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FS: Right. How did you come up with that name, and what was that experience like?

TL: You know, Betsy Hunt was really an alter ego in college. I mean, there were several. There was Bunny Bixler, who was my first drag persona. She was, of course, the invisible friend, in *Auntie Mame*, of Gloria Upson.... Betsy Hunt was a professional businesswoman who really wanted to get down to business, which is sort of ironic since the column was more about entertainment than business of any kind. But my goal at the time was to champion things that weren't

necessarily championed or hadn't been championed. That was when Panorama first opened. It was just after the Sandra Bernhard thing at Lucille Hart [an annual fund-raising dinner for the Right to Privacy PAC]. That was horrifying because I remember saying, "You should definitely get Sandra Bernhard," and I certainly wouldn't make that same recommendation today.

FS: She was nasty that night.

TL: I picked her up at the airport that day, and she arrived in a bad mood. She was fighting with her girlfriend over, like, mixed vegetables.... I think I had on some outlandish outfit that she just sneered at.

FS: What do you think of the recent rapid changes in Portland? What's going to happen here?

TL: Any number of things can go on. I think I'm certainly worried about the future of the city [because] we're becoming too overrun by Pottery Barns and bad architecture and bad lighting.

FS: Anything else?

TL: I'm certainly concerned about the kind of housing that's being built. I think the Pearl District is a disaster. It's a lost opportunity. There's no room for an underground there, and when things become too expensive for an underground to exist, then the vital energy of a

city is dissipated and goes elsewhere.... There are 600 bands that are based in Portland, including great ones like the Dandy Warhols, Sleater-Kinney, Everclear. Plus there's a lot of vital energy in terms of creativeness.... And I think there's a huge opportunity to really continue in the direction of thinking, hopefully, beyond the bottom line of capitalism.

FS: What do you mean?

TL: People who historically moved to Portland wanted a better life. They...migrated to this place because they're committed to things that are not just based on money, but based on quality of life and integration of population with nature. And I think there's a

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