

just out
since 1983

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Letters to the editor should be limited to 500 words. Deadline for submissions to the editorial department and for the **Calendar** is the Thursday before the first and third Friday for the next issue. Views expressed in letters to the editor, columns and features are not necessarily those of the publisher.

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 may be accepted by telephone with VISA or MasterCard payment.

Ad policy. No sexually exploitative advertising will be accepted. Compensation for errors in, or cancellation of, advertising will be made with credit toward future advertising.

Subscriptions are for \$17.50 for 12 issues. First Class (in an envelope) is \$30 for 12 issues.

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

Contact **just out** at PO Box 14400, Portland, OR 97293-0400; (503) 236-1252, advertising: 236-1253, fax: 236-1257, e-mail: justout@justout.com.

steppin' out



Partners in life and work Ruth Gundle (left) and Judith Barrington accept the Stewart H. Holbrook Award at the Oregon Book Awards ceremony held Nov. 6. The two collaborate on projects like *Soapstone*, *Eighth Mountain Press* and *Flight of the Mind*; the Holbrook award is given for outstanding contribution to Oregon's literary life.

PHOTO BY LINDA KLEWER

editorial

Forum or against 'em

Readers who came to Just Out's forum and social on Nov. 10 were kind in general, but they did air a few concerns

by Renée LaChance

It was a virgin experience for *Just Out*—a public forum for readers to meet the staff, give feedback and share concerns. Nearly 40 people turned out to dialogue and share purple-and-pink anniversary cake with us.

Guadalupe Guajardo facilitated, and Juliette Gallucci was on hand to do sign interpreting. After brief staff introductions, forum participants were asked to let us know what they appreciate about the paper.

Adrienne Weller of Radical Women liked the increased coverage of free-speech issues. The newly crowned Imperial Sovereign Rose Court Empress Tonya Rose valued that *Just Out* lets her know what is going on and how we can help one another. ISRC Emperor Barry Burns found *Just Out*'s advertising especially helpful: He likes to support community businesses and he looks to our classifieds first. Donna Luckett expressed appreciation as a local musician for *Just Out*'s calendar, which provides free listings so readers can find out who is performing where and when. Margaret Deirdre O'Hartigan seconded that emotion, saying the calendar is an excellent resource.

Four staff members made short statements. I relayed the story of *Just Out*'s conception, when Jay Brown and I decided to begin a lesbian and gay paper of our own. Creative Director E. Ann Hinds talked about the struggles staff have faced around death and dying and trying to get a newspaper out while accommodating various stages of grief and care-taking. Graphic Designer Rupert Kinnard spoke about the priority *Just Out* has given to graphic integrity from the first issue and how unusual that was when we began. Advertising Director Meg Grace thanked the businesses that gambled on us in our very first year.

(Among those who still advertise with us today: Bridgetown Realty, Hobo's, Essential Lotions and Oils, Sue Davis of Bender Properties, Food Front Cooperative Grocery, Phoenix Rising, Portland Gay Men's Chorus, Cinema 21, Downey Insurance, Renée Augrain, Circle Healthcare Clinic, KBOO Community Radio, the Men's Resource Center, Pat Chance, and The See Vue.)

Guadalupe then asked the audience for comments and queries. Here's what was discussed, in distilled form:

- How are decisions made regarding what gets covered and what doesn't?

Just Out's policy is to prioritize events based on the following criteria in the following order: Did the information get to us by deadline? Is it specifically oriented to sexual minorities of all colors? Is it specifically oriented to marginalized groups? Is it produced by, written by, directed by or starring a sexual minority? Does it involve an advertiser? Is it of general interest to our readers?

- How can *Just Out* improve sensitivity on reporting transsexual issues?

It was agreed that editorial staff would meet with members of the transsexual community to hear their concerns.

- What can the wider community do to keep supporting *Just Out*?

Don't assume we know everything. If you hear of something you think would be of interest to others in the community, call, fax or e-mail to let us know. We may not have heard about it, and we hate to find out about things when it's too late to get it in the paper.

- Is it true there are problems with distribution? If so, what can be done?

Distribution is our Achilles' heel. We currently have a troop of individuals who take on one or more of eight possible routes. If someone doesn't show up and our alternates are unavailable, sometimes a route gets done later than we would wish. We can always use reliable people who are willing to work consistently and very part time.

Before we cut the cake, Donna Luckett made a final comment that participants applauded: She said sometimes what she reads in *Just Out* makes her so angry she never wants to read the paper again, and sometimes she is so moved it makes her cry. She said she likes that we take her to those extremes, and that's what she wants in a community newspaper.

We hope that's what you want too.

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