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Speak Out

Standing ovation

TO THE EDITOR:

Now that Lon Mabon is sitting in a jail cell, isn't it time that some well-funded local or national organization recognize and award Catherine Stauffer for her relentless campaign against the Oregon Citizens Alliance? What other individual or group, except maybe the Rural Organizing Project, has had as much success in revealing the OCA as the hypocritical bullies that they are?

Now that Bonnie Mabon is packing her toothbrush on her way to a jail cell, isn't it time that some local or national organization recognize and award Brent Foster for his legal strategy? His actions in uncovering the financial scam that the OCA undertook to avoid paying the fine that the Oregon jury awarded Stauffer a few years ago helped lead to the situation in which millions of us could watch on television as the handcuffs were put on Lon Mabon.

Surely that is worth some applause and thanks.

ALAN RAUSCH
Portland

Ze said, si said

TO THE EDITOR:

I am quite perturbed that when referring to Leslie Feinberg you used the female pronoun ["Eugene Conference Discuss Patriarchy," Feb. 1].

Those in the trans community who take on more than one gender are called third-gendered. If the writer had done any background checking, she would know "ze" or "si" (third-gender pronouns for "he" and "she") is preferred.

If anything, she would have been better off using the male pronoun. Portland is a trans-friendly city, so the writer shouldn't have had much trouble finding references to Feinberg.

KRIS R. HUBBARD
Portland

Transphobia or policephobia?

TO THE EDITOR:

As a young struggling lesbian at 16, my initial discovery of *Just Out* provided the awareness, support and belonging I desperately needed during my coming out. Since that time nearly 15 years ago, it has remained the centerpiece of my coffee table decor. I've grown and changed as it has grown and changed.

It is this long history that founded my initial defensiveness of your coverage of the Damon Woodcock saga. Now that the settlement has been reached, I no longer can create excuses for your coverage. As a spectator of the events that have transpired with the Portland Fire and Police Disability and Retirement Fund, I have been grateful for the news printed by both *Willamette Week* and the *Oregonian*.

My assumption was that Woodcock's inability to go "on the record" was perhaps what prevented *Just Out* from providing ongoing coverage of such a big event.

I am utterly appalled at your nearly non-existent coverage of the settlement. Further, your ink on the settlement was weak, questioning and confusing ["Trans Officer's Settlement OK'd," Jan. 18].

While *Willamette Week* did provide GLBT folks the information and answers they sought, I am left with one question: Is it your transphobia or your fear of the Portland Police Bureau that resulted in such horrible coverage? I would like to think it's the police.

MAX HORN
COQSURE Facilitator

Bev booster

TO THE EDITOR:

As I follow the governor's race, Beverly Stein continues to step out in front of all the candidates on the issues important to me as an Oregonian. She understands the potential that an efficient state government can achieve by supporting all of Oregon's industries—as well as encouraging the development of new ones.

This was demonstrated Feb. 1 when Stein brought together 13 business leaders from diverse areas of the economy and the state for her "Get Oregon Working Again Roundtable." While other candidates get their ideas from books and polls, she goes right to the people operating businesses every day.

Stein will utilize all of her abilities and resources to improve educational programs, expand infrastructure and promote the quality of life enjoyed throughout our state. Join me in voting for Beverly Stein, clearly Oregon's best choice for governor!

PETER KOPP
Beaverton

Try a little tenderness

TO THE EDITOR:

Why is it if you don't understand something you automatically attack it? We in the gay community often ask this of the straight community and get very upset when they do this to us.

I pretty much live my life in mainstream society. I am out at work, I made my transformation in my present job, and I managed to keep that job. It's kind of hard to hide a 6-foot-2 black woman; there are not a lot of us around.

Being out has had its share of difficulties. I can understand the fear that straight folk have for trans folk, but why is there so much fear and lack of understanding within queer space?

And to zero right in with queer men—either gay or bi—gents, I am going to put it bluntly: I am not a *%&^%\$## drag queen. Nothing against drag queens; some in this community are my closest supporters. When I was at my lowest point, they were there to give me that not-so-gentle nudge to keep me going.

Strangely, they are gay men, and they get it. Now if the drag queens can figure out, what's up with the rest of you men out there?

People who live in glass houses should not

transitions

Robert "Swifty" Wilson, 1926-2002

Portland resident Robert L. "Swifty" Wilson died Feb. 11. He was 75.

He was born Oct. 10, 1926, in Bandon. He moved to the Portland area more than 30 years ago.

He worked as a janitor at Darcelle XV. He previously was a dishwasher at the nightclub.

He is survived by his sister, Lois O'Neal, and friends, Walter Cole and Roc Neuhardt.

No services are planned. Final disposition was by cremation. Omega Funeral and Cremation Service handled the arrangements.

Remembrances may be made to a favorite charity.

"He lived with us for about 30 years," said Cole, aka Darcelle. "He was a dear friend, a good man."