

## just out

since 1983

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The **display advertising** deadline is the Monday after the first and third Friday for the next issue.

**Classified ads** must be received at the **just out** office by 3 pm the Monday after the first and third Friday for the next issue, along with payment. Ads will not be taken over the telephone.

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A copy of **just out** is available for \$2. Advertising rates are available on request.

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# steppin' out



PHOTO BY LINDA KLEWER

## editorial

# A political anomaly

*This election season is proving itself just as wacky and wildly unpredictable as the weather we've had this winter*

by Renée LaChance

We barely get a reprieve from the U.S. Senate race to fill Bob Packwood's seat, when we're thrust into an early—compared to previous years—presidential primary. Days after that is over, we are asked to elect someone to fill Ron Wyden's congressional seat through 1996 since he's now a U.S. senator. Simultaneously, the filing deadline for the May primary hits us with a whole slew of candidates bidding for our attention, including a number of lesbian and gay candidates. Even the staunchest voter could be begging for a reprieve.

The most amusing political development is the conservative feeding frenzy prompted by Lon Mabon throwing himself into the political mire by running against Gordon Smith for Mark Hatfield's Senate seat.

As a rule I support participatory democracy, but I wish the governor had simply allowed the Republican and Democratic parties to have a convention to elect candidates to choose from to complete Wyden's term, instead of subjecting us to a special primary election. Granted, not everyone in the state gets a say in who will replace Wyden—only those voters in the 3rd Congressional District. I guess I'm whining because I'm in that district, and I have to choose between two good candidates: Earl Blumenauer and Shirley Gold.

Blumenauer is certainly well qualified for the job. He has served us well for 25 years as a Multnomah County commissioner, a state representative, and a Portland City Council commissioner. He is methodical, practical, and in all those elected offices he has developed well-rounded skills that would allow him to do an excellent job on our behalf in Washington, D.C. His only flaw is that he can lose sight of the human

element: He sometimes focuses too much on computer models, facts and data.

Gold has held elected office in Oregon since 1980. She was a state representative for eight years and was the House majority leader for four of those years. She served as state senator for seven years. She has chaired numerous committees, giving her experience with a broad range of issues including education, tax reform, health care and the environment.

On the issues of importance to *Just Out*, Gold and Blumenauer are fairly equal—both are supporters of lesbian and gay rights; both respect a woman's right to choose; both would advocate for health care issues pertinent to the lesbian and gay community; both understand the value of diversity; both are advocates for education and the environment. Both are good people deserving of our support.

It is difficult to have to choose between two exceptional candidates, but we must: *Just Out* gives its endorsement to Earl Blumenauer.

Blumenauer's pragmatic, goal-driven style and his political courage will work well for us in Congress. He should be able to get legislation passed in the furor of the heated political kitchen, and he should be able to jump right in on issues of importance to our community that are still lingering around the hill—like the Ryan White CARE Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

If you are registered to vote in the 3rd Congressional District, return your mail-in ballot by April 2 and vote for Blumenauer.

Everyone else can just relax until you go to the polls for the May 12 primary.

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