

# letters

## Think for Yourself

TO THE EDITOR:

In response to the letter "HRC Shirks on Senate Race," whether the Human Rights Campaign endorses a candidate or not is not important [July 3]. What is important is obtaining a Democratic, filibuster-proof majority in the Senate.

If we are to further our causes, now is the time to strike. If we are fortunate enough to elect a Democratic president and hold the majority in Congress, we can get things passed and stop attempts by Republicans to prevent gay marriage nationally.

I say we can make up our own mind on who to vote for. We do not need any formal organization to tell us that.

DAVID FLETCHER  
Salem

## Open Invitation

TO THE EDITOR:

I am a child of Twin Falls, Idaho.

When I left Idaho for college here in Oregon, I wasn't yet out, yet I knew that the life I wanted to have for myself could not be reached staying in my hometown. I grew up understanding that you were welcomed and accepted as long as you didn't rock the boat.

Within Idaho's families, they know their children, their siblings and their co-workers are gay and lesbian. However, there is a fear of the differ-

ent, whether it is with the GLBT community or the divorced or widowed.

I think inviting South Idahoans to Portland Pride is a nice gesture ["Like a Good Neighbor," July 18]. Going to Idaho to give GLBT groups our support and solidarity and reach out to the greater community that we're all human would be the greater gesture.

MARY SLAVIN  
Portland

## With Friends Like These

TO THE EDITOR:

Regarding the July 18 article "McMenamins Buys Former Club Portland," it is disappointing that *Just Out* would interject a smug and pointless condescension directed at the former patrons of the Club Portland building by referring to them as "the dance-happy queens of the old Silverado and the doped-up dudes lounging in their birthday suits at Club Portland."

With journalism like this, who needs malicious bigotry?

KIM BARIGAR  
Portland

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## TRANSITIONS

### Dick Walker, 1935-2008

Dr. Richard E. "Dick" Walker of Lake Oswego died May 31 in Terrebonne. He was 73.

Walker was born April 14, 1935, in Shelbyville, Ill. He graduated from Shelbyville High School in 1953. After high school he attended University of Illinois and graduated in 1958 from Millikin University in Decatur, Ill.

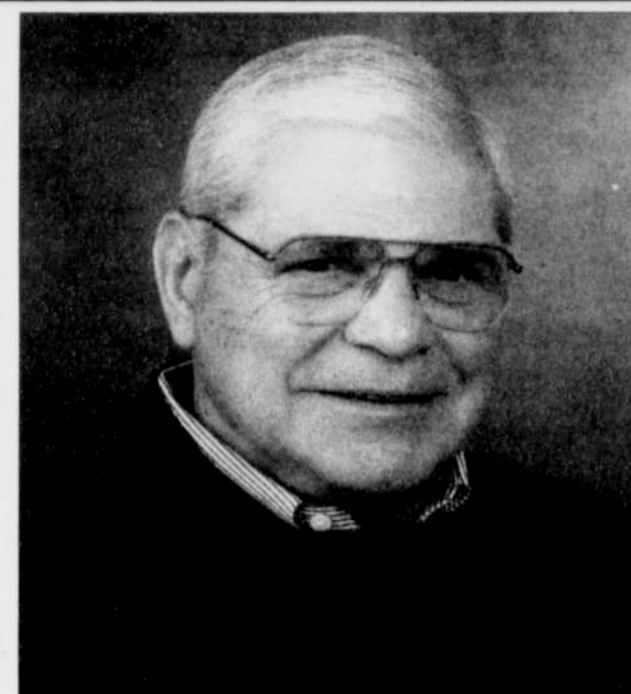
Walker taught industrial arts at Lakeview High School in Decatur from 1958 to 1961. He received a master's of education from University of Illinois in 1962. Then he became a professor at Northern Illinois University from 1962 to 1964. He received a doctorate of education from University of Northern Colorado in 1967. He was a professor at St. Cloud State College from 1967 to 1972, then Western Oregon State College (now Western Oregon University) from 1972 until retiring in 1996 in many roles including chairman of the special education division.

He married Beverly Ann in 1959. They divorced in 1989 but maintained a friendship.

Walker was a life member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, joining in January 1963. He helped with the Casey Eye Institute and Meadowood Springs through his involvement with the Elks and served as chairman of the Children Eye Clinic since 2005, the Physical Handicap Committee from 1979 to 1982 and the Meadowood Springs Committee from 1982 to 1985.

After his retirement, Walker enjoyed traveling. He visited Europe, Africa, Central American, Australia, Hawaii and Fiji. He also liked cooking and dining out.

He enjoyed being with his daughter and grandkids and spending quiet time at his second



home in Terrebonne with his partner of 19 years, Marc Walters.

Walker was one of the gay and lesbian seniors honored by the Portland Gay Men's Chorus in a *Vintage Voices* performance and video montage.

Walker was in the Human Rights Campaign Federal Club and was active in the Portland Cookboys. He also served on the Oregon planning group for HIV prevention.

In addition to his partner, survivors include his daughter Teri L. Smith and husband Bret of Portland; grandchildren, Kelby, Mackenzie, Kody and Claire Smith; and sister, Judy Brewer, and husband Jeff of West Lafayette, Ind. He was preceded in death by his parents and his daughter Jodi Walker.

Donations may be given in Walker's name to Our House of Portland, 2727 S.E. Alder St., Portland, OR 97214. For more information call 503-234-0175.



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