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Speak out

Who's sorry now?

TO THE EDITOR:
Terry Bean, the Human Rights Campaign and any other queer groups and individuals who supported Gordon Smith for senator owe an apology to the queer community, the gay-inclusive Democrats and the American community.
It is partially because of them that we now have Republicans in control of every branch of government. These Republicans are now free to drastically limit gay rights, women's rights, workers' rights and future generations' rights to survive in our environment.
Voting for the better party (Democrats) does matter because a Democratic senator votes for Democratic Senate leadership, and the leadership sets the agenda—not to mention that Bill Bradbury (who says no one should have to be forgiven for being who they are) supports many more tenets of gay equality than Gordon Smith (who forgives us for our sin).
Now the Republicans have free reign to fill the judiciary with right-wing ideologues—and don't expect pseudo-moderate Smith to vote against them. The issues should come before personal friendships and personal deal making when making political endorsements.

TOM SOPPE
Portland

Cash and credit

TO THE EDITOR:
Having picked up my Nov. 1 issue at Clancy's Coffee this morning, I wanted to respond to a couple of points:
1. Regarding the commentary by Marty Davis, I feel your pain ["Welcome, Welcome, Welcome"]. Having been an editor/publisher of an alternative monthly that closed because of the lack of support by advertisers, I understand and totally appreciate your comments on the costs of doing business.
Fellow readers: When you shop at a *Just Out* advertiser, tell them you're a customer because of *Just Out*. Use *Just Out* and *Community News* to shop, and support only businesses that advertise in GLBT-friendly publications.
It's just a shame not to get *Just Out* locally. For many of us not living in the Portland metro area, *Just Out* is sometimes the only way we learn of events or important issues.
I am familiar with your Web site, and hopefully this will work for those of us out in the boonies. How about an Adobe PDF version of the current issue available online?
Point to Marty: When you stop distributing outside the Portland metro area, advertisers outside the Portland metro area will stop advertising. So please reconsider—maybe a limited number of copies?
2. Regarding the Gordon Smith/Bill Bradbury issue, Gordon is a good man. He's also a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which will come into play at some point—i.e., abortion, death with dignity, safe-sex condom

education, etc. I'm an LDS member in hiding 'cause they'd kick me out if they could find me!
Gordon did openly support hate crimes legislation, and that is a good thing. He is a compassionate and honorable man.
However, I feel and voted for Bill because he was the even better candidate. Thankfully, this was not a choice of "the lesser of two evils" but a choice of who was the better candidate. Kinda like how an election is supposed to be.
3. And for those of you who haven't registered and who didn't vote: Shame on you and now hush! We now have a Republican in the White House, a Republican-controlled House and a Republican-controlled Senate.
I now sit and wonder how much Ryan White and AIDS Drug Assistance Program funds will be cut. How long will medical marijuana survive? And what kind of judges will we have on the Supreme Court? Only time will tell.

DON MATHEWS JR.
Salem

Hail Mary

TO THE EDITOR:
The remark made by Steve Hensler about Mary Magdalene in his Nov. 1 letter is incorrect ["Hey, Mary!]. He is not up to date in his beliefs where he said her relationship with Jesus Christ was based on "repentance and denouncement of her adulterous behavior."
Recent studies have shown that Pope Gregory I combined the Bible stories of the woman at the well, the woman repenting by anointing Jesus' feet, Mary Magdalene and others into one person. He did this to have a biblical figure for women to look to as an example of a sinner.
In actuality, Mary Magdalene was a very intelligent woman who studied Jesus' teachings and went on to teach and preach as the men did. She was not the woman at the well. The Bible never mentioned that she was a prostitute or adulterous.
This year more than 100 biblical scholars met in New York City to compare notes in efforts to clean up Mary Magdalene's reputation. This was reported by Nancy Haught in the *Oregonian* on June 18. And the story has been reported in depth on A&E and on the *Unsolved Mysteries* program.
Give the woman a break!

KATHY BAMBECK
Portland

Waging war

TO THE EDITOR:
Concerning your election endorsements: I really have a hard time believing you would want your LGBT brothers and sisters to continue working for substandard wages, with your endorsement against raising the minimum wage.
How many of your employees are minimum wage earners? If you have any, it is too many, but that would explain it. Pure and simple greed!

transitions

Edd Casto, 1945-2002

Edd Casto died of cancer Oct. 2 at the home of friends. He was 57.
Born May 12, 1945, in South Charleston, W.Va., he moved to the Applegate Valley of southern Oregon to live on a commune after serving as a VISTA volunteer in Appalachia during the 1960s. After earning degrees in early child development and public service at Lane Community College and University of Oregon, he started U of O's first campus day care facility.
Casto moved to Portland in 1978. At the

time of his death he was a customer service/information specialist at Portland State University's School of Extended Studies.
He is survived by his mother, Naomi, in West Virginia; brother, John, and two nieces on the East Coast; and the many, many friends in Portland who loved his big heart and gentle spirit.
Services were private. Arrangements were made by Omega Funeral & Cremation Services.
Remembrances may be made to the Nature Conservancy for Borax Lake preservation.