

# letters

## Blindsided by Obama

TO THE EDITOR:

Like so many people in the GLBT and progressive communities, I felt blindsided by President-elect Barack Obama's selection of Rick Warren to do the invocation at the inauguration Jan. 20. This man is clearly a homophobe who casually uses hate speech when talking about us and our relationships. The choice to give a person like this such a prestigious platform to espouse his views is indefensible and an insult to all of us.

I thought that, like some of the leaders in our community, I could put this behind me and focus on what President Obama will do for us. He will deliver for us somewhere down the road, but does that excuse what he has done here? Can we just shake our heads and move on? I can't. I'm surprised at how I still feel as pissed off at this now as I did when he made the announcement. The hurt and shock has not gone away, as I thought it would.

I will still celebrate Jan. 20, but it will be for the end of George W. Bush's disastrous eight years as our president. I will not watch Obama's inaugural

address to the nation as much as I appreciate his speeches. I applaud our leaders who are boycotting and canceling their tickets to the inauguration and festivities. To do nothing seems inappropriate. To do something even if it is small seems right to me. Shame on you, Barack Obama. Shame on you.

DON POWELL

Portland

## A Jefferson Dancer Remembers

TO THE EDITOR:

Thank you so much for the article "Building a Community: Portland's Vibrant Contemporary Dance Scene Developed Over Decades" [Nov. 21, 2008].

I had the honor of growing up in this vibrant community. Your article read like a who's who of my childhood and teen years.

I remember the excitement in the air when James Canfield moved to Portland to become artistic director of Pacific Ballet Theatre. I was so intimidated by this new man from the Big Apple. I remember

performing with the Jefferson Dancers on the finest stages in the state under the amazing directorship of Mary Folberg and Julane Stites. I remember Bonnie Merrill as an incredibly thoughtful choreographer who insisted every company member be included in her piece, who gave gifts to every dancer after we premiered her work at Portland Center for the Performing Arts. I remember performing in *The Men's Show* along with Greg Bielemeier at Dreamswell Theatre when I was 18 years old. I remember the new worlds opened up to me by the "holy trinity" of Mary Oslund, Linda K. Johnson and Keith Goodman. I remember when Minh Tran was the exciting new talk of the town.

I never told them so at the time, but I worshipped and loved them all. As the years have gone by, I have become increasingly thankful for all they taught me, amazed at my fortune of having known and worked with such amazing people.

Notably absent from your article was Dennis Spaight, former artistic director of Ballet Oregon and subsequent associate artistic director of Oregon Ballet Theatre. He choreographed many wonderful

pieces that became staples of Oregon Ballet Theatre repertoire. Of all the beautiful memories of my time growing up in the Portland dance community, my memories of working with Spaight on *Polovetsian Dances* stand out as haunting and painful. We saw him go from being an adonis who starred in Soloflex infomercials to being wasted away to skin and bones by AIDS. At his funeral I learned I had been born on his birthday.

ANDREW OLIVO PARODI

Gervais

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

[www.justout.com](http://www.justout.com)

CLICK ON THE READER SUBMISSIONS BUTTON.

## TRANSITIONS

### Neal Curry, 1918-2008

Neal Curry, the oldest known member of Metropolitan Community Church of Portland and one of the oldest members of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, died Dec. 19, 2008. He was 89.

Curry was born Jan. 1, 1918, a true new year's baby, and spent his career working in the banking industry. He began attending MCC Portland in its first year, 1976, and was one of the earliest members of the local board of directors as treasurer.

Curry was universally loved by his many friends, co-workers and church congregants. His most recent pastor, the Rev. Nathan Meckley, says: "Neal was a testament to living faithfully. His warmth, enthusiasm and presence will be missed, but we know his presence will always be with us."



The Rev. Frodo Okulam, a former choir director at MCC Portland, remembered Curry's

"solid bass voice and warm friendship. Neal would always welcome everyone, and he was always willing to help anyone in any way he was able. Neal was a blessing, and whatever he did was always done well."

Curry is survived by a daughter and a

son. A memorial service is scheduled for 1 p.m. Jan. 18 at MCC Portland, 2400 N.E. Broadway. For more information call the church office at 503-281-8868.

### Glenn Hubbard, 1945-2008

Glenn Roy Hubbard died suddenly Dec. 9, 2008. He was 63.

Hubbard was born May 9, 1945, in Longview, Wash., and grew up in Shelton, Wash. He graduated from Shelton High in 1963 and was offered a football scholarship to Stanford but because of a football injury attended Oregon State University instead from 1963 to 1965. He was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon.

Hubbard married Linda Gail York in Salem in October 1966. She preceded him in death May 2005.



Hubbard specialized in appliances and heating, ventilating and air conditioning. He was most recently employed at Ankeny Hardware.

Hubbard was a humble person and was well-liked. He volunteered for many organizations and was supportive of his transgender son, Christopher. At the time of his death he was treasurer of the board for Portland Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

In addition to Christopher, Hubbard is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Nicole and Raul Mowatt of Chicago, and stepbrother, Fred Sutherland of Vancouver, Wash.

A memorial service was held Jan. 3 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1432 S.W. 13th Ave. Contributions to the Glenn Hubbard Memorial Fund may be sent to the church to help with funeral expenses.

**Change any room with a rug**

Give your room the rich look and feel of elegance

JUST IN  
Over 700 Wool Rugs  
from 4x6 to 9x12

Wool and synthetic rugs 5x8, 8x10, 9x12

AS LOW AS \$88

Runners \$149 2 1/2 x 8'

**City Liquidators** FURNITURE WAREHOUSE [www.cityliquidators.com](http://www.cityliquidators.com) 503-230-7716

**Diversity Matters - In Your Life, In Your Investments**

Initial consultation with no charge or obligation

- Comprehensive Financial Planning (Fee Based)
- Life & Disability & LTC Insurance\*
- Inheritance & Estate Planning
- IRAs, Roth IRAs, Rollovers
- Tax & Retirement Planning
- Investing with a Conscience

**WADDELL & REED** Financial Advisors™  
Investing. With a plan.™  
Member SIPC

\*Offered through arrangements with insurance companies.

CALL ANNE SEELYE, CRPC FINANCIAL ADVISOR

503.238.6036 ext 119

700 Northeast Multnomah Street • Suite 1150 • Portland, OR 97232  
503-238-7056 FAX • Toll Free 888-892-9049 • [www.anneseelye.com](http://www.anneseelye.com)