

## Speak out

Pride, after all, is not about caving to organizational and governmental wishes, wants or pressures. It's about celebration and supporting the gay community, including our business owners. Put Pride back where it belongs—on Southwest Stark and Northwest Davis.

RORY GERARD  
Portland

### Love Makes a Family is still effective

TO THE EDITOR:

First, to answer the question in your headline, "Is Love Makes a Family Still Effective?" To me and to the hundreds of GLBTQ families in Oregon who have received guidance and support from Bonnie Tinker's organization, the answer is clearly yes. It is more important than ever that we have organizations like Love Makes a Family to address the specific needs and rights of sexual minorities.

Love Makes a Family is an important player among the organizations that support the GLBTQ community. That is because while more prominent organizations like Basic Rights Oregon focus on political rights, there continues to be a need for family support, counseling and public education.

Ms. Tinker has provided these important services for 15 years. Her intelligence, experience and integrity are truly extraordinary. Considering what she has accomplished with relatively little funding, we should be singing her praises, not criticizing her because she missed a reporting deadline. Ballot measures come and go, but the struggle to strengthen and dignify gay relationships never ends. Ms. Tinker is a part of that struggle, and I salute her.

GEORGE EIGHMEY  
Portland

### Love Makes a Family article plays into religious right's hands

TO THE EDITOR:

It was easy to see by the end of the article about Bonnie Tinker and Love Makes a Family that we have done exactly what the religious right wanted: We're imploding from the inside out.

First off, I want to say that Bonnie has done more for this community in the decades that she has been active than other queer organizations will ever be able to in the Portland area. She and her partner fought for our rights before we believed it was possible to even dream about having rights. She has fought tirelessly nationwide for the rights of families when others chose sexier causes. She has worked with and supported other groups to help bind this community together in our toughest moments of history. She has made it possible for many queer couples to be parents. So it came as a complete surprise that her organization was attacked in such a manner in your recent article.

Without going into depth about the article, I simply want to say that Bonnie and her family deserve more respect than what was portrayed in that article. If you believe Love Makes a Family could do a better job, then join in with Bonnie and help make a difference instead of slandering her to the community at large.

I admit that I don't know all the facts of this situation. However, I think any organization that has been around as long as Love Makes a Family and has done so much for our community deserves more respect than this. They deserve our support, and any changes that need to be looked at can be shared in a more effective manner than this.

Shame on you, Basic Rights Oregon, for

being such a bully at time when this community is trying to heal.

MICKEY LEE  
Portland

### Aiming at Bonnie Tinker is a cheap shot

TO THE EDITOR:

Rarely do I write to *Just Out* to criticize, but your feature article on Love Makes a Family is flawed in its focus. You've put the wrong thing in the center of your investigative bull's-eye and in so doing have used your big guns on a small problem.

The real issue is that the lesbian community (and probably the GLBT community) has been changing during the past 15 years, and some of the older ways are no longer applicable/appropriate. I could cite endless examples: Our world, our economy, our society is changing, and some of us are less effective or needed.

To single out one small organization to scrutinize and reveal your findings is short-sighted. Why not an article on what's wrong with me and It's My Pleasure? Why not search out criticism on Tara Wilkins or Jack Danger? I venture to say that none of us would fare as well as Bonnie Tinker and that the article would reveal more unsavory discoveries. Who among us could withstand a cover story like this one?

All in all, I think it was a cheap shot.

HOLLY MULCAHEY  
It's My Pleasure

### Libertarian view on gay marriage

TO THE EDITOR:

When it comes to gay marriage, the Republicans want to demonize me, the Democrats want to marginalize me into a class less worthy than heterosexuals, and the Greens are no longer relevant as a national political party. So who does that leave as the only principled political party gays and lesbians can rally behind on this issue?

The Libertarian Party has a simple and perfectly reasoned position on the matter. The Libertarian Party says that the government should get out of the business of deciding who can get married and should eliminate all laws that prohibit same-sex marriages. Marriage should be a private contract between two consenting adults, and the government has no business whatsoever interfering in what should be a purely religious or civil ceremony. If two adults want to legally say "I do," the government shouldn't have the right to say, "No, you don't."

Libertarians believe the government should stay out of personal romantic, religious and legal decisions of adults. Gays and lesbians should stop begging for table scraps from the Democrats and join the Libertarian Party.

ROBERT HANSEN  
Beaverton

### Support the businesses that have supported us

TO THE EDITOR:

I have been commenting for years on how businesses started advertising toward the GLBT population once the surveys showed we supposedly have more disposable income. The fact is we probably do have more disposable income to spend on vacations and other luxuries than the heterosexual population, and we need to use this income wisely and to our advantage.

Look at the alcohol distilleries, cruise lines and many other companies that are now mar-

keting their wares towards us, even putting rainbow flags on the shirts they give to the bars to hand out. But have you seen any national commercials that have the rainbow flag represented? I surely haven't.

I myself am going to continue supporting the companies that have supported us, not only with logos, but with dollars, and the companies that provide domestic partner benefits to their employees. If you didn't go to the annual Oregonians Against Discrimination Luncheon, call Basic Rights Oregon and find out who sponsored tables. Check which companies support the Fair Workplace Project, and do business with them.

Everyone in our community needs to be proactive in boycotting the businesses that talk about diversity, yet they don't offer their employees domestic partnership benefits, like Fred Meyer. Then you have the businesses like Olive Garden and Red Lobster that downright discriminate against the GLBT community, as well as the U.S. military. If we hit these businesses' bottom line, where they will actually feel it, then we might get closer to equal rights.

With the billions of dollars that we have in the GLBT community, we can certainly make a dent in the right wing's efforts to take away our rights that our forefathers, and ourselves, have fought so hard to get and keep. Far too many people just take these rights for granted and figure someone else will fight the battle, so they do nothing.

We all can make a difference, so please do.

ROGER STEFFANI  
Beaverton

### Looking for an LTR

TO THE EDITOR:

Why does it seem that everyone is only seeking sex? It's like courtship and love are about as important as a penny.

My only wish is that people who do seek loving relationships at a young age (18 to 25) should be more active so those also seeking long-term relationships at a young age can find one. Or am I completely wrong and am just not looking hard enough?

KEN SCHRAM  
Eugene

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