

Speak out

remember where Piccolo Mondo stands when they make their dining choices, too.

RICK FERNANDEZ
Portland

Holy war

TO THE EDITOR:

While there has been remarkable affirmation of some basic human rights for gay and lesbian Americans this year, these fragile victories (like the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision in Lawrence vs. Texas) are obviously under increasing attack.

As gay Oregonians in a 14-year relationship (marriage, to anyone with a brain), and as parents of two terrific children, we strongly feel it is time to stand up and be counted. No one should get away with any more casual or calculated bigotry directed at our families and community.

According to my daily paper, the Vatican recently issued "instructions" to Catholic politicians and clergy as part of an "offensive against gay marriage." A phone call to Bud Bunce, communications director for the Archdiocese of Portland, confirmed that local Catholic churches were planning to take part. As he put it, "We don't recognize the legitimacy of your relationship."

I would encourage everyone to call Mr. Bunce (the phone number for the Archdiocese is 503-234-5334) and let him know what you think about his plans to act on his opinions of our relationships. (I told him he should probably be more concerned with the "relationships" engaged in by some of his own priests!)

Several other organizations share and act upon similar agendas, including numerous Christian churches, the current president and the Republican leadership of the U.S. House and Senate. We should make it very, very clear to all these groups that an "offensive" against gay men and lesbians is not OK.

BILL GRIESAR
BOB DUEHMIG
Portland

Hooked on Fish

TO THE EDITOR:

Thanks for the mention in your biweekly commentary ["The Art of the Possible," Aug. 1]. I have decided to run for City Council and am delighted that *Just Out* will be taking a leadership role in the selection process.

As for the person who has had the biggest impact on my life: It is Barney Frank. I had the opportunity to work on both his 1980 and 1982 campaigns, during which I made a number of lifelong friends, including his mother and sibling, and to serve as his legislative assistant in D.C.

I was fortunate to have two role models in politics. The first was my father, a moderate Republican who voted in support of articles of impeachment in 1974 and who co-sponsored virtually every piece of civil rights legislation between 1969 and 1994. The second was Barney Frank, who continues to inspire me with his intelligence, humor and effectiveness.

NICK FISH
Portland

justout

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notables



Anita Pace (left) and Harriet Carpenter of Beaverton were married July 24 in Golden, British Columbia, after a vacation in Alberta. Their "illegal" ceremony was conducted July 12, 1997, by Casey Chaney and Berdell Moffett. Pace works as a domestic goddess and writer (*Write from the Heart: Lesbians Healing from Heartache*); Carpenter is a hair stylist and part-time small-business owner. The couple, who have been together almost 13 years, are "owned by five dogs" and say the Canadians were "wonderful" to them.



Kris Balle (left) and Stevie Newcomer celebrated their lifelong commitment July 20 at Leach Botanical Garden in Portland. The couple described it as "a magical summer evening filled with the love of friends and family" and regret that the garden's size limited the number of invited guests. Balle and Newcomer, who are both lifelong educators with local school districts, honeymooned on the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico.



Portlanders Erin Sexton (left) and Melissa Saylor were married July 12 at the Hoyt Arboretum Wedding Meadow. Both brides' families participated in the ceremony, offering their blessings to the union. Sexton is an advertising associate at *Just Out*, where the couple met in 2002 when Saylor worked as office manager and production assistant. The Sexton-Saylors honeymooned in the Czech Republic, Greece and Italy.

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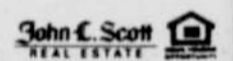
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