

# Thanksgiving Letters

Could be verse.

**E**ach year at this time in the month of November I like to slow down, settle back, and remember That once long ago some remote intellectual Came up with the medical term "homosexual" Physicians and shrinks found themselves very pleased To categorize us and call us diseased They gave us the closet and hoped we'd stay quiet But Gay Pride came out in New York's Stonewall riot

We called ourselves Gay and we thought that was swell Then Lesbians wanted their name in as well Soon the Bisexuals brought us the B And along came the Trannies to give us a T Then Queer folks and Questioning youth called for Q With an I for the Intersex people there, too For Two-spirit people we've added T-S Who else will step up now is anyone's guess

Our list keeps on growing, though some are afraid That too many letters will spoil the parade But most folks are glad and don't mind the intrusion Of more and more outcasts now seeking inclusion Everyone's safer when everyone's in The crowd that the 'phobes say is burning with sin With you and with me in our splendid diversity We're proud to be out despite all the adversity

I'm glad for our list, it makes me feel stronger The more that it grows and gets longer and longer L-G-B-T-Q plus T-S and an I And that's just the start, there'll be more by and by I hope no one cares and nobody gets pissed If I go right ahead and make up my own list A romp through the alphabet seems apropos I'm ready, I'm set, so hang on, here I go

**A** is for Allies who Always Adore us **B** for the Bi-s and the Bois in the chorus **C** our Community pride Celebrations **D** for us Dykes against Discrimination

**E** is for Educate and for Equality  
**F** is for Freedom, Fine Friends and Frivolity  
**G** is for Gay, which is Good, Goddess knows  
**H** being Happy in comfortable clothes  
**I** is for Intersex and all In-betweens  
**J** is for Justice for bull dykes and queens  
**K** is for Kinky, for Kisses, and Kegels  
**L** is for Lesbians, Love, Lox and bagels  
**M** is our Movement for Marital rights  
**N** is for Networking mornings and Nights  
**O** is for Orgasms, Open and Out  
**P** for Political Power and clout  
**Q** is for Queer and we're here so get used to it  
**R** Rude Girls' music and being seduced to it  
**S** is for Sisters and Sex, we revere it  
**T** for Transgender, add S for Two-Spirit  
**U** is for Uppity women United  
**V** is for Variant, all are inVited  
**W**'s Wifey, my favorite by far  
**X** the two X's my chromosomes are  
**Y** for the Yearning for justice and freedom  
**Ze** is the pronoun beyond He or She-don

This is my alphabet, ev-er-y letter I hope that just reading it makes you feel better It may be a mouthful, a boat full, a tank full, But everyone's awesome and I'm truly thankful To be at this place in our historic struggle (And also to have a sweet girlfriend to snuggle) But mostly to witness the progress we're making Toward freedom for all, what a huge undertaking

The more we come out and express what's inside us The more we make friends who will march right beside us Then more and more people start seeing us clearly Which ups our potential to love more sincerely We open our hearts and we open our minds When we stop to acknowledge that love takes all kinds Thanksgiving's a good time to pause to remember Each year at this time in the month of November

*Eugene writer Sally Sheklow welcomes your comments at [sally@wymprov.com](mailto:sally@wymprov.com).*



## DRIVERS NEED LOVE

Lane Transit District bus drivers are courteous, kind, very helpful, and are willing to direct us to the bus we need next. What a bounty and a great service. But do we appreciate it? Our drivers rarely get a 10-minute break to go to the bathroom, grab a drink, or eat.

As you board the bus, the bus drivers say "good morning" with a smile. Do we have the courtesy to respond with a "good morning," or "how are you?" Most passengers don't even respond. But the bus drivers are just as human as we are.

I have heard some passengers speak ill of our wonderful bus drivers. Do they not know that if they would take the time on their way to work to be courteous, their day would be enriched by these working people?

Riders complain if our drivers are late, and give them misery over something that is out of their control. Heavy one-way traffic, accidents, people waiting to get on the bus without their money or bus pass in hand, all can cause a bus to be late.

Wouldn't it be great if we had the money or pass in hand when boarding? Or, if we exited through the rear door when the power-lift is being used? This would be a time saver for all.

Oregon law states that all motorists are supposed to stop when the bus driver puts on his/her left turn signal to enter traffic. How many of us obey that law?

The drivers have a schedule to keep just as you do. It would make the bus drivers' jobs much more pleasant and easier if we put forth the effort to assist them in being on time.

How would you like to go back to March

7-14 when there was no bus at all? I don't think you would.

These comments are made by the white-haired lady who upon entering the bus always says, "Good morning. How are you today?"

*Barb Gimm  
Eugene*

## TWO DISSENTERS

In your news brief on Rep. Barbara Lee (10/27) you stated that Oregon's Wayne Morse was the only U.S. senator to vote against the Tonkin Gulf Resolution in 1964 that escalated the U.S. war against Vietnam. This is an affront to the memory of Sen. Ernest Gruening, Alaska's first senator, who also voted against that congressional act of war. Morse and Gruening were the only dissenters.

It is ironic that a newspaper would overlook this great man, who early in life forsook medicine (he had a degree from Harvard Medical School) to become a journalist. He served as managing editor of the *New York Tribune*, editor of the *New York Post* and editor of *The Nation*. Before his appointment by FDR to senator, and later by election to the same position, he served as governor of the territory. His statue is one of Alaska's allotted two in the National Statuary Hall.

I had the honor of having dinner with this man not long after his anti-war vote. He was in Seattle, where I lived, to give a speech. The press was invited to the pre-speech dinner, and I attended as the representative of a neighborhood weekly. The only other member of the press to attend was from the *University of Washington Daily*. We were

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