

# Speak Out

## just asking As reflected in the 2003 reader survey, are Just Out readers an adequate and indicative reflection of the greater sexual minorities community?

In general, your results are likely to represent the portion of the sexual minorities community that is least closeted, better educated, more affluent and more politically active. This phenomenon is similar to the results of a survey conducted by Senior Housing and Retirement Enterprises: A GLBT Coalition that will be published soon.

It is also similar to a survey distributed at Black Pride events in nine cities that was published by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (*Say It Loud: I'm Black and I'm Proud*, 2000). The report discusses whether the survey results are representative of all black GLBTs and concludes that events like Black Pride tend to attract a distinct segment that is not representative, is more "out," is better educated and is more affluent.

The SHARE written questionnaire was distributed to more than 900 people during the past two years at Pride and other community events; there were 713 responses. Our survey was aimed at older members of the GLBT community, so the median age was 53 years, with more older respondents and fewer younger respondents than your *Just Out* survey.

The racial/ethnic distribution in the SHARE survey was similar to your survey: 90 percent white, 3 percent Hispanic, 3 percent Native American and 1 percent for black, Asian and mixed-race respondents. Also similar to your survey, SHARE found more than half (53

percent) were partnered, and half of these had been together 10 years or longer, some as long as 50 years! In the SHARE survey, 60 percent had a four-year degree or advance degree. Household income was higher in the SHARE survey; 74 percent had household incomes above \$45,000.

WENDY WOODS  
Monmouth

...

No. I only say this because I know that WAY more than 1 percent of queers are black! I am white and so are a lot of my queer friends, but there are a lot who are black, Hispanic, Asian, etc. WAY, WAY more than 1 percent!

STACI PATTERSON  
Vancouver, Wash.

...

I believe that readers of *Just Out* are indeed an indicative reflection of the greater community because the people who read it are so diverse in their own views and lives.

DEVON ROSA  
Newberg

## next issue Two openly gay men are opposing Portland City Commissioner Randy Leonard; Just Out is endorsing the incumbent. Who do you support and why? (Please see related items on Pages 5 and 19.) Respond at [www.justout.com](http://www.justout.com). (Don't forget to include your name, city and daytime telephone number.)

ica a balanced budget or health care or an America without assault weapons. Work with America, not against us. Be a uniter, not a divider.

See what you can do with a short list until December. There's not much time left.

DANIEL RESNIC  
Beverly Hills, Calif.

### Think before you print

TO THE EDITOR:

Thanks for the reviews of places to eat vegan ["Don't Have a Cow!" March 19]. Since we read it, we are looking forward to trying Calendula.

However, we expected much more accuracy from *Just Out*. Your publication prides itself on recognizing diversity, speaking out against stereotyping (to some degree) and exposing details about current events that may be missed in the mainstream. Because we believed that about your paper, we were disheartened to read Meg Daly's review of our favorite Portland restaurant.

While Nicholas' has gone through many cycles of discovery by different sections of society in its 18 years of operation, one thing has remained a constant for the restaurant: It is owned by a wonderful Portland family who moved here from Lebanon in the '70s. Period.

While running their business they've never let their religious beliefs enter into preparing and serving great food. Are they Muslim? That's not the point of the article, so why mention it? Daly did not reveal the religious leanings of the other restaurant owners in her review. Why did she single out Nicholas'?

The restaurant's choice to not offer alcohol has nothing to do with religion and everything

to do with keeping costs down and overhead low. A better-researched review from your Features Editor would have revealed that fact and probably several others that are far more interesting. For example, over the years the folks at Nicholas' have catered weddings, bar mitzvahs, confirmations and some spectacular grand openings. Many people come to the restaurant to celebrate birthdays, quinceaneras and anniversaries. Some may have wanted to consume alcohol with a meal—but their love of good food overrode the need to drink. Clearly, Daly made assumptions and chose to include misinformation that was in no way germane to a restaurant review.

Please, in your many roles—as a platform, as a forum, as a voice for not assuming things about people—we ask *Just Out* to think before you print. Get a real story. Talk to individuals. In commenting on our community we all expect *JO* to "get it straight."

A.G. FLYNN  
Portland

### Identity clarity

TO THE EDITOR:

In the recent survey of your readers, in the section on sexual orientation, "trans" was included ["The State of the Community," April 2].

Just to clarify a common misconception: Being transsexual is gender identity, not sexual orientation. These two are often mixed together but are separate and distinct. A trans woman isn't necessarily attracted to men and visa versa.

This confusion was illustrated in Michael Bailey's book *The Man Who Would Be Queen*, wherein he lumped all trans women into two categories: "homosexual transsexuals," whom he

defines as "extremely feminine gay men," or "autogynephilic transsexuals," whom he says have an "erotic obsession with the image of themselves as women." Bailey made his conclusions after interviewing nine transsexual women he met in gay bars.

His book created a firestorm within the trans community when the Lambda Literary Foundation nominated it for a 2003 award. This sparked an outcry from the trans community and an online petition that garnered more than 1,000 signatures in 12 days.

The foundation subsequently removed *The Man Who Would Be Queen* from its nominee list. "The specific issue was whether the book was transphobic," executive director Jim Marks said. "The judges looked at the book more closely and decided it was."

TARA M. TAYLOR  
Portland

### Nothing has changed

TO THE EDITOR:

I attended April 4's inspiring rally organized by the Coalition of Black Men and am outraged over the unjustifiable killing of James Jahar Perez.

Ten months ago it was Kendra James; before that it was Jose Santos Mejia Poot, a Mexican immigrant. Obviously nothing has changed. If you are brown, immigrant or African American, things have gotten worse with respect to police use of deadly force. But I believe things can improve, which compels me to speak out and get involved.

We need to defend ourselves from a police institution that maims or even kills us because we are a threat to Portland's wealthy. We are a threat because we demand economic and political justice. Demands such as a well-funded and quality education, a living wage, health care and that big business pays up so we aren't taxed to starvation. We demand not to be racially profiled every time we drive our cars. We demand jobs, the right to organize, the right to reproductive choice and the right to marry if we are lesbian or gay. As a socialist feminist, I think the only kind of system that can support anything different is a socialist economy, where human needs and equality, not profits, are what matter.

The Freedom Socialist Party has long advocated an independent elected civilian police review board with the authority to discipline police. This board should be publicly funded but not connected to corrupt city government and big business interests. In the meantime, Multnomah County officials should open the grand jury process to the public so justice can be brought to the murderers of James Jahar Perez.

EDUARDO MARTINEZ ZAPATA  
Freedom Socialist Party

### correction

The April 2 article "Ya Gotta Have Art" incorrectly attributed the painting "Shipyard" to Lucinda Miller. The artist's name is Lucinda Parker. *Just Out* regrets the error.

## just out WELCOMES LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters must be accompanied by a phone number for verification purposes. Anonymous letters and letters without sufficient contact information will not be published.



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