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NEWSMAGAZINE

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letters

Animal Testing Is Cruel

TO THE EDITOR:

Thank you for your story "Sexual Eugenics" [Aug. 18]. Animal testing is cruel for any reason. But torturing and killing sheep just to find a way to make them straight is very offensive.

We need to write letters to Oregon Health & Science University telling them that there is nothing wrong with being gay and that they should stop harming animals to make them straight. Write to Edward Ray, OHSU, 3181 S.W. Sam Jackson Park Road, Portland, OR 97239, or fax 503-228-9588.

WILLIAM MCMULLIN

Mount Morris, Mich.

Voting Isn't Enough

TO THE EDITOR:

As we go into the election season yet again, I am always surprised by the huge percentage of LGBT people who sit back on their haunches and just watch it all go by. Oh, they vote, for the most part, but that's about it. (And then, of course, they complain bitterly about unfavorable outcomes.)

Up until last year or so, I wasn't any different. For years, I did my part, or at least what I thought was enough, to support the gay civil rights movement with my checkbook and my vote, and even an occasional phone call or letter to my elected officials. Conveniently enough, all those things were easily accomplished within the comfort and privacy of my own home. Heck, I didn't even have to leave my couch.

But as we have seen time and time again, when our civil rights are put up for a vote, we can lose. Just voting isn't enough.

The political losses in both Oregon and Washington during the past couple of years, plus some personal LGBT discrimination incidents, made me feel angry. So I did what I usually do when I'm mad—I got busy looking for how I could make a difference. When Equal Rights Washington (Washington's equivalent to Basic Rights Oregon), began recruiting for equality team leaders in Clark County, I jumped at the chance. Now I volunteer a few hours of my time each week as a team leader.

The first real project for our team was done literally overnight a few weeks ago. We pulled together a rally after the Washington Supreme Court's ruling that upheld the Defense of Marriage Act. Although we were disappointed in the decision, there was a bright spot in the gloom. Our rally made front-page news in *The Columbian*, Clark County's newspaper, and the evening news on KOIN-TV. The widely broadcast pro-LGBT commentary in the court's dissenting opinion educated the general public about the inequities we experience and will hopefully set the stage for future gains in our civil rights struggle.

For those who want to be more involved in advancing LGBT rights in Washington, our equality team is having a fund-raiser, information session and wine and cheese tasting party 7 to 9 p.m. Sept. 16 in the Hazel Dell area of Clark County. RSVP to 360-727-7878 or erwsouthwest@gmail.com, or check out the events listings at www.equalrightswashington.org for more info.

But wherever you live, take ownership of your own destiny by trying to do more than just writing a check or mailing your ballot. Pick your favorite gay rights organization, and give it an evening of your time. I'd bet there are dozens of little things you can do that can make a huge difference but don't take up too much space on your calendar.

And best of all, you are the one who gains. After all, it's about your life and your rights. It's about you.

DEBORAH NEEDHAM

Battle Ground, Wash.

Gay Bowling

TO THE EDITOR:

While I always appreciate any mention of bowling in any publication, readers might be interested to know that there are two other gay bowling leagues in the area if Sunday's Portland Community Bowling League doesn't fit into their schedule but they would still like to bowl ["Gays and Lesbians Are on a Roll at Hollywood Bowl," Sept. 1].

The FITS league holds its sessions 7 p.m. at AMF Pro 300 Lanes, 3031 S.E. Powell Blvd. Call 503-234-0237 for details.

And yet a third league, PDX Pride, holds sessions at Hollywood Bowl, 4030 N.E. Halsey St. Call 503-288-9237 for more information.

Like PCBA, these leagues also welcome all skill levels; however, these two leagues are sanctioned by the United States Bowling Association, which requires a purchase of a membership card in order to participate. Leagues have already begun, but both might still need individuals to fill teams.

I substitute on the PCBA leagues occasionally and am a former member of the FITS league. All the leagues are very friendly, and for the most part, we're all there to make friends and have fun...and enjoy a drink or four, depending on how we're bowling!

JON SAUER

Portland

Research Commendable

TO THE EDITOR:

I am an OHSU employee and a former OHSU researcher and clinician. I also happen to be gay. When I treated patients at OHSU, I provided care for a number of people with AIDS. This background helps explain why I am so offended by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals' portrayal of OHSU's enlightening research related to the origins of sexuality and why I am writing to provide my personal views.

First I must say that I am very disappointed that *Just Out* appears to have allowed its legitimate interests in advancing equal rights for gay and lesbian people to be hijacked by PETA.

At OHSU, I direct the research integrity office, and I am quite familiar with the joint OHSU/Oregon State University sheep research. Speaking as a research professional, it should be noted that the OHSU/OSU research has made significant advancements in identifying structures in the brain that appear to be linked to sexuality.

My personal reaction to this research is that along with human studies, this science is generating new and much-needed evidence that supports what many of us who are gay know to be true: that being gay is not a choice. Dr. Charles Roselli's research helps validate that my sexuality is biologically (genetically) determined just as much as my brown eyes, receding hairline, skin color and height.

At no time has Dr. Roselli's research been geared toward "curing homosexuality," and the scientists have repeatedly gone to great lengths to state this very clearly. PETA is attempting to co-opt a voice of the gay community with its extreme position on

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