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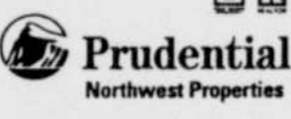

Jewel A. Robinson
B'Zillion \$\$\$ Producer



OFFICE (503) 281-4040
VOICE MAIL (503) 301-4283
E-MAIL Jewel2U@teleport.com

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WE want YOU
to have free Hepatitis A & B vaccine

Hepatitis A and B are highly contagious viruses that affect the liver. Men who have sex with men are at greater risk for getting Hepatitis A and B. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA) recommend a preventative vaccination.

Monday Nights 5:30-7:30
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Speak Out

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Those were the days

TO THE EDITOR:

Happy 20th anniversary, *Just Out*! Your anniversary reminded me of a wonderful experience I had with one of your founders, Jay Brown.

I have a lot of history in this town and was privileged to be part of the original gay youth group in Portland, which was called Windfire. I was interviewed by Jay when I was 16, along with others who were in the youth group ["Growing Up Gay in the '80s," January 1983, *Cascade Voice* cover story].

As I look back on that interview, I now realize how special those times were for me, how Jay acknowledged the unspoken voice of gay youth and how he turned his attention toward helping gay youth. He also provided a safe place for me to stay when I had nowhere else to go.

When things were bad at home, I ran away a couple of times and Jay let me sleep on his couch. I assure you it was all innocent. I was not attracted to him and he never made a move on me, plus he had a boyfriend, but if I had no place to sleep, he would say, "Knock on my door and you can sleep on my couch."

Happy anniversary...and Jay, thank you.

ROGER VINES
Hillsboro

Pink ink

TO THE EDITOR:

Congratulations on 20 years of service and celebration!

What would Portland be without *Just Out*? A Portland native, I began reading *Just Out* in 1984 as a senior in high school exploring my sexuality. It was a comfort to me as I searched for answers to the many confusing questions I had.

When I was a student at University of Oregon in the late '80s, *Just Out* was my connection to Portland and what was happening. As a client service specialist at Cascade AIDS Project in the early '90s, when the epidemic was hitting Portland so hard, once again it was a comfort to me.

Now years later I am the proprietor of Touchstone Coffee House, and *Just Out* has given me an incredible amount of support. The paper has been the main source of my communication with the GLBT community. The paper has held singles parties at Touchstone, it has kept the calendar open for live music and events, and it has profiled Touchstone and the women musicians who play here.

As a business owner I appreciate and value the pages of *Just Out* as a way of communicating with the community. The mission of Touchstone has always been to be more than a coffeehouse; it is intended to be a safe, fun and nurturing community space as well. *Just Out*, through the years, has helped convey that in many ways. Whether it be an advertisement, a calendar listing, a club listing or a story, without *Just Out* I know my business might not be what it is today.

So I honor and celebrate your tireless devotion to our community. For being a window for all of us to see through to opinions different from our own, to celebrate the triumphs and struggles and growth and change of our community from the small to the mighty.

Our community would not be where we are without *Just Out*. I challenge everyone in our community to speak up and out, not just when you don't agree with an editorial or an opinion printed in the paper, but when you see or read something that you enjoy as well. This staff works harder than we all can imagine, and I

would like to see more positive strokes given to the paper and its dedicated staff.

As a business owner I also encourage you all to remember to spend your dollars in the GLBT community. *Just Out* is supported by their advertisers, and these advertisers need your business to remain open—it is a circle. Think where you spend your dollars and pennies; you are affecting a bigger picture than you might actually realize.

Thanks again, *Just Out*, and keep up the amazing job you are doing. First and third Fridays are always a joy to look forward to for seeing and reading what is new and happening.

BECKY BILYEU
Touchstone Coffee House

The worm turned

TO THE EDITOR:

I enjoyed Pat Young's piece on Lon Mabon and the Oregon Citizens Alliance, but there is one extremely important (to me, at least) element left out, and that is the fact that Lon Mabon IS NO LONGER A REPUBLICAN! ["OCA Play-by-Play," Nov. 7]

In the mid-1990s my wife, Nancy, and I, along with several dozen like-minded, moderate-to-liberal Republicans, got so fed up with the OCA's thuggish and bigoted tactics that we formed the Oregon Republican Mainstream Committee, an organization devoted to the "big tent" philosophy of the late Lee Atwater. The ORMC (www.graphyx.com/mainstream/mainstream.index.html) has since become one of the GOP's major players in the ongoing struggle against single-issue politics and litmus-test endorsements.

Lon Mabon and his OCA storm troopers had for years been masquerading as Republicans, when in actuality they were no such thing. Thus, when this little worm of a man finally announced, with great fanfare, that the Republican Party was too liberal for him and that he was signing on with the Constitution Party of Oregon, champagne corks popped all over the place.

With apologies to Dr. King: "Gone at last, gone at last, great God almighty, Mabon's gone at last!"

And damn good riddance, I hasten to add.

ROLF GLERUM
Portland

Hit the streets to defend abortion rights

TO THE EDITOR:

I am outraged and disappointed by the way the U.S. government is interfering with the right to abortion. But Congress and President Bush are hell-bent on removing this right with the "Partial Birth" Abortion Ban Act of 2003.

Public officials are representing the interests of a right-wing movement eager to eliminate women's freedom. Their message that women's lives are not their own is conveyed through various methods: attacks on reproductive rights, government rewards for marriage and the U.S. Supreme Court's refusal to hear the appeal of a woman convicted of homicide for drug use that led to a stillbirth. Add the increased social pressure on women to stay home, make babies, care for parents and fill in for de-funded public services, and it is clear that the government is acting on a mandate to subjugate women by any means necessary.

Capitalism needs women to fill the role of an underpaid, expendable part of the workforce and provider of free labor at home. Without this, the system would go broke.

Our elected officials play to the tune of corporate wealth and voting blocs. They are eager