

by Marty Davis

A Decade with *Just Out*

What a long, strange journey it's been

This issue of *Just Out* marks a quiet personal anniversary for me. "Reflections," located directly below this column, features a back issue from 10 years ago. As I read through the pages, choosing items to highlight, I noticed also that this was the first issue where my own name showed up in the staff box. Without even noticing it myself, my 10th anniversary with this paper quietly came and went.

Ten years ago at *Just Out*, I was the newest saleswoman to join the staff. I worked part-time from my home and quickly and quietly had vowed never to become emotionally involved with this strange entity to which I'd somehow become attached. Thus was the beginning of a long, strange journey—one not yet ended, mind you—that led to my current status as publisher and owner of *Just Out*. And with broken vows lying all about, I became, and remain, very emotionally involved indeed.

During the seven-plus years that I've been writing this column, I seem to revisit several common themes. On a regular basis I provide informational overload, smattering you all with unrequested personal disclosures of dating disasters, weight issues and bad hair. I annoy Basic Rights Oregon (inadvertently, of course), make political predictions that I truly believe viable (they seldom are), display a total lack of feminist sensitivity and perception (is that a bad thing?) and hammer over and over the message that a strong community is built on the foundation of supporting local merchants, business owners, neighbors and friends.

Through the years I've stumbled, I've grown, I've faltered, I've learned, and I've developed and strengthened a core value system for this paper and for myself. A constant belief of mine is the need for us all to build and grow strong local communities. These beliefs strongly mirror and reflect those of the Sustainable Business Network of Portland, which I'm happy finally to have joined.

Recently I sat down with organization coordinator Robyn Shanti, who explained to me that the network is "a nonprofit business alliance of locally owned independent businesses, community organizations and individuals/customers committed to building a more socially, environmentally and financially sustainable local economy." The hallmark of the organization is the Think Local First campaign. Why shop local? Here are just a few of the benefits of buying goods and services at locally owned businesses:

- More dollars are recirculated locally. Revenues generated are not packaged up and shipped out of state.
- More local jobs are created. According to Shanti, Portland has more small businesses than any other comparable city. Small-business owners provide the bulk of jobs. *Just Out* is an example, providing full-time employment with benefits for nine employees.
- Unique neighborhoods are preserved and enhanced. Look at the energy


created in districts such as Mississippi, Alberta and now hopefully Killingsworth.

- Nonprofits and community organizations receive greater support. Look through the pages of *Just Out* to see who supports our community groups and organizations. It's local business owners, the same people over and over stepping up to the plate to support community. Support them back.
- Environmental impact is reduced. Walk to your neighborhood shops. Participate in local beautification projects. Strong neighborhoods have lower crime and vandalism.
- Customer service is better. When you're the owner, you care more. You are vested in the results.
- Local business owners invest in the community, invest in themselves and invest in you.
- Locally owned businesses break out of the strip-mall big-box mold. Small-business owners can provide competitive prices and almost always superior service.

As I start my second 10, 15, who-knows-how-many years at *Just Out*, I again make quiet vows. No more dating columns, no more exposés on bad hair. I will try to play nice with all the other kids but make no actual promises about anything except to Think Local First.

Mark your calendars, please, for Feb. 20. It's time for Gay Skate Night! Join us from 7 to 9 p.m. at Oaks Park. Portland State University Queers and Allies are coming to join us, and they bring promise of a memorable evening. Hopefully we'll all make it through the evening with no broken bones, and you'll all leave with nothing more than memories of a great time. Just remember, please, that speed skating is for the Olympics. The most dangerous thing that I ever want to see at Gay Skate Night is fellas daring to wear those tight little skating pants.

I would be remiss in my duties if I didn't remind you that a visit to www.justoutpersonals.com will find more than 400 profiles of area singles looking for dates, love, romance and whatever. We have postings from across the state, and I'm looking forward to expanding further into the Seattle, Eugene, Salem and Corvallis areas. Folks, it's the Internet; there are no geographical boundaries. If you're looking to bring new people into your life, check us out. Remember, it's a free service; all we ask in return is that you Think Local First.

Finally, I'm working on adding a publishers blog to www.justout.com. As a tag-on to "Page 3," it will allow dialogue and conversation among ourselves about riveting topics of the day. I'm looking forward to talking with you all. How about that last episode of *The L Word*, anyway? 

reflections

10 Years Ago in *Just Out*...
volume 13 number 8, february 16, 1996

- London's famed Royal Ballet will tackle AIDS in mid-February with a one-act ballet featuring prima ballerina Darcey Bussell as the virus and the corps de ballet as white blood cells, *The Evening Standard* reported.
- Thomas M. Lauderdale plays piano every Sunday at Bima.
- Erik Sten, chief of staff for Portland City Commissioner Gretchen Miller Kafoury, held a campaign kickoff Feb. 1 at his new campaign headquarters, 310 N.W. Broadway. He is running for a seat on the Portland City Council. Other candidates vying for the post are state Rep. Gail Shibley, D-Portland, who became Oregon's first openly gay or lesbian lawmaker in 1991, and Portland attorney James Francesconi.
- Cris Williamson and Tret Fure perform an evening of love songs.
- After more than a year of construction, Hopewell Apartments—a planned Portland residence serving people with HIV and/or mental illness—is on the verge of opening. Portland Mayor Vera Katz is scheduled to dedicate the \$1 million complex at noon March 25.

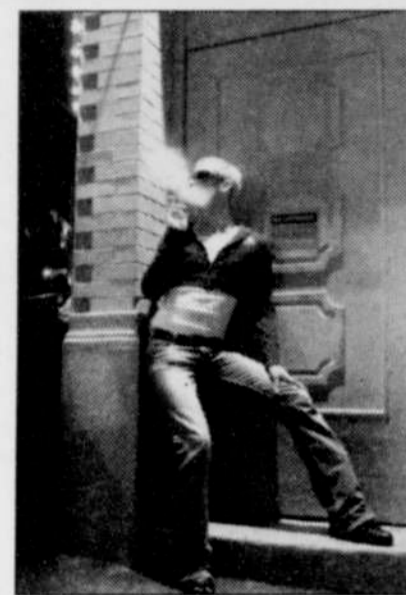


PAC has endorsed state Rep. Gail Shibley, D-Portland, Frank Dixon and Bob Duehmig.

• *Shocking Gray* was the first national specialty catalog aimed at the gay and lesbian community. Its first catalog came out in the fall of 1991. Last August, its publisher filed for bankruptcy, and the catalog was canceled.

ON THE COVER

Benjamin, 22, is one of the sex workers *Just Out* interviewed for a report about queer prostitution.



© XILIA FAYE

FEATURE

22 TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

A glimpse into Portland's thriving queer sex industry

NEWS

7-17 NORTHWEST

Election news: Sten vs. Burdick, Saltzman vs. Fritz; Mandy Carter interviewed; MRG grantees announced; Rainbow Preschool taking applications for fall; welcome to the new Scandals; Our House of Portland's annual "For Love and Money" dinner; Genderblendz open house schedule for February; local HIV/AIDS leaders speak out against Bush budget; Portland PFLAG news; SMYRC supporters share food, hopes

18-19 NATIONAL

Florida marriage ban effort fails; gay tax resisters practice civil disobedience; bill would ban Gay Straight Alliances in schools; anti-gay congressman wins majority leader post; ACLU says soliciting charges against Southern Baptist minister should be dismissed; hatchet-wielding murderer turns gun on self; rare chlamydia strain infecting gay men; Vermont governor doesn't want to revisit same-sex marriage issue

18-19 WORLD

Portuguese lesbians try to get married; Czech Republic passes gay partnership bill; Canadian same-sex marriage faces threat; UAE bans *Brokeback Mountain*; Cameroon newspapers out alleged gays

ARTS & CULTURE

39-40 FILM

A newlywed blossoms with a florist in *Imagine Me & You*; Portland International Film Festival presents C.R.A.Z.Y.

43 CULTURE

Groups offer events for queers of color

44-45 DANCE

Globetrotting choreographer Trey McIntyre unveils his newest work for Oregon Ballet Theatre

COLUMNS

17 DEAR ETHEL

Staph Infections

35 MS. BEHAVIOR

Skin Deep

37 OUT GOING

Food Glorious Food

38 EPIQUEEREAN

Fish + Chips = ?

46 JIM'S CLOSET

The Pink Carpet



PAGE 43