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**Speak out**

**Personal reflections  
on a public story**

TO THE EDITOR:

It is very sad that both families have had to endure years of litigation to carry out what I believe are Terri Schiavo's wishes as well as the public spectacle this has turned into. No one wants to see a loved one die, but on the other hand, no one should have to suffer for the sake of just being kept alive.

Each of us should have a durable power of attorney as well as an advanced directive drawn up that clearly spells out our end-of-life care. We should also discuss with our family that our wishes be carried out and ask that they respect them.

The Schiavo case brought back a very sad and very difficult decision I had to make 2 1/2 years ago when my mother was dying of emphysema.

My mother was lucky she had a durable power of attorney along with an advanced directive drawn up in the fall of 1999. I was named on both documents. Mother made it very clear in the advanced directive and to my family that NO life support was to be administered if her heart stopped and that she did NOT want to be put on a respirator. The day before Mother died, I had only one objection from a sibling who wanted to put her on a respirator. I said I was going to carry out Mother's wishes. She passed away the following morning.

My heart goes out to Terri's husband as well as her family during this difficult time. It's time to let go, say goodbye and let Terri die in peace. May God be with her.

DAVID W. HARTSOOK  
Portland

**Basic Rights Oregon,  
how dare you?**

TO THE EDITOR:

Before your "march" on the Capitol in Salem, I called your organization to find out how I could help rally with Basic Rights Oregon. I couldn't get any information unless I paid to put my name on your list. Why would I pay to put my name on your list that the Nazional Republik probably has a copy of? So my wife and I drive all the way to Salem to protest by ourselves after being treated like all queers (like them) have money, and some woman from BRO comes up to my wife and

condescendingly says, "Um, excuse me, are you trying to ruin our rally?"

BRO, how dare you declare who has the right to protest on our Capitol! You beg for second-class citizenship, for civil unions? You beg for second-class citizenship in the name of all queer people. How dare you put out the same tired old pictures of the same queer couples over and over, while the rest of us are forgotten! How dare you people with money beg for civil unions when that is your last step in assimilation into the mainstream. No other race of people on this earth has demanded/begged for second-class citizenship! Why should we?

At the bottom of Page 24 it says, "Demand justice and equality for all!" ["This Is Our Oregon, Too!" March 18] How exactly do you do that when you are asking for civil unions? The people who helped carry out Stonewall would have never rallied or lobbied for second-class citizenship. BRO, if this is what you think basic rights are all about, then YES, I AM TRYING TO RUIN YOUR RALLY!

JEN ZAMBRANO  
Portland

**Nike, religion  
and comic books**

TO THE EDITOR:

In reference to Scott Cooley's encounter at the Nike store, he relates his tale with a boatload of assumptions ["An Open Letter to Nike," March 4].

While I appreciate his frustration and anger, he was directing them at the wrong person. The manager did not give this woman permission to be outside his store, corporate did!

"Eric" is not the corporate office; therefore, he was correct, and he could do nothing. Mr. Cooley assumed that Nike and the manager are anti-gay; he did not call the corporate office to confirm this—just as he did not confirm with corporate that it was aware of this particular woman's views on homosexuality, as I'm sure the question did not arise, nor did she volunteer the information when asking for permission.

Nor did he stay to ensure that "Eric" fill out his complaint form with the information he needed to submit it so that the corporate office could contact Mr. Cooley. So, he writes a letter to the *Just Out* editor, who could also do nothing but print his letter to be read by the gay masses based on nothing but assumptions. Shame on you, Mr. Cooley! Next time, go to

the top of the corporate ladder and get your facts.

In reference to the religion pieces, I'm really getting tired of the gay community responding to certain members of the religious community in kind: While sectors of the religious community lump us all in one group (perverts, child molesters and, in general, sinners), the gay folks are lumping all Christians as homophobes, heretics and bigots! Let's remember, folks, that we do have some supporters in the church. Let's not toss them in with the other so-called Christians, shall we?

Lastly, I don't recall *Just Out* ever promoting the Portland Comic Book Show. But I found it hysterical that television and movie celebrity Lorenzo Lamas came to town. (And just let me say WOOOOO!!!)

And why is it the general public calls us comic fans "geeks"? Is it because we're smarter than the average bear? That we are able to store, retain and retrieve obscure facts? Or that we continue to kick your asses at Trivial Pursuit? Just asking....

JON SAUER  
Portland

**Legalize it**

TO THE EDITOR:

I really think there is a lot more hope now that two states have legalized same-sex marriage—Massachusetts and California. This is really great news.

Considering the small number of votes that determined the outcome of Measure 36, I think Oregon will soon be in that same boat. Oregon is a pretty liberal state, and we are winning freedom, justice and equality.

I've had conversations with people, and they seem to think gays and lesbians are already demanding too much. Please don't be afraid to tell them that you are only fighting for equal rights. We don't want anything extra, just what the rest of the straight population takes for granted.

I believe this is as much of civil case as a criminal case. This is because of the exclusion of benefits, support and respect. Communities have strength.

Please cherish this milestone and live happily. This is finally a decent start.

BERT VAUGHN  
Eugene

**notables**



**Congratulations  
to Wade  
McCollum**

Golden boy Wade McCollum has done us proud by bringing home three significant awards for his performance in the title role in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* directed by Derek Charles Livingston at Celebration Theatre in Los Angeles. He received the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Lead Performance, the BackStage West Garland Award for Best Lead Performance and the Ovation Award for Best Musical. The Drama Critics Circle is composed of 21 industry reviewers who see more than 2,000 performances a year in the greater Los Angeles area. The Garland Award is sponsored by BackStage West. The Ovation Awards are presented by the LA Stage Alliance.

When reached for comment, McCollum was typically modest: "I'm honored, but I feel funny

about awards. Anytime there's a superlative, like best—or worst, for that matter—I feel funny about it. Especially when it comes to art. That's not to say I'm not honored to receive the awards.

"When I look at the other winners, to be placed in the ranks of those performers is really surprising to me, and it is a great honor. I appreciate anything that can bring attention to people living their dreams, and to theater as a great collaborative art form. Awards aside, you have to keep doing the art that fills your heart."

Portland audiences are familiar with McCollum's Drammy-winning performances in Triangle Productions' 2002 run of *Hedwig* as well as the title role in *Bat Boy: The Musical* (Portland Center Stage, 2003). He was most recently seen as Mary in *On the Verge* (Insight Out Theatre Collective, 2005).

McCollum is working in Portland on *One: The Musical*, which he wrote and co-composed. He is co-founder and co-artistic director of Insight Out, which will produce *One* from Sept. 15 to Oct. 1. **JN**