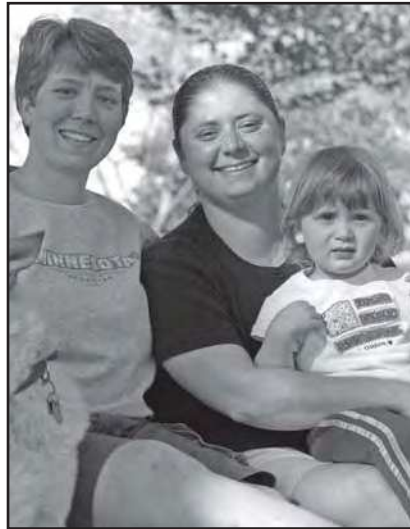


According to The Register-Guard, these families don't count.



Sharon and Rebecca Flynn proudly announce the birth of their daughter, Hailey Rose Flynn, on May 14, 2005. The Register-Guard stated that it was willing to print Sharon and Hailey's names, but not Rebecca's. The Flynns chose not to run a birth announcement because they did not want to create the inaccurate impression that Hailey has only one parent.



Teresa and Cheryle Myers proudly announce the birth of their daughter, Jayden Elizabeth Myers, on July 8, 2004. Cheryle and Teresa submitted a birth announcement form with both of their names on it. Without consulting the family, The Register-Guard omitted Teresa's name when it printed Jayden's birth announcement and sent the family a note of congratulations along with copies of the inaccurate announcement. The Springfield News printed both parents' names in its birth announcement.



Molly and Kari Kenzie proudly announce the birth of their son, Owen Jack Allan Kenzie, on November 20, 2005. Kari and Molly submitted a birth announcement form with both of their names on it. Without consulting the family, The Register-Guard omitted Kari's name when it printed Owen's birth announcement and sent the family a note of congratulations along with copies of the inaccurate announcement. The family requested that The Register-Guard reprint a corrected announcement. The newspaper did not respond to their phone calls and letters.



Alicia Hays and Adelka Shawn proudly announce the birth of their son, Jackson Thomas Shawn Hays, born December 15, 1993. Adelka and Alicia submitted a birth announcement form with both of their names on it. Without consulting the family, The Register-Guard omitted Adelka's name when it printed Jackson's birth announcement. Ironically, when The Register-Guard sent the note of congratulations with the copies of the (incorrect) birth announcement, the letter was addressed to both Adelka and Alicia. Alicia and Adelka challenged The Register-Guard policy at that time and heard the same response they are still giving 12 years later.

It's time for The Register-Guard to value all Lane County families.

The Register-Guard's Policy:

The Register-Guard refuses to print the names of both same-sex parents in its birth announcements.

According to managing editor, David Baker, The Register-Guard doesn't "print names of unmarried parents unless they're biological parents." Under that policy, a biological lesbian mother and a sperm donor can both be listed in the birth announcement, but not the other lesbian mother who will help raise the child.

The Springfield News, Cottage Grove Sentinel, (Salem) Statesman Journal, and The Oregonian all list, or are willing to list, the names of both same-sex parents in their birth announcements.

The Register-Guard does not investigate whether heterosexual couples actually are married or are both the biological parents of the baby. The newspaper simply takes them at their word that they fall within the newspaper's definition of an acceptable family.

The Register-Guard has refused requests by community members and the City of Eugene Human Rights Commission to meet to discuss the exclusionary policy. When members of the news media have asked The Register-Guard to explain the rationale behind its birth announcement policy, the newspaper has declined to comment.

Why it Matters:

- All babies deserve to have their families recognized in the community's newspaper of record.
- The members of a family should be the ones to decide whether or not they are indeed a family, not the newspaper.
- The Register-Guard is out of step with the communities it serves.
- By leaving out certain families, The Register-Guard's reporting of community events is inaccurate.
- The policy is inconsistent with the role that the Baker family has served for generations, providing high quality, local journalism and reflecting the values of the community.

What You Can Do:

1. This Mother's Day week, please **call The Register-Guard at 485-3311** and tell them you are joining the growing number of readers who have **unsubscribed** from the newspaper until it changes its birth announcement policy
2. Then **phone us at 684-0220** to let us know what they said and if you unsubscribed.

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