

# 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.

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## COMMENTARY

# Field of dreams

Portland welcomes softball players as one City Council candidate hits a homer

**Y**ou're here. You're finally here. Welcome all players and coaches, partners and friends, spectators and sponsors to the 26th annual Gay Softball World Series.

After months and months of planning and anticipating, it's time to play some damn serious softball. Oh yeah, and maybe, just maybe, party a bit. And shop. And eat. And explore. You must take some time out of your very busy, event-packed schedule to check out this extraordinarily beautiful, energetic, progressive and gay-friendly city that the rest of us are lucky to call home.

It won't take you long to see why Portland consistently pops up on most, if not all, lists of cities with high "gay livability" ratings. While not minimizing or overlooking the woes of ongoing legislative struggles with a tedious minority-backed political/religious faction known as the Oregon Citizens Alliance, Portland has much to offer, not the least of which is an excellent selection of gay and lesbian Realtors, all of whom will be quite happy to help you with your relocation process should you totally succumb to the charms of our city.

For many of you this will be your first, and perhaps only, time to visit Portland. You'll be spending a lot of quality time downtown, on Stark Street and in Old Town, but to get a more complete sense and overview of our city, hop on a bus or MAX and check out a few of the outlying areas.

Neighborhoods like Hawthorne, Alberta, Broadway and the so-new-it's-not-done-yet Pearl District abound with gay-owned and gay-friendly shops, restaurants, galleries and entertainment venues. Portland is rich with entrepreneurial spirit, and gay and lesbian business owners are a vital part of the revitalization of our city.

We all know you've brought some money to town with you. We all know you brought it to spend. Competition is keen for your spending power.

Please share your bounty with the sponsors of the World Series and the advertisers of this paper, all fine establishments who support the gay community year-round. It's their presence, their staunchness, their commitment that makes Portland such a wondrous place for us to live and for you to visit.

**H**ere's a startling news flash for you all. Sometimes things don't work out the way you had planned. Case in point: It's time to elect a new Portland City Council member to replace Charlie "Skateboard" Hales.

For a while this was looking like it was going to be a pretty simple call. I endorse Sam Adams for City Council, wish Serena Cruz well with her continued term at Multnomah County and spend the summer idly pondering how exactly Kevin Mannix got nominated for governor.

Did it work out that way? Nooooooo.

Sam Adams waits to take a later bus, and 16—16, mind you—candidates emerge to seek city office. To be truthful, though, while somewhat ponderous, the prospect of so many candidates is promising and exciting

to me. I think it's just one more dynamic sign of the vitality of a city when 16 citizens are eager to participate in the process.

And you know what else? All of them have something worthwhile to say. And that surprised me.

With that many candidates, you sorta expect one or two might fall into the, um, "back away from the candidate" category, but that's not the case this time. I attended a forum at Portland State University where 14 of the 16 were present, and darned if they weren't all intelligent, prepared and passionate about their cause.

And the causes they espouse are all important. Cleaning up the Willamette River, police accountability, race relations, education, job development, arts and culture, budget crises and future city development.

The thing is, though, that the person elected has to be passionate, educated, versed and knowledgeable in all these areas. The person elected has to be able to advocate for all citizens and not just a few. The person elected has to be an effective leader while still understanding that the key to success is working cooperatively with the mayor and other commissioners.

The person elected should be experienced yet not weary nor worn. The person elected must fight tirelessly for civil rights and equality for all people of all races, of all orientations, of all persuasions.

The person elected needs to hold as much promise for the future as ties to the past. And it's for all these reasons—for these exciting promises of the future, for the promise of continued proactive civil rights advocacy—that Serena Cruz should be elected to the Portland City Council.

**D**ownsizing is a word with less-than-positive connotations. Usually it means someone is losing something, most often a job.

*Just Out*, however, became the recipient of positive news this month because of some personal downsizing by activist and former *Just Out* photographer and contributor Linda Carter. She and household are moving to smaller quarters and needed to find a new home for a magnificent photo collage detailing the community's fight to defeat Measure 9 in 1992.

This is a beautifully done piece of art and history, and we're proud to have it on display in our office, where it can be shared with others. So if you were a foot soldier in this battle or are just someone with an appreciation of history, please feel free to stop by and take a look.

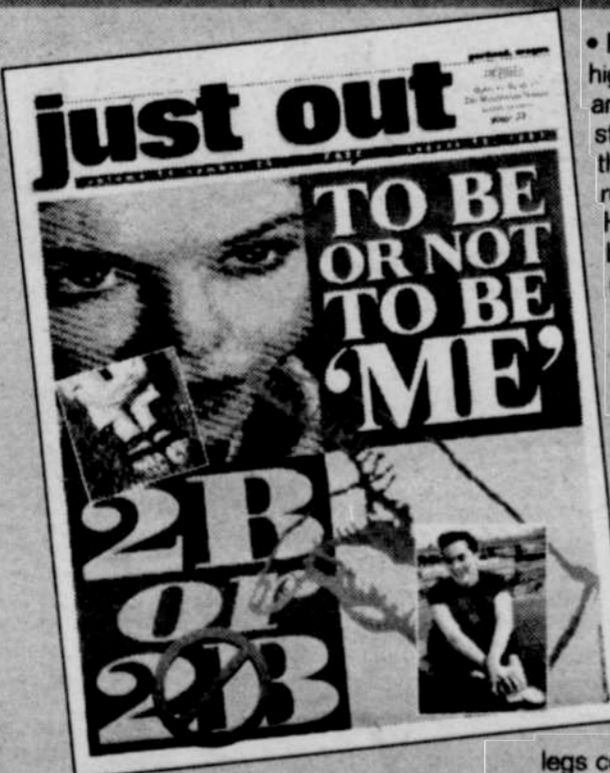
In 1992 Oregonians filled the streets of downtown Portland with people of passion and unity. In November it will be 10 years since "the real" No on 9.

Is the passion for the struggle still with us? Have we won? Are we there yet? ☐

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

## REFLECTIONS

### 5 years ago in just out...



- New survey data have found lesbians might be at higher risk than heterosexual women for breast, ovarian and uterine cancer and for heart disease and stroke. The poll found lesbians tend to weigh more than heterosexual women, which, according to researcher Mary McCauley of the Howard Brown Health Center in Chicago, "increases the risk for breast and endometrial cancer because estrogen is manufactured from adipose tissue."

- Oregonians made their presence felt during the Log Cabin Republicans national convention. State Rep. Chuck Carpenter, the Oregon House's only openly gay GOP member, was honored with the LCR Leadership Award for his tireless work this past session to advance legislation prohibiting employment discrimination based on sexual orientation.

- Portlander Jerry Deas has been named secretary of Dignity/USA, the nation's largest and oldest organization of gay, lesbian, bi and trans Catholics.

- It's the Code Blue Lesbian Dance and sexiest legs contest Aug. 16 (21 and older only).

- Beyond the Closet, Central Oregon's education and advocacy group working for the civil rights of gay, lesbian, bi and trans people, plays host to "Coming Out, Coming Home: A Place for Lesbians and Gays in the Christian Faith Community." The conference will be held Sept. 12 and 13 in Bend.

- Join the members of Motherlode and other female musicians for the annual Northwest Women's Music Celebration. This weekend of workshops takes place Sept. 5 to 7 at YMCA Camp Collins on the Sandy River.

- Contestants from all over the world will gather Aug. 31 in the Montgomery Park Atrium to compete for the title of La Femme Magnifique Universal. Prominent Portland citizens will select a winner from a bevy of the world's most glamorous female impersonators.

- Billed as a "picnic potluck with live performances and displays of memorabilia from the era," the Mountain Moving Cafe reunion is a gathering of folks who worked for, performed in or attended events at the radical political hangout that was the center of community activism in Southeast Portland during the late 1970s.

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