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Speak Out

An open letter to Pride Northwest

TO THE EDITOR:

As one of the founding organizers of the Portland Pride march, Radical Women has a long history of addressing the needs and issues affecting the sexual minorities community. We appreciate the dedication and work that the Pride Northwest board puts into organizing this important event.

We historically have been openly critical of the corporatizing of Gay Pride celebrations in Portland. This event has its roots in the militant fight for civil and human rights for sexual minorities against the "profits before people" status quo that corporations represent, and the fight is far from won. The march and festival are an opportunity to express solidarity and renew our commitment to continuing that fight and should be accessible to every member of our community.

Enclosed you will find our registration form for the march and the required fee, which we are paying under protest. We have strong objections regarding this new registration fee charged to contingents in order to participate in the annual Pride march as well as the fee to enter the festival site.

Such fees deny members of our community the right to exercise our constitutionally protected rights of assembly and free speech. The fees being imposed will exclude many organizations and community members from participating in the march and festival, thus sabotaging the opportunity to build our community and share this celebration of our struggle with our allies.

The fees deny those with little money the right to participate in their own celebration and movement. The celebration of the struggle for gay liberation belongs to us all and should not be turned into a business venture that shuts out people based on their ability to pay.

In the post-Sept. 11 climate of heightened prejudice and targeting of all groups seen as non-mainstream—including sexual minorities, people of color, immigrants and activists—it is in our best interest to build alliances. Radical Women believes we must work together to build a multi-issue movement that will be able to defend the civil rights and liberties for all of us.

As we celebrate our diversity, it is vital that we not lose sight of the important political demands we must continue to make if we are to win the equity and protections we desire and deserve. We strongly recommend you drop the march and festival entrance fees from this year's celebration and request donations as in the past.

LAURA MANNEN
Radical Women

Love and Pride

TO THE EDITOR:

Congrats to Pride Northwest for a great celebration. It's amazing what they have done with no budget, marginal year-round participation and a small but enthusiastic group of volunteers.

I especially loved the churches and community groups in the parade—a wide spectrum of the rainbow was represented. Oh, and the politicians who showed up—they were the ones who have supported us for years rather than the ones who just show for a parade. Keep it up!

SCOTT SEIBERT
Portland

No, tell us how you really feel

TO THE EDITOR:

I saw the article "On a Queer Day..." in the June 7 issue of *Just Out*, which names Jack

Keegan as the Pride Northwest board president. He is in charge of some of the Waterfront Park activities—not the board president.

Carmella Ettinger is the Pride Northwest board president, and I adamantly request that you print a highly visible correction in your next issue. I know firsthand how hard she has worked and how much time she has put in. She deserves the recognition for it.

Your minor publication touts itself as speaking for the gay community. That publication has blatantly done grave disservice to an individual who has worked very hard, contributing time and money beyond any reasonable expectation of any volunteer organization.

Is that clear enough? Your publication is, in my opinion, a rag.

Carmella has been viciously slapped with a moldy fish called *Just Out*. She deserves, at the very least, a public apology. Jack left much chaos in his wake, which Carmella has salvaged, but your publication representing Portland has given full credit to this man.

In my opinion the "good old boy" network is alive and well at *Just Out*. My usual way to refer to that publication is *Just Ain't*, and if it should find its way into my home I would put it in a fitting location at the bottom of the bird cage.

MARY RIDGE
Portland

Bragdon rights

TO THE EDITOR:

Voters in the Portland region and throughout Oregon resoundingly said "No!" to anti-livability and anti-civil rights candidates and ballot measures May 21.

Measure 26-29, which protects farmland and livability throughout the metro area, was approved by a landslide. Measure 26-11, which would destroy farmland and cause massive sprawl, was rejected by voters across the region.

Dave Schumann, a pro-civil rights judge who helped shape the historic Tanner vs. Oregon Health Sciences University decision granting equal access to benefits for domestic partners, was elected by a wide margin to the Oregon Court of Appeals. And David Bragdon, a pro-civil rights, pro-livability and anti-sprawl champion, was the clear leader in the important primary election for Metro Council president.

However, the battle is not over. Foes of livability and civil rights will carry their message throughout the summer and fall, hoping for a victory in November.

As a community, we should show our support for civil rights and livability for all by helping Bragdon defeat the extreme right-wing, anti-farming, pro-sprawl candidate he faces in the November runoff. She is on record as opposing recognition of and equal benefits for domestic partners and civil rights for sexual minorities.

While Bragdon is a champion of civil rights for all, the other candidate has been endorsed by the Oregon Family Council for her extreme anti-choice, homophobic views. To find out how you can help, visit www.bragdonformetro.com or call 503-228-8150.

JACOB BROSTOFF AND FRANK DIXON
Portland

It's not over

TO THE EDITOR:

I felt like writing to the community at large to illustrate how much work we as sexual minorities have yet to do, even in Portland.

I recently moved here from Texas, a state known to be slightly conservative in its views on