

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.

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

BY MARTY DAVIS

In sickness and in health

Same-sex marriage spreads like SARS

What heady, heady times these are. And on so many levels—globally, nationally and locally. Within days, Canada proposes the legality of same-sex marriage, the U.S. Supreme Court overturns sodomy laws and *The Oregonian* publishes an oddly paternal editorial acknowledging that the paper continues to oppose the concept of gay marriage while noting its support for domestic partner registrations, gay adoption and health insurance benefits for partners and families.

The editorial meanders a bit, noting this and that in recent events, then states in a rather resigned tone, "Over the past two decades, the public's acceptance of gays has risen markedly, giving us reason to believe that this trend is now inexorable."

Inexorable. Impossible to stop or prevent. That's what the word means. It seems to me that with this particular word choice we're being likened to the spread of an unfortunate disease. Nothing fatal or deadly perhaps but, given a choice, something you'd probably rather not have. Thanks, *Oregonian*, but don't stand too close, "gays" might be contagious.

Celebrants and supporters of recent victories indeed have cause for positive reaction but at the same time should not be blind to the possibility of a strong and organized conservative backlash. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist led the charge by endorsing an amendment to the U.S. Constitution banning legal marriage for gay and lesbian couples in the United States. The country remains evenly divided on support for gay marriage—and strong, well-funded, organized efforts could swing the undecided or marginal supporter in either direction.

Which would lead me to the topic of funding and support for our activist groups and organizations. Money is, has been and always will be the mainstay of our movement. Money, that is, and the energy of the leaders and people working within these very groups. But money can be the hardest to find—and money, and the accountability of its usage, can be the factor causing the most internal strife and divisiveness.

We all have the right to expect and demand accountability from the groups and organizations that come to us as individuals and as a community for financial support. We should be told how much is being raised, and we should be given proof of where it's being spent. We have the right to expect that groups are following their mission statements and that money solicited in the name of those causes is being spent, fully and honorably, in that same manner.

Ask where your money is going. Demand proof. Nonprofits are required to make their meetings open and public; financial records are

to be made available. Accountability should be a given. Where is the money going? How is it being spent? Voice your concerns. Ask for answers. There are no sacred cows.

And while on the topic of disclosure and accountability, here is what's going on with your staff at *Just Out*. It seems I have to find a new salesperson to join us. Markie Acevedo and her partner, Pam Hahn, have made the decision to return to their hometown of San Diego. Trust me, San Diego's gain is Portland's loss. In addition to being an outstanding salesperson for *Just Out*, Markie has enhanced our community with her work involving many groups and organizations including Northwest Gender Alliance, Basic Rights Oregon's Trans Advisory Group and the new LGBTQ Community Center Interim Board. Markie leaves big pumps to fill. If you think you're the one to take her place, please send me your information.

In April of last year I hired Erin Sexton to replace outgoing Office Manager Melissa Saylor. I don't know exactly what kind of training program went on at the front desk, but apparently it was a hands-on affair. As a result, Erin and Melissa are getting married July 12! It will be a grand lesbian celebration. Guests were advised: "This is a lesbian wedding. Wear comfortable shoes." Erin shares some of her wedding planning experiences with you in this issue's feature story. Melissa remains characteristically silent. I wish them great and wondrous happiness.

On a similar celebratory note, Graphic Director Kevin Moore and his wife, Jenn, are gonna have a baby, their very first! We don't know if there's been a *Just Out* baby before; this might be our first, too. Wish us all well.

And as a final note I'd like to tell you about an experience I had at Darcelle's last month. I love Darcelle, I love her performers, I love her nightclub. But I also love myself and require copious amounts of oxygen and, as a rule, don't go to bars because of the smoking. A fundraiser for Peacock in the Park was held June 24 at Darcelle's, and it was nonsmoking. When they told me about this, I was skeptical and didn't think it would matter—the air must be permanently corrupted. Well, guess what? It made all the difference in the world. You could breathe. You could enjoy the performers. You could buy drinks and spend money and be festive and not have smoke in your face (and hair and skin and clothes).

So, nightclub owners, how about once-a-week nonsmoking nights? Give it a try. There are people out there waiting to be your customers. Give them, and their lungs, a chance to patronize your business. ☐

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REFLECTIONS

10 years ago in **just out**... Vol. 10 No. 16, JULY 1, 1993



- *Just Out* welcomes Charles Moose as the city of Portland's new police chief. He has marched in uniform with us in Lesbian and Gay Pride parades for the past few years. We are confident of his continued support for the diverse sexual minorities community.
- Metropolitan Community Church of Portland has settled on a nominee after a seven-month search process. The Rev. Dennis Chappell has been invited to MCC as a candidate for the senior pastor position, which has been open since the Rev. Gary Wilson resigned in December.
- Labor Commissioner Mary Wendy Roberts is making an all-out pitch for Senate Bill 34, the bill she is sponsoring that would include sexual orientation in the list of protections extended to Oregonians in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodation and real estate transactions.
- The American Civil Liberties Union filed suit June 10 against the city of Cornelius, charging

- that the anti-gay initiative voters there passed May 18 violates both the Oregon and federal constitutions.
- Portland's gay, lesbian and bisexual community is inching toward creating a community center. The Oregon Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Cultural Resource Center Task Force has scheduled its first public meeting for July 26 at Portland State University. The task force was started in December 1992 by Larry Taylor and Lyle Sweeney to facilitate the process of founding a center.
- The Pacific Northwest Women's Music and Cultural Jamboree features concerts with such lesbian luminaries as Ferron, Deidre McCalla and Lucie Blue Tremblay from July 1 to 4 at Western Washington University in Bellingham. See comedians, attend workshops, peruse the crafts fair, dance and play team sports.
- Colorado for Family Values, the group responsible for Amendment 2, claimed in a recent newsletter that Alyson Publications has an agenda to recruit children and encourage them to have sex with adults.
- Some residents of Enumclaw, Wash., are upset that a gay rodeo is coming to town Sept. 11 and 12. Resident Jack Vogt says he's worried about his community being exposed to "improper behavior."

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