

just asking

As the first bombs fall onto Iraq, what steps will you be taking to show either your protest of, or support for, this war? How do you see the conflict affecting you directly?

I'm a Vietnam-era veteran who is torn over supporting the war for liberation of Iraq, but I support our troops; some of them are young enough to be my grandchildren. The citizens of Iraq deserve to have this oppressive tyrant Saddam Hussein removed and the country returned to the people.

I am so angry at (some of) the protesters in Portland for stomping/burning our flag, I could just scream. I realize that my opinion is not very popular with the gay community right now, but know I am not an army of one.

PEGGY O'BRIEN
Gresham

...

I will go attend protests as much as possible, educate people through letters to the editor and conversations, and simply be a voice for peace and reason in any way I can. As usual with U.S. wars of late, the conservative corporate media are going out of their way to suppress important facts that would lead people to oppose the war.

The media also, as during the first Gulf War,



are trying to craft a negative image of those who oppose the war. Therefore, I see it as very important to try to educate the public in grassroots ways about the truth behind the sound bites.

I also see being a visible voice for peace as important, as this legitimizes opposition to the war during a time when the mass media and conservative politicians are condemning opposing views. This is comparable to how just being

"out" legitimizes the cause of gay rights.

As a queer person this affects me as well because the war and its media coverage are designed to get President Bush elected in 2004. This would lead to more far-right rhetoric, policy and judicial appointments.

TOM SOPPE
Portland

next ISSUE The downtown club Level joins Blackbird and several other establishments around Portland in launching a queer night. Do you think this is in response to some inadequacy of queer bars or an example of our acceptance into the mainstream? (Please see related item on Page 48.) Respond at www.justout.com. (Don't forget to include your name, city and daytime telephone number.)

OK to identify who is gay in the military, but a show like *Oprah* on the subject might build pride.

Gay U.S. servicemembers have to live in closets, but not so in Israel, which has no problem with it. If we can show the straight world what is being contributed, perhaps one day we could be like Israel; we would be able to know who they are and to send care packages and pen pal letters of support, but not so now, even though they are dying in Iraq.

PHILIP REMARE
Portland

Sick and tired

TO THE EDITOR:

To all people who call themselves Americans: I'm a local small-businessman who supports an old idea. An idea that was created by the people, for the people who wanted to make choices that affect their lives.

Have we as Americans forgotten about how lucky we are to be able to make personal choices that affect our everyday lives? In other countries some choices that you yourself and also myself have made could cost us our very lives. Have we forgotten about who we are?

We are a people, a power divided by none who has elected its officials to represent us as a nation that stands together as one. We must put beside our personal goals and support an idea this country was founded on.

We as Americans must protect at all costs our freedom of choice. Put aside personal feelings and support our elected government and those brave people who protect the American way of life.

I'm tired of hearing about so-called Americans bellyache about a lifestyle we all take advantage of. At least you're free to love whomever you choose. Elect governing officials you choose. Live however you choose. At least we have a choice.

Americans, remember what you have. Pull together as one nation. Protect the personal freedom of choice at any cost. We call ourselves Americans.

It's time to show the world that we are Americans. Long live American freedom.

FRED GURR
A & G Automotive

Squeal like a pig

TO THE EDITOR:

A reader named Michael Field, newly arrived to Portland, laments that he can't find a gay physician or a physician who is sympathetic to gays ["What's Up, Docs?" March 7]. Please inform him that Fanno Creek Clinic has been open to all alternative lifestyles for many years. It is off Barbur Boulevard in the southwest part of Portland.

As to the cutting off of almost all, if not all, funds for numerous social services because of the ongoing economic crisis, there is another way to look at the problem. Many of those now being cut off have lived literally at the expense of others who have had to both support themselves and their families and help support strangers via higher taxes.

In the 80 or more percent of the world that is officially classified as Third World, those with any sort of medical, emotional, mental, chemical problems who don't have money or families with money...they die....

While thousands are in trouble or soon will be, had it not been for monies used for many years, the same people crying about the cutting off of "their" money would have ended up in jail or dead years ago. Since I am in one of the highest tax brackets in America, I get just a little bit tired of howling, screaming, whining, chanting liberal dogooders who have endless ways of spending my earned money, while they themselves for the most part have very little or no money and percentage-wise contribute very little or nothing to the causes so dear to their hearts.

It is us "ugly," "nasty," "greedy," "piggy" capitalists who contribute most in taxes and, when business is down, as it is nationally and locally, taxes are down. The result is that, by necessity, the bottom 30 percent of the public is cut off from "their" money, from what is "owed" them, from what they "demand."

Meanwhile, people like myself derive virtually zero in these benefits for ourselves...but we are the "enemy," we are the "capitalist pigs." Lots of liberals just "don't get it" how microeconomics, macroeconomics and global economics work; that would require thinking, not just tantrums.

JOHN BOYNTON
Vancouver, Wash.

Three is a magic number

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to say that I really enjoy your paper and that the article "hat you did on polyamory was great! ["Three's Company," Feb. 21]

My husband and I and my other husband like to go to Jefferson Theatre, where we can enjoy good movies as well as each other. On several occasions we have been able to go as a trio, depending on who is taking the money.

But lately we have come into a lot of discrimination and have been told we only can come in as a couple (two men or man and woman) but not as a trio. So say their rules.

They have gay male couples go into the couples section. They also have several normal husband-and-wife couples go into the roped couples section.

We asked the manager to please not discriminate and to give us a trio section (three men, two women and a man, etc.). He was more than glad to take our money but would not accommodate us.

We asked for one of two things: our own roped-off section or a refund. They don't give refunds; however, he gave us a pass for—you got it—a couple.

To me, this is discrimination. I would like for all of the families in the poly world to give Jefferson a run for its money. They can't discriminate against all of us. After all, what is a good movie without a little fun?

Can you help us? Or at least bring this to everyone's attention?

PATRICIA WINDOM
Corvallis

Photos by Margaret
All Occasion Photography

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