

Speak Out**The big gay fruit's report from D.C.**

TO THE EDITOR:

Kurt Koester, your big gay "Fruit for Peace," is reporting in from Washington, D.C., where I marched along with another couple of hundred thousand people for peace and to voice our disgust with the current administration Sept. 24.

Today I'm taking my big gay strawberry sign and shirt and heading to the White House with about another 1,000 people who have requested a meeting with the president. Personally, I requested (in advance of today) a meeting with "Dick" (I'm a gay man, so of course I'd rather see "dick"!), and since Dick has a bum leg, I said I'd be more than happy to meet with his wife (if she isn't busy writing more lesbian love stories).

The plan is that we will all be refused a meeting with the president (no duh!), and the united clergy, the veterans for peace, the families of veterans and the rest of us will be having a sit-down in front of the White House and will get arrested. How long we will be in the "big house" is anybody's guess. I have my doubts that it will get violent because a huge portion of the group marching and protesting today is middle-age all the way up to 80-plus years old. Not exactly a threatening sight.

I just wanted to let you know that the gay community is being represented here in Washington, D.C., and since Dykes on Bikes, drag queens, bears and leather folks aren't here, you're just going to have to settle for the big gay strawberry from Portland. I'm hooking up (no pun intended!) with a group of students from Ithaca, N.Y., for the protest, as we were encouraged to group up for safety reasons. I'm a graduate of Cornell University, so when I found this group of students and a private citizen of Ithaca, I jumped in with their group.

Please, please, please, get the word out about

what is going on here in D.C., as the mainstream media are not doing much for coverage. I'm proud to say that independent gay radio media have interviewed me three times and have been doing a great job of talking to the protesters and getting their stories out. I'm hoping you folks will do the same. Take care, and I'll talk to you when I get out of the big house.

KURT D. KOESTER
Portland

What does it take to get a first aid kit in this town?

TO THE EDITOR:

I participated in AIDSWalk05 Sept. 25. Congratulations to Cascade AIDS Project on the success of this year's walk. I especially appreciated the wonderful contribution by the cheerleaders from David Douglas High School and their new program on educating kids about AIDS and HIV.

I do have a complaint that I would like the organizers to hear. As I was walking along the south waterfront admiring the maritime museum ship, I had the misfortune of missing one of the mooring cleats that dot the walkway. I tripped and got nasty abrasions on my knee. Continuing the walk, I was disappointed to find no first aid centers anywhere along the route. Returning to Pioneer Square, I was informed that the only emergency medical technicians on duty were unable to even give basic care to my injury. I was told to wash it and get something myself while my knee was bleeding.

I would like to suggest that, given the great variety of people involved in this and future walks, to consider setting up basic first aid at certain points along the route.

See you next year.

BOB CARLSON
Portland

Lace XIX Devinity O'Dora calls it as she sees it

TO THE EDITOR:

In my eyes, I was not doing something groundbreaking. I was only fulfilling my desire to make a change in our community. I did not take into account, nor did I imagine, the dissension I would create being the first transsexual to hold an under-21 title in the Portland queer community.

The conflict that has been stirred due to my title started before I even won and has become even more translucent as the days continue. I constantly have messages on my phone calling me a hermaphrodite or a man. Also, a new development in this malicious cycle of events has led to innumerable posts on the Internet.

I have been a member of the queer community for five years. I also have been an active member of the Portland queer community for the same amount of time. The queer community (Portland in general) has been my family since I was 15 years old. It has been my support both in queer-related issues and in life overall. I won this title to give something back for all the help I have received through the years. The title I hold has made tremendous strides for the transsexual populace. In fact, I have been seen, by some, as a sort of a role model and guide to others who are struggling with gender identity.

I do not understand the animosity toward me for winning this title. Do others not see the difference I have made and am making in the lives of others in our community? The queer community should be one that is accepting. Are we not the minority in this country? Are we not persecuted enough for being queer? How, then, is this discord and hatred to one another going to help our struggle to be taken seriously as members of society?

I won this title to show that transsexuals are

not only seen just as that. When I meet new people, I meet them as a very specific gender—female—not as a male who turned female. I face this world and the queer community under a very specific gender role of being female.

I remember how hard I fought in high school, at jobs, with family, all for the sake of respect—for the sake of not being treated as though I were an outsider. I realized that if that same oppression is found in this community, I obviously have been put here, in this position, to do something about it—not to do something just for me, but to make a difference in this far-reaching community. Also, so that in the future when another transsexual runs for a title or looks for respect in an unyielding position of power or prestige, that person may be given the same treatment and respect without oppression. Exactly the same as a person who is not transsexual.

Why I am staying in this position is very clear to me. Why others in this community are being so hateful and evil is not. Any ideas?

LACE XIX DEVINITY O'DORA
Portland

corrections

The Sept. 16 article "Expert Takes Aim" omitted the contact information for Jawa Mockabee of On Target Fundraising. She can be reached by calling 503-349-9301 or visiting www.ontargetfundraising.com.

The Sept. 16 article "Jane of Many Trades" erroneously reported that Marie Fleischmann was the recipient of a Pride Northwest scholarship. She actually was the 2005 recipient of Pride Foundation's Scott Rodriguez Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Queer Leadership Scholarship.

Just Out regrets the errors.

"I'm AVAILABLE
when *you* are!"

Careful and energetic handling of
all your home financing needs

**MORTGAGE
Advocates**

6700 SW 105th Ave., Suite 200 Beaverton, OR 97005
Toll Free (877) 826-9900 Fax (503) 297-0824
E-Mail: colleenw@mtgadvocates.com www.mtgadvocates.com

Colleen Weed

Office 503•297•9900 Cell 503•780•1561

**Biz Builders**

every Tuesday and
Thursday 7 - 8:30 AM
At jackman joe's
NW 16th At Marshall
* Grow your business
* Marketing help
* GBLT group of
business people.

PORTLAND AREA
BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

NGLCC
AFFILIATE
MEMBER

PABA monthly luncheon to

feature: **Bobbi Kahler**
Choose Your Potential;
Leave Your Limitations

Wednesday, October 12th

11:30 Am -1:00 PM

The Governor Hotel

2nd Fl, 614 SW 11th Ave

**Cost: \$24 at door or \$19 with
Reservations www.paba.com.**

After Hours
October 19th 6:00 PM
Doug Fir Lounge
830 E Burnside

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

LIVE • LOCAL • LIBERAL

The Thom Hartman Show Weekdays 6AM - 9AM

AM 620 KPOJ
PORTLAND'S PROGRESSIVE TALK STATION