

just out

The IN publication for the OUT population

FOUNDED 1983 • JAY BROWN AND RENÉE LACHANCE

Vol. 18 No. 8 February 16, 2001

FEATURE

CHICKS WITH PICKS: The lesbian music scene is alive and well in Oregon
p 20

NEWS

NORTHWEST • Queer youth mobilize
pp 6-13

NATIONAL • Recall petition targets gay mayor
pp 15-17

WORLD • Drag queen runs for premier
pp 18-19

ENTERTAINMENT & CULTURE

BOOKS • Double conundrum
p 30

THEATER • Behind the scenes at ART; a kiss from the Spider Woman
pp 31-33

CULTURE • Entertainments for a winter's eve
p 34

FILM • Talkin' trash with John Waters
p 36

DIVERSIONS • So many events, so little time
p 37

COLUMNS

MS. BEHAVIOR • Breaking up is hard to do
p 29

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARC • Sex lives of flamingos
p 38

SPECIAL

NIGHTSPOTS • Gay-friendly hangouts
p 31

EATING OUT • Let someone else cook tonight
pp 32-33

JUST FRIENDS • Free voice personal ads
p 39

just out is published on the first and third Friday of each month. Copyright © 2001 by Just Out. No part of Just Out may be reproduced without written permission from the publisher.

The submission of written and graphic materials is welcomed. Written material should be typed and double-spaced. Just Out reserves the right to edit for grammar, punctuation, style, liability concerns and length. We will reject or edit articles or advertisements that are offensive, demeaning or may result in legal action.

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 4 p.m. on the Thursday eight days before the next publication date, along with payment. Ads may be placed by telephone or via the Internet with Visa or MasterCard payment.

Ad policy: Just Out reserves the right to reject or edit any advertisement. Compensation for errors in, or cancellation of, advertising will be made with credit toward future advertising. Advertising rates are available upon request.

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

Contact Just Out at P.O. Box 14400, Portland, OR 97293-0400; 503-236-1252, advertising 503-236-1253, fax 503-236-1257; e-mail justout@justout.com. Visit our Internet site at www.justout.com.

GUEST COMMENTARY

BY RUPERT KINNARD

Don't be bamboozled

We all should examine and challenge the demonization behind being labeled "politically correct"

bam•boo•zle (bam boo' zel), *v.t.*, *-zled*, *-zling*. *Informal*.
1. to deceive or get the better of (someone) by trickery, flattery or the like; hoodwink; *They bamboozled us into joining the club.*

From the beginning of February, I found myself bracing for the onslaught of so-called political pundits once again denouncing the need for a Black History Month celebration.

I thought about the folks who never question any other cultural or ethnic celebration yet question the validity of African Americans pushing not only to embrace our own culture but to share it with others. I thought about the many discussions I've had with white people who think it's wrong for black people to get together in separate groups, men who moan about events for women only and straight people who don't understand the need for a gay pride celebration.

Given all of this, it rarely comes as a surprise to me when many of these same people—who seem so negative about what the disenfranchised think they must do to promote their sanity—appear rather smug, self-righteous and insensitive. It has been my experience that these are the people who are most likely to endure frustration because they think they are being challenged to understand something they simply might not be capable of comprehending.

It seems to me the irritatingly trendy term "politically correct" has been created as a way to demonize almost any attempt at empathy or sympathy. How has the idea behind that accepted, insipid phrase slithered into our collective consciousness?

So instead of admitting you might be one who truly has no ability to empathize with the plight of others, you now comfortably can say, "Oh, I don't want to have to be 'politically correct.'" Or if you seem to be truly passionate about addressing hurtful images in the media promoting sexism, racism, homophobia or insensi-

tivity toward the less-abled, one might spew, "Oh, you're just trying to be 'PC.'"

Recently, a film reviewer for *Willamette Week* offered a weak "apology" for expressing his desire to stick his penis down the throat of actress Sandra Bullock to shut her up. The same reviewer criticized *Bamboozled* director Spike Lee by stating, "He should be beaten like a runaway slave."

Another writer decided to carry on this trendy, witty tradition by predicting the future of certain restaurant critics and joking, "Those Jews at *The New York Times*... will be rounded up and fried until golden brown." A number of letters appeared in subsequent issues denouncing the irresponsible usage of such imagery, but other readers who went on to defend the writers and the publication itself tended to whine about being "PC."

I just wish more folks could be as outraged by actual instances of inflicted pain as they are about being labeled "PC"

So how is it we've come to a point where one fears being labeled "politically correct" or "politically incorrect"? I feel as if I belong to a community of friends, family and extended family who *never* would react to any perceived injustice merely in the name of "political correctness."

This certainly doesn't mean we don't make mistakes. We simply do the best we can to experience the world through understanding the pain that might come from insensitivity.

We shouldn't be bamboozled into having our efforts be reduced to a silly catch phrase created by those who should know better. Those who do all they can to avoid being labeled "PC" are like vampires hiding from the rising sun when confronted with an issue that requires them to imagine what it might be like to

experience the pain of others.

I totally accept that some people just don't have it in them to be compassionate. I just wish more folks could be as outraged by actual instances of inflicted pain as they are about being labeled "PC." JK

RUPERT KINNARD is the art director of Just Out and can be reached at rupegroup1@aol.com.

REFLECTIONS

10 years ago in just out...

VOL. 8 No. 4, FEBRUARY, 1991



• Philip Anderson and Linda Kliever stepped into new roles as co-editors of *Just Out*.

• Famed Shakespearean actor Ian McKellan, who is openly gay, was knighted on New Year's Eve by Britain's Queen Elizabeth II.

• In a welcome turnabout, the National Endowment for the Arts awarded grants to two performance artists, Holly Hughes, an open lesbian, and Karen Finley. Both were denied funding in 1990.

• Gail Shibley, an out lesbian, was appointed by the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners to fill the seat vacated by state Rep. Phil Keisling, who was appointed secretary of state by Oregon Gov. Barbara Roberts.

• Slabtown, formerly known as the Primary Domain, became the only women's bar in Portland on New Year's Eve. During Sean Bryant's 21 months of ownership, it had been a lesbian bar, a topless bar and a music bar. She promised to keep it open as a lesbian bar as

long as women supported it.

• The "Pride Card," a new MasterCard benefiting the Seattle-based Pride Foundation, which finances gay and lesbian programs, came under fire by conservative organizations and fundamentalist Christian groups.

• Director David York's Concord Choir performed *Mother of Us All*, a new oratorio with special guest artist Obo Addy on African drums, March 1 and 2. The piece was written by David York (music) and Judith Barrington (libretto).

• Does your sexuality need liberating? JoAnn Loulan presented a lesbian erotic lecture and workshop Feb. 15 and 16. She is a nationally known psychotherapist, sex educator, author and researcher specializing in the sexual and emotional concerns of lesbians.

• The Flirtations, billed as the "world's most openly gay, politically active a cappella men's singing quintet," performed Feb. 22 and 23 in Portland.

PUBLISHER AND MANAGING EDITOR • Marty Davis

ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR • Oriana Green

COPY EDITOR • Jim Radosta

STAFF REPORTER • Jonathan Kipp

CONTRIBUTORS • Marc Acito, Lisa Bradshaw, Meryl Cohn, Katy Davidson, Els Debbaut, Rawley Grau, Timothy Krause, Andy Mangels, Christopher McQuain, Andy Simon,

Lynn Thomas, Rex Wockner

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR • Meg Grace

ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES • Markie Acevedo, Larry Lewis

NATIONAL ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE • Rivendell Marketing Company Inc. (212) 242-6863

ART DIRECTOR • Rupert Kinnard

PRODUCTION DIRECTOR • Kevin Moore

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT • Melissa Sayler

OFFICE MANAGER • Melissa Sayler

DISTRIBUTION • Jerilyn Adams, Kathy Bethel, Katy Davidson, Deanne Davis, Ian Drake, Bonita Mattinson, K.D. Parman, Merid Schwartz, Hadley Scott, Ruth Traut