extremely frustrating. It's like saying, "Let's protest, but let's not upset anyone." Oxymoronic thinking?

Davis offers no evidence I can see that the protest is "mean-spirited" unless, again, it is because she thinks we should tolerate homophobia during this season of humanity and giving.

Further, the losers in the battle will (hopefully) be those who set Salvation Army policy. It will not be "the cold, the hungry and the downtrodden."

The protest is not calling for a halt to donations—only a halt to donations to the Salvation Army!! They are by no means the only charity in town.

Given the generosity of the nation as a whole during these difficult times, I have no doubt our community will donate as much as if not more than usual to those in need this holiday season. Even if the Salvation Army were the only charity that existed, there are other ways to

help those in need, such as by direct assistance.

No doubt the Salvation Army takes a percentage off the top for its own operating expenses. By giving directly to those in need, not only would the people receive 100 percent of the donation, but less money would be going into the coffers of a homophobic organization!

In my opinion, the time is always right for that kind of generosity of spirit, and it doesn't require that we tolerate oppression or leave our self-respect at the collection pail.

RINNY SMITH
Jersey City, N.J.

Music to my ears

TO THE EDITOR:

As a culturally arrogant spoiled brat, I have been dubious of the Portland Gay Men's Chorus. My husband supports the group in various ways, and I attend with him.

Yet, I heard something different Dec. 15. My impression had been, "OK, fine, you can stand, sing, dress alike and pull off a show."

However, Dec. 15 was "more." I felt I was seeing men and women who were "tighter," so to speak.

My impression from them was, "OK, we know we can sing, perform, are getting it right, and the money paid to sit in the seat is well justified." I am going to take a second look at financially supporting the organization.

TIM EDWARDS
Lake Oswego

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just asking Will & Grace: Is it on your "best of 2001" list, or should it make a new year's resolution to get real?

I do enjoy watching *Will & Grace*, and it can be downright funny. Although the spirit of the show gives our community exposure, this year it seems to be focusing on everything other than Will finding a real romance. We as viewers are left pondering the notion that gay guys can't find a "real" relationship so they have to look for affection everywhere but where they really want it.

Why can't Will find a lover? Why do the producers keep presenting the idea that Grace is the best match for Will? That is simply not true, and some lucky guy is just down the hall and we haven't seen him yet!!! Go beat down some doors, Will!

GLADYS MELTON
Portland

I like *Will & Grace*. It's my favorite sitcom. Maybe it's because I have a gay lawyer friend or because I like to see a television show with funny people who are like myself: a kooky gay person.

Anyway, it is refreshing to see a group of characters not unlike reality all of the time but funny enough to bring me into a world of fantasy once a week in order to laugh at my own idiosyncrasies. With the exception of one episode when they brought on two awful "lesbian" depictions, I am delighted with *Will & Grace* and look forward to it and will tune it in or tape it every week.

KATHY BAMBECK
Portland

Will & Grace is the idealized hetero take on what it's like to be gay: Will never has sex but dresses well, and Grace dresses poorly and has lots of sex. Jack and Karen are far more amusing but perhaps more damaging than beneficial. *Will & Grace* should homo it up, for sure.



NADIA CANNON
Portland

I find *Will & Grace* to be enjoyable, even with its stereotypical Jack. If anything, I think Karen is the one who really makes the show.

It will be interesting to see where it goes next. Jack has a son and has to take a new direction.

Now if we only could find the right guy for Will or Grace. But then the show probably would be over??

JACK LONG
Eagle Point

next ISSUE *Pride Northwest is considering fencing in next year's Waterfront Park festival and requesting a \$3 donation. How does this make you feel? Would you still attend? Respond at www.justout.com. (Don't forget to include your name, city and daytime telephone number.)*

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