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(references on file)

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What is life with HIV?

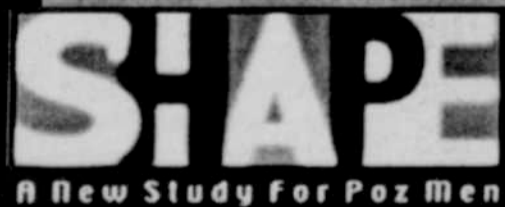
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secrecy contagious family  
love friends (safe)  
fear loneliness  
drugs talking

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We're doing a study with 5 sessions over 12 months about life with HIV.

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## Speak Out

Continued from Page 7

people! If these people do not identify as either male or female, which many of them don't, then the proposed constitutional amendment will bar these millions of citizens from seeking the happiness and civil rights that they are entitled to also.

Then there is the transgender community to consider. Does the constitutional amendment account for people who don't identify as the sex they were born as? Millions of transgender people do not subscribe to the either/or strictly male or female definition of gender. They see themselves on a continuum somewhere between the

poles of male and female. A definition of marriage as only between one man and one woman begs the question of how to define a man and a woman. I suspect the supporters of this measure want to do the defining for the rest of us to enforce and codify their moral world view.

And don't get me started on the outcry against judicial activism. The loudest complainer is the biggest hypocrite. Our fearless leader, the Bush, would not have commandeered his post as president of the United States without the judicial activism of the Supreme Court! If he insists that policy be made by a vote of the majority rather than judicial decree, as he has publicly

**just asking** Regardless of the outcome, do you feel the Multnomah County Commission followed the proper procedure in deciding to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples? Was the process handled appropriately?

I think the commissioners met in a way that I has been done many, many times before on other issues. This time the religious far right is calling foul to an established, previously accepted process. While some people may be upset about how it was done, I think how everything unfolded was exactly how it needed to happen. I sincerely appreciate the love and energy donated by strangers who helped give a beautiful wedding at Keller Auditorium.

BONNIE STUTZMAN  
Portland

Portland's next mayor. We will need his voice and support in the coming months!

DAVID BLISS  
Portland

...

We believe the proper procedure was followed—it's time for people to acknowledge that people are ALL of the same species and that the pairing (or more) of who with who is an adult, natural and biological choice first, having nothing to do with legal or religious permission except at the additional choice of the people involved. No one seems to be addressing the biological aspect of this issue from a species standpoint regarding the need for human beings to be social and to seek comfort, reassurance, security and support from their own kind.

People also seem to forget that if you do not stand up for yourself, how can you expect others to stand up for you? We should all remember that injustice to one IS injustice to all.

GAIL DRESNER  
DOLORES FOGLIO  
Beavercreek

...

They followed the rules. However sneaky and deceiving they were, they did everything to the letter. I believe this sparkling ingenuity and dedication to equality is refreshing and much needed at a time when our president wants to amend the Constitution to treat people unequally.

HELEN DEGROFF  
Tigard

...

If we always totally played by the rules, we would get nowhere. Thank God for the allies we have in the straight community with some backbone.

Don't settle for second-class status—fight back! Tell your friends, co-workers and family to help fight the religious right and their rhetoric.

JACK LONG  
Jefferson

...

Simply put...yes. They followed the letter of the law.

Now, more to the point, who gives a shit? Think about this: Do you REALLY think the neo-Christian conservative Gestapo will use any restraint in trying to crush our little rebellion? If they can find any legal loophole at all, regardless of the appearance of impropriety, they will jump at the chance.

I say, "Good for the county commissioners!" I see it as they are doing their jobs—which all of us pay for. As someone who frankly doesn't have time to read all the procedures, guidelines and red tape that goes into what makes our government work, it is the job of the county commissioners, and I praise them for their efforts.

Finally, we can now trust our elected officials to make gutsy decisions and continue to support them, as they no doubt will face some heated opposition. It is about time our community and the folks we place in office spend their time moving our state toward equal rights and fairness, rather than spending vast amounts of time and energy on annoying ballot measures such as 9 and 13.

Please join me in voting for Tom Potter as