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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## LETTERS

### "Reeled In" Post Repeal?

TO THE EDITOR:

Personally, I don't have a clue why any self-respecting queer would even consider joining the military despite the pitiful bennies one gets in return. But then, I'm anti-war, which is irrelevant to sexual orientation anyway.

I suspect the real reason [the] "Don't ask, don't tell" (DADT) repeal is being considered (have you heard this before?) is that the military is tired of recruiting from a pool of morally and socially bankrupt petty criminals, high school dropouts, grade school dropouts, functional illiterates and losers, to open the door to our sweet, smart, intelligent gay men and women.

Contrary to what some think, the repeal of DADT is actually us (the queers) doing a favor to the heteros. I'd say we could tie our participation in the military (for those so inclined) to first, repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and second, instatement of the rights of full citizenship to all GLBT people.

But my advice to all potential military recruits is, don't bite the hook that dangles in front of you. You will be reeled in to be brainwashed and fucked over big time.

Kim Baller, RN  
Gladstone, Ore.

## TRANSITIONS

Athanasios "Saki" Katsavopoulos  
June 28, 1947-Dec. 19, 2010

A native of Patras, Greece, Saki came to Portland in 1974 as a merchant seaman and fell in love with Sotiria "Sandra" Katchis; they married that year and had two sons, Leftheri and Ianni. As a youth in Greece he served as an elite Evzone guard in the army and won bouts as a prize fighter.

In Portland he first worked at Portland Bottling Co. and later for his late mother-



in-law, Georgia Katchis, in the family business, Three Sisters Tavern. Eventually he and Sandra took ownership of it, which they developed in its last decades into an establishment friendly to Portland's downtown gay community, with entertainment famous along the entire West Coast.

Saki was known for a boisterous, embracing warmth and an engaging, tough but sweet manner. He held listeners spellbound by fierce, heavily accented storytelling of world exploits. His most cherished blessings in retirement were his grandchildren, Isabella, Georgia and Athanasios. Along with them, his wife and sons, he is also survived by his mother Kalliope and siblings Maria, Theodoros and Christos of Patras, Greece; daughter-in-law Nikki; sisters-in-law Maria Boyer and Pauline Gustafson and husband Michael; five nephews, one niece, grand-nephews/niece; and the extended Bakouros, Chalkiopoulos, Tsirimiagos and Boyer families of Portland.

Services were held on December 22 (Trisagion) and December 23 (funeral) at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Portland. Memorial gifts are suggested to the Wounded Warrior Project.

Donald Baker Ross  
May 17, 1935-Dec. 20, 2010

Don Ross surprised everyone with his

early departure December 20, 2010. His last words were, "Please bring me my iPad."

Don was born May 17, 1935, in Portland to Cecil J. Ross, M.D. and Lucy Baker Ross. He was the youngest of four children and was predeceased by his brothers, Jack Ross and William Ross, M.D.

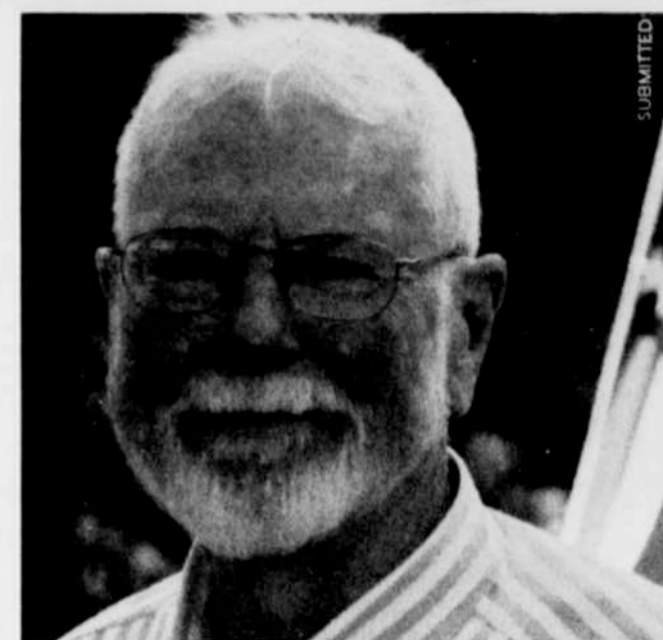
Following in his father's footsteps, Don graduated from Washington High School in 1953. After graduating, he attended Willamette University where he was a Sigma Chi and, most importantly, met the love of his life and future wife, Joanne Lindstrom. In 1958 Don graduated from Oregon State College (now University) with a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering and a Bachelor of Arts in business. As owner of Brett-Ross, Inc. for 30 years, Don was a respected member of the business community and enjoyed the people he worked with as a manufacturers' representative.

From a young age, Don was attracted to things mechanical and electrical. His mother quietly allowed (and apparently secretly enjoyed) that he turned her 1950 Ford into a coveted hot rod. Don's family benefited from the many electronic devices he built for them. However, not much surpassed his pleasure in racing his custom Mini for the last 10 years. A member of numerous car clubs, Don's passion for cars and collecting culminated in his collection of over 15,000 Hot Wheels toys.

Avid travelers, Don and Joanne stopped counting at 50 countries. Two African safaris; visiting his mother's birthplace in La Paz, Bolivia; and recently touring Poland for Chopin's 200th birthday were but a few destinations.

A strong believer in civic engagement, Don was on the Multnomah County Republican Central Committee for 20 years, a part of the Multnomah County Cable Regulatory Task Force, Wood Village Planning Commission, Wood Village City Council and a member of Trumpeters, a Republican businessmen's Toastmasters' group, for 23 years.

After 49 years as a proud and active Republican, he no longer felt at home in the party. In 2008 he registered as a Democrat and was excited to vote for President Obama. For the last 20 years, he has been highly re-



garded for his unwavering support and assistance to the gay community through Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), Equity Foundation and Basic Rights Oregon.

Family and friends will always remember Don for his sense of humor, positive disposition, exemplary moral compass and unconditional love. Don is survived by his wife of 54 years, Joanne Lindstrom Ross; children, Becky Raz, Tonette Ross and Fred Ross; five grandchildren; and sister, Margaret Claire.

A celebration of Don's life took place on December 28 at McMenamins Edgefield Manor. Remembrances may be sent to Equity Foundation, PFLAG Portland or the Prostate Cancer Program at OHSU Foundation.

## CORRECTION

A story in our December 17 issue incorrectly reported the organizer of a queer dance night [Vol. 28, No. 1, pp. 35-36, "The Year in Nightlife"]. Gayborhood is organized by DJ SkyPimp; DJ Alicious is a guest performer.

We regret the error.

## CREDIT

*Just Out* neglected to credit the photographer of our December 17 issue's cover image of Portland Mayor Sam Adams. It was taken by Thomas Le Ngo/TriMet.

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