

# letters

## One of Our Own

TO THE EDITOR:

I'm going to put myself out on a limb with this letter, but I think it is important to get our community to think about the Sen. Larry Craig "scandal" with reason and logic.

As most of the readers know, Craig, R-Idaho, was arrested in the Minneapolis-St. Paul airport and plead guilty to a charge of disorderly conduct. The whole incident stems from a toe-tapping incident that, according to the arresting officer, was "solicitation."

As much as this writer despises almost everything Craig stands for, I must ask the question: "What law did he break?"

As most of us are aware, restroom stings such as the one conducted in this matter have entrapped thousands of gay men through the years. These stings have raised the ire of the community with a loud chorus of "entrapment, gay baiting, bigotry."

Yet when someone we despise is caught up in such a sting, we are silent about it. If Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., had been found in such a situation, would we be outraged about police entrapment? You better believe there would be a chorus of outrage over the situation.

The question we must ask ourselves as a community is this: Are we really happy being such small-minded hypocrites?

There is no proof Craig engaged in any nefarious activity, although that might have been his intent. His arrest is yet another case of entrapment aimed at gay men. Whether we agree with Craig is not the point. We, as a community, have a duty to point out that this type of entrapment is wrong and that there was no crime committed.

Yes, it is nice to see Craig exit the stage, but there's something horribly wrong about our community's hypocrisy regarding the whole event. We would scream and yell, "Entrapment! Bigotry! Gay baiting!" if it was one of our own. Yet we are silent if it is one of "theirs."

We can't have it both ways. Entrapment is entrapment, and it is our duty, no matter how despicable the individual involved, for us to come to that person's defense.

Craig has a despicable record, yet he deserves to be treated as we would treat one of our own in this situation. Shame on our community for failing to understand the right thing to do, no matter who the beneficiary of that action may be. We can do better.

JOHN LEONARD  
Portland

## Peacock in Washington Park

TO THE EDITOR:

Several years ago when Peacock in the Park had its swan song, so to speak, there were promises of bigger and better ways to continue the memory of Lady Peacock.

This past weekend I was taking visitors on a tour of Washington Park and we came across the innocuously named Rose Garden Amphitheater.

And then it dawned on me. What better way to make sure that the memory of Lady Peacock and the good work of the Audria M. Edwards Scholarship Fund lives on than to rename the venue the Lady Peacock Amphitheater?

Peacock was the longest-running event in the amphitheater's history, not to mention the largest

in size. If major Portland thoroughfares can be renamed after people with significant historical contributions even though they are not from Portland (think Rosa Parks Way or César Chávez Boulevard), then why not build a lasting tribute to Lady Peacock right in what literally was her own back yard?

I encourage the scholarship fund to pursue this and encourage *Just Out* readers to contact Portland

City Commissioner Dan Saltzman, who oversees the Parks and Recreation Department. His contact information is: Dan Saltzman, Portland City Commissioner, 1221 S.W. Fourth Ave. Room 230, Portland, OR 97204. Phone: 503-823-4151. E-mail: dan@ci.portland.or.us.

DAVID MELTZER  
Portland

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