

Speak out

Continued from Page 5

I've been to the black-tie dinner, and it is a group of wealthy men who aren't necessarily political but who see HRC as a status symbol. If this crowd becomes less "exclusive," how will it attract these guys? I think HRC wants to have its cake and eat it, too.

MIKE DRUYDD
Portland

Building blocks

TO THE EDITOR:

Jay Harter has some real work cut out for him if he plans to convince Oregonians that the Human Rights Campaign is changing its reputation.

After looking at its annual report, I can easily identify two large, quantifiable issues that its local committee has working against it. The first is the brand-new \$25 million HRC building in Washington, D.C. If that doesn't say "rich gay white man," then I don't know what does.

Secondly, of the \$25 million that HRC raised in revenues during the year ended March 31, 2002, it gave back a whopping \$122,000 to state organizations like Basic Rights Oregon. That's right—it gave back less than one-half of 1 percent of all of the money it raised!

When I think about national organizers who roll up their sleeves, work hard and precipitate change, I think of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. NGLTF understands that to create change requires an investment in people, not an investment in a \$25 million building.

HUNTER JOOS
Portland

Knock it off

TO THE EDITOR:

I answered a knock at my door the other night, and standing there was someone from the Human Rights Campaign. Oddly enough, the person was wearing a green OSPIRG jacket. I did some calling around and found out HRC has indeed hired the Oregon State Public Interest Research Group to do some door-to-door fund raising.

This seems odd to me for a couple of reasons. The first and most troubling is that OSPIRG will take a substantial administrative fee on any amount I give at the door. Sometimes this fee can climb as high as 30 percent. That means if I were to renew my Federal Club membership at my door with an OSPIRG canvasser, almost \$300 of what I give never even will make it to HRC.

The other troubling fact is that OSPIRG is raising money for an organization—HRC—that endorsed a candidate—Gordon Smith—whose political work goes directly against everything OSPIRG is trying to achieve. Maybe OSPIRG should cut out HRC completely and just give everything it raises to Gordon Smith. This way, it would be clear to the people of Oregon where its money is going.

ELIZABETH FROMMER
Portland

You are not alone

TO THE EDITOR:

Thanks for the great articles on same-sex battering and highlighting the plight of straight men battered by female partners ["SAFE and Sound," March 21]. While a statistical minority, male, gay and lesbian victims of

domestic violence face additional barriers to services, so it is all the more important that the message gets out: You don't cause it, no one deserves it, and you are not alone.

Womenspace offers services in Lane County to anyone experiencing domestic violence or questioning the health and safety of a relationship. If you are worried about the relationship of a loved one or acquaintance, we also can help you figure out how to raise the issue and what are supportive things to say.

Our services can be accessed 24/7 at 541-485-6513. Tell the hot line volunteer if you would like to speak to a volunteer lesbian, gay or straight male advocate, and it is safe for you to leave a number for your advocate to call you back.

Unfortunately, we don't have the volunteer resources to provide these services on demand. If you would like to train to become a volunteer to help us make our services more available to underserved populations, we welcome your participation in one of our quarterly volunteer trainings.

The Lesbian Alliance has a drop-in group or individual time from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursdays. It is open to all lesbian, gay, transgender, genderqueer and bisexual people who are in an unhealthy same-sex relationship and have concerns about their emotional and/or physical safety.

Siuslaw Outreach Services in Florence also offers services for lesbian, gay, bi and trans people questioning the health of their relationships. It can be reached 24/7 at 541-997-4444.

More than 2 million women and 50,000 men are battered in this country each year. If it happens to you, you don't have to stay silent or cope alone. Trained volunteers in numerous programs are waiting to help you look at options and break through the isolation.

If you reach someone who isn't helpful or sup-

portive, call back and talk to someone else, or try another program or another town. You deserve a better life than to be battered or controlled.

MARGO SCHAEFER
Eugene

transition

Bob Hoblit, 1943-2003

Bob Hoblit died of natural causes March 13. He was 60.

He was born Feb. 15, 1943, in Casper, Wyo. After graduating from high school he joined the Navy, where he was trained as a dental technician. He was honorably discharged and went on to work at a Seattle gay bar.

He then moved to Portland and started to work at Derricks, which he later bought, changing the name to the Family Zoo. He owned it for 14 years.

Hoblit was an active supporter of the gay community and equal rights for all people. He will be remembered by his friends as a kind, caring and generous person.

clarification

The March 21 article "SAFE and Sound" indicated that Bradley-Angle House serves "female-identified domestic violence survivors." The nonprofit wants to make it clear that it serves all self-identified women and that trans, transsexual and transgender women are welcome.



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