

What a year

A look back on 2005 and a look ahead to 2006

Has ever a year come and gone more quickly than 2005? It seems like just yesterday that we were reeling in despair from the passage of Measure 36, and now an entire year has come and gone. The year brought even more political upsets and disappointments but also promise and hope.

2005 started with swearing-in ceremonies for Tom Potter and Sam Adams; now in office, neither has slowed down for a moment. Their commitment to our community is an asset that we should cherish and not ever take for granted. There will come a time when they will have to say, "No, I can't be there." Let's be gracious when that time comes.

2005 set the direction for Basic Rights Oregon to develop and design strategy that will take the faces of the gay rights movement out to the communities of Oregon. BRO and its partners in a coalition of organizations are making contact with people who might have previously thought of us only as an unknown foe to be feared. Is this the pace that many would have set for the movement? No, but it is likely now the pace, albeit slow, that will take us to the finish line.

2006 does hold promise of being an election year without an anti-gay measure on the ballot. I suggest then that we throw our combined energy and support into backing an initiative to ban smoking in all public and work places in Oregon. A similar law is in effect now in Washington and has been for some time in California. Oregon is historically the leader in progressive legislation. Why are we falling behind in this much-needed legislation—legislation that will have an immediate positive impact on the health and well-being of countless Oregonians? Wouldn't it be great if our gay bars took the lead in going smoke-free, or establishing smoke-free nights prior to legislative mandates? Let's grow together as a community in 2006, not kill ourselves off in smoky bars.

The entertainment story of the year has to be *Brokeback Mountain*. Opening nationally Dec. 16, the movie has already garnered seven Golden Globe nominations, including one for Heath Ledger—for best Tommy Lee Jones impersonation? The movie immediately became a boon to the comedy industry, where the gay theme has become the butt of many jokes and skits. *Saturday Night Live* presented a predictably raw sketch, and David Letterman made gay cowboys the topic of a Top 10 List. Jay Leno is simply beside himself with the wealth of material now available, while the movie producers no doubt are jubilant about the free pro-

motion and publicity. I'm wary of the thin line between "good-natured" humor and that which turns into hateful and hurtful anti-gay rhetoric.

The movie opens in 1963, as two taciturn individuals struggle with character, love, relationships and tradition. Were the movie set in a contemporary context, it would be about two men on the "down low," having sex with each other while being unfaithful to their wives. Sounds a little less glamorous that way, doesn't it? Nonetheless, the story is compelling, the scenery and cinematography are beautiful, and many moviegoers will likely be moved to tears.

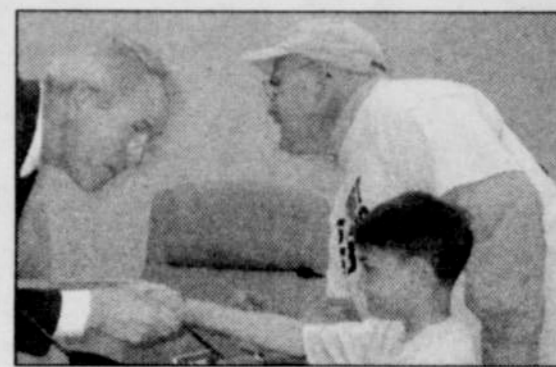
As 2006 begins, those dreaded new year's resolutions will begin popping up. You know them all: lose weight, clean the garage, study Eastern religions, find the meaning of life, hike those damn Gorge trails and, of course, get out and meet new people. With most of these resolutions you're on your own, but *Just Out* can help you meet new people. The solution is simple. Visit www.justoutpersonals.com. Our great new online dating service is now up and running. This is *the* place to post your profile and check out all the great people in our area. And if you really do want to take on those high-altitude trails, this site is the place to meet your new hiking pals.

Best part yet: It's all free. Whatever are you waiting for? There's a new year coming—let's get going.

Finally, a few thank-yous to end the year. A belated thanks to Jeff Fisher at Logomotives for his help with our new logo design. A great big thank-you goes out to the many free-lance writers who contribute so much to this paper and who, by way of pay, get little in return. Thanks to the *Just Out* staff, who do a tremendous job issue after issue. Thanks to their efforts, you and your community are represented by one of the finest papers in the nation serving gay, lesbian, bi and trans communities. If you think I'm exaggerating or being overly self-promoting, simply ask someone who has recently lived in another city.

And, as always, the biggest and final thanks goes to you, our readers, our advertisers, our friends, our community. We send you all our very best wishes for a prosperous new year. **jo**

JUST OUT ends this year with our quarterly week off. We'll be closed the week of Dec. 19, returning Dec. 26. Our next issue will be out Jan. 6; be sure and check www.justout.com for bulletins.



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FEATURE

20 YEAR IN REVIEW

A year in civil rights, a year in business and much more

NEWS

8-15 NORTHWEST

Equal Benefits Ordinance announced; rock camp in trouble; Q Center storytelling event a great success; Equity Foundation offers seminar on socially responsible investing; James West, embattled Spokane mayor, ousted; Cascade AIDS Project announces new leader; PGE and its employees give \$1.2 million away; kids benefit from toy drive; Oregon Bears gather to learn American Sign Language; historic women's land in southern Oregon robbed

16-17 NATIONAL

Loss in New York; lawsuit targets Oklahoma anti-gay adoption law; black ministers object to proposed gay rights law; Bush supports Marriage Protection Amendment author

18-19 WORLD

Same-sex marriage legalized in South Africa; United Arab Emirates may give arrested gays hormones; Amnesty International blasts Poland; New Zealand may ban same-sex marriage; Switzerland elects gay House speaker; push to report anti-gay abuses to U.S. State Department; Belgium's lower house OKs gay adoption; Swedish Lutheran ministers rebel; "hate speech" pastor cleared; Knights of Columbus lose lesbian case; Australian Capital Territory to recognize gay couples

ARTS AND CULTURE

39-42 FILM

Brokeback Mountain; *Breakfast on Pluto*; gay filmmaker celebrates life in *Transamerica*



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Wanna ring in 2006 with a midnight smooch? This is where the out crowd will be partying.

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In the Pink

**Happy Holidays
from the staff at Just Out.**

**And many thanks
for your continued support
during the past 22 years.**

Jim Cadest *Jay* *Kim*
Carol *Marty Davis* *M. M. Duffen*
Araceli *Sam* *Jay*



Look for the next issue on stands Jan. 6!