

letters

Dedicated to Tim

TO THE EDITOR:

I used to listen to Charlie FM's [KYCH 97.1] morning show because of the personalities, Dr. Doug and Skippy. However, I stopped listening shortly after Valentine's Day because I feel they weren't honoring their word on playing everything. I requested "Miracles" by Pet Shop Boys to be dedicated to my boyfriend, Tim. When the day came, I did not hear my song, nor did I get any e-mails about why they chose not to play my dedication.

A few days later, the station played a dedication to a straight couple. My question is, "Why is it that straight person's dedication was played and mine was not?" The only conclusion is that they do not like to play dedications to gay couples.

KEN SCHRAM
Portland

Somewhere to Turn

TO THE EDITOR:

On behalf of myself and my co-workers at Bradley-Angle House, I just want to thank Malka Geffen for taking the time to focus on the issue of

domestic violence in the queer community ["Help at Hand," Feb. 16].

I appreciate the care taken in the way the article was presented as well as the research put in to get various perspectives and to provide some of the most relevant resources. In particular, I'm so glad you talked with the Humane Society and were able to let people know that they are out there to help, too. I have a dog and know that our animals are extremely important; it's so reassuring to know that there are options when we need them.

Nobody likes to think of their loved ones being hurt by those who are supposed to care about them. But knowing where to find help can make a world of difference—especially in the LGBTQ community, where past experiences or fear can leave us believing that there's nowhere to turn. Thanks again for spreading the word!

MELISSA ADAMS
Bradley-Angle House

Safe Options

TO THE EDITOR:

In reading the excellent article by Malka

Geffen, the Choices program was mentioned as a resource for offenders. Stop Abuse for Everyone (www.safe4all.org) provides resources for all victims of intimate partner violence. SAFE is a 501(c)3 non-profit human rights agency with a mission that dictates "no victim be left behind." It is important that the public is aware of all the services and of the particular agencies that are inclusive, regardless of age, gender, race or sexual orientation. All victims deserve assistance, and all perpetrators should receive the most appropriate and effective intervention.

SHEILA SMITH
Stop Abuse for Everyone

Points of Uncommonality

TO THE EDITOR:

In Marty Davis' Feb. 16 editorial, "Slam Dunk," she asks, "Does this writer speak for all trans people?" in wanting to drop the words "trans" or "tranny" and just refer to "men" and "women."

This might as well be a rhetorical question. I transitioned out of the lesbian community some 10 years ago. At that time I used to joke, "Ask four lesbians a controversial question and you'll get five answers." I thought there was no more diverse community than the lesbian community. However, ask four trans people a controversial question and you'll get six answers. This is a group of folks who have nothing in common other than some degree of not resonating with the gender assigned them at birth. There is no other point of commonality—not sexuality, political affiliation, religion, class, educational level, ethnicity, gender identity. You name it, we don't have it in common.

Therefore, of course this writer doesn't speak for all of us.

I have worked with several hundred trans people at this point in my career as a therapist. A few would agree with the author of the letter you referred to in your editorial. More do still identify as trans, in some fashion, well into their transition processes. I do myself. I am not the same person I would have been had I been born male. The female socialization I received, the 22 years I spent living as a lesbian, the effect of 41 years living in an estrogen-based body and the 10 years I've lived more recently in a testosterone-based body—all these in combination have shaped who I am.

It might be that someday I will think of myself as "just a man." But I doubt it. I'm 51 now, and don't think I'll live long enough that my early life experiences won't continue to contribute to my sense of identity. I'll always be trans. But that's me. I will never claim ownership of any of the definitions associated with transgender identities. We all live this path differently. So, I suppose we *do* have that in common.

REID VANDERBURGH
Portland


CORRECTIONS

The March 2 newsbrief "Offering Treasures Today" included erroneous contact information for Yesterday and Tomorrow. The business is located at 7506 N. Albina Ave., on the corner of North Lombard Street and North Albina Avenue. The phone number is 503-459-3230. *Just Out* regrets the error.

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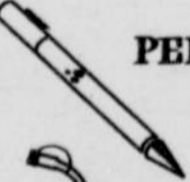
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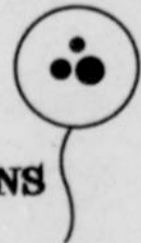
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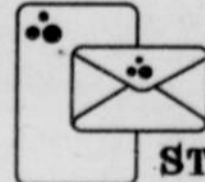
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