

just out

The IN publication for the OUT population

FOUNDED 1983 • JAY BROWN AND RENÉE LACHANCE

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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.

COMMENTARY

BY MARTY DAVIS

Did you miss me?

Publisher plays catch-up after a plethora of guest commentaries

Because of a recent influx of guest commentaries, I have been absent from this space for several issues.

As a result, I now have some catching up to do. So stick with me here as I bring you up-to-date with announcements, introductions, clarifications and a request for your input on a difficult-to-resolve issue.

First, the request for input. Just Out recently was asked to print an obituary—a memorial, if you will—in honor of a loved and treasured family member.

This would not seem to be out of the ordinary. We do this frequently; in fact, this very issue contains a transition notice about the passing of a community member.

What was different about this specific request was that the family member in question was this person's pet. The family member was a cat.

The staff at Just Out discussed this at great length, and we were unable to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion as to how this should be handled. We all have pets. We most definitely understand the value our animals bring to our lives.

When my own dog died after 16 years, trust me, my heart shattered into a million pieces. I understand the pain of a pet's passing.

But I also know not all readers will understand or equate the loss of a pet with the loss of a cherished partner, friend or family member. I understand some might be offended if we give traditional obituary space to an animal.

So, what do you think? How would you like to see this handled in the future? Send me an e-mail or a letter, or visit www.justout.com for a direct link.

Next, I'd like to introduce you to one of our newest free-lancers. Michael Wayne Keck's writing first appeared in the March 2 issue, but I am confident that his article in the current issue will be the one that stands out.

This gay youth brings a decidedly new perspective to our readers. Some of you aren't going to like it.

My own initial response was a series of "omigods." With every sentence read, my successive utterances became shriller and higher-pitched.

By about the eighth paragraph I actually had hurt myself, and as I finished the column I was reduced to soundless, painful screeches. The air was filled by the wails of empathetic neighborhood dogs feeling my pain.

"I can't print this," I whined. "The lesbians will all be mad at me—especially the old ones!"

Well, it's printed, and here's how you and I are going to handle it. We simply are going to get over it.

We are going to understand that this paper serves men and women and young and old and everyone in the middle and that not everyone lives, works and plays in the same way. We are going to understand that the rainbow of diversity does not simply mean demanding respect and attention from others but also honoring and acknowledging the many differences among ourselves.

And if that doesn't work for you, then I'll suggest you look back and remember exactly what kind of stuff you were doing when you were 22 years old. Uh-huh, that's just what I thought. Just because you're out of the closet doesn't mean your skeletons are.

A few issues back, a reader wrote in to complain that his event had not been included in the Just Out calendar. He asserted that it would have been of interest to our readership and should have had automatic inclusion in our free listings.

The policy about the calendar is that first and foremost it is for events for and by the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community. Our own groups and organizations seldom find their way into the pages of mainstream papers, so this is our first priority.

As space allows, we broaden our scope to include items of more general interest. The key to this latter sentence is "as space allows."

There are times, happily, when we are able to fill the calendar with our own community dances, plays, readings, meetings and the like. The holiday months and Pride issues are good examples of times when the calendar fills quickly with community events. During these times, other sponsors

and promoters of events always have the opportunity to purchase advertising space should they have an event that they think will appeal to our readership and that might not make it into the calendar.

Lastly, I am finalizing the details of the first-ever Just Out amateur photo contest. Sponsors are being obtained, prizes are worthy, judges are excited, and photos will be on display—somewhere—during Pride 2001 in June. If someone can guarantee it won't rain, blow, hail or snow, we'll have them in our booth during the festival at Tom McCall Waterfront Park. In the absence of this guarantee, they'll be showcased at the Just Out office or perhaps an art gallery.

March has five Fridays. Why do I mention this? Because it means you must wait three weeks before your next Just Out.

So read slowly, and we'll see you April 6. While you're waiting for our return, I need all groups and organizations who want free listings in the 2001 Just Out Pocketbook to send me their info via fax (503-236-1257) or e-mail (marty@justout.com). ☐

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REFLECTIONS

10 years ago in just out...

VOL. 8 No. 5, MARCH 1991



• Portland Police Chief Tom Potter received the first formal acknowledgment of his work with the gay and lesbian community Feb. 7 at Hobo's. The Lesbian Community Project and the Right to Privacy PAC sponsored the reception in his honor.

• *My Country, My Right to Serve* by Portland author Dr. Mary Ann Humphrey was one of the finalists for the Gay and Lesbian Book Award for 1991. The Gay and Lesbian Task Force of the American Library Association planned to announce the winner March 15.

• Longtime Portland gay rights activist Susie Shepherd was honored by the *Leather Journal* as Woman of the Year on Jan. 26 in Los Angeles.

• Integrity, the lesbian and gay ministry of the Episcopal Church, formed a new chapter in the Portland area.

• Although sodomy was illegal in the rural town of Boise, a jury gave Idaho the distinction of being the first state in the country to acquit a lesbian in a

stabbing case under the "battered spouse" defense.

• Do Jump's winter concert, "Adjusting to the Light," was in production through March 23 at Echo Theatre. The show was conceived and directed by that master of visual surprise, Robin Lane.

• The RATS (Radical Amazon Tongue Squad) struck Slabtown, the newest women's bar in Portland, with a kiss-in protest. The establishment's stated policy had been to ban public displays of French kissing.

• In coordination with International Women's History Month, the Council for Prostitution Alternatives brought Andrea Dworkin, a radical feminist writer and theorist, to the Northwest Service Center in Portland on March 8.

• Catbird Seat Bookstore presented John Lee speaking about healing men's wounds March 13.

• Women for Peace picketed U.S. Sen. Bob Packwood's office March 8.

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