

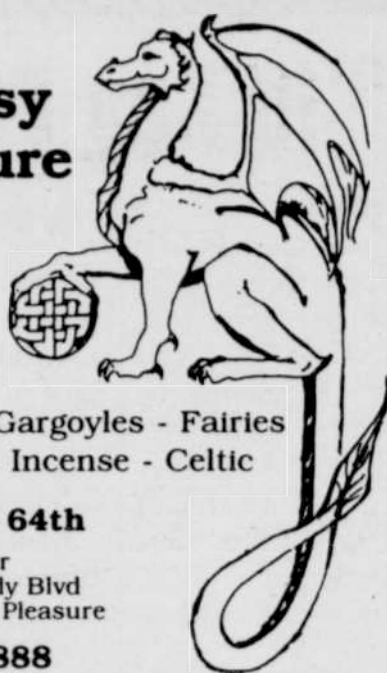
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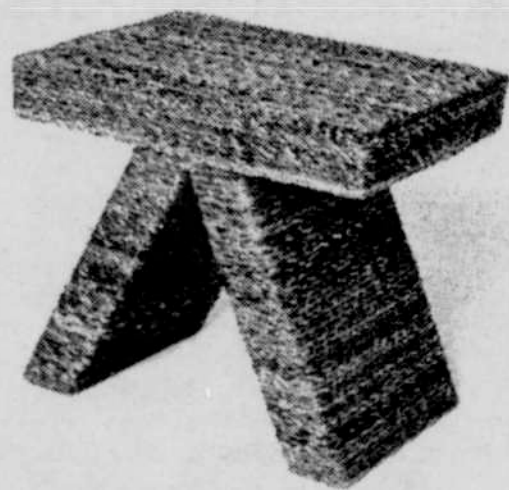
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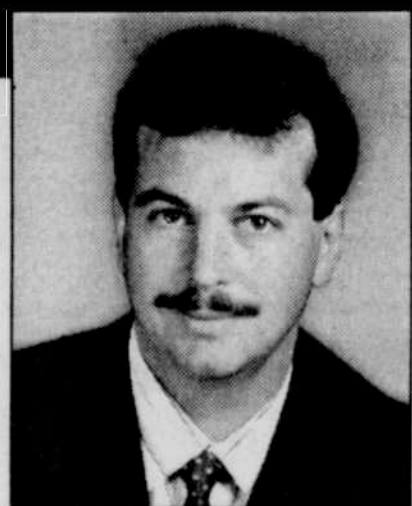
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Speak Out

An open letter to OPB

TO THE EDITOR:

This year I renewed my membership to Oregon Public Broadcasting promptly and before waiting to see the June Member Guide. I am almost sorry I did that. The fare celebrating Gay and Lesbian Pride Month is almost non-existent.

OPB has been airing *In the Life* each month, and I thank you for it. Although I listen to OPB radio each morning, *In the Life* is one of the few programs I find enjoyable on OPB television.

Other than *In the Life*, the only other queer programming celebrating Pride Month is *Frontline: Assault on Gay America*. I don't count the rerun of *Legendary Liberace* because some people might believe he was gay or *The Queen's Jubilee Concert* because it has the word "queen" in it.

Again, although I appreciate the exposure to our issues in *Frontline*, what has OPB given to the sexual minorities community that is new and refreshing to celebrate Pride? Nothing! Instead, we are left celebrating being bashed again.

OPB has been, in the past, a pioneer in progressive issues such as those concerning the queer community. Now, we find most commercial television stations surpassing OPB weekly. When the sexual minorities community finally gets its own cable channel, as in Canada, expect OPB's membership to drop.

KEN VANNICE
Portland

The big picture

TO THE EDITOR:

There seems to be certain things about slain Dutch politician Pim Fortuyn that the gay (and the mainstream) press is not reporting and/or unaware of ["Dutch Courage," May 17]. I just am not comfortable with the gay press admiring (and making a martyr of?) a right-winger simply because he was "out."

This is the same way I feel when some organizations start heaping praise on certain politicians—such as U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith, R-Ore.—just because they either have done a little for gay men and lesbians or have voiced (or even hinted at) some support for them and yet have an atrocious, or at least a very questionable, political record on other issues facing our state, country and world. (The Log Cabin Republicans come to mind.)

It seems to me the vast majority of the gay, lesbian, etc. "communities" always have had a self-absorbed, myopic view of the overall "big picture" that only will serve to make matters worse in the long run and will come back to haunt us. Thanks for all the work you do to continue to publish *Just Out*.

STEVEN STOKES
Portland

Touched by an angel

TO THE EDITOR:

This letter was sent to Willamette Week in response to the May 15 installment of "The Nose," which stated, "Others, who are gay and have been attracted to the priesthood as a way of escaping the 'shame' of homosexuality, will seek out easy targets: adolescent males who are easily persuaded."

What the hell!?! While I concede that there are homosexuals among the brotherhood of pedophiles in the Catholic Church, you should be aware that 89 percent of all pedophiles identify as heterosexual. More often than not, it is a power/control dynamic that attracts the pedophile to his young victim, not sexual orientation.

Additionally, as you have stated, boys are easy targets, which might explain why more

females are not in the targeted group. Girls, for the most part, are not altar "boys."

Parents don't allow their daughters to hang out with the parish priest in the hope they might turn their vocation to the priesthood. They do, however, with their sons.

The opportunities for a priest to be alone with a boy under unsuspecting circumstances is far, far greater than it is for a priest to be alone with a girl. Would you characterize those priests who would have preferred a girl as gay? Undoubtedly they are among the group of violators you unabashedly have labeled as such.

Furthermore, I am outraged that you are condoning the church's right-wing desire to scapegoat homosexuals for its latest scandal. It would be easy to blame gays for the wrongdoings of any group, especially the priesthood, where many seek to "escape the 'shame' of homosexuality." (I suppose the gay community should take some comfort that you enclosed the word "shame" in quotes. Given the implication of your other statements, however, I'm not quite sure what the quotes imply.)

By allowing homosexuals to be scapegoated, you allow the church to ignore the issue it argues, especially because priests who have sex with consenting adults or girls rarely if ever make the news. If it's not creating bad P.R., the church is not going to examine its policies regarding celibacy. If you give the catalyst of this negative P.R. an easy, biased, hateful explanation, the church is not going to examine its policies regarding celibacy.

Thanks for facilitating the ignorance and shooting your own agenda in the foot.

J. JUSTIN WHITESIDE
Portland

Bent in Bend

TO THE EDITOR:

I do have one small concern I need to address: WHAT ABOUT BEND?

I moved to Bend about two months ago from San Francisco, where my fellow dyke sisters (and brothers) constantly were shoving lesbian paraphernalia and media at me. I loved it—I even had my choice of newsletters, minimag, workshops, magazines, plays, demonstrations and girls. (Just kidding.)

The only gayness I have seen so far is your sweet little rag, which I devour, but it seems it is mostly western Oregon-based. Can you help me out here?

Are Bendites just not urban enough to have the gay connections? Or should I pack my bags and head west?

KELLY O'KEEFE
Bend

Over the Hill

TO THE EDITOR:

Thank you and Jim Radosta for the May 3 article "The Race Is On!" It was clear, concise and full of useful information.

Including the questionnaire questions, the answers and the nonanswers actually changed my vote. It also prompted me to call Jim Hill to express my concern about his nonanswer.

Again, thanks for your efforts to inform our community and for Jim's skill in putting pen to page.

DAVID STROUGH
Portland

You're the inspiration

TO THE EDITOR:

Thank you for the article about David Wright, the Thomas Edison High student