

letters

Voting Over Fashion

TO THE EDITOR:

How many of our gay brothers and sisters are registered to vote?

And of those who aren't registered to vote, will they register in time to vote in the Nov. 7 general election?

How many of our gay brethren can tell you the latest trends in fashion, music, etc., and how many can talk about the current news issues of the day?

Since the Republicans took control of Congress and the presidency, anti-gay state constitutional amendments and legislation have exponentially risen from coast to coast. The gay equality movement has suffered defeat after defeat since January 2001, when President Bush took office.

Gay brothers and sisters, if you *really* want equal rights, and refuse to be treated as a second-class citizens, then you *must* vote for progressive candidates!

It's great to know the latest clothing fashions, hot music and gossip, but to you *must* vote to protect your ability to be gay without recrimination.

DAVID MINDRUP

Portland *

Resources for Safety

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to thank *Just Out* for covering the issue of same-sex intimate partner violence ["Violence Hits Home," Sept. 1]. Partner violence affects all communities, but in the sexual and gender minorities community, it is exacerbated by lack of awareness, lack of services and homophobia within standard support services.

I wanted to clarify the resources that do exist for LGBTQ survivors of domestic violence:

• **Bradley-Angle House:** 503-232-7805, ext. 3; 877-897-7741; or emilyg@bradleyangle.org. Support group for women battered by women.

• **Safe Communities Northwest:** 503-203-5999 or safecommnw@aol.com. Support group for GBT men who have experienced domestic or sexual violence.

• **Monika's House:** 503-469-8620. Emergency shelter accessible to male survivors.

• **Yolanda's House:** 503-977-7930. Emergency shelter accessible to male survivors.

• **Portland Women's Crisis Line:** 503-235-5333 or 888-235-5333. Has shelter availability around town.

• **Volunteers of America—Homefree:** 503-771-5503. Limited emergency hotel vouchers; best to try earlier in the month.

EMILY GARDNER

Bradley-Angle House

Survivor Thanks Community

TO THE EDITOR:

I want to say thank you to those fellow boaters, firefighters, sheriffs and ARC teams that helped save my life on the Columbia River on that sunny Aug. 27. You all stepped up like angels during a time of crisis, and you will never be forgotten!

Thank you again. You are all my heroes.

I also want to send a warm thank-you to all my friends who stuck really close to me with prayers and healing thoughts. My quick recovery has happened because of good doctors and nurses and because of all the love surrounding me. I am blessed

with a wonderful family and an amazing group of friends. Special thanks go out to my boss and friend, Katherine Tennyson, and to Katie Meyers, who took care of my Spencer boy. Also, special thanks to Tiff and Diane of Dingo's taco house. Also to SRJ, KM, AT, BB, CL, CB, DW, LC, WM, VC, LD, AS, ER, CT, HO, A & G, CC, L & D, K & T, K & N and anyone else I might have missed.

VICKEY CHALFANT

Beaverton

TRANSITIONS

Skosh, 1942-2006

Born Wayne Clifford Harris at the White Shield Home on Sept. 15, 1942, Skosh was adopted a few years later and renamed Robert Frank Pattison. He began calling himself Skosh in the early '60s and legally changed his name in 1995.

Skosh, a prolific artist and designer, died of cancer Sept. 10. A Portland native, he was co-founder of the Storefront Theatre and design director for I. Magnin's department store. He is also known for his work at Portland Civic Theatre and was one of the painters who rendered Richard Haas' Lewis and Clark mural on the Oregon Historical Society in the South Park Blocks.

"We shared common sensibilities as artists, fag-gots and Oregonians. There are a million stories; he was pretty well-known in art and theater circles here for most of his life," said friend J Elliot. "Except for maybe a dozen or so years spent in San Francisco, Cottonwood, Ariz., and other points of interest, he lived and worked here in Portland."

Skosh's many local designs and installations



include the White Eagle floor, Alder West Hair Salon, Opening Night Cabaret, Arthur Erickson's Eclectic Arts, Evolution Hair Design, Panorama, London Underground, C.C. Slaughters, La Luna and Living Room.

Skosh lived an openly gay life since the early '60s and was diagnosed with AIDS in the early '80s. A fighter and survivor, he is thought to be the longest living person with AIDS in Oregon. According to a friend, he was diagnosed with lung cancer in August 2005 and underwent chemotherapy to give himself some more time. He went into hospice in June when the cancer spread to his spine and he could no longer take care of himself.

He leaves behind a brother, a wide circle of friends and an amazing legacy of design and life.

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