TRANSITIONS

SUBMITTED PHOTO

In Remembrance of
Kevin Grant Peppel
July 26, 1972-September 13, 2011

Kevin played softball in the Rose City Softball Association for three years with me on the Redwings. He was loved and adored by many. His big smile and even bigger laugh were infectious. I will miss that and his loud "Whooo" and his way of saying, "Hey, girl."

He also had his own cleaning and handyman business, and he was amazing at both.

Kevin loved his family, friends, his dog and his bike.

I am going to miss him, a lot.

You're at peace now, Kevy! Enjoy!

—Tim Bias

Richard Kneller Ludt
May 11, 1965-October 10, 2011

Richard "Ricardo" Ludt was born Ricky Kneller to Richard and Patricia (Arkell) Kneller at Weir Maternity Hospital in Central London on May 11, 1965. His father was a British rock 'n' roll singer known as Dickie Pride—"the Sheik of Shake." At the height of Dickie Pride's career, in 1960, the Beatles (then called the Silver Beatles) were slated to be his backup band for a U.K. tour, but Dickie's manager Larry Parnes decided against this. Although Dickie was chosen to be the supporting act for a Stevie Wonder tour in 1966, his career had been spiraling downward due to mental illness and drug abuse. A lobotomy followed, and he died of a sleeping pill overdose in 1969.

Shortly after Dickie's death, Patricia met and married Rudolph Ludt, who legally adopted Ricky, and the family moved to New York—where his sister Michelle was born—and later, Colorado, where Richard—the "awesome brother and ringleader of trouble"—spent most his youth. After graduating from high school, he traveled extensively throughout Europe, and fell in love with and in Spain, where he lived for several years.

Returning to the United States, he worked with his beloved grandmother Stella Arkell at her English tea shop in La Jolla, California. At the urging of his best friend Cathie Joy Young, he moved to Portland in 1992, where he worked at Caffe Mingo and Zefiro restaurants, among others. He graduated from the Oregon School of Massage and established his own very successful practice, Spirit Body Massage, and was beloved by his clients for his healing abilities.

During the brief period of time when gay marriage was legal in Multnomah County, Richard married Thaté' (Taté) O'Shaughnessy in 2004.

Like his father, he loved to perform, and dived into flamenco, belly dancing, piano/guitar/accordion playing, and singing with a fervor. He had an incredible sense of humor, and loved the theatrics of creating voices and characters, such as the homeless caped superhero Dangerous Dan, Wolverine, Jesus on the cross and a grass skirt and hat-wearing witch doctor with no underwear. Not surprisingly, his favorite holiday was Halloween.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Richard jumped off the Fremont Bridge on October 10, 2011, after months of severe depression. He is predeceased by his father, by his adoptive father Rudy, and his beloved grandmother Stella. He is survived by his sister Michelle Ludt of Denver, his mother Tricia Browner and stepfather Philip Browner, and numerous aunts and uncles and cousins. He is also survived by his ex-husband Thaté' (Taté) O'Shaughnessy and hundreds and hundreds of friends.

There will be a celebration of Richard's life with his family and friends on Sunday, October 30 at noon in the atrium of Wieden+Kennedy (224 NW 13th Ave.). Remembrances or donations can be made in Richard's name to Q Center (pdxqcenter.org) or The Trevor Project (thetrevorproject.org).

LETTERS

An Ad(d) About Acceptance

To: Gregg Simon, Portland Luggage Company,
cc: Marty Davis, *Just Out*

Dear Mr. Simon,

Thank you for your willingness to withdraw the ad and your explanation of the rationale behind it ["Letters" dated Sept. 16, in response to Vol. 28, No. 19, Sept. 2, Page 3, "Putting the 'Ad' In Adverse"].

We as an organization did not write the letter to the editor [quoted in Page 3] nor did we authorize it as a statement from our group. However, we do not disagree with the letter writer's point of view. We are concerned about ageism in general and specifically the images of old women in the media. We seek to promote positive images of old women as vibrant, productive and contributing members of our society, as opposed to "old" models who are either ignored, scorned or are considered to be inferior to the "new."

It seems to us that if we really value acceptance and tolerance we would extend it beyond issues of skin color, gender identity, sexual orientation and physical disability and also reject negative comments about age and physical appearance.

We appreciate your commitment to advertise in *Just Out*. We only ask that the humor not reinforce negative images of old people or be at the expense of people who do not fit the "Madison Avenue" image.

Sincerely,
Mary Beth Brindley,
Old Lesbians Organizing for Change
Portland

Original letter reguarding the Portland Luggage ad in *JO*'s August 5 issue:

"...I'm angered and disgusted by the Portland Luggage ad on page 7 - the one that opens with "Nobody likes an OLD Bag!" accompanied by a photo of a scowling grey-haired woman wearing glasses (who appears to be anywhere from 55 to 95 years old).

For the store, there's no excuse - you folks obviously think your ad is funny and compelling. One result of your bad judgment, bad taste and bad attitude, however, is that I (a customer for almost 16 years who has bought a variety of excellent products at the downtown store and happily referred other shoppers) won't be buying luggage from you anymore + will be telling my friends about this - angrily. I'm guessing you don't care, given your use of this ageist/sexist ad copy, but I do want you to know.

...JO should not be accepting ads that deliberately offend/insult any of us (eg, Old Lesbians Organizing for Change) - or anybody else, for that matter (except maybe well-known bad guys; it's probably ok to insult people who are vicious, violent queer-haters)..."

"When Open-Minded People Close Their Minds—Portland's Hypocrisy"

To The Editor:

Let me begin by stating who I am. I'm an atheist. A liberal. A true Portlandite. One who proudly speaks of Portland because of the appreciation I have for one another's differences.

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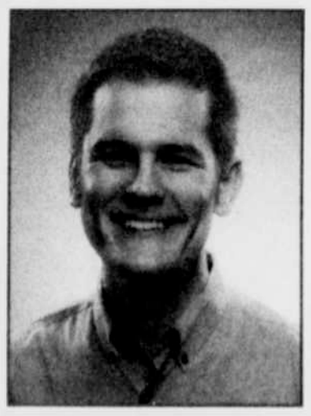

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