

LAW OFFICE OF JAMES D. McVITTIE, PC

Specializing in Estate Planning, Wills, Trusts, Business Planning, and Domestic Partnerships. Call for your free 30-minute consultation on Estate Planning.

JAMES D. McVITTIE
Attorney-at-Law, Lic. in OR & WA

503.224.6611 TEL
806 SW BROADWAY, STE. 800
PORTLAND, OREGON 97205
WWW.MCVITTIE-LAW.COM

Esquire Motors, Inc.
Complete Foreign Car Repair & Service

• Quality Services Guaranteed
• Serving Downtown Portland Since 1968

503.226.6269 | www.esquiremotors.com
1853 SW Jefferson • Portland

Your local farm & garden store

LINNTON FEED & SEED. NOT THE MALL.

We carry multi-pure water systems
10920 NW St. Helens Rd
Portland, OR 97231
Phone: 503.286.1291

Corner of Sandy Blvd. & NE 64th
3106 NE 64th
Portland, OR 97213
503-280-8080

It's My Pleasure
Gifts for Romance in an Elegant Setting

massage, natural facials, head, neck, shoulder treatments

The Dragontree
a holistic day spa

acupuncture, ayurvedic therapies, foot sanctuary, and group treatments

2208 NW Thurman - 503.221.4123 - www.thedragontree.com

Sunlan Lighting & Lightbulb Lady

We each light up the world in our own way.

3901 N Mississippi Ave 503-201-0453 Mon-Fri 8-5:30 Sat 10-5

Raines Globe Travel

Person to Person Travel Planning
International Specialists
Vacation Packages • Cruises • Tours • Group Travel

Downtown Salem Since 1948
129 Commercial NE • 503-399-1800 • 800-971-7210

Call Chris for personalized service.

Herzog-Meier

D. Fulps/George Kettner
503-644-9121 • cars@herzogmeier.com

Drivers wanted.

Speak Out

Taking the high road

TO THE EDITOR:
As a Christian and a gay man, I have a compliment, a criticism and a suggestion regarding the confrontation Sunday morning of Pride weekend between the two Bible thumpers and the performers and audience in front of Embers.

Considering the rudeness of the thumpers, I thought the individuals who passively and peacefully surrounded these misguided men did an excellent job of taking the high road in not lowering ourselves to the kind of irrational shouting used by these guys. A tense situation was made less volatile with our chant of "We love you."

It would have been even better if the M.C. had not launched into "We're going to hell, and it'll be better than this." At least that's what I heard. I think we can diffuse the angry and misinformed critics with less inflammatory remarks, such as "Thank you for sharing your beliefs...we have ours, too."

Compliments to the Pride Northwest organizers who apparently had prepared some of their people to deal with the intruders. I know they started the shouting match. I hope we can show them we can be more civilized, rational and committed.

DAVE KOHL
West Linn

Club kids should take accountability

TO THE EDITOR:
I am writing in response to the recently published articles in *Just Out* spotlighting the club kids of the Escape nightclub ["Club Kids and Club Life" and "First Person," June 17].

Hear ye martyrs of club land: Please spare me your pain.

The gay youth of Portland do have an opportunity to make a change, but they must learn that although "talk" is great, false accusations will do them no good. The old cliché holds true: Actions do speak louder than words. The upper court does not have help organizing its events, so why should it be responsible for others? I agree that all the courts and titles should be a collective force working together, hence Pride weekend, but by no means should one be accountable for the other. I can only hope the upper court and "older people" know that not all of Portland's gay youth blame them for their inadequacies.

MARSHA ANDREWS
Portland

A pathetic rag

TO THE EDITOR:
I need to express my voice regarding the article (smear campaign) on Bonnie Tinker and Love Makes a Family printed in *Just Out* ["Is Love Makes a Family Still Effective?" May 6].

I have waited this long to write in because I'm still waiting to read about *Just Out's* "unbiased" exposé on other local LGBT organizations that it promised to examine, but no such exposés have been published. I don't believe I can denounce *Just Out* and its transparent motivations any better than previous concerned citizens or editors of other local publications (*The Mercury* and *The Alliance*). I do believe I can give a bit of a comparison of my personal dealings with both Roey Thorpe and Basic Rights Oregon and also Bonnie Tinker and Love Makes a Family.

I have volunteered with both BRO and

LMAF in the past, but I stopped volunteering with BRO because it was becoming nasty to me because it knew I was also volunteering with LMAF. It was during the marriages in Multnomah County last year when BRO staff became vocally belligerent with me and another LMAF volunteer down at the county building. We were trying to assist couples wanting to get a license, and the BRO staff ripped into us. We were not fighting some turf war; we were doing our best to make this whole experience as smooth and enjoyable as possible for the happy couples. The BRO staff, however, saw and treated the LMAF volunteers worse than it did the homophobic protesters outside. I thought we were all supposed to be "family?"

Shame on *Just Out* for its unprofessional attempt to smear Bonnie Tinker and LMAF, and shame on BRO for alienating individuals and other LGBT organizations. How dare BRO believe it is the only correct voice of the LGBT community? As far as *Just Out* goes, it is now nothing more than a rag of mostly advertising with pathetic attempts at journalism sprinkled in.

KURT D. KOESTER
Portland

Pride 2005 a resounding success!

TO THE EDITOR:
I wanted to personally commend Pride Northwest for its extraordinary efforts, hard work and positive changes to Pride this year. I have been attending Pride in Portland for more than 12 years, and this is by far the best one yet, in my opinion.

Not only did we get beautiful weather the whole weekend, the entertainment was great, the selection of vendors and booths was diverse and interesting, the board members and volunteers were helpful and attentive, and the crowds of people were amazing! I was thinking to myself throughout the weekend, "What made it more spectacular this year?" The fact that half the crowd wasn't corralled into the beer garden the whole weekend and was able to walk around was the best idea. I have never seen so many people interacting and surrounding the stage area to actually cheer on the performers and speakers!

I was disappointed, of course, to see the protesters leading the parade and yelling their hateful remarks inside the festivities, but security handled everything so smoothly. I was impressed.

So, Tobin Britton, Nicole Browning, Stef-Anie Wells and Patrick Olson, the four of you deserve a standing ovation from the community for all of your hard work and dedication to provide a wonderful Pride weekend to us all! Thank you. For those of you who complained: Step up and help next year! These four did it all on their own!

DEBBIE CASELTON
Sponsorship Director, Portland Lesbian & Gay Film Festival
Vice President, Portland Area Business Association
Co-Chairwoman, Lesbian Community Project

An open letter to OPB

TO THE EDITOR:
I agree that OPB has produced many great programs and has aired many more. Therefore, I was saddened when I read in *Just Out* that there was yet another OPB member who decided not to continue his membership due to the lack of coverage and recognition of Gay Pride in the June issue of *OPB Member Guide* and very