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letters

Bad Influence

TO THE EDITOR:

While I enjoyed the production of *Say Uncle*, and I agree with the lesson it teaches, I was not impressed with the Q & A dialogue given by Peter Paige after the viewing ["Folks as Queer," June 16].

I thought it was ironic that the whole point of the movie was to prove that gays were not neces-

sarily a bad influence on children, then afterward Paige used a lot of swear words in speaking to the audience. (Children were in attendance.) I don't think it's cool to swear in front of children. It sets a bad example, and that is exactly what this film was supposedly trying to counteract.

CHARLES COLE
Portland

TRANSITIONS



Roni Lang (right, with Frank Dixon) served in the Korean War.



Patricia Jackson founded LifeLine AIDS Project in Salem.

Roni Lang, 1931-2006

I am truly saddened to learn of Roni Lang's passing July 8. She was an activist and a person of grace, dignity and humor all the time.

She was a member of the Sexual Minorities Roundtable, which met with the chief and other members of the Portland Police Bureau once a month. She was also a leading member of the transgender movement in Portland. Her membership—and leadership—in Veterans for Human Rights was just part of her ongoing commitment to "liberty and justice for all."

Roni often shared her experiences in military service during the Korean War. "Good looking" is the way I'd describe her from pictures of herself as a man in uniform. And "good looking" is the way I'd describe her as she went forward into life as a woman.

The thing about Roni that impressed me as much as her civil rights activism was the fact that she made her way in life extremely well. With whatever other sources of income she had, she parlayed her resources into investments in real estate and did quite well for herself. The last time I was at her home in Beaverton, she proudly told me that she had just paid all cash for her latest Cadillac and that she bought a new one every two years. I love that kind of enterprising attitude and financial independence.

All of us can learn great lessons from the examples she has provided for us. A remembrance will be held 2 p.m. Aug. 13 at Metropolitan Community Church of Portland, 2400 N.E. Broadway.

—Lee Coleman

Patricia Jackson, 1931-2006

The Rev. Patricia Read Jackson died of cancer March 15. She was 74.

Jackson was born April 21, 1931, in Portland during the Great Depression. Life brought marriages, children and stepchildren and 25 years working as a dietitian and cook. Eventually, it also brought her life partner, Mary Albert.

Reaching her 50s, Jackson earned an associate's

degree from Portland Community College. She worked at the Marion County Court School until her retirement, but "retirement" simply meant working in a new field, helping people with HIV/AIDS. She founded LifeLine AIDS Project in Salem.

As a charter member of Salem's Sweet Spirit Metropolitan Community Church, she played an active role in church leadership, serving seven years as its lay pastor as well as in other positions. During this time she fought several anti-gay ballot measures. Amid 1992's Measure 9 fight, her calm presence helped prevent responsive violence after a homophobic murder in the Salem area.

She also did AIDS education throughout Marion, Polk, Yamhill, Lincoln and Linn counties. She and Albert made many deliveries of food and other necessities and provided Christmas baskets to people with AIDS. She was on the front line wherever she was needed.

Jackson didn't fit the common perception of the "activist" type. She looked like everybody's grandmother—sweet, loving and kind to all—but behind that exterior was an iron will.

In 1994, in recognition of her commitment to the United Federation of Metropolitan Community Churches and the sexual minorities community, she was ordained into the denomination's clergy. That same year, she received the Red Cross Vance Tribbett Distinguished Safety Service Award.

She was also active in the Imperial Court of the Willamette Empire and was elected Empress V.

Jackson is survived by Albert; two sisters, Marie and Cecilia; three children, Deborah, Brenda and William; two stepchildren; 12 grandchildren; and two great-granddaughters. Her brothers, Ernest and Jim, preceded her in death.

A well-attended memorial service was held March 21 at City View Funeral Home.

Remembrances are welcome to LifeLine AIDS Project, P.O. Box 12513, Salem, OR 97309, or to Sweet Spirit Metropolitan Community Church, P.O. Box 13969, Salem, OR 97309.

—Patricia L. MacAodha