

Speak Out

just asking *The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has received flak for its Creating Change theme, "Building an Anti-Racist Movement." Do you feel this should be the focus of the conference? Why or why not?*

Absolutely. Racism creates barriers to good communication, effective political action and fun for all people of whatever race—especially "white" people. As a Scotch-Irish lesbian I am delighted that the conference is focusing on this issue and am looking forward to the discussions and information it will engender. It sets a good example for other social change movements and for the whole government/social/economic reality of the United States. What if George W. were as dedicated to ending racism as he is to smashing up poor women and children and men in the Middle East? I'd like to dedicate myself to ending racism as we know it.

ELLEN GREENLAW
Sandy

...

I don't have a huge problem with the theme "Building an Anti-Racist Movement." But to me that is just a figure of speech; there are larger eggs to be hatched. The theme seems to be exclusive.

ANDREW WESTON
Portland

One only has to look at the lack of racial mix where we socialize and in our social organizations to know that racism, whether conscious or unconscious, is alive and well in our community. It is only through honest address of the issues that we can hope to move forward to the day where color of skin has no more impact in our community than we wish our sexuality has in the general population.

STEVE HENSLEY
Portland

next issue *Portland tumbles 42 notches down the lesbian livability list: What happened? Are dykes fleeing the urban core for rustic relief, or is Girlfriends magazine simply out of touch? (Please see related item on Page 11.) Respond at www.justout.com. (Don't forget to include your name, city and daytime telephone number.)*

just a queer supporter, she's a queer advocate!" I hope all voters in the city of Portland, and in particular the *Just Out* readership, will vote for her.

SHERYL BARTA
Portland

Food for thought

TO THE EDITOR:

I am curious if you actually did any research before endorsing a no vote on Measure 27, the labeling of genetically engineered food. If you had, you might have discovered the vast majority of money fighting this measure comes from Monsanto and other corporations with a financial interest in keeping the status quo.

These folks are spreading untruths that should be cleared up. Consider the following:

1. The measure *only* will apply to labeled foods in stores, not in restaurants, hospitals, schools, etc. All the projected cost estimates include those items. The revised estimates after subtracting those items is only 71 cents per person per year. The corporate commercials conveniently "forgot" to mention this.

2. There is no evidence that food costs will increase significantly. The "study" that cites the annual cost at \$550 per family per year was bought and paid for by the opposition. An independent study at Oregon State University estimated costs of only \$4 to \$10 per person per year. Many other countries have mandated labeling without a raise in food costs.

3. There is not and never has been any independent study on genetically engineered food safety. Any studies done have been by the corporations creating the genetically engineered foods, and they aren't even required to report all their results to the Food and Drug Administration.

4. There has been worldwide scientific concern regarding genetically engineered food safety for many years by well-respected scientists, including some at the FDA.

Environmental issues affect all of us. With folks in our community dealing with immunity issues, breast and other cancers, and other health concerns, it behooves us to have the best information for informed choice.

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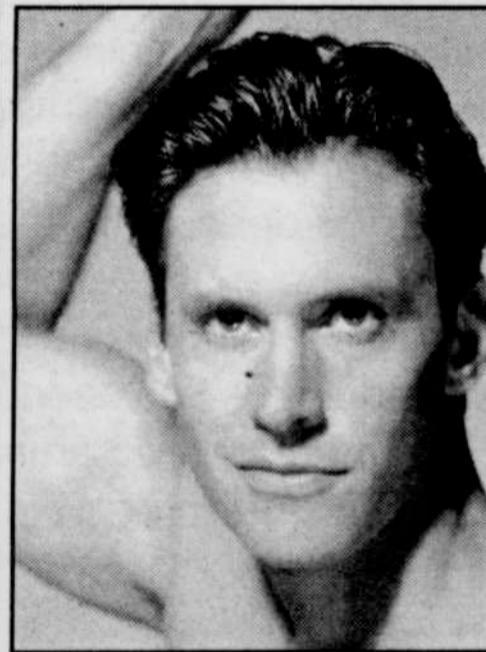
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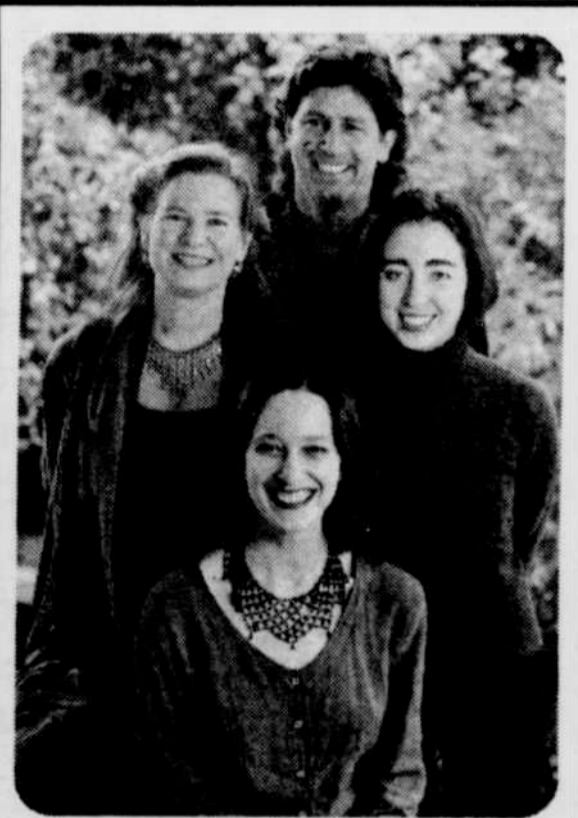
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