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Traditional marriage

TO THE EDITOR:

When the white man kidnapped black people from Africa, the first thing they did was strip us of our culture and force theirs on us. We had no choice. As Africans we could have as many wives as we could handle. Now that we are Americans we can only have one wife. If we have more, they got a law against it. Today in Africa, a man can still have as many wives as he can handle. In the Middle East, you can have as many wives as you can afford. Some of the Mormons in Utah still are not going for our government crap.

The Holy Bible states that a man shall not lay with another man. Same with women. Nowhere does it state that God gave anyone the authority to condemn anyone. In biblical days people had slaves. I don't know why the government just didn't say they never freed anyone, just enslaved everyone. We can't have more than one wife, it better not be the same sex, we got to work to survive, we can't do dope, and our children better not pray in school. My question to the government: How did they figure we needed laws, when God put the law in our heart? The answer: Satan wanted to play God. So does our government.

To conclude, if you are gay the only thing you have to regret is if you don't praise God. Whatever is wrong with this world, only God has the power to fix. If you are being persecuted for what you are, don't think you got it bad; they nailed Jesus to the cross.

MINISTER TYRONE WILLIAMS
Portland

notables

Coinciding with her 60th birthday, Mary Ann Humphrey-Keever (left), recently retired health and physical education faculty member of Portland Community College and author of the book *My Country, My Right to Serve*, married her partner of 18 years, Debra Humphrey-Keever, Nov. 24 in Richmond, British Columbia, a southern suburb of Vancouver.



The couple motor-homed to the event, which was held on a sunny day at London Heritage Farm, a quaint 1896 original farm located appropriately on Dyke Road, next to Fraser River. Their sons, Parke and Wynnston, and Mary Ann's brother, Jim, were part of the small wedding party.

The minister who married the couple, Bari Castle, also performed the first same-sex wedding that took place in Vancouver. Although the union is not legal in the United States, the couple hope to become a part of the growing vanguard pushing for the same right to marry at home.



Portlanders Jim Rice (left) and Shawn Birdsell were married Nov. 27 in Vancouver, British Columbia. In front of the fireplace at marriage commissioner Karen Ell's home, the couple exchanged wedding bands, shared wedding cake with their hosts and then sipped champagne as they were chauffeured to the Five Sails Restaurant atop the Vancouver Pan Pacific Hotel for a wedding night and Thanksgiving dinner.

The couple met in 1998 and purchased a Sellwood home together in July 2001. Birdsell is a national project manager for Dictaphone Healthcare Solutions Group, and Rice is a business analyst for U.S. Bank.

"The ceremony was yet another way of demonstrating our commitment to each other, and perhaps one day our marriage will be legally recognized in the U.S.," the couple told *Just Out*. "We wanted to take advantage of Canada's current marriage law, as it is one more shred of legal proof that our loving relationship is binding."

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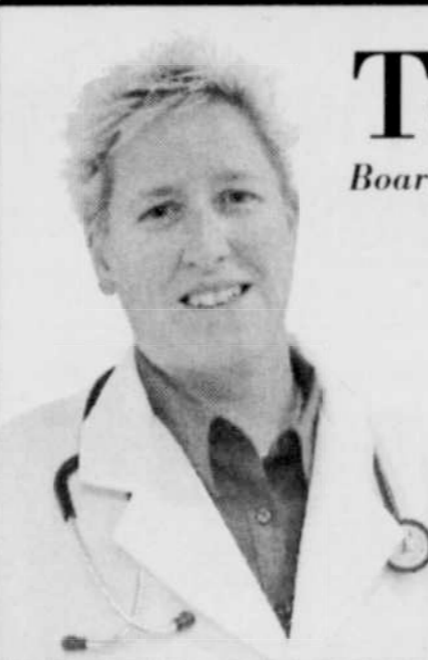
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