

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.

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COMMENTARY

BY MARTY DAVIS

Time passages

As *Just Out* celebrates its 18th anniversary, young activists come of age

As the rounds of "Happy Thanksgiving" begin—soon to be followed by weeks and weeks of jovial, robotic and occasionally sincere seasonal greetings—I'd like to thank our readers and advertisers for the continued steadfastness and loyalty that has allowed *Just Out* to be a part of your lives for the past 18 years. This month marks our 18th anniversary and the start of a proud 19th year of publishing.

Unfortunately for all of us, this newest new year for *Just Out* starts with conditions of national emotional turbulence, a state economy in recession, racial profiling and paranoia, once-a-week Prozac and radio commercials encouraging worried citizens to call 1-800-ANXIETY for ways to deal with stress and grief. For the sake of drug company profits, America the beautiful stands to go from a nation united to a nation nodding off. The times are changing, and they are changing fast.

On a profoundly more positive note, it's become clear to me that closer to home our own community also is poised on the brink of change. It's evident that the time has come for the second generation of activist youth to move into leadership roles within our gay, lesbian, bi and trans community.

I recently was impressed by the power and potential of their movement when I participated in the Northwest Student Leadership Conference at Portland State University. Nearly 50 queer-identified students from around the region packed themselves into an overly warm room to discuss means of improving their effectiveness.

As I stood in awe of my glimpse into the future, I also must admit to being bemused at one student's request that introductions include a stated pronoun preference. I hide behind generational differences on this one, but it is honestly jarring to hear young "women" ask to be addressed with male pronouns.

I just don't get this, and I'm not troubled by my admission. Because, you see, as a result of my lack of understanding I'm going to set about to increase my knowledge and perceptions of these and other differences.

So as *Just Out* goes into its 19th, 20th and successive years, it is incumbent upon us to bring these issues to the forefront. It's our job to open up dialogue and create better understanding of and for all ages.

In the coming months you're going to be seeing and learning more about the new leaders. You'll be hearing from and about Annie Otis and Erin Sexton and Nikki Jauron and Des Anderson.

You'll be comfortable knowing that these activists and others like them are stepping up to make a difference. Now does this mean it's time for Kristan Aspen and Jesse Jordan and Bonnie Tinker and Sparky Lind-

say to ride off into the sunset? Hell no. There's still a lot of work to be done in mentoring and training and guiding and transitioning. But you guys can take a day off every now and then.

One other generational difference already is being addressed in this issue. Pages 4 and 5 contain answers to our question asking how readers feel about today's usage of the epithet "queer." We received wonderfully heartfelt and touching responses. This is clearly an issue that is felt strongly by many.

In a recent issue we asked readers who they would support in the 2002 U.S. Senate race, incumbent Gordon Smith or Secretary of State Bill Bradbury. This question came about as the result of weeks of rumors and murmurs that the Human Rights Campaign would be endorsing Smith for re-election.

We received a vast amount of responses—largely because of the

technology of the Internet. Word went out electronically that we were conducting a poll, and e-mails came in from all over the place. It became quickly clear that many people had no idea of who or what *Just Out* was and simply were backing their candidate as directed.

From the responses printed, it almost could seem we had manipulated the process in order to favor Bradbury. The truth is we did not receive one single reply of support for Smith.

Yes, Bradbury supporters attempted to control the results, but Smith supporters simply did nothing. Are there gay and lesbian supporters of Smith? Well, someone is inviting the gentleman to dinners and giving him awards.

So who are these supporters, and why are they keeping quiet? Do we need a second National Coming Out Day for gay and lesbian supporters of Republican candidates? I also wonder if these same people who are reluctant to add their signatures to letters of support might yet be signing their names to campaign contribution checks.

By the way, e-mails to HRC in Washington, D.C., asking whether it plans to endorse Smith went unanswered.

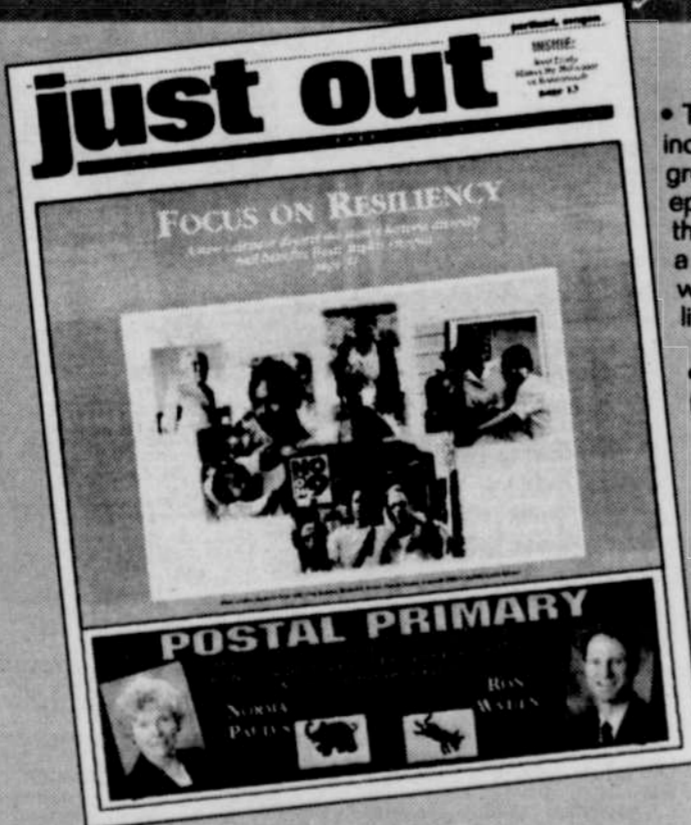
The primary election is still months away; however, it's never too early to study candidates, voting records and party platforms. Decisions are not always easy, and choices are not clear-cut, but it is crucial that gay men and lesbians avoid the pitfalls of single-issue voting.

The calendar gods have provided five Fridays in November (*Just Out* publishes on the first and third Fridays), so we're taking a week off. See you Dec. 7. ☐

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REFLECTIONS

6 years ago in *just out*...



• The creators of *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* included a story about same-gender love in a groundbreaking step for the series Nov. 1. The episode, titled "Rejoined," revolved around the female Trill Jadzia Dax, who reunited with a woman with whom she was married during what 20th century earthlings would call a past life as a man.

• HIV awareness will extend to the Internet for World AIDS Day on Dec. 1, when "A Day Without Graphics" will take place. Participating Web sites will disable online graphics, darken their text screens or link to a special page.

• Members of the gay and lesbian community who recently attended a brown-bag chitchat with Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber say they are encouraged by the dialogue and hope it marks the first of many such meetings. Among those in attendance were Julie Davis, Basic Rights Oregon

executive director; Barry Pack, Right to Privacy executive director; LaVerne Lewis, Lesbian Community Project executive director; Terry Bean, Human Rights Campaign co-founder; and state Rep. Cynthia Wooten, D-Eugene.

• San Francisco lesbian comic Sabrina Matthews makes her Portland debut Nov. 18 at Clinton Street Theater. She turned to comedy to avoid the two lesbian careers open to her: UPS carrier or massage therapist.

• The "regressive country" band Ranch Romance performs its last Oregon show Nov. 19 at Berbat's Pan. The Seattle band, which features some skillful yodeling, is calling it quits after seven years of touring.

• The Cabbage Lane Land Trust, a women's collective in Wolf Creek, holds an auction and spaghetti dinner Dec. 9 to raise funds for maintenance, repairs, taxes and balloon payments.

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