

# letters

## Brokeback Fan

TO THE EDITOR:

Four reasons to encourage a straight person to see *Brokeback Mountain*:

A) Recognition that love is love. Makes no difference if it's same-sex or opposite-sex. Love just is.

B) A whole generation of lesbians and gays are already born and growing up as children and deserve a society that is more understanding, considerate, wholesome and sensitive to gender, trans, bi, straight, gay.

C) Good box office business shows Hollywood that a quality same-sex movie can make money.

D) Touches the heart.

STEVE A. ENGEL

Portland

## Don't Use "Pussy" in a Pejorative Way

TO THE EDITOR:

As a gay male, I was put off by a header in your article about "The Cowboy Way" [Jan. 6]. How can an organization belittle all women by titling something "Gay Rodeo Is Not for Pussies"? Are you kidding me? You ask for all people to accept you, then you use a pejorative word like "pussy" to describe the kind of person who couldn't do "gay rodeo." I do not believe much in shame, but you really need to re-evaluate what you write. Considering *Just Out* has a publisher and managing editor who is a woman, I am hard pressed to understand how in the hell you got away with this.

Joshua Ryan, you need to look at the way you view the world if you want any sort of compassion from those not like yourself.

THOMAS R. ANDERSON

Portland

## Donation Hell

TO THE EDITOR:

Why is it so hard to donate clothing to gay-associated help networks?

I went to Project Quest on Jan. 20, thinking it would accept the clothing I no longer needed—clothing, for the most part, I've never worn. To my surprise, I was told by the nice ladies behind the counter that they only accepted women's clothing. They tried to help me find a place to donate in the city, but they, as well as I, were dumbfounded to find out from Cascade AIDS Project that I had to drive south to Milwaukie just to donate clothes at Tod's Corner.

In order to donate the clothing, I had to be there from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday. What the fuck! Are you kidding me? I want to donate to an HIV-related help network for those who cannot afford the basic living amenities the rest of us take for granted. We are given a four-hour time limit one day a week on nonworking days to donate clothing in Milwaukie?

As the lady behind the counter said to me, "Who would have thought it would be this hard and out of the way to try and help people?"

Does anyone know of an HIV-related charity in the city I can donate these clothes to?

MARCELINO PEREZ

Portland

## LCP Alive and Kicking

TO THE EDITOR:

This letter is in response to your commentary in the Jan. 6 issue ["Road Map to Equality"]. It has become apparent that there may be a misconception on what our organization does exactly!

The Lesbian Community Project has been an active organization for 20 years, with ups and downs just like many nonprofits that are volunteer run. We are listed in the phone book under our full name, so we are one of the first organizations that lesbians contact when they first come out or when just moving to the Portland area. LCP has a couple of annual events that serve as social gatherings (the New Year's Eve Dance and the Lesbian Softball Tournament), but it also serves as a resource and support network for women. LCP also provides the opportunity as a nonprofit, sheltering lesbians who want to organize conferences, book groups, educational forums, concerts, workshops, discussion groups, support groups and social gatherings.

On a daily basis, LCP receives e-mails, letters and phone calls from lesbians locally as well as nationally who seek support, referrals, advice, contacts, friends, partners, business, information about Portland and much more! We just received a letter from a young woman at a military base in Great Falls, Mont., seeking pen pals for herself as well as her new friend just coming out.

Our membership and support is strong and still growing. The Web site is accessed frequently, and we receive positive feedback regarding our quarterly newsletter. Members and the community can look forward to several exciting, educational and empowering events this year, so stay tuned! LCP is still very much utilized and needed. You might say that LCP could be the Energizer Bunny of the com-

munity. This cultural icon serves as a symbol of longevity, perseverance and determination. Just like the Lesbian Community Project. It just keeps going and going!

DEBBIE CASELTON

LCP Board of Directors

## Thanks to the Angels

TO THE EDITOR:

This is just a note to tell you and our community that wonderful people exist in our midst!

In mid-November, my apartment caught fire. I lost much and maybe more as I go through what's left upon moving back in after the refurbishing.

On Jan. 15, the crew from "La Femme"—Celeste, Daneska, Darcelle, Roxy and many others—did their annual benefit show to help me. I will be eternally grateful to all of you! Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness.

Yes, Portland, we have angels in our midst!

D. TIMOTHY BEALER

Portland

## TRANSITIONS

### Sarah Tucker, 1979-2006

Sarah Ellen Tucker, known to her friends as Tucker, was involved in a hit-and-run accident at the intersection of Polk and Geary streets in San Francisco while riding her bike home and died Jan. 12. She was 26. She is survived by her parents, B.J. and Charlie, and younger siblings, Adam and Leslie.

Tucker was born Dec. 26, 1979 in Santa Clara, Calif. She attended Marlboro College in Marlboro, Vt., beginning in 1998.

After her first year, she moved to New York City, where Tucker began to live a life that would be full of self-imposed challenges and adventures. In the fall of 2000, she moved to Portland to attend Reed College.

At Reed and in New York, Tucker cast a wide net of love and positive energy that led to many lifelong friendships. While at Reed, she planned the school's first ethnographic and documentary film series. She also collaborated with Portland State University to host the Margaret Mead Traveling Film and Video Festival.



Tucker's dedication and desire to break down barriers within her community led to her involvement in a variety of organizations. While in New York, she worked for Blue Stockings Bookstore and An Uncommon Legacy Foundation. The foundation was an organization Tucker felt deeply connected to. While in Portland, she worked for Artists Repertory Theatre. When she moved to San Francisco in the summer of 2004, she worked for the San Francisco Film Society and the California Academy of Sciences.

Tucker was a motivator in the queer community. She was constantly thinking of how to bring different groups of people together, whether it was trading Photoshop knowledge for silk screening lessons, hosting memorable game nights or planning a queer dance night. She never stopped pushing herself and never stopped sharing with others, and her energy was immeasurable.

There are two things that one hears over and over when talking to Tucker's friends. One is how she always followed through—she never let you down, ever. The other is her laugh. Her laugh was just another example of how her huge, gregarious, incredible spirit filled a room.

Tucker's uncanny ability to bring people together is one thing that made the dance night she started in San Francisco, PYT, so successful. She loved pugs, soul music, dancing, acronyms, sticky buns, film, friends and friendship, fashion, aesthetics, feminism and being gay.

Tucker was a fierce feminist—a true lavender menace. She was known for her ability to push her friends and loved ones to confront their prejudices and preconceived ideas. She was also just as willing to turn that microscope on herself, critiquing her own assumptions every day.

Second wave feminism and fashion were essential to the way Tucker presented herself to the world. Tucker is a legend in queer fashion. She was an artist. Her life was grounded in learning and creating. Tucker worked on several experimental films and had a deep and dedicated interest in visual art and critical theory. She never shied away from complex issues or different ways of approaching political and artistic problems.

Tucker was, and will continue to be, a catalyst for action and inspiration.

Memorials can be sent to Katharine Greenbaum, California Academy of Sciences, 875 Howard St., San Francisco, CA 97103, or to a scholarship that has been set up in Tucker's name at An Uncommon Legacy, P.O. Box 33727, Washington, DC 20033.

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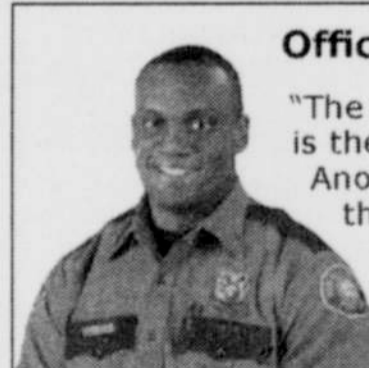
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