

speak out

just asking How have recent events—such as the Special Emergency Response Team investigation, the Damon Woodcock job stress settlement and the alleged assault near Stephano’s—affected your opinion of the Portland Police Bureau?

Alleged inexcusable behavior by two off-duty police officers should not alarm our citizens; we have a responsible bureau, and suggestions that any community in our city thinks that past history is a factor in this incident are totally immersed in ignorance. This is Expressions of Human Dignity Month; don't you think a little inclusion of it by our media would be a responsible change?

NORM COSTA
Portland

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These are very difficult problems for the bureau. In my opinion, I believe the resolution to the SERT incident was a fair decision. It is now history.

I do not know all the details of the Damon Woodcock situation. This was another difficult situation for him and the bureau. There was a resolution, so now it is a done deal and is history.

The assault near Stephano's is still under investigation. The chief has told the Sexual Minorities Roundtable what now is being done.

The bureau will conclude the investigation and take the appropriate action where it deems necessary. Then it will be history.

My personal opinion of Portland police is very positive. With the budget and resources that are available to them, they are doing a great job.

Is there room for improvement? Sure, but every day they strive for as much perfection that can be had under the present budgetary constraints.

Continually bringing up the past every time



there is an incident at the bureau for sensationalism sometimes causes pain for those who originally were involved who have to relive that event again through the media. Once an incident is resolved, it is history and should not be repeated every time there might be another related incident.

RONI LANG
Portland

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My opinion of the police bureau hasn't changed much because it was low already. I thought the chief's so-called apology after his tapes were publicized ("I am sorry for the effects

of my words") was evasive. He sounded like a child who was sorry a cookie jar fell down in his vicinity.

I have attended most of the Sexual Minorities Roundtable meetings since then and have concluded they are a waste of taxpayers' money. Only a few nonpolice members show up at most meetings, and the co-chairs discourage the discussion of current issues and have expressed contempt for newcomers who wish to discuss their experiences. New topics are dismissed as "brush fire issues," and much of the time is spent on bylaws and mission statements.

One of our co-chairs recently spoke to the media (the Tribune made it sound like she was speaking for the whole roundtable), claiming "fences have been mended." I'd guess that although a couple of strands of wire have been retied, a pretty big herd (of differing viewpoints) still is wandering through the giant hole. We need a better way for concerned people to communicate with the police.

PHIL WAGONER
Portland

next issue Were you satisfied with the ending of Kissing Jessica Stein, or were you hoping she would "go gay"? Respond at www.justout.com. (Don't forget to include your name, city and daytime telephone number.)

In addition, the caption accompanying speaker Dan Allender's picture misleadingly states that he will "teach Christians how to heal homosexuals" at this conference. Again, nowhere does the fellowship claim that Christians or anybody else can "heal" homosexuals. Rather, Christian belief—in line with Orthodox biblical teaching—holds that hope for healing and restoration from the devastating effects of all types of sin, including homosexuality, only comes through relationship with Christ.

Clearly, rather than objectively report on this topic like he did with the other 15 briefs in that issue, Radosta felt the need to editorialize and insert his own bias not only into the informational content of the fellowship's conference but also in his final paragraph, where he comments on the totally unrelated issue of Exodus relocating its national office from the Pacific Northwest to Florida. In terms of professional journalism, I was disappointed to see his personal bias and catty "parting jab" included in the format of a compiled news column.

CALEB RAINMAN
Portland

Marc my words

TO THE EDITOR:
Marc Abrams is running for circuit court judge in Multnomah County. I'm writing to urge voters to elect him to that position.

He has shown his fairness, strong sense of value for civil liberties and dedication to respect for all people by his long and impressive history of community service. I have worked with him as he served on the Board of Education for Portland Public Schools and the Multnomah County Citizen Involvement Committee.

I have appreciated Marc's strong support for the rights of sexual minority families, including students and parents. His stand for us resulted in the ban on U.S. military recruiters in Portland schools because of discrimination against queer servicemembers.

Even though congressional threats to withhold all federal aid to education has forced the board to alter the policy, that stance had a profound impact on the safety of all students, whatever their actual or perceived sexual orientation. It also sent a clear message to all teachers and administrators that the board would not tolerate discrimination against us.

We need that kind of courage and conviction in the judges who preside over our courts.

Vote for Marc Abrams.

LIANNE THOMPSON
Portland

Keeping a straight face

TO THE EDITOR:

I'm a member of the straight community, but I'm concerned for the common rights of all human beings. I just want to say thanks to the Just Out staff for your ongoing coverage of issues that affect us all and particularly for reminding us nonqueers of the continuing injustices not covered elsewhere.

You have many supporters outside the sexual minorities community. Please continue to inform us of what's going on, where to demonstrate, who to write to and how to make a better world for all.

BILL FOUST
Portland

Now accepting opinions on all topics in "Letters to the Editor" at www.justout.com

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