

# Speak Out

## No marriage equality? No peace.

TO THE EDITOR:

Last month the Oregon Supreme Court issued its ruling in the *Li vs. Oregon* lawsuit pertaining to the refusal of the secretary of state to register and certify the 3,000-plus marriage licenses issued in Multnomah County last year to same-sex couples.

The bottom line is that those of you who happen to be fully recognized and protected cit-

izens of the United States of Amerika (read that as "not queer") could, if you so chose, go out tonight and grab the first drunken, drug-using, child-abusing, wife-beating, identity-theft-committing, fight-starting, hate-filled, tax-dodging, abortion-clinic-bombing, gay-bashing, foreign citizen whom you had never met before in your life, and marry them with the blessing of your nation, its courts and, of course, the imaginary "God" that so many people in this country worship...so long as they were of the opposite sex as you.

Meanwhile, my "marriage" is now over, by

official Oregon Supreme Court decree, acting on the will of the people who matter. That's the key—the will of the people who matter—and it ain't the queers.

For those of you who have been passive or completely silent in your response to this matter when you hear about this shameful, disrespectful and flat-out evil discrimination against people like myself and my spouse and countless other decent human beings, shame on you.

Shame on those of you who I call my friends and who call me friend but haven't taken the time to find out who your state representative or

congressperson or senator is and call them, send them an e-mail or write them a letter.

Shame on every one of you who doesn't pay attention to what is happening in this country, especially if it doesn't directly affect you.

If you will not fight for me or with me, then you may well be my opponent. I can no longer afford to have "passive" friends on this matter. If I can't rally, inspire or, if necessary, shame my friends into fighting for my rights, then I'm no better than anyone else who sits on the sidelines saying, "Ain't it a shame?"

No marriage equality? No peace.

JENN BURLETON  
Beaverton

## Chinook jargon for "married"?

TO THE EDITOR:

Now that the Oregon Supreme Court declared marriage in my state is essentially a discriminatory hierarchy, we can use this decision to our advantage.

There are millions of both same-sex and different-sex couples who want a union based on equality. For decades, women leaders have said that traditional (i.e., hierarchical) marriage is a trap for women. The night of the November election, a straight couple stopped by the No on 36 table to tell us they married in their church but will not legally marry as long as it means discrimination.

I looked at the cover of the book *Clueless at the Top*, which shows the power and joy of walking away from a hierarchy instead of staying and

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## transitions

### Anne Walker-Guzman, 1952-2005

Anne Dean Walker-Guzman, born Feb. 14, 1952, in Tacoma, Wash., died April 14 after an extended battle with lung cancer.

Walker-Guzman was a fighter. She was originally told more than five years ago that she had one month to put her affairs in order. She refused to give up or give in. The words "no," "can't" and "won't" were not in her vocabulary.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Phillis Mazingo, and is survived by her loving daughters, Elizabeth and Jacci Walker; stepson, Simon Packer; and spouse, Rita Guzman. Walker-Guzman lived most of her life in Portland.

After high school, Walker-Guzman served in the U.S. Navy. She worked at Tektronix for many years, playing in a band with her brothers on the weekends. She joined Blue Cross and later worked for Multnomah County.

Walker-Guzman was a talented and knowledgeable leader, respected by her peers and appreciated for her common sense and no-

nonsense approach. Her passions were her family and her church.

There was never a dull moment in the Walker-Guzman household. She led an active life. She loved reading, sewing, making quilts, playing her guitar and music. She had a beautiful singing voice and once wrote and performed a crowd-pleasing original song at Center Court for the Portland Trail Blazers. She was also active in the gay and lesbian community.

Walker-Guzman had a keenly developed and finely tuned sense of humor, with an appreciation for a good story, a bad pun or a silly joke. She handed out business cards identifying herself as "Annetta Walker, M.S.U." When asked what specialty degree she had achieved, she would tell the gullible listener that M.S.U. actually stood for "Makes stuff up."

Walker-Guzman was a versatile and talented woman who was loved by many people from all walks of life. She brought all who knew her the



The Walker-Guzmans celebrated their wedding with the whole clan.

gift of laughter and love. She shared herself, her talents and her genuine love of people. Everyone who met her or spent any time with her at all knew they were in the presence of someone special. Her children, her spouse, her brothers, her nieces and her many friends will sorely miss her.

A celebration of Walker-Guzman's life was held April 19 at First Unitarian Church. Remembrances may be made to Providence Portland Medical Foundation for lung cancer research.

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