

Sweet sorrow

As we part ways with one singles service, we say hello to another

Saying goodbye to old friends is never easy. Often necessary, but definitely not easy. With this issue of *Just Out* we say goodbye to an old favorite friend, the Just Friends Voice Personals Ads. "But why?" you ask. "I enjoy reading them, even if I'm not looking for someone."

Quite simply, their time has come and gone. Internet technology has brought newer methods and opportunities to matchmaking and dating. The activity has moved to the Web, and that's where people now turn. I know that readers enjoy reading the ads, but fewer and fewer people send them in, and even fewer respond to those received and printed. For years now, the ads have not generated sufficient revenue to warrant their maintenance and space in the paper. And so it's time to say goodbye to this version of *Just Out's* participation in creating opportunities for single readers to meet other singles. This issue we print the final Just Friends Voice Personal Ads.

But as we part ways with one singles service, we say hello to another. In late November I'll be introducing JustOutPersonals.com, a Web-based dating service featuring individual profiles and pictures of those seeking dates, friends and partners. Similar to the national sites, JustOutPersonals.com will allow you to browse, respond and reply to those who catch your eye. Here's the good news: For the first several months, the site will be free to all users. As we get closer to the launch of the new *Just Out* Web site, I'll provide more details on how you and all your single friends can post your profiles. There will be a series of singles parties to introduce the new site. And here's the best news yet: No one will corner you at one of these parties and force you to write a personal ad.

For the entire 22 years of *Just Out*, there has been one version or another of Just Friends ads. For the first many years it was letters only, followed by several years of the voice ads. During these past 22 years, I know these ads have generated many successful matches. Did you meet your girlfriend, boyfriend or partner through *Just Out* ads? Do you have a success story that you could share with our readers? Send me your stories to be printed, and I'll send you off to a "thank you from *Just Out*" dinner. All responses must be received by Oct. 16. I look forward to hearing from you.


It's always gratifying when someone in the community steps up to organize an event or activity. It's even more gratifying when the event turns out to be a resounding success and holds the promise of being repeated in the future.

Kudos to Ellie Heller and her recent well-attended and appreciated event, Ladies on the Links. Even with the weather turning rainy, more than 60 women turned out for an enjoyable day of golf, laughter and new friendships. Originally conceived as a singles event for lesbians, the event grew into a more inclusive all-women's event, bringing together women of all identities joining in a common cause: raising some money and having fun. The event beneficiaries, the Hambleton Project and the Doernbecher Children's Hospital Foundation, will each receive more than \$1,000 thanks to the excellent efforts of Heller, her volunteer staff and the many tournament participants.

At the awards ceremony, hosted by Portland favorite Gail Hand, the laughter paused for a meaningful moment when Heller presented a dozen yellow roses to a cancer survivor who had participated in the day's events. This moment was what it was all about.

The recent Basic Rights Oregon Annual Dinner was, by most accounts, successful and enjoyed by those in attendance. The slam-bam fund raising continues to be tedious and ponderous, but then so is discrimination and lack of civil rights. My observation was that the event was less attended by members of our own community and more by corporate friends and allies. If this is the case, and even if not, let's give everyone in attendance the best value for their financial contribution. More entertainment perhaps?

Less successful than the dinner was the after-party held off-site at Wonder Ballroom and jointly sponsored by Insight Out's presentation of *One*. Well-intended, I'm sure; however, planning snafus created unhappiness and ill feelings among some miffed attendees. Next year, BRO, don't lose the energy and momentum by changing sites mid-stream. The after-party event needs to be better organized and coordinated. We have the talent within our community. Call in the people who know how to create a party. Especially if you're going to tack on additional charges.

Finally, some good news from the destruction zone of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Just when you can't take another picture of flood destruction, starving abandoned animals and mass ruin, there's a reason for hope and joy. Yes, folks, gay Web sex has returned to New Orleans. In a press release headlined "Cruising for Sex Returns to the Big Easy," owners of CruisingForSex.com said, "The ability to operate from the city they call home is an important step back towards normalcy and self-dependence." And life goes on. 

just out
newsmagazine

the in publication for the out population
Founded 1983 • Jay Brown and Renée LaChance
Vol. 22 No. 23 October 7, 2005

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REFLECTIONS 5 years ago in just out... Volume 17 Number 23, October 6, 2000

- The United Way continues to take public input about its support of the Boy Scouts of America. The Columbia-Willamette chapter, like others across the country, is considering cutting funding because of the ban on gay Scout leaders, which recently was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court. Sources tell *Just Out* that the United Way is moving toward a decision and might take public comment for only another two weeks.

- Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber has proclaimed October 2000 to be Lesbian and Gay History Month. The proclamation was requested by the Coalition to End Bigotry, Oregon Common Cause, American Association of University Women, Women's Rights Coalition, Oregon Library Association, Rural Organizing Project, It's Time Oregon, Sweet Spirit Metropolitan Community Church, Basic Rights Oregon, Lifeline AIDS Project and Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

- U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith, R-Ore., will receive the Equality Award during the Human Rights Campaign Gala Dinner on Nov. 3 at the Portland Hilton. The benefit also will commemorate the group's 20th anniversary.

- Two Portland women used their new domestic partnership registry document to officially change their last name and get new Social Security cards. Berdell and Casey Moffett-Chaney were the sixth couple to register as domestic partners with Multnomah County. The new



registry for unmarried couples, including same-sex partners, was launched Sept. 1.

- The Oregon Health Division launched its effort to hear feedback about a controversial HIV names reporting proposal during a hearing Sept. 27 at Portland's Airport Holiday Inn. The meeting, packed with mostly opponents to the policy, was the first of four scheduled throughout the state.

- Faced with national blood shortages, the Food and Drug Administration considered lifting its ban on gay male donors, but government scientists narrowly rejected the proposal Sept. 14. The Associated Press reports. All men who seek to donate blood are asked if they have had sex, even once, with another man since 1977. Those who say they have are banned permanently from donating blood.

- A lesbian tour group from Britain was welcomed at Sappho's hometown on the Greek island of Lesbos in mid-September after organizers agreed to tone down some of their activities. Among other changes, a "Wet Pussy Pool Party" was renamed.

- The Netherlands' lower house of Parliament voted to legalize gay marriage Sept. 12. Not registered partnership, like several countries have done, but marriage itself.

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