

Happy Anniversary

Just Out celebrates 23 years by continuing to give back to our community

This is our anniversary month at *Just Out*. November 2006 marks the 23rd celebration of the paper's inception in 1983. We'll start 2007 as a 24-year-old business, headed at full speed toward our silver anniversary.

Last year we started a new anniversary commemoration by announcing the first recipients of the *Just Out* Scholarship Fund. We continue this in 2006. In our Nov. 17 issue we'll profile the students who we feel hold great promise for the future. Please note that, in an effort to avoid any and all appearance of conflict of interest, no one from the *Just Out* staff actually participates in the decision-making for the selection of the scholarship recipients. We've put together a skilled and highly efficient team to make this decision for us. We come in contact with so many of you so frequently and so many applicants' names are familiar that we've simply removed ourselves from any questions of objectivity—or lack thereof.

This year we're continuing with our process of giving back to our community by organizing the first *Just Out* Toy Drive. The recipients of toys collected will be the children of families served by a very worthy organization, the Friends of People with AIDS Foundation. On Page 13 you can find full details on the mission of this group and what it hopes to achieve. I attended its holiday party last year and was very impressed by the organization and magnitude of this event. You hear over and over that the holidays, that Christmas is for the kids, and this event brought that message home to me. These are kids who don't have it easy, and for one very special day the combined efforts of volunteers and caring community members made a difference in the lives of others.

I invite you to join *Just Out* as we collect toys. We need unwrapped gifts for all ages, from toddlers to teens. Right now you can bring toys to the *Just Out* office in Suite 465 at 123 N.E. Third Ave. Partnering with *Just Out* is Pauline Miriam of Cruise Control PDX. Her Hot Flash Dance Party on Nov. 11 at Aura will also be a collection point. If you're coming to the dance, bring along a toy and receive a discounted admission price as well as the chance to be entered into a drawing for a great door prize. Our second event for collecting toys is our monthly Gay Skate Night at Oaks Park. This month we skate Nov. 20 and encourage our great group of skaters to bring along a toy.

Also joining in our effort is the Queers and Allies Student Organization at Mt. Hood Community College. President Dylan Sims is undertaking its activities and organizing campus collection points.

Throughout November I hope to have other groups, organizations and events partner with us in collecting toys. To keep track of what's new, who's new, please check our "Blog Out" at www.justout.com. We'll post updates as quickly as they're known.

Thank you for helping us make this holiday season special.

A letter writer takes exception to the paper's decision to not make an endorsement in the race for the Multnomah County Commission District 2 seat. I stand behind that decision.

I should have been clearer, however, when I stated that *Just Out* does not make endorsements in all races partially due to time constraints. Time and staffing are factors in out-of-area races but did not play a factor in this race.

As stated, both candidates, Jeff Cogen and Lew Frederick, appear to be highly suited for the office they seek. Both have courted gay and lesbian voters and made the usual rounds of fund-raisers, Pride events and dinners. All this has been done since announcing their candidacy. As previously acknowledged, Frederick tried a little harder to woo our support. Neither brings along a history of advocacy, activism or volunteerism with our community. Both speak of change and commitment to the future. That's rather obvious and expected of someone courting our votes.

We are lucky to have fine examples of straight advocates and friends who have set the bar high on how we gauge the involvement of others. We can look to the work of Laura Dellinger and her team at the Metropolitan Group. Basic Rights Oregon received years of fine leadership from Ellen Lowe. Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays chapters across the state have sent leaders, activists and volunteers to join us at our many battlefronts. Hell, they've usually led the charge. We know who is with us. And we know who hasn't been. We can tell the difference. As you might recall, this was a big factor in the decision of many to support incumbent Diane Linn over Ted Wheeler. Linn had a proven history of support. Wheeler, just like Cogen and Frederick, didn't. Wheeler will have a chance to prove himself to us. So will either Cogen or Frederick. Until then, they remain *unproven*.

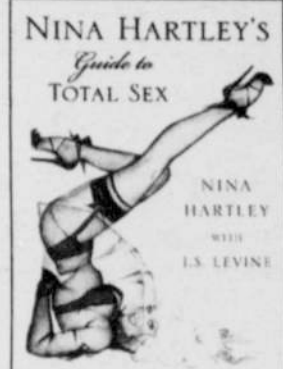
The basic criteria for evaluation are not complex. Where do you stand on our issues? What past leadership have you shown in supporting our civil rights?

Based on these criteria, neither candidate passes muster. One of them, however, will win the election; one of them will have the opportunity to spend the next four years living up to the promises and platitudes delivered to us for this race. Then we'll have a basis for evaluation when the seat is up for re-election.

In looking again at these criteria, I came to the rather uncomfortable realization that perhaps we, as a community, don't hold all candidates up to this same scrutiny. Specifically some of our favored gay and lesbian candidates do not have a strong history of leadership and activism within our community, yet we fervently jump on their bandwagon. Is this an acceptable double standard?

Are we willing to accept less of gay and lesbian candidates when evaluating their past records? Are we OK with this? What are our criteria for growing and grooming future candidates from within our own ranks?

Nov. 7 will give us some clarity as to what happens next. If you haven't voted yet, time's a-wastin'. The future is in our hands. **JO**



FEATURE

22 FALL READING GUIDE

What's new (and old) on shelves near you

NEWS

8-16 NORTHWEST

When leather is bound up in art; acupuncture supports community; let the music play; PABA cleans house; LifeLine holds open house; new Shepherd legal scholars chosen; Pride Foundation comes to the Portland area; Kids and Holidays at Friends of PWA; out in the open adoption

17-19 NATIONAL

New Jersey marriage purgatory; Asian press expands coverage; gay center becomes polling place; marital status affects health insurance; victory for trans commuters; Oklahoma's adoption law discriminatory; marriage amendments arise in the South; gay marriage ban persists

20-21 WORLD

Museum stages gay animals exhibit; Budapest tourism extends hand to gays; Latvian diplomat cleared; Sitges gets gay sculpture; Sweden gets a gay government minister; Dublin police set up Pink Patrol; Netherlands welcomes gay Iranians; Euro Commission funds gay youth project; gays organize in Mozambique; South African civil union bill criticized; marriage official sues for right to discriminate

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Rose City roller girls have heart and attitude

40-41 THEATER

Wade McCollum prepares to portray another infamous transgender German

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Northwest Film Center presents 33rd Northwest Film & Video Festival

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Canadian festivals offer a lovely, affordable alternative to Ashland



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Too Fast for a Girl

35 MS. BEHAVIOR

Denial Ain't Just a River in Egypt

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A Star Is Born

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One Day a Year

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He's Bringing EasyBack

2006 General Election Endorsements

• Governor of Oregon: Ted Kulongoski

• Judge of the Supreme Court: Virginia Linder

• Representative in Congress District 3: Earl Blumenauer

• Representative in Congress District 5: Darlene Hooley

• State Representative District 21: Brian Clem

• State Representative District 26: Lee Coleman

• State Representative District 33: Mitch Greenlick

• State Representative District 36: Mary Nolan

• State Representative District 41: Caroline Tomei

• State Representative District 42: Diane Rosenbaum

• State Representative District 43: Chip Shields

• State Representative District 44: Tina Kotek

• State Representative District 45: Jackie Dingfelder

• State Representative District 46: Ben Cannon

• State Representative District 47: Jeff Merkley

• State Ballot Measure 40 (requires judges to be elected by district): No

• State Ballot Measure 41 (state income tax deduction): No

• State Ballot Measure 42 (prohibits insurance companies from using credit score in calculating rates): No

• State Ballot Measure 43 (parental notification for abortion): No

• State Ballot Measure 44 (prescription drug coverage): Yes

• State Ballot Measure 45 (term limits for Oregon legislators): No

• State Ballot Measure 46 (allows campaign funding laws): No

• State Ballot Measure 47 (sets campaign finance limits): No

• State Ballot Measure 48 (state spending limits): No

• Multnomah County Ballot Measure 26-81 (library funding): Yes

• Portland Ballot Measure 26-86 (amends charter: changes fire and police disability and retirement system): Yes

• Portland School District Ballot Measure 26-84 (school funding): Yes