

Just out

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Co-Publishers

Renee LaChance and Jay Brown

Editor Jay Brown

Feature Editor W. C. McRae

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Lee Lynch	Dr. Tantalus
Douge Martin	David Scondras
Nancy R. Walseth	Joe Di Sabato
Eleanor Malin	Robin Ritterman
Michael S. Reed	Billy Russo
Rupert Kinnard	Bill Konkoy

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Deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month.

Out About Town is a courtesy to our readers. Performers, clubs, individuals, or groups wanting to list events in the calendar should mail notices to Just Out by the 15th of the month preceding publication. Listings will not be taken by telephone.

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The mailing address and telephone number for Just Out are:

P.O. Box 15117
Portland, OR 97215
(503) 236-1252

Steppin' Out



Jay Brown

COMMENTARY

Run, Ginny, Run.

Boston City Councillor David Scondras uses the example of Pat Robinson to explain why we need gay or lesbian candidate for President.

BY DAVID SCONDRA S

I agree with Reverend Pat Robertson. His gun-toting, bible-thumping television "ministry" warns us that America is in desperate need of salvation, and I agree.

But we are talking about saving two different Americas — his one of polyester patriots who see conformity as an index of righteousness and who fear the responsibility freedom brings.

His political vision of this country is precisely the one I want to save our country from.

But Reverend Robertson is ahead in the battle. As a presidential candidate he understands that though his views represent only a small minority of people in this country he can exercise disproportionate political influence because he has organized, vocalized, and energized his followers.

The gay and lesbian community can

learn a lot from Reverend Robertson.

And the number one lesson is that we should run an openly gay or lesbian candidate for President.

To such a race we bring limited, but enormously useful and powerful, resources. We are natural coalition builders for we are male and female, black and white, young and old, urban and rural, comprised of every nationality, religion, and economic background.

And we are everywhere. Our hundreds of newspapers, thousands of bars, community centers, health clinics, churches, organizations, and millions of brothers and sisters coupled with our compassion, energy, and unmatched creativity are ripe with national political potential.

Imagine this scenario: Someone with the skill, persuasiveness, and appeal of Ginny Apuzzo enters the New Hampshire primary.

Hundreds of students from New England stream into New Hampshire joining

activists there to tell voters of Ginny's vision, her commitment to a broad range of issues, and her courage in fighting to liberate us all from homophobic bigotry.

At every candidate's forum, television appearance, and campaign stop, the national presidential campaign is forced to deal with lesbian and gay issues, to hear our demands as presented by an articulate, personable woman. Gary Hart would be forced to speak out on our rights as parents. Richard Gephardt would have to address his proposal for a national AIDS policy. And Michael Dukakis would be challenged at every turn.

Ginny could capture the imagination of people everywhere, and perhaps even astonish political pundits by placing well among independent-minded New Hampshire voters with her sincere appeal for a better America.

But how many delegates she wins, how many primaries she manages to run in, is not as important as the fact of her conducting a campaign. Simply by running, by not accepting her seat in the back of the Democratic Party bus, she would put us miles ahead of where we would be by relying on straight "friends" who have traditionally produced little for our community.

By organizing, vocalizing, and energizing we can empower ourselves to do something about the oppression we face, and we can alter the political course of this country with a concentrated, focused campaign.

There will be those who say, "Oh, no, we cannot hurt the chances for a Democrat in the White House." And just as Martin Luther King and every liberator before and since has been told, we will be warned that "now is not the time."

This is a mistake.

We want so much to pretend that we belong, that America loves us, that we place every agenda ahead of our own.

We must understand that there is no fight more precious, no cause more just, no victory more deserving, no time more urgent than ours is now.

There must be an end to gay children being thrown off bridges to their death.

There must be a new freedom to allow all of us to dance wherever there is dancing.

There must be a realization that America will be made stronger by investing in life rather than insanely wasting trillions in preparation for global destruction.

And there must be an end to the quiet

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BY RUPERT KINNARD

Featuring THE BROWN BOMBER & DIVA TOUCHE FLAMBÉ

CAHARTIC
COMICS

