

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

Primary colors

Lavender politics matter in this month's election

This issue of *Just Out* should make its way into your hands about the same time your mail-in primary election ballot arrives at your home.

I encourage you to treat both with the utmost respect and regard. The ballot because voting is your duty and obligation, and the *Just Out*—well, really, need I tell you why?

The more notable element of this low-key primary election is to choose the major party candidates for the gubernatorial race in Oregon. Voters have six major candidates from which to make a selection.

Registered Democrats vote for Democrats, Republicans for Republicans, and the rest of you—Independents, Greens, et al.—well, this is what you get with a closed primary. Nothing.

When *Just Out* sent questionnaires to the candidates we didn't actually expect responses from Kevin Mannix, Jack Roberts and Ron Saxton, although I naively held out hope for Saxton for quite a while. I thought perhaps in his quest to be governor he'd want to include all Oregonians and not just those with "Albany values," whatever the hell those are; alas, I was wrong.

And Roberts apparently thinks he's running against John Kitzhaber, so I can see how in his confusion he could forget to answer a questionnaire. And Mannix—well, gee, who knew?

For those of you who actually might have a Republican ballot sitting on your desk—yes, there are a few of you out there—I'd love to have you share your thoughts on the candidate of your choice and why you feel he merits your vote. Any gay Republicans bold enough to step out of the voting closet?

What I cannot understand is being blown off by Democratic candidate Jim Hill and his campaign staff. What's up with that?

I've seen Hill at the mandatory good public relations events, the Human Rights Campaign dinners, the big-bucks fund-raisers where his absence would be notable. Well, sir, the absence of your answered questionnaire and refusal to speak to the gay press has been noted, also. Hill did receive the endorsement of the *Portland Mercury*, so I guess when you've got the skateboard and comic book crowd in your pocket you don't need to curry favor with upward of 100,000 gay and lesbian voters statewide.

The most perplexing matter on this election agenda for me has been Portland Measure 26-30, the Good Government Initiative. This reform proposal is complex and imperfect, as is our current commissioner form of city government.

There is not much question that a reorganization of City Hall could be vastly beneficial. But any potential changes need to be well thought out and well conceived and have implementation policies nailed down to such detail as the placement of desks for the new bureau heads.

This is not the sort of thing that can be handled on an "as we go" basis. Such a vast undertaking must be treated in a manner appropriate for the scope and size of the project.

I endorse the concept of an expanded City Council with district representation. I cherish the vision of a City Council that more adequately reflects the economics, diversity, ethnicity and richness of our city.

I look forward to the day we can elect both Serena Cruz and Sam Adams to the City Council and not have to choose between this wealth of resources. However, I do not believe the Good Government Initiative, as written, brings us closer to that day.

I applaud the diligent efforts of Robert Ball. He took on a task that civic leaders have left undone for years, and his efforts have created a much-needed and greater awareness of the untapped potential for change.

But change needs guidance and direction, and the Good Government Initiative needs more work. I look forward to supporting a revised and improved measure.

What I cannot understand is being blown off by Democratic candidate Jim Hill and his campaign staff. What's up with that?

My "obese" commentary in the April 5 issue has caused quite a stir, as somewhat expected. What I didn't anticipate, and am not sure I'm the person for, is the call for leadership and organization of support groups for lesbians and gay men struggling with similar issues.

The truth is, I lack time management skills and am inclined to think that having me as a leader in advocating for healthier life choices is rather a case of the blind leading the blind. It's been a month now since that issue appeared, and I haven't even been able to return all your phone calls and e-mails yet.

But I clearly see the need and am confident that others also will step up to take on projects as we're able to state who we are, what we want and what we need from each other. So, please, let's continue the dialogue.

The people who are angry can continue to write letters to the editor. As for the rest of us who want to direct positive energy and move forward, let's e-mail and get working on what we need to do to make us individually be the best we can be.

We can set up a listserv or something where we all can meet each other. Please, I am far better at e-mail than phones, so contact me at marty@justout.com. ☐

PRIMARY ELECTION ENDORSEMENTS

This is a mail-in election only. Ballots must be returned by 8 p.m. May 21.

Just Out does not make endorsements in every electoral contest.

- Representative in Congress, District 3: Earl Blumenauer
- Governor (Democrat): Bev Stein
- Superintendent of Public Instruction: Susan Castillo
- Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries: Dan Gardner
- Metro Council President: David Bragdon
- Chair of the Board of Multnomah County Commissioners: Diane Linn

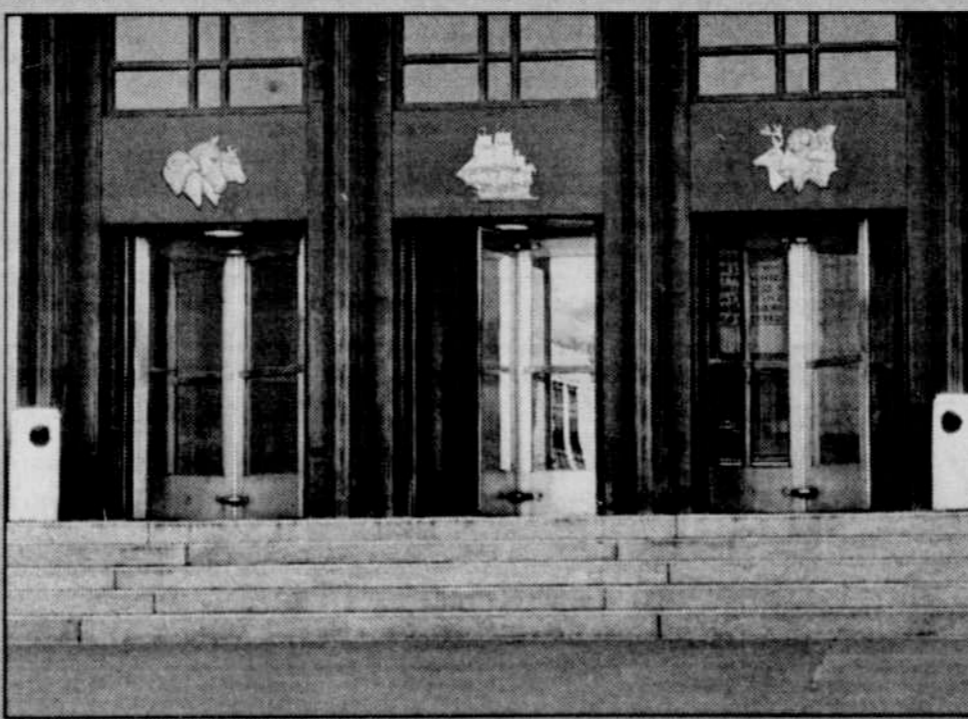


PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS

- Multnomah County Commissioner, District 2: Serena Cruz

- State Measure 13 (Amends Constitution—Education Fund): No

- City of Portland Commissioner, Position 2: Erik Sten
- City of Portland Commissioner, Position 3: Dan Saltzman
- State Senator, District 24: Frank Shields
- State Representative, District 33: Carol Robinson
- State Representative, District 46: Steve March
- State Representative, District 48: Randy Leonard
- Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge, District 4, Position 1: Katherine Tennyson
- Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge, District 4, Position 38: Marc Abrams
- Portland Measure 26-28 (five-year levy to restore parks): Yes

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