

# Older but wiser

*Just Out* toasts its 21st anniversary with a re-energized staff

Somewhere in the crush of election events of early November, *Just Out* quietly slipped into our 22nd year of publishing. No party, no cakes, no to-do this year. Our efforts were better served elsewhere. But now, unless you're a candidate for governor of Washington, the grime and grit of the election results have been showered off, and a renewed shine is glowing forth. Time to shore up and head back to the front. We're ready for year 22.

While we didn't put on a public face this anniversary, behind the scenes our office is abuzz with new energy and excitement. *Just Out* is bustling with an influx of creativity, vision and dynamic motivation. Part of this comes from new additions to the staff and part from a juggling of seasoned veterans. Here's your up-to-date introduction to your 21st anniversary *Just Out* staff.

Larry Lewis, in his sixth year here, continues to be the voice of quiet sanity and reason at *Just Out*. He's the calm, cool and capable rock that holds the sales department in place. (Plus he's the only one who knows how to fix the e-mail system.) Under his direction and guidance, our most excellent sales staff—Kari Tate, Ashley Austin and Larry's hubby, Cshea Walker—excel at establishing and maintaining a high level of personal rapport with our invaluable advertising clients. You've heard me say it before, and you'll hear it many more times: We are nothing without our advertisers. We never forget it, and neither should you. We all need each other. The past year was a tough one for our community. Politically and economically we took some hard hits. Conditions are likely to stay turbulent for a while. Let's work together to capitalize on our strengths and continue to build a strong infrastructure.

In the editorial department, Jim Radosta is in his fifth year at *Just Out* and now moves from the news desk to arts and culture. Jim is passionate about movies, music, theater, arts, clubs and fluffy pink jackets. Tirelessly he's out there mixing it up and taking it all in. He's got smarts, opinions, ideas and perspectives, and he'll be sharing all this with you in his new column, "Jim's Closet," debuting in this very issue. Get ready for a very good read.

As one new column appears, an old favorite will be leaving. Marc Acito has announced that, after the Jan. 7 issue, he will no longer be writing "The Gospel According to Marc." As he explains, "It's a bitter-sweet decision, but I want to focus all of my attention on my career as a novelist and screenwriter." We wish all the best to Marc and excitedly look forward to the announcement of who will play him in the movie version of his recently published novel. Based on a recent appearance on *The Tony Danza Show*, I'm voting for the chubby kid from *Stand by*

Me, Jerry O'Connell. The actor may have to tone it down a bit, though. This guy was making Richard Simmons look butch. His abdomen, however, was amazing. A perfect Acito replica, I'm sure.

Marc, congratulations on the success of the first novel and best wishes on wherever your path takes you next. And remember, if things don't quite work out, I always need delivery drivers at *Just Out*.

And now—drum roll, please—I'm very delighted to announce that Sarah Dougher has joined the staff of *Just Out* as News Editor. Described by *Willamette Week* as a "local singer/songwriter/academic/activist," this woman brings one mighty impressive Google to *Just Out*. Also an adjunct professor in the women's studies department at Portland State University, Sarah spends part of her spare time working on a book about the history of queer graphic design. Hmm, at no time in my initial interviews with her did I even begin to imply that she would ever again have spare time in her life. What is she thinking?

Sarah's musical talents will be on stage Dec. 11 at Mississippi Pizza Pub, where she'll perform at a benefit for In Other Words Women's Books and Resources. Here at *Just Out* we're also breathlessly looking forward to our annual holiday dinner; Sarah has agreed to do a part of her Andy Williams tribute act. It's rumored that she channels Donny Osmond.

Keeping pace with Sarah's talent is new Art Director Bonnie Barrett. This self-described "Jersey girl" has been in Portland for two-plus years, and she also brings a stunningly impressive résumé and work ethic to *Just Out*. Her past design work includes a stint at *Girlfriends* magazine and time spent designing artsy props on *Late Show with David Letterman*. Look for great things to come from the mind and vision of Bonnie Barrett. Under her guidance, we enter our 22nd year with visions of new logos and redesigns dancing in our heads.

Rounding out the editorial and production team are Staff Writer Meg Daly and Production Assistant Zanne deJanvier. Meg brings to us all great heart and sensitivity and the ability to write brilliantly about absolutely anything and anyone. Zanne is the mastermind behind the witticisms tucked in between the classified ads at the back of the paper. She brings value to even the smallest space in the paper. You owe it to yourself to look for her work.

So there you have it, 21 years old and getting better by the day. My heartfelt thanks to the staff, our free-lance writers, the advertisers and all our wonderful readers. Together we are nothing short of great.

And finally, speaking of nothing short of great, happy birthday, Darcelle XV. ☐

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**REFLECTIONS**

20 years ago in *just out*... Vol. 2 No. 2, Nov. 23-Dec. 28, 1984

- The city of West Hollywood is now a reality and is the first city in the nation to be controlled by a gay-lesbian majority in city government. Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood's main thoroughfare, is lined on both sides by an estimated 100 gay-owned bars and businesses.

- For Gay Pride Week 1981, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance of Douglas County entered a float in the San Francisco march. The float was a 12-foot utility trailer decorated with a few bales of hay, three potted trees representing this area, a stick or two of locally procured firewood and an ax. It was pulled by a little Toyota pickup covered with crepe paper.

- KBOO-FM features a gay radio series. The Dec. 4 program deals with the "Legal Aspects of Being Gay" with hosts Alan Coogan, Ben Merrill and Cynthia Curnfer.

- Fumerist (feminist/humorist) Kate Clinton returns to Portland for another great evening of standup comedy Dec. 9.

- KBOO-FM continues its gay radio series Dec. 25 with a tentatively planned program featuring E. Ann Hinds and Paul Starr discussing spirituality outside the confines of organized religion.



- Portraying a side of Christmas many of us forget to look at, or don't want to see, the Fallen Angel Choir begins its ninth season of satirical Christmas caroling in the Portland area. This four-woman a cappella group emerges annually the day after Thanksgiving to poke fun at the commercialism of Christmas and to sing about the realities of seasonal "good tidings and joy." Original founder Judith Rizzio portrays Tilly, a cantankerous bag lady who disdains the upper crust but loves children.

- The Lesbian Forum meets for a talent show, holiday party and dessert potluck Dec. 18. Talented women should call Willow to sign up.

- "Woman of Courage" for 1984, Rosa Louise Parks, broke a segregation law Dec. 1, 1955, in Montgomery, Ala. She refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white man as ordered by the bus driver; she was arrested and jailed. Parks' action changed the course of history in the United States.

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