

"You Guys Are Such Fags"

The night Governor Andrew Cuomo signed the bill legalizing same-sex marriage in the state of New York, I was at CC Slaughters, getting ready to party with the Oregon Bears at their monthly Double X Dance. There was a jubilant buzz in the air, a palpable energy giving those of us in Oregon hope—however slight—that maybe, one day, this too shall come to pass in our state. I looked up at the widescreen TV, which serves as a text-message board, where many were celebrating the momentous occasion.

"Huzzah! New York just legalized gay marriage!" was followed by "Governor Cuomo just signed same-sex marriage into law! VICTORY!" Then there it was—five words that cast a pall over the celebratory mood in the bar: "You guys are such fags."

I was not amused. In fact, I was downright furious. After I quelled my initial outrage, I brought the offensive remark to the bartender's attention and he promptly had the vile note removed. It would be too easy to blame the hateful message on the few straights frequenting Slaughters, but at the time it appeared, it was still early and, as far as I could tell, there were no bachelorette parties in the bar, nor the frat boys those raucous get-togethers tend to attract. More likely than not, the message was posted by some self-loathing homo.



panda say what?!

BY BENNIE TAN

Some of you will undoubtedly be angered by my claim that the offensive remark was made by one of our own. Self-loathing gays are nothing new. Unfortunately, many of us grew up in an environment, a society, fostering this kind of self-hatred. Homosexuals are often portrayed as weak and emasculated and not "normal." As a result, you have quite a few gays who hate themselves and cannot accept who they are. Oftentimes, these individuals will even champion anti-gay causes. Need proof? Mark Foley, Larry Craig and Ted Haggard—two of them were politicians and one is a preacher. All three were caught, literally, with their pants down in compromising homosexual situations. All three are arguably homosexuals—latent or not—and all three advocated anti-gay causes at some point in their careers.

Recently, a friend of mine was chatting with a hot butch guy on Grindr and they hit it off. They flirted back and forth and the conversation inevitably turned sexual. Not one to hook up without first meeting the person, my friend—let's call him Tom—decided to invite the Grindr guy out for a beer at a local "mas-

culine" gay watering hole. Imagine Tom's surprise when the guy responded, "Sorry, man. I'm not a fag and don't do that faggy shit."

The guy promptly stopped chatting with Tom, who was understandably shocked and a little confused. He thought it was something he may have said. I told Tom he had nothing to worry about—it was pretty obvious the guy was a self-loathing homo and he probably dodged a bullet because the guy didn't seem to grasp that wanting to fool around sexually with another person of the same sex qualifies as faggy behavior. He also probably had a lot of pent-up rage inside him and Tom's personal safety may have been compromised if they had indeed hooked up.

A few weeks ago, someone was at the house and saw a copy of *Just Out*. He started going off on how the publication was just some "faggy bullshit" and only "queers and fags" read the "stupid paper." This was precious coming from a guy who has a long term boyfriend and was unceremoniously kicked out of a family reunion for making out with his ex-boyfriend and shouting, "I love big black cocks!" in the presence of children.

In the early hours of the morning after New York's gay marriage bill became law, yet another gay individual was the victim of a hate crime not far from CC Slaughters. News outlets later published photos of the two suspects and I wouldn't be too surprised if one or both turned out to be latent homosexuals. I'm sorry, no straight guy has eyebrows *that* well manicured.

Seriously though, I am sick and tired of self-loathing gays. I can understand past circumstances may make it hard for them, but if only they would *try* to accept who and what they are. I'm no psychologist but self-acceptance is the first step to self-actualization, which can lead to internal harmony and ultimately self-love and happiness.

Trust me, I speak from experience. I used to be really uncomfortable with many aspects of my big gay life—such as being a bottom and not looking butch enough—but once I accepted this is who I am and you can like me or not (thanks, Madonna), I was at peace. As gays, there are already many who hate us—the last thing we need is to hate ourselves. ☐

The opinions expressed in this column are solely those of BENNIE TAN. If you have any complaints or laudatory words, email him at pdxpandacub@gmail.com.

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