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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

**Time traveler**

Solitary excursion takes a detour at memory lane

Last week I took a couple of days off and indulged in a solitary excursion into the past as a means of celebrating yet another birthday.

This is a ritual I relish passionately every few years. It returns me to my earliest memories of childhood days spent in the mountains and valleys of northern California.

During the course of this sentimental journey, I ponder in awe the life path that started in extremely remote, isolated logging towns and thus far has taken me to Portland and ownership of a gay and lesbian newspaper. Among other things, I indeed think I serve as a shining testament to the value of the proverbial one-room school-house education.

This journey o' mine is blended with thoughts of today and worry for the future. The road trip of my day-to-day existence seems to be moving at too fast of a pace, and I am concerned I might be missing too many of life's side roads.

Thus I return joyously to the gentle speeds and scenic delights of bygone years. A rest stop for this traveler's soul.

Even a trip of short duration requires preparation and planning and the tying up of loose ends. Before departing, I always make a sincere, albeit hurried, attempt at putting home and hearth in order. This is done with the optimistic notion that they still will be in said state upon my return.

As such, one of the last tasks I needed to accomplish was to clean out a voice mailbox sadly overflowing with a week's worth of waiting messages. I truly don't mean to ignore messages; instead, I often listen briefly to gauge their urgency, then electronically file away those that can await further action and attention.

Halfway through listening to my messages I was most startled to come across one from Amy Gerver. This was a most unsettling moment in that I already had received word of her death.

I did not know Amy well. We were casual acquaintances at best. I last had spoken with her a few weeks ago, when I photographed her and Nancy Sellers from Our House of Portland for the May 4 issue of Just Out.

A few days after that brief meeting, Amy had called to follow up on some fund-raising figures we had discussed. I determined that the

message could be saved for later, then promptly forgot about it as I set about other tasks. As I finally listened to the message later, it occurred to me that as Amy was preparing for her trip out of town—her final rafting trip, as it were—she herself probably was tying up loose ends and attempting to put her world in order—with the hope that it still would be in said state upon her return.

When I leave home, it is always with the notion of "when" I return, not "if." But as clearly evidenced with Amy's unexpected death, sometimes we don't come home.

On Page 5 of this issue you will find a letter to the editor from Kevin Friends. This correspondence is troubling to me not because of the criticism it contains but because I respect his work and know him to be a person of honor and integrity.

And I'm distressed because I'm not sure I find his stance on advertising to be reasonable. Or perhaps I'm troubled because I do

find it reasonable and just don't want to have to admit it and deal with it.

On one hand, greyhound racing is a licensed, legal and regulated business. On the other hand, it has a byproduct: the potential for mistreatment and abuse of dogs that is, or should be, reprehensible to all.

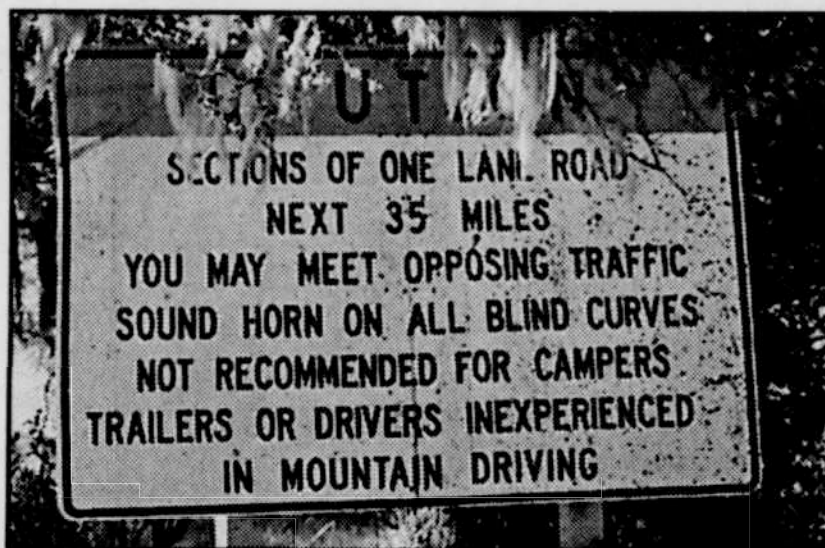
The commerce of advertising contains many gray areas. Although I respect the beliefs of animal rights advocates such as Kevin, I also think it is not my place to censor what information is presented to readers.

And that's what an advertisement

is: a smidgen of information inviting the consumer to check out a product, a business or an event. People then have the right to make their own decisions about what they purchase, support and endorse.

I believe our readership to be responsible, educated, informed, compassionate and capable of making appropriate decisions. If I bow to the pressure to refuse this advertising, what comes next? Environmental activists who are offended by hot tub and automobile ads? Perhaps vegans who abhor restaurants that serve meat?

How do I provide the services of a community newspaper, stay minimally financially stable, pay respectable wages to employees and still meet the political and social needs of a vastly diverse readership? You tell me. Your opinion matters. ☐



**REFLECTIONS**

15 years ago in just out...

VOL. 3 No. 7, MAY 1986



• The Lesbian Community Project announced two related workshops on internalized homophobia and building a lesbian community presented by Suzanne Pharr, a national organizer from the Arkansas Women's Project.

• Men of All Colors Together, a gay multiracial support group for couples and singles, held its first meeting May 3. It was established because of the need for a positive space free from the racial discrimination experienced in many gay and lesbian business establishments.

• Out of the Closet opened for business at 2857 S.E. Stark St. next door to Starky's 3. The thrift store was managed by Phoenix Rising's Fred Menard and benefited Portland's gay and lesbian nonprofit organizations.

• *Queersville*, Portland's only gay and lesbian radio show, broke all pledge records by raising a total of \$320 in a half-hour April 13. The program was produced at KBOO-FM studios by volunteers from the community.

• Pat Bond, nationally acclaimed theatrical artist, performed her one-woman show *Beloved Hick* as part of Eugene Gay Pride on May 9.

• The Rainbow Coalition played host to the second annual Multicultural Dinner and Dance on June 1. The dynamic soul sisters singing group the Strawberry Gamblers, backed up by Dee Wiggins and the Velvet Band, provided musical entertainment.

• Transforming Body Images invited women who hate their bodies to make friends with their body through a delightful combination of imagery, relaxation, music, art, movement, discussion and just plain fun.

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