



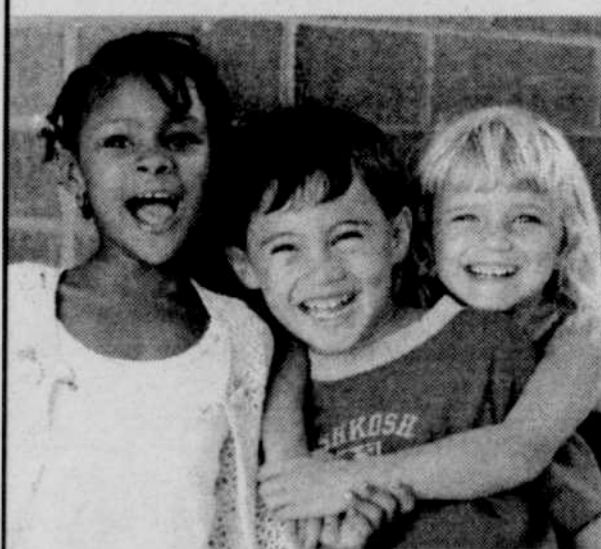
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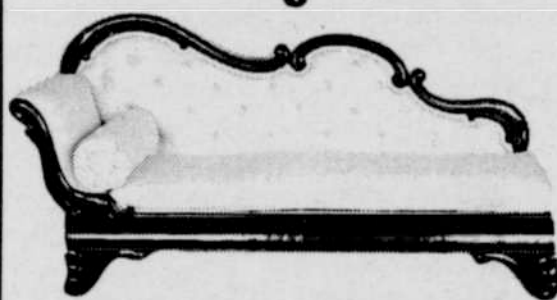
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## Speak Out

### Gay sheep, gender, ex-gays and choice

TO THE EDITOR:

All of the Nov. 15 *Just Out* pieces about transgender rights ["Now Is the Time"], ex-gays ["Lies Won Out"] and the gay sheep being raised in Corvallis at Oregon State University ["The Pink Sheep of the Family"] discussed the issue of choice in sexual and gender preferences. Choice should not be an issue.

Religion is a choice, but religious discrimination is wrong. Criminal behavior might be genetic, but it harms society and should be discriminated against.

The issue is that coercive discrimination against harmless sexual and gender behavior preferences is unjust and morally wrong. This human right is not debatable.

In 1988 the gay sheep research was federally funded with a long-term goal of lowering breeding costs to benefit society by preventing the birth of gay sheep. Chillingly, a slim majority of voters could decide to benefit society by preventing queer human "biological errors."

I often wonder if religiosity and homophobia are a choice or if they are because of biological errors. In either case, religious bigots and homophobes deserve compassionate help to overcome their harmful disgust of homosexuals.

Ex-gay religious crusaders also claim to provide "compassionate help" to "prevent homosexual development" in children and to "eliminate atypical gender behavior" in adults. Forcing children into traditional male or female roles is child abuse, according to legal scholars.

Ex-gays describe homosexuality as being a gender identity disorder, which still is listed as a psychiatric mental disorder. They falsely claim that sex is dictated by biology.

Currently, sex is medically determined by the presence of a penis or vagina, testes or ovaries, and XY or XX chromosomes. However, intersex babies are naturally born with other chromosome variations and with a mixture of male and female parts.

In addition, new medical tests for gender, such as brain scans, are being discovered daily that show even more overlap between males and females. For example, portions of some gay men's brains appear to be female.

Despite this mounting evidence, the editor in chief of the widely read magazine *Psychology Today* recently defended publishing an ex-gay therapist's ad for *Preventing Homosexuality* by citing a June 2002 article from the American Psychological Association's *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice* that claimed gays have a right to ex-gay therapy. Gays certainly have a right to change their sexual behavior, as do celibate priests, but this doesn't justify promoting harmful ex-gay therapy.

Ex-gay activists, posing as scholars, bullied

the APA into publishing ex-gay propaganda under the specious guise of providing alternate viewpoints. No professional journal would use this excuse to publish, without denouncing it, neo-Nazi viewpoints on ex-Jew therapy for those who choose to be Christian.

Nearly all ex-gays are motivated by religion, according to the APA's professional journal. Ex-gay therapy done under coercion is considered unethical under a 1997 APA resolution.

Using gay sheep to understand homosexuality in nature is useful, but it will not change hardened religious beliefs against homosexuality. Only a religious war can do that.

THOMAS KRAEMER  
Corvallis

### American bi

TO THE EDITOR:

I wanted to thank Tamara Swan for her letter discouraging bisexual bashing ["Separate But Equal," Nov. 15].

Remember those studies that showed that the most homophobic men, when hooked up to devices that measured arousal, were more turned on by gay porn than nonhomophobic men? It is not that much of a leap to imagine a similar outcome for the anti-bi.

Whitman said, "I resist anything better than my own diversity." The political purists of heterosexuality and homosexuality insist they have something better for me. Thanks, but no thanks. Monogamy yes, dishonesty, no.

On a related topic, I don't understand all the arguing about ex-gays. Anything is possible, I guess, but again, they just might be "BBBs"—Bible-believing bisexuals.

Finally, I want to thank *Just Out* for publishing. It probably would be impossible to count all the people you've helped in large ways and small.

I felt bad to hear about your financial difficulties and am sending you a check for \$10. It's not much, but I hope others will do the same.

LIZ MEYER  
Portland

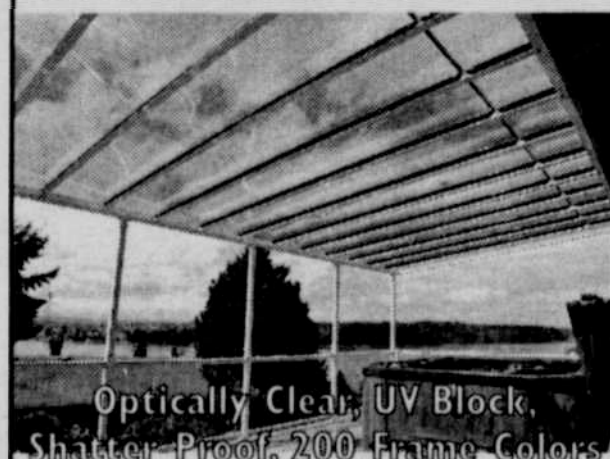
### Haynes his way

TO THE EDITOR:

Christopher McQuain smacks *The Oregonian* for not mentioning the "gay content" of Todd Haynes' new film, *Far from Heaven* ["Cinephile. Queer. Portland." Nov. 15]. Though I presume I would have taken more notice of the gay issues were I queer myself, or the racial issues if I were African American, you'd have to be lying comatose under the seat to miss them.

But Haynes explores more than just sexuality

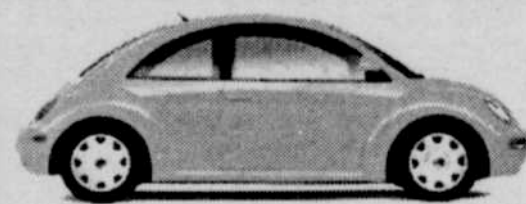
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