

PHOTO BY LINDA KLIEWER



EDITORIAL

BY MARTY DAVIS

Integrity a constant

Just Out's new publisher addresses anniversary controversy by issuing reassurances

Nov. 7 marked *Just Out's* 15th anniversary celebration and fund-raiser for our new journalism scholarship honoring co-founder Jay Brown.

The event was held at the Hollywood Theater in Northeast Portland, and featured a couple of comedy acts: Scott Capurro and Dos Falloia. Unfortunately, many of those who attended that evening felt as though they had indeed entered the *Temple of Doom*. What had been planned as a festive evening of comedy and humor was marred by what many felt was inappropriate material presented by Capurro.

It is not uncommon for humor to be caustic, cutting and uncomfortably close to the boundaries of taste, sensitivities and individual preferences. But I—and many others—believe on this particular night, Capurro's act went too far.

There was some scattered laughter during portions of his routine. But for the most part, much of the audience sat in uncomfortable silence as ugly and hateful words were spewed forth in the guise of humor. Crude and offensive remarks failed to garner audience response.

Under some circumstances, Capurro's crudeness could possibly be shrugged off as merely bad taste, or, at best, a catalyst for good dialogue and re-evaluation of one's personal values.

But this night was supposed to be special. This was our anniversary, and many in attendance were our guests, friends and family.

This was the night that *Just Out* co-founder Renée LaChance shared her memories with the people who supported and stood by the paper through those first 15 years. This was the night that marked the beginning of the next 15 years. It needs to be made perfectly clear that the values and beliefs that have been with the paper throughout its history remain unchanged.

As LaChance wrote in this space in our Nov. 6 issue, *Just Out* was created in 1983 to "join a militant genre of journalism to free oppressed minorities and to speak out against the powers that oppress."

Some of Capurro's material was oppressive. Those words hurt some people, and do not reflect the past, present or future values of *Just Out*.

While the coming months will bring changes in the style, content and appearance of the paper, the inherent integrity remains unchanged.

Now I invite you to look onward to the new generation of *Just Out*. In upcoming issues, we will share with you our plans for remaining a vital, active part of your lives. As always, we appreciate your comments and concerns.

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just out

The IN publication for the OUT population

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Letters to the editor should be limited to 500 words. Announcements regarding life transitions (births, deaths, unions, etc.) should be limited to 200 words; photos are welcome. Deadline for submissions to the editorial department and for the Calendar is the Thursday 15 days before the next publication date. Views expressed in letters to the editor, columns and features are not necessarily those of the publisher.

The display advertising deadline is the Monday 12 days before the next publication date.

Classified ads must be received at the *just out* office by 3 p.m. on the Monday 12 days before the next publication date, 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.

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

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