

# Speak Out

stated, he should step down and hand the office over to the person who got the majority vote, Al Gore. What a short memory we all have.

**LAURA ACEVEDO**  
San Diego

## Out of touch

TO THE EDITOR:

I am constantly amazed by the nerve and audacity displayed by Cascade AIDS Project employees. In your March 5 issue a former CAP employee claimed Thomas Bruner et al. have been cast as

They have no qualms about allowing a double standard to exist in the law. They good, queers bad. Period.

I really don't think the folks at Stonewall were all that worried about whether they were following some kind of due process. They got tired of getting kicked around and stood up to the bullying. That is what is happening now, OK? Same is true for the lunch counter folks in the first part of the culture wars. These are acts of civil disobedience, and if our allies (the county angels) want to give us an opening, don't question it.

The right is on their heels and staggering badly. They did not expect this. If we stop to worry about process, we give them time to regroup. Now is the time for action. Save the self-therapy for later, OK?

**RHIA J. JOHNS**  
Portland

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Absolutely! I think they have bravery above and beyond the call. They are doing what we hired them to do, and that is uphold the Constitution and the laws of the state of Oregon. Bravo!

**JANET REDHAWK**  
Portland

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Yes, I do. Personally, I equate it to whether Rosa Parks should have first gone to the "nice, cooperative" City Council of Montgomery, Ala., and petitioned it to kindly change the discriminatory policy about giving up your seat to a white person.

It is my belief that, when it is clear from several legal, humanitarian and constitutional angles that an existing policy or law is unconstitutional, a remedy must be implemented as expeditiously as possible. Unjust laws, statutes and policies call for swift, peaceful and conscientious action to rectify the situation.

My partner of 21 years (and spouse as of St. Patrick's Day!) and I will forever consider Diane Linn, Serena Cruz, Lisa Naito and Maria Rojo de Steffey heroines and courageous women of vision.

**JENN BURLETON**  
Beaverton

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Yes, it's blatant discrimination to not allow same-sex marriages. Who is straight society to say some couples can't be allowed to marry? It's not like marriage is sacred anymore anyway—look at the mockery Britney Spears made of it, and how many times do Liz Taylor and Liz

scapegoats ["An Ounce of Prevention"]. Just another example of how out of touch with the AIDS community most of the people at CAP are.

This is not the same organization that was supported and praised by the people who found themselves as clients in the early '90s. This CAP is run like a business. If you want to know who is "getting the business," just ask some of the people who depend on CAP for services. You will have some heavy editing before you could print most of the responses.

**CHUCK DUIT**  
Portland

Minnelli need to get this sacred ritual for the so-called correct and legal straight couples to get it right? If they're allowed to do this, same-sex couples can't be any worse than them.

**MARCY DUPREE**  
Portland

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Absolutely. In business and in politics, sometimes it's better to ask for forgiveness than permission. This was a heroic and savvy action that was not only the right thing to do (of course), but it brought the issue out of the bureaucratic whirlpool and into action. Way to go, ladies! A heartfelt thanks to those brave women!

**MARY BLANKENBURG**  
Portland

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The commissioners followed proper legal procedure. I believe they did do the correct thing. Further, I suspect all those crying "foul" as to they way this was determined are not objecting to the style in which it was managed, but the substance of the issue at hand.

**MARY McDONALD-LEWIS**  
Portland

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First of all, they followed the letter of the law. Second of all, the commissioners make all kinds of administrative decisions every day without seeking citizen input. If they had to seek citizen input for each and every decision, they would be hamstrung to get anything done. Third of all, within the bounds of legal theory, civil rights are not subject to popular vote. If they were, every minority in this country should be living in fear.

**NICKI NICOLO**  
Portland

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Absolutely! I think it was handled appropriately, and I think Mayor Newsom of San Francisco and Multnomah County will go down in history. Eventually we will have full equality for all of America's people. Born and raised in the LAND of the FREE, I think it is ludicrous that we were not the first country in the world to legalize gay marriage. I applaud you.

**SESSA KERENSA**  
Sunnyvale, Calif.



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## next ISSUE

How do you feel about Fox's new reality television series *Playing It Straight*? Does the competition make queers out to be villains, or could the gimmick actually help shatter some stereotypes? (Please see related item on Page 43.) Respond at [www.justout.com](http://www.justout.com). (Don't forget to include your name, city and daytime telephone number.)