

**speak out**

for our community. *Just Out* provides to sexual minorities the same leadership the *Oregonian* provides to the people outside our community in Oregon and southwest Washington.

LINDA DUGGINS  
Turner

...

I've noticed and appreciated *Just Out* articles about people and events in Eugene, Corvallis, Bend and Portland because I've spent time in all of these cities. I would miss this if you have to focus on Portland for financial reasons.

It is fallacious to look at the profitability of *Just Out* for each city in northwestern Oregon because most people in this region regularly go to Portland for entertainment and to buy things after seeing advertisements in *Just Out*. I am sure many Portland advertisers are profiting from Eugene customers rather than "subsidizing" them.

However, I would guess you have fewer than 1,000 qualified readers in Eugene, and Marty Davis says it costs \$15,000 a year to reach them. How much does it cost to reach 1,000 readers in Portland? If reaching 1,000 readers in Eugene costs much more than in Portland, then I would understand why you would stop distributing in Eugene.

*Just Out* wouldn't have survived this long if it hadn't been willing to change with the times and make these types of tough decisions. I hope the right choice is made.

THOMAS KRAEMER  
Corvallis

...

I'm sure many people get their *Just Out* from the Web site. So why not save the money for printing and distribution for areas of least return?

If you spent some of that savings on expanding the Web site to make it look more like the paper and then advertised that to the smaller areas, you could continue to offer an Oregon paper instead of a Portland one. Local advertising interest might pick up because you'd have the ability to cover these areas in their own sections. Good luck!

KEN DARLING  
Portland

...

Please keep covering as much of the state as possible. If it wasn't for *Just Out* we never would know what was going on in the valley area.

KELLY TAYLOR  
Oakridge

...

Marty Davis spoke of me as the "high school senior whose parents rejected her upon learning she was gay," which is true.

I know that in order to remain in business one needs to make a profit. However, I believe supplying the Eugene area with this paper is serving a bigger purpose: education. *Just Out* is an irreplaceable resource that informs people about what is going on in the gay community in Portland, in Oregon, in the United States and in the world.

Through its pages a person who is closeted,

by choice or by circumstance, has the ability to read about what is going on outside their constraining and often frightening closet. It's invaluable; it gives hope of a better tomorrow—something we all need.

*Just Out* was there for me in my time of need to supply me with the information I craved to move on with my life. I ask you to ignore the loss of profit and continue to supply *Just Out* to the Eugene area; you never know how many people you are helping by simply making available this paper, which might be their best or only resource.

NATALIE FOGGIO  
Clackamas

...

I'm writing in support of continued distribution of *Just Out* throughout the valley. The paper has done a great job of covering activities in places other than Portland this year.

I, for one, have noticed and appreciated the effort. Broader coverage will encourage more people to read the paper.

I know many who live in rural areas depend on *Just Out* as a link to the sexual minorities community and would be much more isolated without easy access to it. I also suspect the papers distributed in Eugene often are picked up by people who do not live in the



city and who travel there from surrounding areas.

If *Just Out* was distributed only in Portland and covered only Portland events, it would be much less available to those who need it most. I hope your concern about the cost of distribution in Eugene will alert business owners there to advertise in the paper.

*Just Out* provides a great service to the community. It is needed, so let's do what it takes to support it financially!

WENDY WOODS  
Willamette Valley

...

Eugene, the mystery city, obviously has raised your curiosity! I decided to take an unofficial poll of about six to eight gay friends regarding *Just Out*. Everyone reads it. And, yes, it is viewed as a Portland paper, although we still like it very much.

We all laughed at Jerry Harris comparing us to Mormons. We are here, so much so that we don't parade it because there are too many of us! No one would be at work!

Seriously, there are a lot of us, single and coupled. There are especially a lot of women; it's practically the Sappho city.

We're so comfortable (at least who I've

talked with) we really have become integrated with the rest (that would be straight, bi, trans, questioning...) of Eugene's community. As one friend said, "Every day is gay day."

Back to the paper. If it will save *Just Out* to sacrifice the drive to Eugene, I guess it's worth considering. However, it really would be missed, and I do think your efforts are appreciated very much.

MARY ANN PETERSEN  
Eugene

...

I know those of us who live in "the rest of Oregon" need to have a contact point for things. I am not sure re-creating your paper is the way to do it.

It is hard enough to keep track of what is happening in P-Land. I don't suppose you would consider the nightmare of regional coverage (something akin to *Nickel Ads*)?

Another thing to look at is the distribution of your paper. Are there distribution points in Salem and other cities? I sometimes can find your publication but not consistently.

I would love to have a publication that covers my area, and I always have had fun with *Just Out*. I wish you luck!

ELIZABETH DUELL  
Salem

...

As a citizen of Eugene, I always have been grateful to *Just Out* for distributing a few miles south of its base. As you know, we have no gay publication of our own, and I have grown dependent on your paper for local queer-issue news.

I'm sorry there's been such little response from the Emerald City to your efforts, but I hope you will know they are appreciated. More than that, as the only prominent gay paper in the state, it's important to be inclusive of all of Oregon.

Ultimately, it's up to you to decide what is best for the paper and how to be "the most effective. However, I confidently can say we Eugenians like having you down here (even if we're a little too quiet about it).

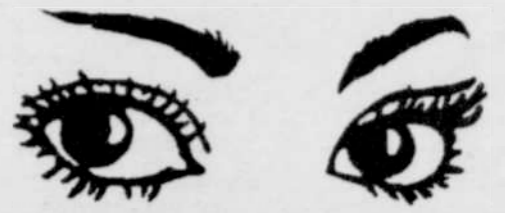
SARAH LAMBERT  
Eugene

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The Rose City is where most people who read this mag live, so I would have to say keep the content mostly local. A few statewide things are fine just as long as it's mostly about local news.

ALEXIS BETTS  
Tigard

**next issue** How have recent events—such as the Special Emergency Response Team investigation, the Damon Woodcock job stress settlement and the alleged assault near Stephano's—affected your opinion of the Portland Police Bureau? Respond at [www.justout.com](http://www.justout.com). (Don't forget to include your name, city and daytime telephone number.)



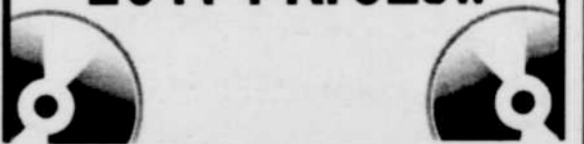
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