

letters

Count Me Out

TO THE EDITOR:

In response to the Oct. 6 *Just Out* article "Embroided in Conflict," my opinion is that a member as so very recent as Sean Minogue might have taken baby steps for change and learned how Oregonians work. It's imperative to understand that when something is not broken, most Oregonians don't want it fixed.

The Portland Area Business Association has grown tremendously from a very small organization to something on its way to bigger and better things, with or without Sean's disturbance.

I think it is important to know all the facts and to make sure everyone involved does as well. My belief is Sean has made an error in judgment of the accused board members.

In your run for PABA president, please *do not* count on my vote.

CELIA J. LYON
Bella Casa Realty

Martina Navratilova vs. Gay Sheep

TO THE EDITOR:

Tennis icon Martina Navratilova's objection to the "gay sheep" research at Oregon State University and Oregon Health and Science University incorrectly mixes animal rights with gay rights. She echoes the arguments made by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals that were described in the Aug. 18 *Just Out* feature article "Sexual Eugenics."

Navratilova's desire to suppress science is as wrong as the anti-knowledge position held by evangelical Christian Republicans who oppose giving gay people equal rights.

Knowledge is neither good nor bad by itself. It is what you do with it that can be good or bad.

For example, Navratilova is right to be worried that scientific knowledge about sexual orientation could be misused to develop a "cure" for homosexuality. However, such knowledge could also be used to overturn discriminatory court decisions based on the prejudiced claim that sexual orientation is not an inborn trait like race.

Although society might misuse knowledge about sexual orientation and gender identity, I am betting that such knowledge will be used for the good of mankind.

THOMAS KRAEMER
Corvallis

Turning to Queers

TO THE EDITOR:

It is late Monday night, and I'm just now tackling my ballot. I've heard plenty about measures. When unsure, I consult the large pile of newspapers and miscellaneous propaganda reserved for this occasion. As in previous years, there is one glaring omission on my ballot: judges. It is very hard to vote the party line when judges don't have a party. My pile isn't much help; everybody is focusing on the "bigger issues."

I'm entirely satisfied with endorsements from

teachers when I think about education, or conservationists when thinking about the environment, or social service organizations when deciding about social services, or human rights groups on human rights.

But the first opinion I want when voting on judges is the professional queers'. The courts are key to upholding our rights to keep our jobs, homes and families. I know it is too late this year, but for the next election, consider endorsing judges. I'd listen.

CATHERINE SHERRADEN
Portland

Thank You Seems Inadequate

TO THE EDITOR:

Both September and October issues of *Just Out* carried the story of local gal Vickie Chalfant, who lost her leg in a boating accident late this August. Our community was asked to step up to help raise funds to aid in her recovery.

Overwhelmed by the incredible generosity of both businesses and private parties, Vickie has a few things to say: "I am so blessed and honored to be surrounded by so many wonderful and amazing people. My love runs deep for all of you. Portland is as lucky as I am to have so many great and generous people living in and around it. I am so proud to be friends with the network around me. Please know I'll always be here for you, too!"

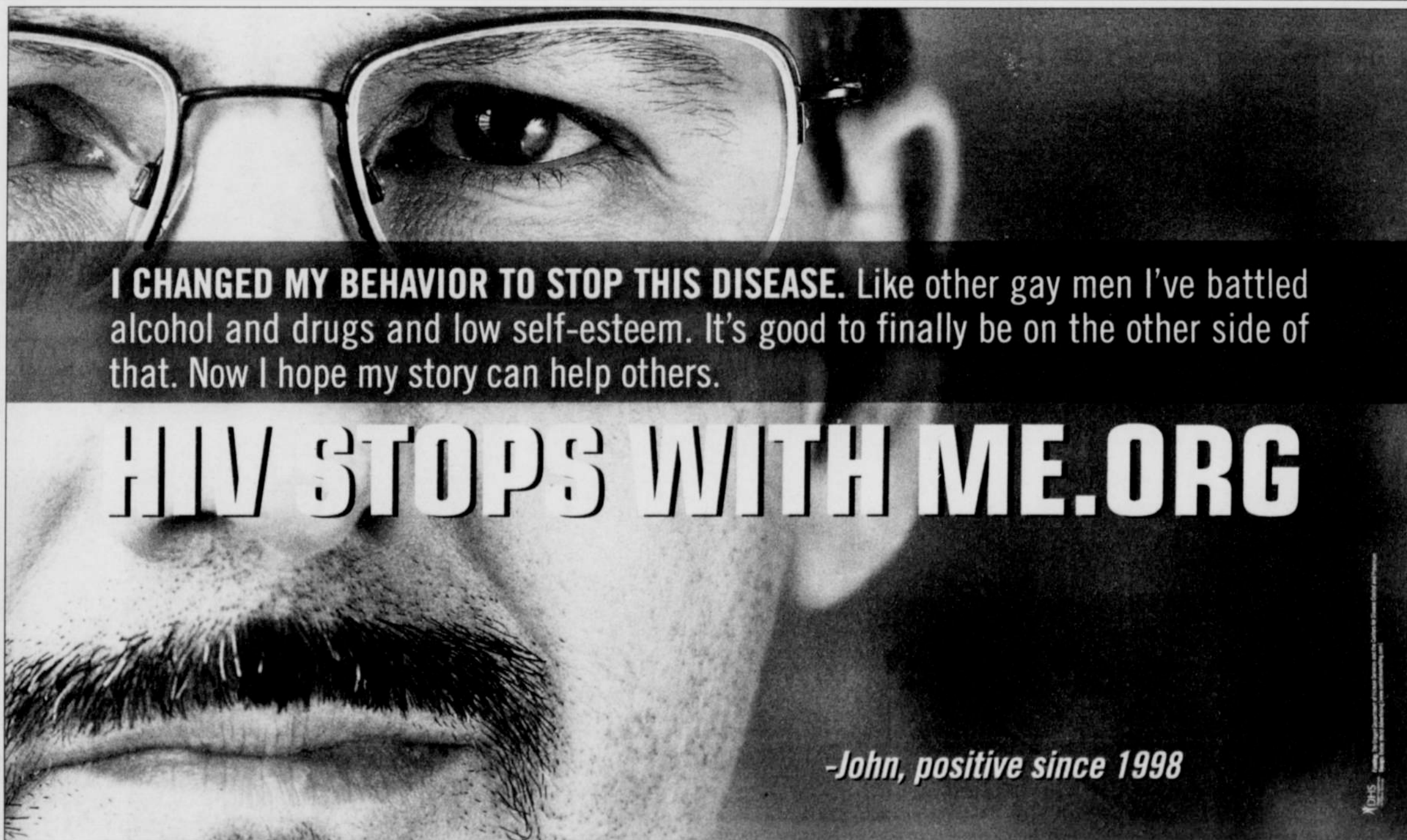
And so, here is the short list of contributors. Apologies, please, if anyone has gone unmentioned.

All volunteers and private donations...wow! You know who you are!

For goods and services donated: KT Hodges, Gripper Dog Leashes, Rae McPhearson, Avista "D" Mar, Chameleon Restaurant, Moonbeam, Glass Roots, Healthy Pets Northwest, Sokol Blosser Winery, Beauty for the Beast, Hello Gorgeous Salon, Nelsons Nautilus (artist), CE Bloom, Yesterday & Tomorrow, Spartacus, Hobo's Restaurant, Cotton Cloud Futons, Home Chic Home, XK Austin, Screen Door Restaurant, Vogue Nails, Lori Krampetz (licensed massage therapist), Steamers Asian Street Bistro, Moxie Apparel, Nancy Patton, Hip Chicks Do Wine, Tanja Nichols, Hands On Tattoo, In Other Words Bookstore, Infinity Tattoo, Urban Brasserie, Marji Brailsford, Blue Dog Distributing, Pets on Broadway, Reflections Hair Design, Soul Mission Astrology, Alaska/Horizon Airlines, Oregon Decorative Rock, Zen Dog Sitting, Robin Kendall, Tammy Robbins, Josie Sparks (personal trainer), Deborah Weisenbueller, Tualatin Hills Parks and Recreation, Bob Zeller, Blend Coffeehouse, Dingo's Taco Bar, Traderoots, Jack's Resort, Riverside Lodge, Ridgefield Kayaks, Meat Supplies for Dogs and Cats, Starbucks Coffee, Portofino Restaurant and David (stylist).

Because of each and every one of you directly, we have successfully raised enough money to buy our friend Vickie her first leg. Again, thank you seems so inadequate for all you've done!

SHANON JOHN
WENDY MURRAY
Portland



I CHANGED MY BEHAVIOR TO STOP THIS DISEASE. Like other gay men I've battled alcohol and drugs and low self-esteem. It's good to finally be on the other side of that. Now I hope my story can help others.

HIV STOPS WITH ME.ORG

-John, positive since 1998