

by Marty Davis

Shop 'Til You Drop

But remember to shop our advertisers, shop gay, shop local

Ah, 'tis the season. Don we now our gay apparel, shop 'til we drop, roast our chestnuts and harbor no feelings of ill will. Hey, I can go with three out of four. (If this was e-mail, I'd insert the annoying happy-face emoticon right here.)

That aside, welcome to the now-official holiday season and the *Just Out* Holiday Guide. Our role, and one we take very seriously, is to be the appetizer—the cheese plate, so to speak—of newspaper gift guides. We do not foist upon you an 84-page glossy handout of electronic gifts that no one over a certain age understands. Nope, we simply want to take this opportunity to reinforce a few shopping philosophies that we hold near and dear. Shop our advertisers, shop gay, shop local. Take our humble suggestions as the starting points for your own holiday shopping adventures.

We ask you to support our advertisers for the obvious reason. They are the sole financial support of this paper. Because of them, this small-business owner is able to provide jobs, salaries and benefits for nine employees. Because of our advertisers, *Just Out* is able to donate back thousands of dollars annually in sponsorship for local gay, lesbian, bi and trans groups and organizations. Our advertisers provide the financial foundation for the *Just Out* Scholarship Fund and have been crucial in the success of this year's first-ever *Just Out* Toy Drive.

Your support of our advertisers keeps this paper going. As such, I need to ask you to make sure that our advertisers know you are out there purchasing their goods, services and products. It is key to the continuation of this publication.

Each year, America loses a few more gay and lesbian newspapers. We received word Nov. 30 of the loss of *Out in the Mountains*, a 21-year-old Vermont newspaper. According to board president Brian Cote: "Twenty-one years ago people relied on this newspaper for information about our community. Now, mainstream press outlets in Vermont are covering gay issues." He also mentioned that many people get their news from the Internet and that advertising revenues have been lagging. Sadly, his tale is true and one shared by gay papers across the country. You, the reader, have the power to make the difference in who fails and who succeeds.

Support our advertisers, and support gay- and lesbian-owned businesses, even if they aren't advertising with us. Small-business owners have much in common. We're all working for the same goals. We work to support our families, to create jobs, to be leaders in our communities. We strive to make a difference.

Shop local whenever you can. Enjoy the diversity and beauty of the city. Explore the neighborhoods. Save gas, make friends, form community. Enjoy the

energy of the Mississippi, Alberta, Hawthorne and Belmont districts. Come out to North Portland and St. Johns. Put power in your shopping dollars.


I recently spent a lot of time downtown and in the Northwest part of Portland. If you haven't been into the Pearl and Burnside areas for a while, you are in for quite a surprise. The change is amazing, and there appears to be no end in sight for the new growth and development.

And like a wildfire in summer, the spread of this development has now jumped the boundary, the once-thought-unbreachable Burnside Street. Stark Street, as we know it, cannot possibly exist for much longer. Where only a couple of years ago the city spoke of creating a cultural trust zone, now hotels, cinemas and shops lap at the edges of our once-freestanding Burnside Triangle. It's going away, folks. Will the Club Portland building become the new Niketown?

The first-ever *Just Out* Toy Drive is winding down. Soon the piles of toys will be taken away and prepared for their new homes. That part will be exciting to watch. For a toy drive that was originally intended to be a one-event function, we ended up with a fine amount of trucks, games, balls and coloring books. We were lucky to receive two "Dress-Me Elmos," a toy designed to test all your sensibilities. I dare you to play with it without looking around for hidden cameras.

Thanks go out again to Pauline Miriam and the Hot Flash dancers, Becky Bilyeu of Touchstone Coffee House and Julie Cantonwine of Healthy Pets Northwest. You folks stepped up big time this year and made a difference. Many others have already signed up for next year, and together we are going to rock. I'm looking forward to partnering with Kim Davis of the Egyptian Club and Bob Mensel of the Portland Gay Men's Chorus. Many more of you will hear from me late next summer. It's all quite exciting.

The Nov. 29 presentation of *20/20* was a study of the giving habits and patterns of different demographic groups across the country. The host, John Stossel, presented numerous statistics, not the least of which was that the most generous and giving group came from "red" states with people identified as the most conservative and most closely aligned with religious and right-leaning politics. According to this show, liberals and the "middle class" were not as strongly identified as givers. Well, not so here, and next year we're going to prove it even more.

Thank you for all your generosity. 

reflections

10 Years Ago in *Just Out*... volume 14 number 3, december 6, 1996

- The Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania has approved the development of "a rite or rites for the blessing of committed relationships between persons of the same sex," reports *The Philadelphia Inquirer*.

- Three anti-gay radio ads sponsored by the Youth Action Committee began airing Oct. 7 on the soft-rock station KAFE-FM in Bellingham, Wash. According to *The Northwest Gay Times*, the ads were pulled after three days, presumably because of the effectiveness of an activist campaign to notify other advertisers about the offensive and divisive ads.

- For Sale: The City Nightclub. The City Nightclub is open and operating and is ready for a new owner/operator who wants to provide important services to the gay and lesbian community and receive an excellent financial return on the investment.

- This year's internationally televised Hollywood Christmas Parade will include an entry from the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center, sponsored by the West Hollywood HIV/AIDS pharmacy Capitol Drugs. The float will highlight the center's 25th anniversary and feature openly gay actor Dan Butler (*Frasier*) and his life partner, Richard Waterhouse.



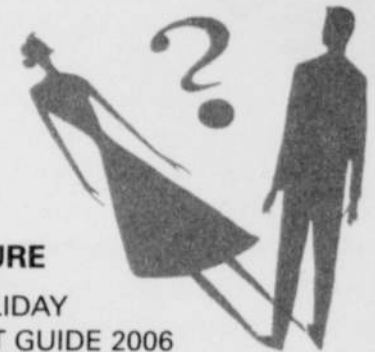
Hawaii's ban on same-sex marriage is ruled unconstitutional, but legal actions for most queers are a long way off. Meanwhile, two Portland lesbians have found their way around the system. Stories begin on page 19.

- Debi Easterday, a lesbian married to a preoperative female transsexual, was escorted by police from the property of Medina Church of the Brethren in Akron, Ohio, because she "remains unrepentant and seeks to mock God," according to a statement released by church leaders.

- The Metropolitan Human Rights Commission is soliciting information regarding the experiences of sexual minority youth. The data will be compiled in a report that will be sent to the Governor's Task Force on Teen Suicide, as well as to Multnomah County and Portland city officials.

- One of Oregon's most visible gay and lesbian rights advocates is leaving her job to make room for "fresh, new leadership." Julie Davis, director of Basic Rights Oregon, the successor organization to the No on 13 campaign, will officially step down from her post Dec. 31.

- International performing artists Cris Williamson and Tret Fure perform their second annual holiday concert in Bend. A special fund-raising reception after the concert will benefit Beyond the Closet, a community educational organization.



FEATURE

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GIFT GUIDE 2006

Give it away like nobody's business

NEWS

8-17 NORTHWEST

Portland shapes up; play with your hair; Victor's Secret comes out; Portland ranks as fourth-gayest city; college group raises money, good times; Cruz goes out in style; roundtable opens house; concert for a cause; public hero honored with proclamation; register for GLSEN conference; task force leaders hold discussion; join PFLAG for cleanup and holiday fun; a wake-up call for PABA; Portland man helps homos hang on this time of year; grant means gain for seniors; the face of family

18-19 NATIONAL

Same-sex couples appeal to Supreme Court; Miami University employees keep benefits

20-21 WORLD

Spain's Congress passes trans bill; Brit gay leader targets blood ban; Canadian Parliament considers reopening marriage debate; Outgames lost money; Argentine cross-dressers decriminalized; reports claim Iranian gay was hanged

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Siren Nation takes Portland women's community to the next level

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Wrestling with Angels takes a close-up look at acclaimed, politically outspoken playwright; Northwest Film Center remembers one of Hollywood's earliest leading lesbians; documentary takes a psychological look at drag

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Jefferson Theater strippers bare all

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Relive your teen angst with these novels aimed at young readers



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Oh, Susannah!