

Where's the bug spray?

A familiar pest has returned

The first signs of fall are in the air. Shorter days and cooler nights bring the first early geese flying overhead. Back-to-school commercials appear, and all business conversations end with, "I'll get back to you after Labor Day." And along with the possibility of the delightful return of rain come also the annoying pests of fall. The first wasp of the season attacks viciously on the deck, and Republican Kevin Mannix announces that he will, once again, try to be the next governor of Oregon. The wasps will go away naturally. Getting rid of Mannix will take more effort. We'll need more than swatting and flailing to get him out of our hair.

It's not yet a given that Mannix will obtain his party's nomination. He will face a formidable competitor in Ron Saxton, and other as-yet-unannounced candidates could siphon away votes. Mannix, however, will likely have the full support of the fine folks behind last year's Ballot Measure 36, and Saxton's moderate politics are likely too soft for Oregon's strange and right-leaning Republican Party dynamics.

On the Democratic front, Gov. Ted Kulongoski has announced that he will seek a second term. Those thought to be ready to take him on for the Democratic nomination include Pete Sorenson and Vicki Walker. It's not an easy task to deny a seating governor his party's nomination, and while we'll learn more about these candidates in 2006, their best shots at being governor will come in 2010. 2006 will likely be their trial runs.

With the likely possibility that Mannix will be the Republican candidate comes the strengthened notion that 2006 is not the year for us, as a community, to take a politically offensive stand by attempting a ballot measure promoting civil unions. Rallying to defeat Mannix should become our main focus. Remember, he came frighteningly close to being elected in 2002.

As candidates announce for office, *Just Out* will be there to research their records on civil rights and to question directly their stand on issues facing our community. Along that same line, we are attempting to interview Oregon House Speaker Karen Minnis and ask her, plain and simple, "What's up with the attitude?" Her office reports that she's on vacation for a few weeks. We'll wait for her.

Hot summer nights bring sleeplessness. Sleeplessness brings too much TV. Bad TV, in many cases. And such is my initial impression of Logo, the first of the new "gay" networks to make its way to my

television. It's not so much that I find the programs all bad, but I'm not certain that I find great value in the concept of all-gay channels. In the case of Logo specifically, it's simply one more opportunity to find Graham Norton to be among the most annoying TV personalities ever. Did I need another network spotlighting him? No.

Hyper Boy aside, there are some good programs listed in the August program guide. On Aug. 27 an excellent movie, *Forbidden Love: The Unshamed Stories of Lesbian Lives*, is playing. Anyone with access to Logo should definitely be inviting all their friends over to watch this Canadian import.

My concern about "electronic ghettos" is that these excellent programs will be shunted off to where only those who go in search will find them. I also have concerns that with the cultural backlash of 2004, the TV industry can use these new channels to remove gay and lesbian programming from the broadcast networks. Aren't we setting up an opportunity for them to say, "Well, they do have their own network now?" And just as those who choose to watch, will, many, many more will choose not to, effectively barring us from their TVs, their homes and their lives. To me, this is not socially forward thinking.

Segregation is happening on TV. There are channels for the African-American and Latino communities. There are macho men channels (F/X) and nerd channels (SciFi). There are channels for women, channels for cooks and shoppers, channels for history buffs and channels for people who like to watch gross surgeries. We can all bring into our lives that which is familiar and safe. And we can shut out all opportunities to learn about anyone and anything that is different from ourselves. Is this progress?

Finally, again, allow me to offer words of assurance about the *Just Out* Web site. A new one is under construction at this very moment. To say it will be an improvement is an understatement indeed. With a launch scheduled for November, the new site will include everything that you've been asking for, including the full contents of each and every issue. Imagine, you'll be able to directly forward this column to all your friends. The new site will include a brand new personal ad format, one that will mark the official demise of the current Just Friends Voice Personal Ads. So go get a haircut, take your new picture, and we'll have a new place for you to go to meet friends and dates. We're almost there. I promise. **JD**

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PUBLISHER & MANAGING EDITOR

Marty Davis
NEWS EDITOR

Sarah Dougher
ARTS AND CULTURE EDITOR

Jim Radosta
STAFF WRITER

Jaymee R. Cuti
ART DIRECTOR

Bonnie Barrett
AD PRODUCTION DIRECTOR

Ramey Holzman
ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

Larry Lewis
ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES

Kari Tate, Cshea Walker
CONTRIBUTORS

Stephen Blair, Michael Burdick, Meryl Cohn, Dave Kohl, Jon Kretzu, Andy Mangels, Jenny Nguyen, Rebecca Ragain, Bob Roehr, Aaron Scott, Floyd Sklaver, Rex Wockner, Pat Young

DISTRIBUTION

Allison Benn, Lisa Benson, Pat Kilmer-Cramer, Shug Mauldin, Crash Schwartz

REFLECTIONS

5 years ago in **just out...** Volume 17 Number 20, August 18, 2000

• A national protest of the Boy Scouts of America is planned for Aug. 21. The move comes several weeks after the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the organization's right to discriminate against leaders based on sexual orientation.

• KGW-TV still plans to debut the controversial *Dr. Laura* talk show 11 a.m. Sept. 11. The host, radio's Laura Schlessinger, is widely known for her disparaging comments about gays and lesbians. A national campaign, StopDrLaura.com, has called for advertisers to cancel their support for the television show.

• Members of the Portland Area Business Association, a gay and lesbian networking organization, invited the new police chief to their Aug. 14 luncheon downtown. Mark Kroeker, now eight months on the job, addressed about 50 members of PABA, explaining his vision for the City of Roses. Kroeker reminded the audience that recruitment is open to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities.

• Officials from Pride Northwest recently responded to allegations of unfair election practices by two former board members, Tamara Swan and Janna MacAuslan. At the center of the controversy are the organization's bylaws and two elections earlier this summer in which the women were not re-elected.



• At a time when several sports franchises are switching mascots in a effort to promote sensitivity, University of Hawaii did just the opposite last month. The Associated Press reports. Claiming the symbol has become too closely associated with gay and lesbian pride, the school changed its football team's nickname from the Rainbows to the Warriors. Activists quickly attacked the decision.

• Kelly M. Fitzpatrick, the only naturopathic physician in the Pacific Northwest specializing in care for the transgender community, gives a free talk at Nature's Northwest.

• No on 9! It's dangerous for our kids, and it's dangerous for our schools. Help Basic Rights Oregon stop the Oregon Citizens Alliance's latest attempt to discriminate in our schools.

• Stark Street is no Greenwich Village, Castro, Capitol Hill or West Hollywood. Few would dispute that. But it is the place old and new friends meet to talk, dance, drink and find any number of other pleasures.

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