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## Speak Out

### Get a grip

TO THE EDITOR:

In response to Jackie Petrase's letter: The line is drawn by expenses ["Ad It Up," April 4].

Do you pay the annual fee to have *Just Out* delivered to your house? It's \$22.50 yearly or, in an enclosed envelope, \$40. I don't. I choose to pick it up at the corner store for free. Since I choose that option, I pay by putting up with the ads. Get a grip: Pay for your paper, or put up with the ads and support the paper!

I also look at the ads, and if I need a product or service, I at least will inquire about the price. I still go by the best price. But, bottom line is, I check out the ads.

The daily paper has numerous ads; the weekly has numerous ads also. If you count the *Oregonian* ads, they are numerous; I don't find fault in the ads. If you don't want to see or read them, pass them over! I leave the room when a television ad comes on; do you?

I'm in support of *Just Out* because it does a service to the community, regardless of the ads. But then again, I like the ads in *Just Out*, because I know who to support.

DIANE MCALLISTER  
Portland

### Cruising for a bruising

TO THE EDITOR:

Why should I go to a bathhouse for sex when straight couples can make out anywhere from parks to lovers lanes? ["The Opposite Sex," Feb. 21]

Sex outdoors is beautiful and natural. And sex in a bathroom is hot and exciting.

To most men frequenting these venues, discretion is a high priority. The public or the police would have to go out of their way to find men having "public sex."

Here in Vancouver, there has not been a public sex charge for almost 20 years. Police Inspector Dave Jones, the top cop in the gay West End, was quoted April 17 in the gay paper *Xtra! West* as urging people having sex in public washrooms and Stanley Park simply to "use discretion."

Your comments sound anti-sex and anti-men. Perhaps this is a topic beyond the understanding of a woman.

DOUG MCCLELLAND  
Vancouver, British Columbia

### Fish out of water

TO THE EDITOR:

I enjoyed reading Marty Davis' opinions about the behaviors of gay men. It's all true; someone had to say it.

I used to visit Provincetown in the hope of meeting other guys. I grew up in a Portuguese fishing village, so it was natural for me to bring a castor. The gay guys looked at me as if I were from another planet.

I ended up fishing on a pier with the lesbians. I really liked them. Some of them even made their own fishing lures in their welding shops. It was quite impressive.

I really enjoyed their company. I was quite impressed at their relationships and, dare I say it, FAMILIES.

I ventured into the drug and sex pits, hoping to find at least one normal guy. All I found were drugs and sex.

I think gay men are their own worst enemy.

They easily could win equality if they peacefully united against oppression. Instead, they choose to do drugs and have sex with many, many, many different men.

MICHAEL JOHNSON  
New Bedford, Mass.

### Shock and awe

TO THE EDITOR:

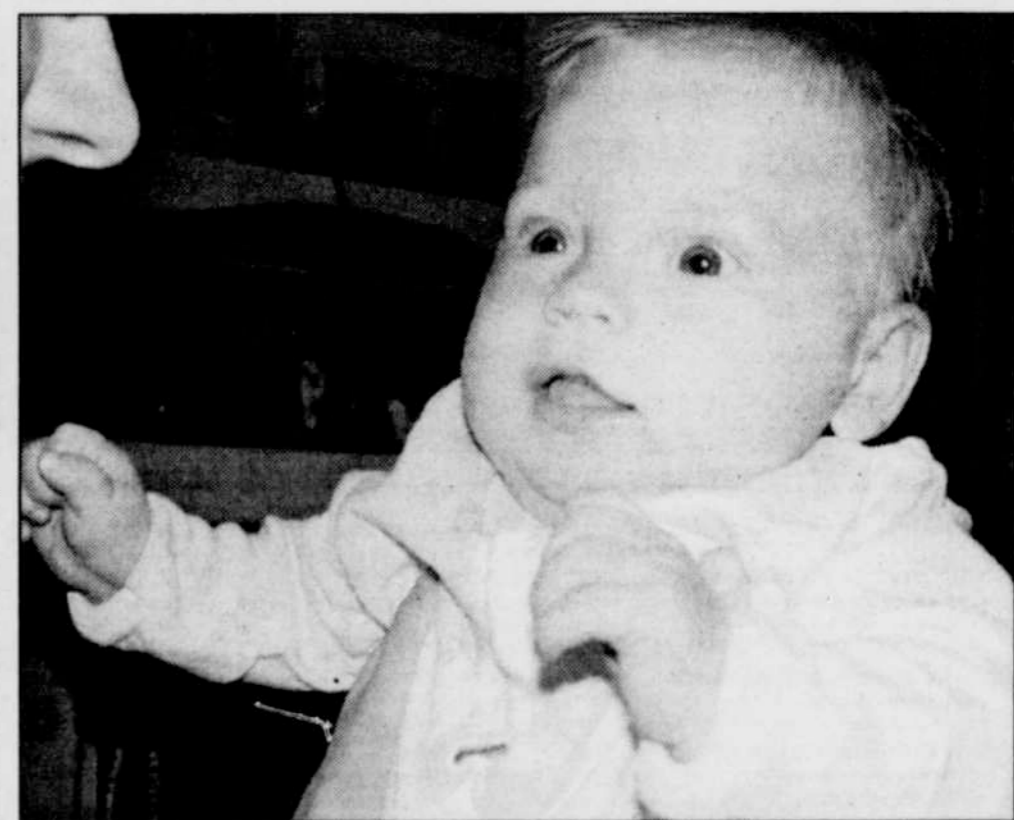
Thirty years ago I was terrorized by electrical and chemical shock aversion therapies and was coerced by religious and psychological methods to become ex-gay ["Leading a Crusade," April 18]. Such treatments may be harmless to bisexuals, but many legal scholars consider them to be child abuse because they traumatize children whose inborn gender behavior is different.

The core of ex-gay ideology shuns butch females and sissy males. Ex-gay therapy attempts to change these inborn gender behaviors. This is why even nonsexual children are subject to ex-gay abuse.

The popular ex-gay book *A Parent's Guide to Preventing Homosexuality* is aimed at children and pretends to be medically scientific. My 5,000-word review of the book's pseudoscientific claims was published by *Gay Today* ([www.gaytoday.com/reviews/122302re.asp](http://www.gaytoday.com/reviews/122302re.asp)), which is edited by the famous pre-Stonewall gay activist Jack Nichols.

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden's Jewish father, Peter Wyden, in 1968 wrote the popular ex-gay book *Growing Up Straight: What Every Thoughtful Parent Should Know About Homosexuality*, where he shared how he prevented his sons from becoming homosexuals. Ron's brother was committed to a mental institution around

## notables



Joy Broussard and Erin Lamb are happy to announce the adoption of their son, Sam Isaac Broussard Lamb, born Dec. 8 in their North Portland home and adopted April 3 at the Multnomah County Courthouse.

## transition

### Laurie Gardener, 1951-2003

A few weeks before Laurie (Foster) Gardener died of cancer April 20, she said she wanted her obituary to read: "Laurie Louise Gardener, born Sept. 2, 1951. I was here, I was queer, and it was important to me, my dear."

Others remember her as "a wise woman" and "a moral compass."

"She taught me how to be a grandmother," said one member of her Millionth Circle group, for Gardener showed her love in action. She and Jami Hart, her spouse of 26 years, had their combined four grandchildren stay over every

Friday night. She called her daughter, Felicia Nelson, her "heart's delight."

She also showed in action her commitment to social change. Instrumental in setting up Feminist Women's Health Centers in both Redding, Calif., and Portland, she was a founding member of the original Women's Bookstore collective here. Along with an enduring commitment to ending racism, she was a lifelong union member and shop steward and a member of Portland's gay community since 1976.

Gardener, who considered herself "a generalist," greatly valued the two book clubs she belonged to. Her fine mind evinced itself in her dry wit, in her class analysis and in the wide range of her constant reading. Her influence on her extended family is indelible, and to her four siblings she will remain "their rock and their Bible."

Remembrances may be made to Compassion of Dying in Oregon, 6312 S.W. Capitol Highway #410, Portland, OR 97239; Hambleton Project, 1112 N.E. 21st Ave., Portland, OR 97232; or any hospice.