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NORTHWEST newsbriefs

HIGH-RISE TOPPLES TRIANGLE

The yuppification of downtown Portland continues, but this time it's personal. The *Oregonian* reported Oct. 17 on the city's newest high-rise, a 29-story tower assaulting the gay-friendly Burnside Triangle, described as a "seedy section of downtown." The mixed-use tower—boasting office, retail and apartment space, a day spa and a \$250-a-night hotel—lands between Southwest 12th and 13th avenues and Stark and Washington streets.

The Gerding/Edlen Development Company will develop the \$130 million tower, and the Goodman family will invest in the project and continue to own the land. A 3,000-square-foot strip of land between Jake's Famous Crawfish and American Apparel was recently purchased, providing entry to the hotel from Stark Street, *The Oregonian* reported.

John Carroll, developer of condos in the Northwest Pearl District, expressed pleasure to *The Oregonian* concerning the Pearl's improvement to the city and said the new high-rise would likely appeal to people "looking to see a bit of culture and diversity and edginess."

Just Out wonders if edginess, diversity and culture aren't the very things this tower will tear down.

SISSYBOY AND MERCURY, IMAGINARY FRIENDS

The *Portland Mercury* managed to offend one of Portland's most irreverent, subversive and, well, offensive drag performance art groups, Sissyboy, with its style of imaginary reporting.

Before Sissyboys Brendan Morrill, Benjamin Porter and Lee Kyle Turner agreed to an interview, they grumbled about a previous *Mercury* review in which the writer bashed the act without ever seeing the show. "It was immature, and unprofessional, and ignorant, and it offended me," Turner told *The Mercury*.

Mercury writer Alison Hallett, who did not write the first review, plied the boys to gab about their "fatphobic, classist, racist, homophobic, misogynistic, ableist" and "ageist" act with the catch-all apology: "It wasn't me."

The Oct. 13 article did not wrap up before offending a distinct group within the queer population. Morrill told *The Mercury* that most Sissyboy critics are the stereotypical bastions of political correctness, the "super-left lesbians." He added, "But then they don't like anything that doesn't involve tofu, rice or organic, fair-trade goods."

THANKS FOR NOTHING, KATIE COURIC

NBC anchor Katie Couric did nothing to quiet, quell or question hateful attacks against gays spewed from William Donohue, president of the far-right-leaning Catholic League, during an Oct. 13 appearance on the *Today* show.

He called child molestation within the Catholic Church "a homosexual scandal" and later claimed that homosexuals are responsible for the abuse.

Since 2002, Donohue has exploited the church's crisis to link homosexuality with child sexual abuse. By not challenging his outrageous claims, Couric let down the sexual minorities community and the vast majority of honorable gay priests.

OREGONIAN AIRS CHRISTIAN COALITION'S DIRTY SECRET

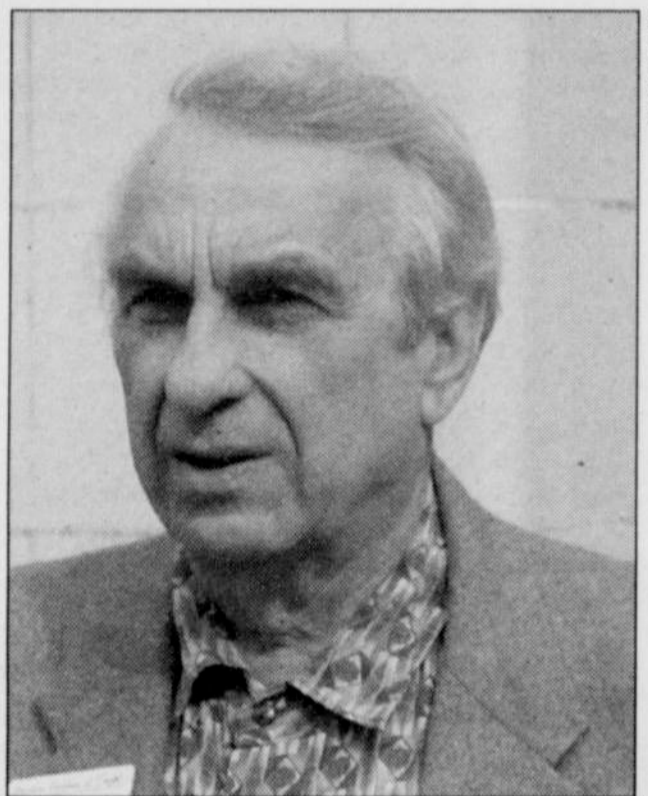
If you want to know who is hiding dirty secrets, go to church and see who is sitting up front.

That was the sentiment from the sexual minorities community after *The Oregonian* reported Oct. 9 that Lou Beres, longtime chairman of the Christian Coalition of Oregon, is under investigation for molesting three women in his family before they were teen-agers.

The Oregonian staff may have missed the irony that horrifies *Just Out* readers: The accused incestuous pedophile has been lambasting queers for years on their "deviant"

sex lives. Beres was one of the main proponents of Measure 36, which banned same-sex marriage in Oregon. In 2000 he backed an initiative to cut the budgets of schools that "sanction" homosexuality.

MEDIA WATCH



MARTY DAVIS

Is Lou Beres an ironic advocate for the moral life?

That year, Beres told *The Oregonian* that the gay rights movement had gone too far in persuading schools to present a one-sided view of homosexuality to students. He said, "Even liberals...don't want their children to be taught that this is a normal lifestyle."

Yet his own "normal" lifestyle may force the holy roller to face criminal charges for one of the three alleged attacks that still falls within Oregon's statute of limitations. Beres posted a statement on the Christian Coalition Web site denying any criminal conduct. [E]



The dirty boys of Sissyboy always take it one step over the line.