

letters

Thanks a Frot

TO THE EDITOR:

After a certain amount of reading, it's hard for many of us not to come to certain conclusions in regards to which activities are safe and which fueled (and continue to fuel) the AIDS pandemic. In a recent interview with the popular gay publication *Butt*, none other than '70s gay icon Peter Berlin said simply: "The fear of needles and the dislike of penetration saved me from being dead now.....this idea of penetration is put there by nature in order for people to have babies. And now people feel they have to transpose it—especially when it comes to gay sex." He also claims to have had sexual encounters with "thousands of men" during his life.

Another example is prolific gay author Samuel Delany, who in a 2005 speech at Dartmouth College spoke openly of how he has had roughly 5,000 to 7,000 moments of unprotected receptive oral sex (mostly with strangers in New York City) since 1982 yet remains HIV-negative. That these two gay men in their 60s are still alive and healthy while many of their generation are long gone from AIDS is not just coincidental.

It's worth stressing the difference between those of us who enjoy frottage along with other safe activities like oral sex and mutual masturbation and the Frot movement, which seems to carry a certain amount of heavy ideological weight regard-

ing anal sex and seems to position frottage as the only truly ideal sexual act. The warrior imagery on Bill Weintraub's Web site is actually rather apropos, as the Frot view appears to be most akin to the attitude shared by the ancient homo-loving Greeks that it isn't proper for one male to be penetrated by another. After all, most of those ancient homoerotic Greek vases do depict intercrural intercourse (a form of frottage) and not anal sex.

One thing that gives me pause with some of the Frot writings I've encountered is the assertion of some men that they are not gay or bisexual. The notion appears to be that being gay means being into anal sex, therefore not being into anal sex makes one a straight guy who just happens to like sex with other men or something to that effect. The semantic juggling act is indeed daunting. I'd prefer to see all the guys out there into frottage and/or oral or mutual masturbation simply define themselves as gay or bisexual men who aren't into anal sex rather than disassociating themselves entirely from the gay movement and putting themselves off in some other special category based on what sexual act they prefer to (or prefer not to) engage in.

As for myself, I have always liked frottage. It's fun, safe and, yes, does count as "real" sex.

JERRY JANCARIK JR.
Seattle

TRANSITIONS

Harriet Barshofsky, 1953-2006

A memorial service was held Dec. 9 at First United Methodist Church for the Rev. Harriet Barshofsky, who died Nov. 24 of ovarian cancer. She was 53.

Barshofsky was born Sept. 14, 1953, in Brooklyn, N.Y. She worked as a research analyst, most recently serving as a member of an institutional review board for Oregon Health & Science University.

Following a lifelong wish, Barshofsky became a Christian minister and pursued a course in religious studies at University of Portland, graduating with a master of divinity. She was ordained into the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches in October 2000 at the denomination's district conference in Beaverton.

She served as pastor of congregational life at Metropolitan Community Church of Portland, ultimately becoming senior pastor of MCC of the Gentle Shepherd in Vancouver, Wash., where she was instated in September 2002 and served that congregation until her health forced her to withdraw from the position. Barshofsky's friend and mentor, the

Rev. Earl Riddle, performed the memorial service.

She is survived by her life partner, Andrea Toye, and a brother, Nathan.

Remembrances may be made to MCC AIDS Ministry, Mother of Peace Orphanage, P.O. Box 691728, West Hollywood, CA 90069, or Hambleton Project, 1112 N.E. 21st Ave., Portland, OR 97232.

Bev Basaraba, 1948-2006

Bev Basaraba, a member of the Portland Lesbian Choir, died of heart failure Nov. 30.

A native Portlander, she graduated from Madison High School. She worked as a nurse at Doernbecher Children's Hospital until kidney failure forced her retirement. Since then, she and her partner, Lin Rasar, have cared for more than 80 special-needs kids in medical foster care.

Basaraba and Rasar, who met in 1987, married March 5, 2004, in Multnomah County.

Survivors include Rasar; their daughters, Ayanna and Angie; and their son, Jobie.

Services were held Dec. 9 at Gresham Memorial Chapel.



Portland Luggage Shopping List

Downtown
SW 440 SW 4th
503 226-2255

Victorinox Tear Drop Mono Sling
was \$35.00 / now \$28.00*



These are cool!

-Silver for William
-Red for Audrey



Atlantic 4x4 Carryon
was \$400.00 / now \$159.99*

Scott- cuz it's
so much easier
with 4 wheels

Remember gift card for Jim!!!

* Don't
forget
coupon!

BONUS COUPON

20%
off
Any Purchase

Repairs and certain items, Briggs & Riley, Hartmann, Andiamo, Atlantic Indility Quadwheel, and yellow tag items excluded. Other restrictions may apply. Expires December 25, 2006



Computer Backpack
was \$150.00 / now \$59.99*

For Matthew-
cuz it's 70% off!

Victorinox Packmaster
was \$30.00 / now \$24.00*

Julia- her
suitcase is
always a mess!



*Sale prices listed after coupon discount applied.