

they aware that LBT women also live in or visit Portland? Were they aware that working-class queers, including students and artists, might live in or visit Portland? I doubt such considerations crossed their minds in their apparent rage that all of Portland did not cower before their somehow superior collective presence.

That these two then had the nerve to play the manly man card by suggesting a local gay man in a feather boa does not represent them (what, not camp enough?) and the victim card by suggesting—I think falsely—that CDs were stolen from their car adds insult to injury. I find it highly unlikely that any hardened Portland car thief would strut down to Music Millennium attempting to sell back *Experience the Divine: Bette Midler's Greatest Hits* to the hipster clerk behind the counter. Besides, CDs have less a chance of disappearing if you choose to put the top up on the Pride-sticker-covered red convertible I feel almost certain these two clowns gallivant around in.

SEAN C. HAYES
Portland

Fat Is a Feminist Issue

TO THE EDITOR:

I felt a need to respond to Mr. Jeffrey Smith's lesbophobic letter printed in your Nov. 2 issue with some reality checks as follows ["Fat Is a Handicap"]:

1. We in the United States are living in a patriarchal society, meaning one in which men oppress, abuse and exploit women.

2. In patriarchal societies, men set "beauty" standards for women that are often injurious to women's health, such as:

a. The crushing of the ribcage by whalebone corsets to create tiny waists.

b. The crushing of the feet by foot-binding to create tiny feet.

c. The elongation of the neck.

d. The mutilation of the genitals.

e. The consumption of arsenic to create a pale complexion.

f. The consumption of silicon to create large breasts.

3. Women who do not conform to these male-created "beauty" standards are subjected to vicious revilement, ostracized and subjected to discrimination by societal institutions.

4. Refusing to conform to beautify standards in a society where they are injurious to women liberates women.

5. My body weight is no one's business but mine.

6. Obesity can be damaging to the health of both men and women and is on the increase in America society.

7. Fat can kill you.

8. Anorexia can kill you.

9. TriMet buses can kill you.

10. Fat is a feminist issue.

11. It has recently been discovered that people who are 20 pounds "over" what used to be considered an "ideal body weight" live longer than people who are below that standard body size.

12. Good nutrition and exercise contribute more to good health than just changing body size.

13. Women in our society today are being injured and killed by anorexia, the consumption of "weight control" drugs such as nicotine, amphetamines and steroids, plastic surgery, silicone poisoning from breast implants and medical malpractice.

14. Your neighbor/friend/relative's body weight isn't any more your business than is blood pressure or cholesterol.

15. Worrying about weight causes stress.

16. Stress contributes to being overweight.

17. Harassing, nagging, intimidating or reviling people who are fat does not improve their health and is not a sign of love or compassion; it is harassment.

DENI STARR

Portland Business & Professional Women

Looking Back

TO THE EDITOR:

The holiday season is a good time to look back on the past year and reflect on what has transpired. It is obvious that 2007 has been a fabulous year for the GLBT community. With the passing of the two Oregon equality acts at our state level and the passing of the Matthew Shepard hate crimes bill and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act at the national level, we have made some great strides in our quest for full equality. The process was a struggle to get through, and we will continue to be engaged in the process in 2008.

At this time we would like to thank *Just Out* for all of the great coverage you have had in your newspaper concerning transgender events, workshops, movies, interviews and special articles on our issues that can be overlooked by the general population. We feel your publication excels at covering life in the GLBT community and is a very fun read.

In addition, we would like to publicly thank organizations that have been helping and supporting us through the years—groups such as Basic Rights Oregon; Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays; the Human Rights Campaign; the Imperial Sovereign Rose Court; and the Community of Welcoming Congregations, to name a few. The names of individuals whom we consider our good friends are too numerous to list in this letter, but I am sure you know who you are. We are grateful for your friendships, love and mutual respect. The Northwest Gender Alliance looks forward to sharing more experiences with you all in the years to come.

Best wishes to all of you this holiday season.

ALICE LYNN, SHERYL WIELER, LINDA BROWN,
SUSAN LALONE, JACKIE SPRATTEN, DANA
McDONALD

Northwest Gender Alliance Board of Directors

Brotherly Support

TO THE EDITOR:

I found your recent article about the sexual harassment allegation at Brother to Brother disturbing ["Brother vs. Brother," Nov. 2].

Obviously, this is a very serious allegation that I am sure the current leadership of Brother to Brother is addressing appropriately. To address the allegations in the press would be a disservice to all involved, including Brother to Brother as an agency. It is for that reason that I commend Alisa Simmons for declining to comment on the specifics of the allegation.

On the other hand, I found the comments attributed to Darryl Moch deplorable. Not only did his comments dismiss the seriousness of the allegations, he failed to show any real concern toward his former staff or Brother to Brother as an

organization. His comments were self-serving and very narcissistic. As the former executive director of the agency, it was his responsibility to manage the organization's operations in a professional manner. Simply put, he apparently failed to do so. He should take responsibility for that failure or, at the very least, the perception of that failure.

As a former chairman of Brother to Brother's board of directors, I do know that policies were developed to enhance the organization's infrastructure and to maintain the fiscal soundness of the organization. If the executive director did not implement the board's policies, resulting in a "lax structure," then he should have been taken to task. If the paid leader of the organization cannot discern when his own behavior is inappropriate, whether real or perceived, then he obviously will have limited success at best. I can only say that Brother to Brother is much better off without Darryl Moch at the helm.

I hope this experience does not taint Kourtnei Dupree's zest for working in this field. Portland needs young, vibrant black men like him to work with their same-gender-loving peers. These types of episodes are unfortunate and should not be viewed as the norm for Brother to Brother or any organization serving same-gender-loving people.

Brother to Brother has done great work through the years. It is disappointing that Darryl Moch was not able to successfully lead the organization from an all-volunteer agency to an agency with paid staff and a cohesive professional structure. I hope his failure does not negatively impact the needed community support of the agency's new leadership. Financial support of Brother to Brother will enhance the agency's ability to retain professional leadership of the caliber of Alisa Simmons. I will make a commitment to support the organization financially. Will you?

JERRY WALKER

Former Brother to Brother Board Chairman

TRANSITIONS

Henry Humm, 1954-2007

Henry Humm died Nov. 26. He was born Aug. 30, 1954, in Harrisburg, Ill.

Humm started Henry's Ceramics while in high school. His love and mastery of ceramics led him to a national career of instructing ceramics teachers.

Humm later founded his own painting company. He painted many of Portland's most prestigious homes.

Humm organized Starky's AIDS Walk Team and Collector Car Cruise-In. The annual event will be known as the Henry Humm Cruise-In.

A memorial fund at Our House of Portland has been established in Humm's name. Donations should be sent to Henry Humm Fund, Our House, 2727 S.E. Alder St., Portland, OR 97214.

A memorial celebration of Humm's life will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. Dec. 8 at Starky's, 2913 S.E. Stark St. For details call 503-230-7980.

CORRECTION

Just Out mistakenly reported the base fee for registering a domestic partnership in the Nov. 16 cover story, "01.01.08: The Comprehensive Guide to Oregon's Domestic Partnerships."

The fee is \$50 total, with \$25 going to the Oregon Domestic Violence Program fund and \$25 going to the issuing county.



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