

speack out

An open letter to George Bush on the subject of leadership

TO THE EDITOR:

Mr. Bush, I wanted to share with you my thoughts on leadership. I am a 10-plus year veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps. I attained the rank of staff sergeant during my time in the service, and I attended and graduated from the USMC NCO Leadership School and the USMC Staff NCO Academy. Having done what very few in this world have done gives me a great deal of knowledge and insight as to the meaning of what leadership really is. Being the kind person that I am, I have chosen to share some of this knowledge with you.

Mr. Bush, here are a few things that a leader does. I offer them in the same spirit of compassion and understanding that you have offered your subjects.

- A leader is capable of telling her troops that they are all going to hell and, in so doing, leave them ecstatic that they will be joining her on the journey.
- A leader never eats until her troops have eaten.
- A leader never sleeps until her troops have bedded down for the night.
- A leader is the first to face danger and the last to retreat from it, regardless of the risk.
- A leader earns the respect of her troops; the emphasis is on the word *earn*.
- A leader leads by example.
- A leader works as hard, usually harder, than her troops.
- A leader does not send her troops into harm's way without being there with them.
- A leader is there with her troops when they are hurting.

- A leader is there with her troops in joy and celebration.
- A leader knows her troops: their spouses' names, how many children, her troops' birthdays and so forth.
- A leader will always take the heat for what her troops do. This is called responsibility.
- A leader will admonish her troops when their actions are errant. In so doing, a leader never belittles or denigrates her troops.
- When a problem arises, a leader is there as a part of the solution—now, not "in a while"!
- A leader follows the seven Ps: Proper Prior Planning Prevents Piss Poor Performance.
- A leader is decisive. She makes her decision and lives with it; better to make the wrong decision than to have made no decision at all.

These are but a few thoughts that I felt worth sharing with you. Over the portal to the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Schools' building is the following admonition: "Lead, Follow or Get the Hell Out of the Way!" My questions to you, Mr. Bush, are these: Are you a leader? Are you going to lead? Are you going to follow? Will you just get out of the way?

As a concerned and really hurting disabled veteran of the war you were too much of a coward in which to participate, I need to know the answers to these questions. I think that a lot of Americans are looking for answers to these questions. Mr. Bush, it is time for you to "stand and deliver"!

HENRIETTE CECILE BEIGH
Portland

"Tastes Like Chicken" ad offends

TO THE EDITOR:

I am a Portland psychotherapist working primarily within the sexual minorities commu-

nity and have advertised regularly in *Just Out* for several years. Your recent editorial asks for feedback, and while I generally feel very positive about *Just Out*, something I observed in a recent issue disturbed me a lot ["Difference of Opinion," Sept. 2].

I realize that ManHunt.net must be a big-ticket advertiser to occupy your entire back inside page. I also realize that newspapers do not endorse the content of their advertisements. However, an ad that reads "Get on. Get off. Tastes like chicken" is irresponsible. This is not prudery on my part. To "get off" with "chicken" is gay parlance for sex with (often) underaged youth, and we all know it.

Please register my dissatisfaction with a publication aimed at the gay community that would print an ad promoting sex with "chicken." We have enough to overcome regarding public misperception of gay men as sexual predators, in addition to the psychological injury caused to youth. A recent issue devoted space to the appropriateness of a billboard depicting two naked men behind an American flag ["Naked Guys Embracing Under an American Flag," Aug. 5]. Please think about the implications of your own commercial choices. After all, *Just Out* reserves the right to reject or edit any advertisement."

JERRY DECKELBAUM
Portland

Arnold is not only homophobic, but rude as well!

TO THE EDITOR:

The leopard can't change its spots, and the governor of California is not now, nor ever has been, a friend to "us."

I first had to deal with this man back in the

early '70s. I was the president of my Southern California college's theater arts department, and we were casting a production of Edward Albee's *The American Dream*. The character must be an all-American, corn-fed, blond muscle boy, hence the name. The only auditioner was "Ah-nuld." Only years in the country, his accent was so thick as to be unintelligible. And there's nothing remotely all-American in his appearance. When he didn't get the part, he had some rather loud and vicious epithets for us (because you know what kind of nancy boys are in drama).

Several years later, I was working in Beverly Hills as a window dresser for Saks Fifth Avenue. In he walks, looking for dress shirts. When told that his body type was too large for stock on hand and that he would need custom shirts, he became enraged and had some rather loud and vicious epithets for us all (because you know what kind of nancy boys work in retail fashion).

Several years after that, a boyfriend and I were having breakfast at a diner near the "gay beach," and he comes in with Maria Shriver, at the time a breathtaking natural beauty, dressed in cutoffs and an old sweatshirt. When she noticed there was no jam on the table, we passed her ours. Ah-nuld, of course, had some loud and vicious epithets for "faggots that should be minding their own business!"

So now he governs a state with a disproportionate share of the country's gay population...and has vowed to keep them second-class citizens. He's being true to his word.

We need to send a message to this intolerant man. Write a letter. Have your friends write letters. And most importantly, stop supporting California's economy in any way you can. "I'm mad as hell, and I'm not going to take it anymore!"

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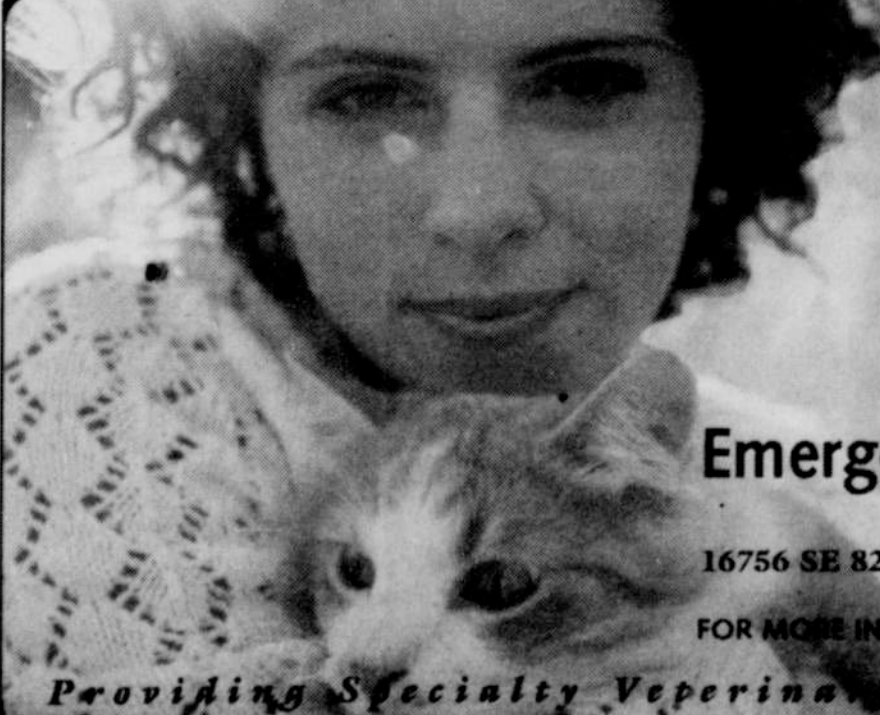
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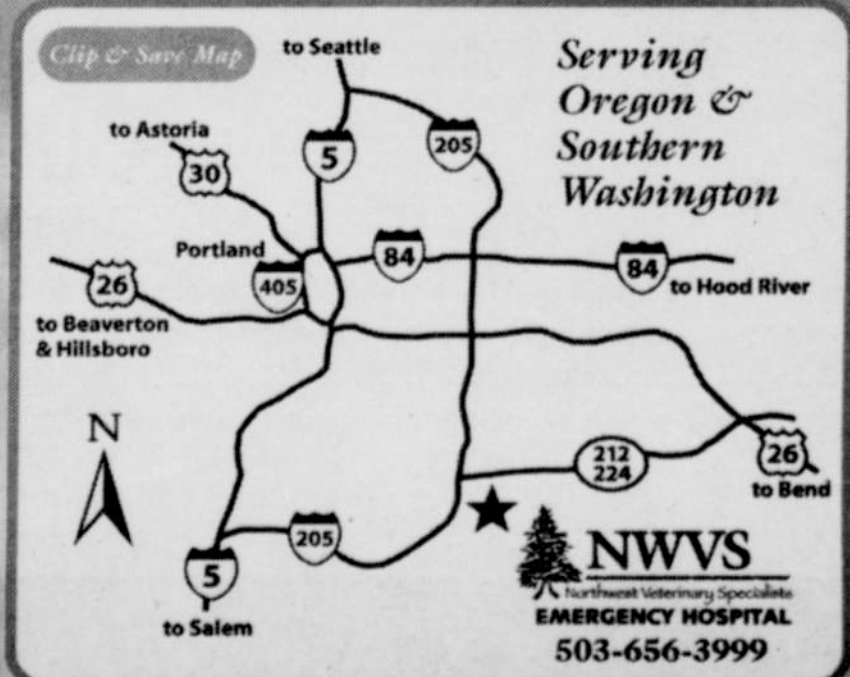
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