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Speak Out

The party's over

TO THE EDITOR:

I'm a lifelong Democrat, but I have many Republican friends, both gay and straight. Most of these friends have chosen to reregister as Democrats or are simply voting for Democrats because of the current state of the Republican Party. I know this has been painful for many of them, and I'd like to suggest a remedy.

It's time we renamed the party that has hijacked the Republican Party. I'm sure they would approve of their new name, since it's what they are all about. Let's now call them the Radical Extremist Christian Party, or REC for short.

They have already REC'ed the Republican Party, they are trying desperately to REC our state and federal constitutions, they want to REC women's rights, REC GLBT rights, REC our supreme courts and, in general, REC all of our lives. And, if our REC of a president is elected (notice I didn't say re-elected), this whole country will become one big RECdom.

By renaming the current Republican Party the Radical Extremist Christian Party, the real Republican Party can get back to the business of promoting basic Republican principles, and I and my good Republican friends can once again have something to argue about. As it now stands, this has been a rather boring election year.

CASEY MOFFETT-CHANEY
Portland

Third wheel

TO THE EDITOR:

While I wouldn't vote for Ralph Nader even if my life depended on it, I believe he was deliberately kept off the Oregon ballot.

The Legislature and the secretary of state keep

erecting ever-higher barriers that serve to prohibit ordinary citizens from effecting change at the ballot box. These days, it seems you need a phalanx of high-powered lawyers in order to wind through all the obscure laws and administrative rules to get an initiative petition approved and processed: In addition, election laws (written by legislators already elected) routinely discriminate against third-party candidates, because the two major parties don't want any real competition.

Somewhere in a back room in Salem, thousands of signatures were magically invalidated. Whether or not you like Ralph Nader, whether you're a Libertarian or Green, Democrat or Republican, you should condemn the secretary of state's decision. The next signature to be declared invalid could be yours.

ROBERT HANSEN
Cedar Hills

All the news that's fit to censor

TO THE EDITOR:

In the Aug. 20 issue, a letter to the editor by Ian Paul Sieren titled "Keeping It Real" admonished us gay folk to "write letters to the editor" of every paper in Oregon. I had to shake my head and give a sad little smile as I read those words.

Ian, darling, just because we write, have written or will write letters to the editor DOES NOT mean they will be printed. I myself have written stirring letters to the editor of *The Oregonian*—letters that would turn the tide of this coming election regarding gay marriage IF THEY HAD BEEN PRINTED. Obviously, a paper like *The Oregonian* (which is against gay marriage) is NOT going to print any letters that might help out our side.

notables

Portland couple Kristin Deichmann (left) and Shelly Casteel wed Sept. 4 in Victoria, British Columbia.

The Savitri String Quartet provided the ceremony music in the sunken garden of the English Inn Resort. A dinner reception followed in the courtyard garden.

Deichmann was given in marriage by her brother, Peter Deichmann, and Casteel by Richard Suniga in lieu of her deceased father, William. The wedding party consisted of Stephanie Nelson and Kimberly Wisthoff, who served as Casteel's maid of honor and matron of honor. Lisa Dwyer, Deichmann's sister, served as matron of honor, and Tammy Deichmann, Deichmann's sister-in-law, was bridesmaid.

Each bride chose to wear ivory designer gowns and carry a bouquet of white French-wrapped



calla lilies. The couple will spend their honeymoon traveling through the Greek islands.

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