

justout

NEWSMAGAZINE

Founded 1983 • Jay Brown and Renée LaChance

PUBLISHER & MANAGING EDITOR

Marty Davis

NEWS EDITOR

Jaymee R. Cuti

ARTS AND CULTURE EDITOR

Jim Radosta

STAFF WRITER

Malka Geffen

ART DIRECTOR

Anabel Ramirez

PRODUCTION & AD DESIGNER

Cat Cheng

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

Larry Lewis

ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES

Melissa Morales, Kari Tate

CONTRIBUTORS

Yvonne P. Behrens, Stephen Blair, Maria Callahan, Meryl Cohn, Jodi Darby, Winston Goodbody, Jemiah Jefferson, Timothy Krause, Jon Kretzu, Andy Mangels, Christopher McQuain, Gary Morris, Jenny Nguyen, Rebecca Ragain, Theresa "Darklady" Reed, Bob Roehr, Julie Sabatier, Aaron Scott, Floyd Sklaver, Jim Thompson, Glenn Scofield Williams, Rex Wockner

DISTRIBUTION

Harry Bonfill, Youme Inhofe, Pat Kilmer-Cramer, Chance Schwartz, Aster Wolfe

Just Out is published on the first and third Friday of each month. Copyright © 2006 by **Just Out**. No part of **Just Out** may be reproduced without written permission from the publisher.

Editorial guidelines: Letters to the editor should be limited to 500 words. Announcements regarding life transitions (births, deaths, unions, etc.) should be limited to 200 words; photos are welcome. Deadline for submissions to the editorial department and for the Calendar is the Thursday 15 days before the next publication date. **Just Out** reserves the right to edit for grammar, punctuation, style, liability concerns and length. Views expressed in letters to the editor, columns and features are not necessarily those of the publisher.

Advertising policy: The display advertising deadline is the Monday 12 days before the next publication date. Classified ads must be received at the **Just Out** office by 5 p.m. on the Sunday five days before the next publication date, along with payment. Classifieds may be placed via www.justout.com, by mail or in person at our office. **Just Out** reserves the right to reject or edit any advertisement. Compensation for errors in, or cancellation of, advertising will be made with credit toward future advertising. Advertising rates available upon request.

Distribution policy: **Just Out** is available free of charge. **Just Out** is delivered only to authorized distributors. No person may, without prior written permission, take more than one copy. Any person who takes more than one copy may be held liable for theft, including but not limited to civil damages and/or criminal prosecution. Subscriptions are \$22.50 for 12 issues. First Class (in an envelope) is \$40 for 12 issues.

Contact: Just Out at
P.O. Box 14400,
Portland, OR 97293-0400;
503-236-1252,
advertising 503-236-1253,
fax 503-236-1257;
e-mail justout@justout.com.
Visit us on the web at www.justout.com.

letters

No Time for Intentions

TO THE EDITOR:

This election season is one of the most crucial we have faced these modern times. Both in Oregon and in the country, we have the opportunity to turn the tide on discrimination in its various forms. Whether we are confronting institutionalized racism, women's reproductive rights, LGBTQ rights, civil rights or basic human rights, this election will be pivotal. In the face of such opportunity, we must continue to build on relationships and demand from our leaders and allies proactive stances and results regarding our issues.

This compels me to write this letter and ask your readership to weigh the choices carefully. We do not have time for rhetoric and good intentions; we must select leaders and public servants who have proven, either in their careers or personal lives, to stand for equality, justice and genuine human kindness. This not just an election about ideals or politics; we cannot send new legislators to their jobs to do business as usual. It is time for good representation, strategic planning and commitment beyond words, but in action. The politics of this election are really about people's lives. We must insist on leaders who embody a vision of a better society and healthy quality of life for all of our citizens.

There are some leaders, both longtime and emerging, who exemplify the best in us and live their lives promoting the values we all share. Lew Frederick, candidate for Multnomah County commissioner, is one such leader. For more than 30 years, Lew has lived a life worthy of respect and honor. In his various roles, he challenged the status quo and demanded real change. He will do the same for the county as our next commissioner. This election is not about electing people to stand on party lines; it is about electing a diverse leadership that can represent all of the residents of Multnomah County to ensure balance and compassion in governance.

Regardless of your party affiliation, we must cast a vote for every position on the ballot. We must think about the long-term impact of our choices and support those who have supported us, even when it was not popular to do so. So in casting votes for Supreme Court judge, governor, county commissioner, county judge, ballot measures and other local races all over the state, we must vote for the long haul and make sure that every vote counts (and is counted). Our future, the future of our families and the very soul of our society are at stake. Vote wisely, vote for people who will listen and lead, vote for people who will remain accessible and accountable.

DARRYL L.C. MOCH

Portland

What a Cop-Out

TO THE EDITOR:

I am disappointed by *Just Out* newspaper's decision not to endorse a candidate for District 2 Multnomah County commissioner ["2006 General Election Endorsements," Oct. 20]. After all the attention the board of county commissioners receives in *Just Out*, it is disturbing to me that the paper would decide not to endorse either Jeff Cogen or Lew Frederick in this important local race.

While lack of staffing and resources might make it difficult to cover all election races, a position on

our local county board merits both coverage and an endorsement. County services, from libraries to health clinics, impact the lives of our community on a daily basis. To leave it up to the voters with the statement, "Good luck with that one" is irresponsible.

Just Out does reference the efforts of Frederick in obtaining an endorsement: "making repeated calls" and reaching out to the paper. It was not so long ago that a candidate seeking an endorsement from an LGBTQ newspaper rarely happened. In fact, if you look at other cities and states, it still does not happen.

In the future, I'm hopeful *Just Out* makes the time to issue endorsements to important local races.

DAVID MARTINEZ

Portland

Beware of Red Herrings

TO THE EDITOR:

I just have to comment about a letter that appears in the Oct. 20 issue of *Just Out* ["PABA in an Uproar"]. Debbie Caselton claims to have first-hand information about the Portland Area Business Association's current woes but quickly proves her knowledge runs no deeper than the headlines and sound bites offered by the excuse makers among PABA's current management.

Don't fall for it.

The issues are real. The methods used to get PABA a monthly newsletter favored insiders. The decision to grant an additional \$2,000 (plus) in PABA funds to pay for postage for that newsletter was made at a meeting that only one person vaguely remembers and for which there is no written record. Until I forced the issue, the system of oversight for the newsletter was akin to the fox guarding the henhouse.

PABA's members have suffered the unfortunate results. We ended up with a newsletter that is hugely expensive and embarrassingly ineffective. We think we're lucky because sometimes it arrives in time to publicize our events.

My attempts to resolve these issues internally were deliberately stalled. The stench of these misdeeds brought them to the attention of membership. Many have had the same concerns about these issues before and after my involvement began, and these concerns only became publicly known as more questions arose, yet no answers were forthcoming. The fact that these issues came to public attention has been a major factor in finding some appropriate measure of resolution.

When confronted with the issues, PABA's president and our newsletter maven grow defensive and attack. At best, they offer the tired excuse that "we're just a volunteer organization."

Ms. Caselton longs for the days when the PABA board "became close friends." I long for the day when the board is made up of respectful leaders who don't try to silence opposing viewpoints and are professional enough to work with people with whom they do not agree.

I believe friendships will grow from that mutual respect, but they must never be allowed to overshadow our duty to serve the best interests of our membership.

SEAN MINOGUE

Lake Oswego

Do We Deserve Equal Rights?

TO THE EDITOR:

I know a lesbian couple who recently broke up after being in a committed long-term relationship. They had put their assets together while in that relationship and built for the future. They were politically active members of the Human Rights Campaign, fought for equal rights and promised each other that, even if they would split, they would treat each other respectfully and fairly because there is no law to protect each of them like in a heterosexual marriage.

Like with a lot of couples, because one person had better credit, all assets were in one person's name, and the other person just "contributed" her money and hard work. When the breakup came, the truth came out, too. All of those promises were useless, and the women became even worse examples than their heterosexual counterparts. Everything "contributed" by the unprotected partner was worthless, as if there was never a relationship in the first place.

If we had equal rights, the law would protect those women, and each would get her fair share of what they had built together in those years of commitment. But because we don't have equal rights, one is now left standing out in the rain.

The "stupid women" who trust their loved ones are in for a rude awakening and might end up empty-handed with their stuff thrown out in the streets. As long as our own community is treating our relationships and partners like that, we should not be surprised that nobody else will fight for us, either. Shame on those who treated their partners like that!

YVONNE P. BEHRENS

Portland

NOTABLES



Gwenn Baldwin (right) and Judith Gray were married Sept. 23 in Victoria, British Columbia, surrounded by family and friends. Baldwin is president of Baldwin Consulting and serves as vice chairwoman of Q Center. Gray is a senior transportation planner with Kittelson & Associates. The couple honeymooned in Barcelona, Spain.

Send your
Letters to the Editor
Wedding Announcements
Obituaries
Births
online at www.justout.com