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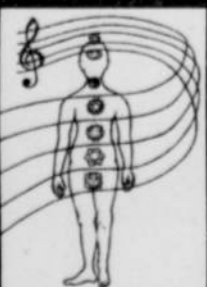


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## letters

### PABA in an Uproar

TO THE EDITOR:

As a past vice president of the Portland Area Business Association, I wanted to comment regarding the article in the Oct. 6 issue written by Jaymee R. Cuti ["PABA Embroiled in Conflict"].

I served as VP during the time that Suzanne Deakins of Spirit Press proposed that she produce the newsletter, *The Advantage*, on a monthly basis. During the May 18, 2005, executive board meeting, Suzanne submitted a proposal to the executive board members present (president Aaron Hall, secretary Larry Foltz and treasurer Jim Harper). At that time, the newsletter hadn't been produced on a regular basis for quite some time, and there seemed to be little interest, motivation or time available by any other board members to produce it.

Ms. Cuti refers to the proposal in her article and says that Deakins' newsletter would result in "no cost to the organization." I am looking at the proposal as I write this, and I don't see anything in there that says that it wouldn't cost PABA anything. The newsletter is a benefit to members of PABA. Quite honestly, if Ms. Deakins hadn't stepped up to work on the newsletter for the past year, I don't think the membership would have increased as much as it has.

During my involvement with PABA for the past several years, I have observed firsthand the dedication, loyalty and advocacy Larry Foltz and Jim Harper have displayed as board members to the membership and the organization. They have selflessly spent countless hours improving the benefits to the members of PABA as well as to the organization. I have been involved with other boards of nonprofit organizations and look to my experience at PABA as a shining example of how a well-run, enthusiastic and purposeful board should be. The meetings were run according to regulation and in an efficient manner, board members volunteered for subcommittees on a regular basis, and almost everyone got along. In fact, some people on the board became close friends! Imagine that!

I sincerely hope that the more recent board members who are in such an uproar over the supposed conflict of interest step back and see the big picture. Larry Foltz, Jim Harper and Suzanne Deakins are truly looking out for the members and the organization as a whole. It would be a detriment to PABA and the community to ask them to resign.

DEBBIE CASELTON

Portland

### Wright Is Right for Judge

TO THE EDITOR:

I sat aghast as I read in your recent article about Mary Overgaard's campaign for Multnomah County Circuit Court judge Position 28 that she—a straight woman—was endorsed by the Oregon Gay And Lesbian Law Association ["No Tem Like the Pro Tem," Oct. 6].

I was even more stunned to receive confirmation that this was a sole endorsement, not a joint endorsement with Christopher Wright, the only out gay candidate for the position. I would have understood a dual endorsement, as our straight-but-not-narrow friend has been active with that group for some time. But for a group whose mission

is "to create a statewide organization to support the needs of sexual minorities in the legal profession" to fail to endorse the most qualified person in a field of nine, who also happens to be openly gay, simply stuns me.

I found Chris Wright in a *Just Out* ad shortly after my father died in 1995. (Your newer readers might not know that I was blessed to have parents who co-founded what would become Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays here in Portland in the mid-1970s. A legal scholarship fund has been established to honor their pioneering work and help aspiring attorneys complete law school and carry on the legal battles that Daddy and other early warriors fought on our behalf.) I didn't know if I could afford someone who was both a CPA and an attorney, but Wright's rates were reasonable, and I found in him a solid professional and man of my own heart on issues of real importance. Mother soon fell in love with him, too, and Wright became our family attorney from then on.

As to the judicial race, Wright is clearly the most qualified of all nine candidates. He has the most solid understanding of the kinds of business disputes that often end up in litigation. He has represented both plaintiffs and defendants and therefore has a broad understanding of the need to fully examine both sides of a case before drawing conclusions. He has settled the overwhelming majority of his cases through mediation and arbitration, saving his clients—and us taxpayers—countless thousands of dollars in court time.

Wright is right for judge, and I hope your readers will join our beloved Mayor Tom Potter and me—along with former Shepherd legal scholars Beth Allen, Joel Corcoran, Perry Heitman and Stephen Manning—in electing him to the bench on which we citizens of Multnomah County so richly deserve to have him serve us.

SUSIE SHEPHERD

Portland

### CORRECTION

The Sept. 15 article "The Sky's the Limit" incorrectly attributed quotes by Erin LeFevre and Lisa Pool, owners of Blue Sky Healing and Massage. Pool, who identifies as queer, is entering her last year at Oregon College of Oriental Medicine. She said, "In my practice of Qigong and meditation the concept came to me of a clear, easy, blue sky—so open and free." LeFevre, who is a lesbian, said, "We really want people to feel open about themselves and help them become free of their health concerns." *Just Out* regrets the error.

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