

# Speak Out

**just asking** As we wrap up another memorable year, what do you feel occurred during 2002 that will have the most significant impact on the sexual minorities community—for better or worse?

Certainly the most significant event in 2002 for the sexual minorities community (and in fact justice-seekers the world over) is when we allowed corporate opportunists to take over all three branches of our government. There is virtually no limit to the erosion of social justice this may cause for years and possibly decades to come.

This was a very dark year. I struggle to maintain any hope for any kind of liberty and justice in the United States, let alone for sexual minorities.

MICHAEL BURDICK  
Portland

**next issue** The first same-sex couple featured on the Oregonian "Celebrations" page has complained about being segregated under the heading "Commitments." How do you feel about this? Also, are you planning on announcing your union now that the newspaper has an inclusive policy? Respond at [www.justout.com](http://www.justout.com). (Don't forget to include your name, city and daytime telephone number.)

stay out of the rain and not catch cold, keeping our immune systems in peak performance and out of doctor offices.

But I guess I have one more reason: I love to kiss. When I meet a man, I love the idea of kissing him until his toes curl. And I have found that cigarette breath hinders that connection whether the man Scopes it or Listerines it.

So, explain it to me. Tell me why this community does it.

If you have stopped, great! Tell me how, so I can share it. And if you want to, I can pass the success stories on to you to try.

I understand many want to stop. I know it is an addiction. Let's encourage the end of this addiction as a community.

I'm not the preacher today. I just want a healthier community. Or, better yet, a smoke-free love.

ERIC BROWN  
[eburites@hotmail.com](mailto:eburites@hotmail.com)

## Royal crush

TO THE EDITOR:

As a gay man living in Seattle, I find your publication very supportive of gay and lesbian events in your city.

I was surprised to find a full-page article written by Erin Sexton on the Portland Coronation, which I attended myself ["Supreme Court," Nov. 1]. As an active drag queen in my own city, I am very glad to find your publication takes notice of your local drag events.

More power to *Just Out*! I am eager to grab another issue the next time I am down in Portland. Thank you for your support!

ALEKSA MANILA  
Seattle

## Get with the programs

TO THE EDITOR:

Pride Northwest needs your help in finding old programs.

We are missing Pride programs from 1975-79, 1981, 1983, 1999 and 2000 as well as news clippings from those times. We would love to have copies or originals.

Please help us make our archives complete. My address is [slave\\_97006@yahoo.com](mailto:slave_97006@yahoo.com) or 9121 N. Burr Ave., Portland, OR 97203.

PATRICIA MUHLBAUER  
Portland

## correction

The Nov. 15 article "Fever" erroneously stated that Carol Reise lives with "a big fat cat." In actuality the cat's head is small for its body.

*Just Out* regrets the error.

# justout

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