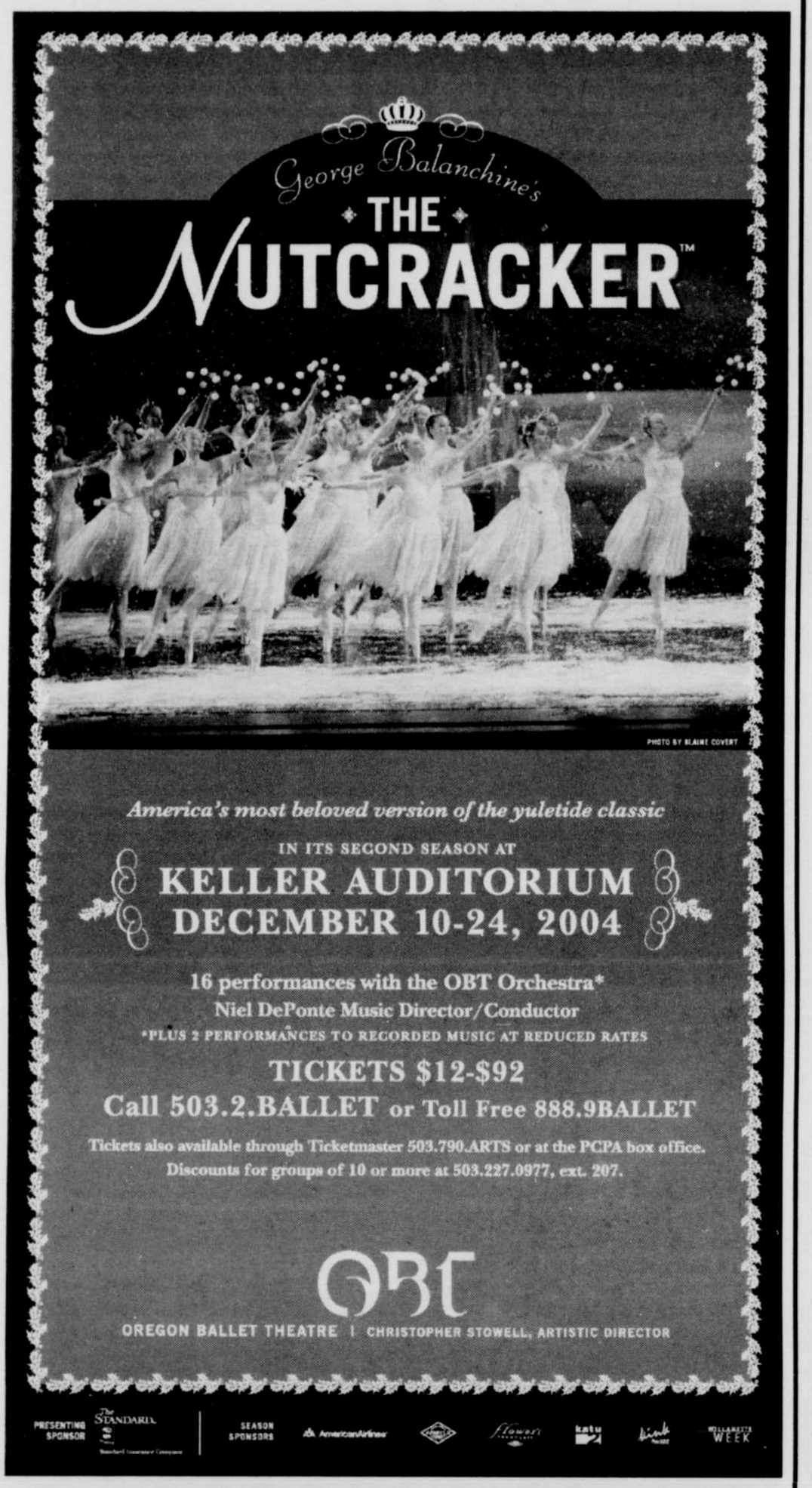

2006 CHICAGO GAY GAMES 2006
www.teamoregon2006.org

baseball
basketball
ballroom dance
bridge
cycling
darts
diving
golf
iceskating

TEAM OREGON

martial arts
physique
pool
volleyball
rugby
swimming
soccer
track & field
wrestling

info@teamoregon2006.org
2006 MONREAL OUT GAMES 2006

In great company

My favorite film of 2004—and possibly all time—inspires change

A few days ago I saw the best modern film I've ever experienced.

That's not a statement I make lightly—just ask anyone how I obsess over *Heathers*, my previous favorite. Elsewhere in my Top 20 you'd probably find *The Silence of the Lambs*, *Donnie Darko*, *Buffalo 66*, *The Dangerous Lives of Altar Boys*, *Basquiat*, *Evita*, *The People vs. Larry Flynt*, *You Can Count on Me*, *The House of Yes*, *Little Dieter Needs to Fly*, *Pecker*, *Edge of Seventeen*, *Last Night*, *Human Traffic*, *Raising Victor Vargas*, *Almost Famous*, *The Barbarian Invasions*, *Sideways*, *Spider-Man 2* and *Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde*.

Jim's Closet
by Jim Radosta

So I hope it's safe to say that I have decent taste. I'll even defend *LB2*—Elle's congressional testimony made me cry!

These are the films that speak to me, but none has shouted louder than *In Good Company*, which was written, directed and produced by Paul Weitz, co-director of *American Pie* and *About a Boy*. It won't open in Portland until Jan. 14, so you'll have to wait until early next year to read the full review. For now, I'll just say the film has a message that should resonate with everyone: Figure out what's meaningful to you, and go after it.

The other day I found a Texas quarter in my pocket, and it pissed me off. I don't want to be reminded that we share a country with these states that don't give a shit about us.

Sparked by *In Good Company*, a halogen bulb lit up my brain when I got home from the screening. I found a constructive, positive way to vent my frustration: I'm gonna launch a campaign to convince progressives to donate these quarters to the most deserving House candidate in each red state. This will not only allow blue states to express their contempt/compassion for red states, but we'll raise awareness and win a few seats in 2006 while we're at it.

Considering I've been a journalist since my sophomore year of high school in 1987, I'm a pretty seasoned interviewer. So I decided to sit down and grill myself about our great idea.

Q: What made you decide to do this?

A: Well, I was having a really hard time accepting the truth that, despite a solid record of lies and failures, President Bush was "re" elected because Americans are more concerned, as Jon Stewart put it, about the "threat" of homosexual monogamy than they are about their own lives! Either that, or the election was rigged. Either way, it's extremely depressing.

So now I'm the White House's worst enemy: I'm gay, I'm not ashamed, and I'm MAD. I know there are people out there who still confuse that with "militant," whatever that means—especially when applied to a pacifist.

Q: But don't you recognize that homosexuality violates millions of voters' religious beliefs?

A: Of course. For the past four months I've worked down the hall from the No on 36 headquarters, so when I saw a "One Man, One Woman" bumper sticker in the office parking lot, I left this note on the windshield: "I respect your freedom of religion. [That's one of the reasons I'm a "card-carrying" member of the ACLU, whatever that means.] But you need to respect MY freedom of privacy. MY relationship has no effect on YOUR relationship. And if you're so concerned about the sanctity of the institution, then outlaw 55-hour marriages by brainless pop tarts—and boycott Fox's *Married by America* while you're at it."

Look, Jim, I went to a Christian kindergarten, I went to a Methodist summer camp, I went to a Church of Christ university—Pepperdine, which now laughably employs Ken Starr as law school dean yet still expects me to subsidize his salary by begging for alumni handouts! This year I told them to fuck off because they just nixed a club—proposed by a gay Republican freshman—called "Students Against Homophobia" because it conflicted with their "Christian values," whatever that means. Again, I'm having a really hard time understanding why they think Christ would support homophobia.

I now consider myself a spiritual atheist. The only prophet I need is Madonna.

Q: Why do you hate the president?

A: I don't hate the president. He hates me. He hates everything he can't relate to—racial, sexual and gender minorities; the poor; the foreign; THE PLANET. So instead of creating more conflict in the world, I choose to channel his incompetence into my passion: Thank you, George. As James L. Brooks wrote in *As Good as It Gets*, you make me want to be a better man.

Q: What would you say to someone who doesn't share your enthusiasm?

A: Think again. I wish more people would ask themselves in every situation, "What is the right thing to do, as opposed to the convenient thing to do?" We are so lucky to have an inner voice that consistently answers this question for us, but we rarely listen to it.

Whether it's speeding or overeating or sticking with a soul-sucking job, we are blessed with abundant choices in this country—we can either take the easy route, or we can take action to make ourselves and our neighbors happier, whether it's observing the speed limit or watching our weight or changing careers. We can start paying attention to the world around us, or we can keep sitting on our asses at home worrying about the irrelevant lives of reality television stars—including one in particular who really needs to come out of the Clay-set.

JIM RADOSTA *needs your feedback. Write to jim@justout.com.*