

just out

The IN publication for the OUT population

FOUNDED 1983 • JAY BROWN AND RENÉE LACHANCE
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The submission of written and graphic material is welcomed. Written material should be typed and double-spaced. Just Out reserves the right to edit for grammar, punctuation, style, liability concerns and length. We will reject or edit articles or advertisements that are offensive, demeaning or may result in legal action.

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.

Ad policy: Just Out reserves the right to reject or edit any advertisement. Compensation for errors in, or cancellation of, advertising will be made with credit toward future advertising. Advertising rates are available upon request.

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COMMENTARY

BY MARTY DAVIS

What's in store for 2004?

Publisher resolves to stop making new year's resolutions

In 2004 Americans will elect a president. The world will be watching. In 2004 Portland will elect the first new mayor in 12 years and replace an outgoing City Council member. World attention will be focused elsewhere. On a national level the United States will continue to be divided over Iraq and the discussion of a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage. Our troubled economy is poised to take a back seat to these two highly charged emotional issues. On a local level we're faced with a crisis in education, ongoing funding shortages, angry neighborhoods and important issues like Major League Baseball. I wonder, if I schedule the Just Out staff to play softball once a year against The Skanner newspaper, could I get public funding for my business?

Democratic presidential candidates have been jockeying for position for months now. Soon the less viable will drop out, and one or two leaders will emerge from the pack. Less than 11 months remain until the presidential election. In Portland city races might well be determined in the May primary. For these candidates there is less time, and a heightened level of activity is under way. Candidates are starting to pop up in all the usual places.

One of the most frequently seen local politicians isn't even a candidate for office any longer. The person with the energy, the interest, the sincerity is Multnomah County Commissioner Maria Rojo de Steffey. This commissioner is not one to make appearances for show only. Rojo is a loyal ally and supporter of our community. She works tirelessly for the attainment of human rights for all people. Now I grant that she might well be positioning herself for a run for a future office, but even if that's the case, she's doing it by building her base of support through hard work and dedication.

These are values that I respect and honor. It's also possible, I suppose, that if I had to work daily with the Multnomah County commissioners, I might look for any and all excuses to get out of the office, too.

Just Out is only beginning to sort through and analyze the data from our recent reader survey. In coming issues I'll share with you the results and our interpretations of your comments and opinions. One clear message that we received was the fact that our readers count on us for our election endorsements. You rely on us, and we take this responsibility seriously. Very seriously. Endorsements will not be made casually. Even the ones that might seem to some to be obvious will be handled thoughtfully and thoroughly. There are no "obvious" endorsements.

There will be a process. All candidates seeking the endorsement of Just Out will need to participate in the process.

One of the more frequent comments that shows up in the surveys pertained to advertisements with sexual content. Specifically, we hear from lesbian-identified readers bemoaning the ads reflecting male sexuality. At the same time, advertisers continually take me to task for being overly conservative and rigid to the point of stifling all creativity. Both factions carry weight, yet I have learned to live with the notion that I'll never please either of them. I will make my decisions based on which action is the best for Just Out and the community that we represent. If I lose an advertiser, if I lose a reader, it will be done with the knowledge and conviction that I've attempted to make the best decision overall.

With this in mind, I admit that I've long since given up the notion of making new year's resolutions for myself. This process does not work for me. This year I'm doing something different. I'm making resolutions for other people.

To lesbians who object to male sexuality, I respectfully resolve that you push to see the larger picture. This paper serves a broad demographic. Read, enjoy, learn from the parts that work for you and leave for others the parts that don't. Please respect that we are not all the same. Please respect that Just Out works hard to walk a fine line that separates one person's sexuality and preferences from the aversions of another.

To advertisers who try to tell me how to set policy for Just Out, I resolve that you also learn to respect that there is not now, nor will there ever be, a place for advertisements that graphically depict sexual acts. Your choice to run a sex-based business does not mandate that I make the same choice. I respect and defend your right to do whatever you choose to do within the confines of your business. Please respect my right to do the same.

Finally, for 2004, a new year that holds promise for great strides forward in the attainment of civil rights for gays and lesbians, let's all resolve together to respect our individual and collective diversity while celebrating and working together for the greater good.

In closing I offer wishes for a new year that brings you peace of mind and joyful good health. Please note that in order to work around the holidays Just Out will be slightly off kilter in January and will publish on the second and fourth Fridays, rather than the first and third. Happy new year, and we'll see you back here Jan. 9. **J**

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REFLECTIONS

20 years ago in just out... VOL. 1 No. 4, DEC. 9-23, 1983



- A student organization at Portland State University, Students for Lesbian and Gay Rights, is challenging the presence of ROTC on the campus. The main opposition is the fact that the second two years of the ROTC program is not open to gays because, according to U.S. government policy, they cannot be commissioned as officers.

- "From humble roots, patriarchal white ruling-class Christians have created a means of saturating the media with one massive sellabration, from Thanksgiving to New Year's Eve." Just Out director Renee LaChance wrote in her editorial. "This massive sellabration allows those who profit from it the most to be good and loving to their families and others while allowing themselves to feel no guilt during the other 11 months for their persecution and oppression of minorities."

- Thousands of candle-bearing marchers moved down Market Street from the Castro District to City Hall on Nov. 27 in San Francisco to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the

assassinations of Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk.

- Judy's presents the first-ever Christmas Fairies Follies featuring amateur entertainment Dec. 15. \$1 cover.

- This month's Lesbian Forum features musicians Jane Howard, Janna MacAuslan, the Fallen Angel Choir and others Dec. 20. After the program, a dance with the infamous Dyketones will be held.

- A total of 36 teams of the Portland Community Bowling Association competed against each other (and themselves) for turkeys in the 1983 Turkey Bowl held Nov. 20 at Pro 300 Bowling Lanes.

- The staff at Bridgetown Realty extends joyous Hanukkah and Christmas greetings and thanks to the community for its loyal support throughout the year.

- The U.S. Transvestite-Transsexual Contact Service offers free membership to female impersonators, transsexuals, transvestites and gay cross-dressers who want to meet men who can truly appreciate them.

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