

just out

The IN publication for the OUT population

FOUNDED 1983 • JAY BROWN AND RENÉE LACHANCE
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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

BY MARTY DAVIS

Don't rain on my parade

Elected officials missing in action at Portland Pride

Portland Pride 2003 in Portland has come and gone. Did you make it to any of the activities? I noticed a lot of you were there, and I noticed a lot of folks were missing.

If you're uncertain about which years are election years in Oregon, an examination of the attendance of politicians in the Gay Pride parade can give you strong clues. For instance, in June 2002 we have then gubernatorial candidate Ted Kulongoski looking ever so dapper as he proudly rides the streets of Portland on the back of Gail Shibley's scooter. Come November the candidate narrowly avoids defeat in the election.

Could the gay voting bloc have been the decisive factor in securing his election? You just really never know, do you? Not something I think I'd want to take for granted, though, if I were him. Especially if I'd come damn close to losing to Kevin Mannix.

One year later, June 2003, our governor is not in Portland's Gay Pride parade. Scheduling conflict, no doubt. Funny thing, this parade is always the third Sunday in June. Seems this event could have easily been scheduled a year ago. Would have been a nice "thank you" and "hey, look, I'm here for you even when I'm not campaigning."

Guess we'll have to wait until 2006 for that belated thanks and recognition. Of course, there will be a primary election prior to the parade. Hmm.

Also absent this year—unless somehow they slipped by me, which is unlikely since I photographed virtually every single person in the parade—were, in no particular order: Portland Mayor Vera Katz, Police Chief Mark Kroeker, any uniformed cops except reserve captain Robert Ball, the entire City Council, Bill Bradbury, Hardy Myers and Randall Edwards. And where were Multnomah County Commissioners Serena Cruz, Lisa Naito, Diane Linn and Lonnie Roberts? Oh well, never mind on that last one.

Kudos, and happy birthday, to Multnomah County Commissioner Maria Rojo de Steffey, who graced us with her appearance, accompanied by state Rep. Jackie Dingfelder. Also spotted from the Legislature were Steve March, Kate Brown and Greg Macpherson. Locally, Metro was represented by David Bragdon, who walked with the gang from Cascade AIDS Project.

The major politico sighting of the day was U.S. Rep. Earl Blumenauer. Was he perhaps checking the streets of Portland to see how they might look from the mayor's perspective?

U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith is again working for passage of federal hate crimes legislation. He is to be commended for his efforts. Wouldn't it be

great to see him one day march with us in acknowledgment—he of our struggles, we of his efforts? And U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden? Think, sir, of the parade as one big town hall meeting. You're big on those—meet with us. March with us.

I also saw one very large pink penis (on a float). I don't think it was representative of any elected official, but you just never know. Dick Cheney? Dick Arme? The dick who canceled Pride activities at the Justice Department? Who knows?

On the topic of Pride, we've got some changes and enhancements here at *Just Out* that I'm proud to tell you about. I'm very pleased to announce that our staff has grown with the addition of Tim Krause as Features Editor. He has been a mainstay contributor to *Just Out* for several years, and our ability to bring him on full time is a major enhancement to the paper and to the community as a whole.

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Though titled Features Editor, Tim will also be adding depth and strength to our reporting coverage. This, in turn, will free up time for News Editor Jim Radosta to pursue with greater depth his passion and skill to research and delve into stories with national emphasis. *Just Out* has been searching for some time for the person with the right combination of skills, interests and abilities to enhance our excellent staff. We've found that person in Tim Krause. Welcome Tim.

A few months ago Arts and Culture Editor Lisa Bradshaw started penning her first-person column, "Out With It." We tend to have strong opinions and thoughts here at *Just Out*, and utilization of the column format allows Lisa to tell you exactly what it is that she's thinking about. She's bright, she's sharp, and you should be reading every word she writes.

I have a notion in mind that one more columnist would enhance our pages. A columnist perhaps to bring a political/cultural/quasi-society/musical/no-holds-barred look at Portland's gay community. Thomas Lauderdale, give me a call, OK? I know the second CD is almost done. Think of all the time you're going to have on your hands. Share your brilliant thoughts with all of us.

Another recent addition to our pages is the food column "Epiqueer-ean." Our original writer, Catherine Sameh, has moved away to New York to pursue graduate school women's studies, but the column will be reappearing in July under the byline of longtime *Just Out* contributor Meg Daly. We welcome her back to our pages and hope you enjoy and benefit from her dining experiences.

Watch us grow, watch us change and improve, and, as always, share with us your thoughts. jmd

REFLECTIONS

5 years ago in just out... VOL. 15 No. 16, JUNE 19, 1998



- The Survivor Project, brainchild of a Portland activist, assists trans and intersexed people escaping domestic violence.

- Despite a successful five-year run, Queer Night is coming to an end. On July 6, the event bids its final adieu to the cozy second-floor space it has inhabited every Monday night at LaLuna.

- The second annual Bi Day—a rally for bisexuals and their friends that features an all-bisexual program of speakers, booths and music—is slated for June 26.

- Right to Pride will hold its 1998 Summer Garden Party and Auction from 2 to 5 p.m. July 19 at the Wilsonville home and garden of Kelley and Tom Bruggere.

- The new executive director of Cascade AIDS Project in Portland is already a well-respected AIDS activist and community leader. Thomas Bruner resigned as founding director from the Fort Worth, Texas, AIDS Outreach Center in May. After declining about five other offers in the Pacific Northwest, he accepted the job at CAP.

- Portland landed on the queer media map a couple of times in June via nationally distributed magazines. Perhaps most notable was the *Rose City's* selection by *Out* as one of its "10 choice cities to call home."

- Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott said June 15 that he believes homosexuality is a sin and that gay men and lesbians should be assisted in dealing with it "just like alcohol...or sex addiction...or kleptomaniacs."

- Remember PFLAG pioneer Chuck Steele during a memorial service June 22 at Friends Meeting House. Call Love Makes a Family for more details.

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