

Don't get me wrong: We have a long way to go before equality is more than an ideal, but we've come so far already that I think it's sad to ignore what we have achieved and instead focus only on what we haven't yet managed. Yes, we need to do more, and strive for more, and hope for more, and be more, but we don't have to become our orientation(s) to reach for our goals.

Thank you again for bringing forward an issue that needs to be discussed. We're people first: We have the orientations we do as an incidental matter. Much as we tell the bigots that homosexuality is no different from being left-handed or having brown eyes, it's time for many of us to wake up and realize—if we're disinclined to introduce ourselves as "the left-handed writer of children's books"—we have no need to say, "The only reason I would talk about running for office is because I'm gay."

JON NORTHWOOD
Aloha

Bathhouses Not Created Equal

TO THE EDITOR:

With regard to the article on the demolition of the Club Portland bathhouse facility, we want to present an alternate perspective and perhaps modify the impression that all bathhouses fall into the same modus operandi implied in the article ["Goodbye, Yellow Brick Road," Aug. 15]. Not all bathhouses in the United States or Europe allow a free flow of drugs and needles in their facilities.

At Steam Portland we recognize that there are people in our gay community who choose to use drugs, some involving the use of needles. A bathhouse can be an attractive venue for many who like to "party and play."

Our policy is, and has been from Day One, to refuse entry to individuals who are detectably impaired from drugs or alcohol. Anyone identified as

having brought drugs or alcohol onto our premises is asked to leave and denied future entry. Are we 100 percent effective in controlling the situation? No, and neither are the operators of other venues such as bars and dance clubs. However, through a continuous and diligent effort, we have been successful in containing the use of drugs on the premises of Steam.

Our goal is to provide a safe, clean, fun and inviting atmosphere for the broad spectrum of members we serve. Our continued success and growth depends on achieving these standards. So for the guys who may be considering a bathhouse experience, we suggest there are many clubs throughout the country that are safe, clean and a great place to play!

KELLY FARRIS
Steam Portland General Manager

Providing Free and Easy Access

TO THE EDITOR:

We want to set the record straight about Cascade AIDS Project and used syringes at Club Portland.

CAP has a long history of reaching gay and bisexual men in many venues throughout our communities. That's why we went faithfully to Club Portland to talk with men about ways they could reduce their risk for HIV and sexually transmitted infections, to distribute free condoms and to work with Outside In to offer free anonymous or confidential HIV counseling and testing.

We did not contract with Club Portland, the Multnomah County Health Department or anyone else to be responsible for used syringes at the club. As a courtesy, since we were at the club anyway, we offered to pick up full sharps containers from them and deliver the containers to the county's drop-off site. Club Portland staff never took us up on the offer. CAP staff did not have

access to private rooms and other locations where used syringes or makeshift sharps containers were located.

When CAP staff did observe damaged or missing sharps containers in Club Portland's restrooms, where we did have access, we reported our concerns to club staff. When these problems persisted, CAP alerted Multnomah County health officials. The county responded promptly and uncovered more extensive problems with disposal and storage of used syringes in the areas of the club restricted to its customers.

Central to CAP's mission is our work to prevent new HIV infections. Our gay and bisexual brothers deserve free and easy access to HIV testing, sexual health information and culturally appropriate risk reduction counseling. That's why gay and bisexual men will find us at Steam Portland four times a month, and they can walk in to the CAP Men's Wellness Center, 928 S.W. Stark St., 503-445-7699, for testing without appointment each and every Tuesday and Saturday evening from 5 to 9 p.m. We operate the Oregon AIDS/STD Hotline, 800-777-2437 or www.oregonaidshotline.com, for all people in Oregon and Southwest Washington, providing HIV/STD testing referrals as well as sexual health information and anonymous counseling.

MARCIA MULVEY
Cascade AIDS Project Interim Executive Director

Submit your letters to the editor,
commitment announcements, transitions
or list your events online at

www.justout.com

CLICK ON THE READER
SUBMISSIONS BUTTON.

TRANSITIONS



Anna Ingre, 1942-2008

Anna Ingre—a well-known and highly respected member of the Portland counseling community, a consummate gardener and a passionate lover of animals—died July 29. She was 66.

Ingre was born May 17, 1942, in England of Jewish parents fleeing the Holocaust. Their family moved to Vancouver, British Columbia, when she was 10.

She received her degree in English and philosophy in 1964 from University of British Columbia. In 1985, she was received a master's degree in counseling psychology from Antioch University. In the years between, she spent time on a communal farm in rural Canada with American pacifists and Vietnam war resisters, moved to Portland with her American husband and lived for a time in the now defunct caretaker's cottage of the Sauvie Island lighthouse, designed jewelry and ran a small plant nursery.

After she and her husband divorced, she became increasingly involved with the gay and lesbian community.

At various times she maintained a gardening Web site and wrote a gardening newsletter and wrote for liberal and feminist newsletters.

In the more than 20 years that she practiced therapy in Portland, Ingre's specialty was in the treatment of trauma and its related symptoms.

A drop-in group for her clients, led by two of her colleagues, Beth Richman and Deborah Samuels, will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 6 at 1016 S.E. 12th Ave.

NOTABLES



Portlanders Marie Fleischmann (left) and Trina Timbreza celebrated their wedding Aug. 10 at Hoyt Arboretum in Washington Park. They would like to thank the dozens of friends and family who joined them on their special day, and they look forward to many happy years together.

Celebrate with a Fruit Bouquet!

Disney Princess
Enchanted
Bouquet

Edible
ARRANGEMENTS

To order, please call or visit:

503-236-3395

2710 NE Glisan Street Portland, OR 97232

EdibleArrangements.com

Copyright © 2008 Edible Arrangements, LLC

Improvement Remodeling LLC

We do all handyman services

Demolition to Finish Carpentry
— WE DO IT ALL —



FREE ESTIMATES

If you can dream it, we can build it
Licensed • Bonded • Insured
ccb#172574

WE OFFER DESIGN CONSULTATIONS

Edward Andrew • 503-515-3171
imrconst@aol.com

our Family Realtor Since 1990

OUT AND PROUD SINCE 1970

When you buy or sell a home
with me, you'll know your dollars
are helping support a greater cause.
I contribute at least 10%
of my earnings to community
and environmental organizations!

Mercy Corps
Q Center
National Gay & Lesbian Task Force
Basic Rights Oregon
Portland
Lesbian Choir
Habitat for
Humanity
Sierra Club
ACLU

RE/MAX
equity group, inc.



MILLYNN JAMES 503.330.HOME (4663)
Broker, Graduate Realtor Institute 503.495.5748
ABR: Accredited Buyer's Representative 1.800.825.9948
www.millynn.com • millynn@aol.com