

# 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

# Hail marry!

As Massachusetts basks in a stunning victory, come celebrate community with Just Out

What a difference 20 years make! On the eve of the Just Out 20th anniversary celebration comes stunning word that the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court has set in place rulings designed to accommodate and provide for same-sex marriage in that state. This decision is a first for any state or commonwealth. Vermont gets credit for its milestone accomplishments, but that state went only so far as to provide for recognized civil unions.

The ramifications and reactions from the Massachusetts rulings are guaranteed to be far-reaching. This ruling will be more than a one-day headline. While civil rights and gay activists celebrate, conservatives and even moderates are voicing concern and disapproval. Division and dissent are clearly evident even in Massachusetts, where Republican Gov. Mitt Romney, backed by supportive lawmakers, advocates the belief that ambiguous wording in the ruling will change the direction from civil marriage to the weaker civil union. Rapid and reactionary movement among conservatives points toward plans to move ahead with a constitutional amendment designed to ban same-sex marriages.

Here at home, news of the ruling was greeted less than favorably by *The Oregonian*. As stated in its Nov. 20 editorial, "we continue to see the civil union—an approximation of marriage—as the best available compromise." And from somewhere *The Oregonian* has arrived at the figure that only 9 percent of U.S. citizens strongly favor gay marriage. The paper goes on to state that it's withholding approval until several decades of research show that children adopted by gay parents thrive as well as other children. Children like Miranda Gaddis and Ashley Pond, perhaps?

Here's your *Same-Sex Marriage for Dummies* version of the recent happenings:

Don't plan on getting married anytime soon in the United States...if your partner is of your same sex. It won't be happening. Massachusetts has 180 days to figure out what the ruling said, what it really meant and what it's going to do about it. The federal Defense of Marriage Act, in place since 1996, could effectively invalidate states from having to recognize same-sex marriages from Massachusetts, or any other state, should they occur. Rigid conservatives salivate over the notion of a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage, and the U.S. Supreme Court sits poised to have this decision land at its feet. So while we're focusing our attention on possible achievements in one or another state,

let's look yet even more closely at who will be filling upcoming vacancies on the Supreme Court. This is where we need to be focused: the presidential election of 2004.

But before we elect a president or send out wedding invitations, there's a celebration I'd like you to attend. The Just Out 20th Anniversary Party is this Sunday, Nov. 23, at Hollywood Theatre, and I'm welcoming you all to attend. Bringing their humorous takes on gay and lesbian life, love and all in between are acclaimed comics Bob Smith and Karen Williams.

But, as they say on TV, "Wait, there's even more!" Rounding out the night's entertainment will be none other than Portland's own world-renowned Pink Martini. Fresh from a tour of Turkey, the band will play crowd favorites from its popular CD *Sympathique* and will tease you with alluring hints of the music from its soon-to-be released follow-up.

You're gonna laugh, you're gonna sing, you're gonna dance in your seats—but, could it be true, there's even more than that? Yup, there is. As billed, this night is truly a celebration of community—and from 5:30 p.m. until showtime at 7, you'll have the opportunity to meet and mingle with the finest collection of gay, lesbian, bi and trans organizations collected under one roof in some time. Joining us will be, among others, Senior Housing and Retirement Enterprises; Portland Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays; Our House of Portland; Amazon Dragons; Hambleton Project; Basic Rights Oregon; Equity Foundation; Lesbian Community Project; Metropolitan Community Church of Portland; Portland Team Tennis; Friends of People with AIDS Foundation; Pride Northwest; Love Makes a Family; and Portland Area Business Association.

While you're visiting and learning, you'll munch on birthday cake and listen to music provided by members of the Rose City Gay Freedom Band. And let's not forget the viewing of artwork by Portland favorites such as Verone Flood, Larry Cwik, Michael Kennedy and Sierra Briano, all of which will be available for purchase. Start your holiday shopping with these fine and talented artists.

So please join us in this evening of merriment and celebration. Meet your Just Out staff and so many of the other community members and leaders you so often read of in the pages of this paper. We look forward to meeting each and every one of you. j

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## REFLECTIONS

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# 20th Anniversary Party! Comedy! Music! Cake!

Musical Guest

# Pink Martini!

Sunday, November 23

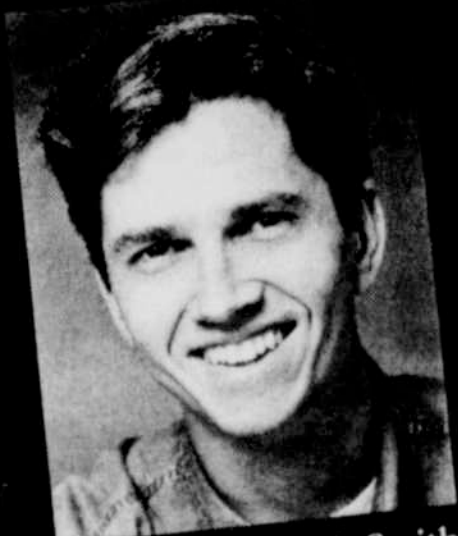
Hollywood Theatre

4122 N.E. Sandy Blvd.

Reception 5:30 p.m. • Show starts 7 p.m.

Tickets \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door

Advanced tickets available at Gai-Pied, It's My Pleasure, Touchstone Coffee House and In Other Words bookstore



Bob Smith



Karen Williams

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