

letters

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the early Pride festivals. I also wonder if he understands that these early festivals laid the foundation for today's celebration where we can march in the streets instead of on the sidewalks and that corporations that once turned us away now welcome us with pride.

DAVID BURNETT
Portland

Economics Lesson

TO THE EDITOR:

Such an odd pairing: 28 pages of "Pride and the City" all things Pride section, and Mr. Beaudoin's "Buyer Beware" article. I almost missed his article due to all of the cacophony of four-color ads by corporate sponsors. I finally found him above the half-page evil Nike ad helping Our House charity.

Mr. Beaudoin is naive. The first Pride festivals of the '60s and '70s had business involvement. Who does he believe funded the building of floats, the matching T-shirts and the printing of fliers? Romanticizing that these events spontaneously happened without the involvement of business is revisionist history.

I am glad to see businesses support their gay employees and clientele. In the '60s and '70s, corporations would have fired any out employee, and they never did business with "fags"!

Per Mr. Beaudoin, "skip Pride" that will crimp Wells Fargo's business. Dear Stephen, that will also hurt the 40-plus small and local businesses that *Just Out* thanked for 25 years of support. Many of these businesses use Pride to meet and thank the community, much like your employer. Maybe, Mr. Beaudoin, the study of gay economics is in order.

MICHAEL FOY
Portland

Better Because of It

TO THE EDITOR:

Would Stephen Marc Beaudoin prefer that we support the Wal-Marts and ExxonMobils of the world? Would he prefer that Pride Northwest give away every dollar of extra money it makes every year only to not be able to put on another Pride because it has no reserves?

I completely fail to see the reason anyone

would encourage the gay community to not support those who support us. This will be my eighth or maybe ninth Pride, and it's encouraging to me to see Pride events that are attended by more than just Basic Rights Oregon and Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

In the short time since I first attended a Pride event, the world has come to realize that there's a great benefit that comes in supporting the gay community. We now have companies like Nike, Portland General Electric, Starbucks and countless others who not only welcome gay employees and consumers but support them. These companies offer their employees a welcoming atmosphere with moral support and domestic partner benefits, and some even go a step further and publicly come out in support of rights such as gay marriage.

It's so fashionable to tear into any company (or apparently now nonprofit organizations) that are able to turn a profit. As I asked before, would Mr. Beaudoin prefer that we support Wal-Mart or maybe even the "mom and pop" coffee shop on the corner that would rather turn away a queer than make a dollar? I can't go into a Starbucks without seeing a gay man who seems to be working in a place that actually accepts him. It certainly makes me happy to support a company that supports us like that.

And what about that \$30,000 surplus that Pride Northwest showed last year? Good for them. They've turned things around. What would an IRS audit turn up? That money is a necessary part of putting on Pride events that can turn a huge profit one year and lose money the next in a community that is at least as fickle as any other. If Pride Northwest has too much money, it doesn't go to the corporations or to the organizers; it is required to be donated to a charity.

Besides, is it wrong that Pride Northwest is putting on events that people actually want to attend and sponsors actually want to sponsor? Is it wrong that we go and have a good time at the parade and festival? We no longer have to say, "We're here, we're queer, get used to it." Now we can say, "We're here, we're queer and not only are you used to it, but you actually realize that you're better because of it." Maybe it isn't as catchy, but it's better than it was 30, 10 or even five years ago.

RYAN ALVERDES
Portland

Rosy at Rainbow Vista

TO THE EDITOR:

When I moved into Rainbow Vista in April, I felt I had finally found a place where I, as a gay senior, could be myself in peace and harmony, free of threats and accusations. I am angry to have to read in a gay publication, *Just Out*, threats and accusations pointed at the only home I know and love ["A Gay Rest Home Grows in Gresham," May 30].

Your article suggests that residents of our retirement community (not a "rest home," as you call us) are overcharged. I have paid \$745 a month for a one-bedroom apartment, including all utilities except phone service, since I arrived. With that I receive access to a breakfast bar with fresh fruit, hot and cold cereals, milk, coffee, tea, hot chocolate and even hot cider. We enjoy an excellent dinner of several courses at 1 p.m. Before our cook leaves, he fills a refrigerator with boxes of food that can be microwaved, sandwiches and beverages. There is usually cake and/or cookies nearby. He does not come on weekends, so if we do not wish to go out to eat, we can always heat up a box or find a sandwich. There is no limit to the snacking we can do if we wish. This is hardly the rip-off your article suggests but a bargain that is not to be found elsewhere in Portland—and I have done the research to back up this statement.

I have not been offered or billed for haircuts, massages or hot stone therapy. Of these I only know of one haircut that was given by one resident to another with no charge. We do not have a barber, masseuse or hot stone therapist on the premises.

I have been told that Mr. Roger Walcker moved out before I moved in. I cannot testify to the manner in which residents were treated before I arrived. Since then I have only received kindness, consideration, friendship and generosity from management and peers.

Another resident and I sat down at a table to talk with your reporter. We gave him our impressions of Rainbow Vista. It was hurtful that only Mr. Walcker's accusations were reported, while our words—which could not be used for muckraking—were omitted.

I would suppose that a gay publication would be interested in supporting a facility such as ours and that it would base an article about us on more than one testimony. Why would you want to harm us?

BILL STEIN
Gresham

Clear Insinuation

TO THE EDITOR:

In 12 years of reading *Just Out*, I have never read such a biased, vindictive, charged article ["The Pride of Portland," May 30].

This is not news. This is slash-and-burn editorializing in its worst form. I am shocked that *Just Out* would print such a spiteful piece and embarrassed that this kind of attack is coming from within the gay community. Where is the balance to the article? Where is there even the hint of a fair or even-handed perspective?

From the suggestive choice of words "hawking his aspirations to a towel-clad... Peter DeFazio in a YMCA locker room" to how he "bedded down in the DeFazio campaign," the author's insinuation is clear. Does Beaudoin really think that Sam Adams slept his way to the top?

What possible goal could there be to the author's choice to describe in minute details Adams' discomfort about the Bob Ball incident ("The ever-articulate Adams clams up. He sighs, then digs his nails into the arm of his chair.") except to try to make Adams look bad? What is the hurtful insinuation that Beaudoin wants the reader to take away from this incident?

With all the things to celebrate about Portland electing the first openly gay mayor to a major city, is "that guy's kind of a bleep" really the most newsworthy quote to accompany Adams' primary night picture?

In a day and age where we have unfortunately become accustomed to negative attacks on personal character as just business-as-usual in politics, this piece of personal agenda masquerading as journalism really hits as a new low.

The real question is not, what is wrong with Sam Adams, but why is Beaudoin so bitter and malicious? And why does *Just Out* allow this kind of unfettered vicious editorializing to represent the cover and face of its magazine? Sam Adams really is what Gay Pride is all about. Unfortunately, Stephen Beaudoin doesn't have a clue as to that connection.

JAN ABRAMOVITZ
Portland

CORRECTION

Just Out mistakenly reported Roger Walcker's age in the May 30 article "A Gay Rest Home Grows in Gresham." Walcker is 58.

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