

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 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.

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COMMENTARY

BY MARTY DAVIS

If you must march naked at least dress warmly ...it's been chilly lately

Publisher seeks to focus on finding the pride in Pride

The ides of June are upon us. Once again it's the third weekend in the festive month, and with this comes my annual opportunity to piss off the Lesbian Avengers.

This not-so-difficult-to-achieve task comes about via the bold act of daring to express views and opinions contrary to their own. The nerve of me—actually challenging those who challenge everyone and everything else.

But as much as I hate to set tradition aside—I'm sorry, gang—I'm just not into it this year. The whole concept has that "been there, done that" feeling about it.

So, let's save some time and energy. I'll go ahead and throw in the requisite "fuck you, Marty Davis," and now we can move on to new and loftier aspirations.

Rather than incite the naked crowd, I feel like taking a calmer approach this year—the higher road, if you will. I invite you to join me in going out into the community during Pride Weekend in an effort to seek out the people, ideas, energies and concepts that actually send or reflect a message of pride to our city.

Some of these moments of pride I already can tell you about. For example, our community should take pride in Don Horn and his work at triangle productions! The company just won a Drammy, a Portland-area theater award, for best production of the 2000-2001 season for the excellent musical *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. Considering some of the powerful presentations put on by the likes of Portland Center Stage and Artists Repertory Theater, one can see the accomplishment in this honor.

Although this production no longer is playing, three performances remain in the Summer Pride Series, and I encourage you to attend and participate in gay and lesbian themed live theater. This will be far more rewarding to you than any summer blockbuster movie ever could be.

I think we also should take pride in the career momentum of Lynn Frances Anderson. Being selected to sing at San Francisco and Atlanta Pride is a really big deal, and we should celebrate, enjoy and do what we can to encourage the continued success of this talented singer and her equally great band.

Let's put the celebration of achievement back into pride. And yes, I understand many more of us have successful careers and win awards and accolades out of the public eye and probably never garner public kudos—to me, that is even more reason to rejoice in the visibility of one of us who so publicly succeeds.

Let's look at Sam Adams and David Lane and Frank Dixon and appreciate the strong roles they play in local politics and policy and

decision making. Although we don't have a bumper crop of gay elected officials in office, we still have viable, intelligent members of our community helping lead the way for progressive policy making and a city with strong leadership in civil rights. Let's take pride also in our straight political allies, such as the entire Multnomah County Commission, and let's remember to thank them for their efforts.

Last year's contentious election brought forth visibility to the next generation of leaders. Kudos to the Emma Roods, the Victoria Conrads, these amazing high school kids who form gay-straight alliances and work with teachers and students to create positive environments most of us never could have imagined during our adolescence.

We all have the opportunity to be proud of ourselves as we work and give together to ensure the continued education and progress of these students. Those of us who have "made it" owe it to those who came before and those who come after to continue the work started by others.

We must give freely of our dollars to any or all of the scholarship funds benefiting gay and lesbian youth. Together we can provide reasons for pride for years to come.

For every besotted beer-garden celebrant there will be a lesbian couple celebrating 20 years of long-term commitment. For every thonged and tanned float participant there will be marchers carrying the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network banner as well as teachers and administrators who actually risk consequence for being seen in the Pride parade. These are the people who realize the value of being honest to themselves and of setting strong, positive examples so the Emmas and Victorias can envision positive futures.

Risking your career is a true act of pride and conscience. Taking off your shirt is, well, I wasn't going to go there, was I?

So, what makes you feel proud this year? Who do you look up to and admire?

What makes you feel good about who you are? What would you like to be different—which direction or path would you like to see followed more closely?

Share your thoughts with us at www.justout.com, and we'll pass them on to the rest of our readers. Also, please check out our survey on Page 73 and let us know what direction you'd like to see Just Out take.

Even better, stop by our booth at Portland Pride and fill one out. We look forward to talking with you. ☐

PLEASE NOTE: June has five Fridays, so the next issue of Just Out won't hit the streets until July 6—an interval of three weeks rather than two.

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"Don't ask,
don't tell"

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