

# letters

## Support Local Talent

TO THE EDITOR:

We want to thank Rebecca Ragain and *Just Out* for writing and publishing such a wonderful and thoughtful piece about Galloway and Luckett ["One Day at a Time," July 6].

The tone of the article was so positive and supportive that it is now our favorite of articles written. It was a pleasure for us to meet with Rebecca, and we have received numerous calls of congratulation from folks in the community who found the piece a pleasure to read.

We also want to thank *Just Out* for being an ongoing support for local musicians and a vehicle for letting the community know where to find music and entertainment. There are many great performers in this community, and we hope readers will continue to support local talents.

Our best to *Just Out* staff, and thanks to Jim Radosta for searching out the right pictures for the article.

BARB GALLOWAY  
DONNA LUCKETT  
Portland

## Sodomites Show Tolerance

TO THE EDITOR:

For years, my favorite pastime has been to film and videotape Pride parades. Mostly because you always are surprised!

My first Gay Pride was in Salt Lake City, and believe it or not, my mom and dad (good Mormons and active in the church) made me and my partner take them. They stood right on

the front line waving rainbow flags. I was worried about them being shown on the local news media, and my mom's response was, "If they have a problem with me supporting my sons, then I'm not in the right church."

I learned a long time ago that we need to support each other and that even though we might be semi-out or residing in the shadows, Pride is always an excellent way to promote yourself and your life, in the way you want to.

I didn't think I would make it to Pride this year, as I had been out of the hospital for only about one week after a major back surgery. While I couldn't stand for long, people were nice and knew I was in pain, and thanks to a nice boyfriend, I was able to lean on someone throughout the parade.

I was able to get some great photos and video footage of all the fun. My favorite video footage I shot was of the Christian protesters. I was really surprised that only about five total folks showed up to tell us we were all going to hell. Those wonderful "children of God" kept calling me a "sodomite." I ran the video for a bit and recorded all their antics. I posted a satirical version on YouTube.com later that afternoon, and the video spoke for itself. Almost immediately after posting the video on YouTube, several YouTube users claiming to be those Christian folks parading their signs of hate started to leave vicious and hateful replies.

I was astonished that their biggest gripe was about our actions as lesbian and gay parade-goers. They told me that they had been both physically and verbally attacked by gay people. This was

a funny claim, because I spent a lot of time following them about and videotaping their crazy antics. I have more than an hour of raw video and photos of their progression down the parade route. I never saw anyone attack, spit or physically grab them or their signs, as they reported to me on YouTube.

The best line I heard was when they called us killers and sodomites, I heard a gay man reply: "You know what the difference between us and yourselves is? That we honestly love and respect you, and you just pretend to love and respect gay people."

If they were attacked, or even spit on, this would not be cool in the least and would just put every LGBT parade attendee right down to their level. It doesn't show respect or tolerance like we believe in.

I agree they were distasteful and annoying, but they have the same right to be there as what we are fighting for. What's cool about Pride is that everyone is welcome, even when they are of other beliefs.

MARC PETERSON  
Beaverton

## CORRECTIONS

The July 6 article "Miss Gay Oregon to Be Crowned" erroneously indicated a connection between the Miss Gay Oregon America 2008 Pageant and the Imperial Sovereign Rose Court. The two entities are unaffiliated.

The July 6 article "Before and After" misidentified the Web site for TransPency. For more information visit [www.transpency.org](http://www.transpency.org).

## TRANSITIONS

### Joseph Rowe, 1962-2007

Joseph Rowe, a recent transplant to Portland, lost his battle with AIDS on June 18. He was 44.

Rowe was born in Sanford, Fla., on Nov. 30, 1962. He was a talented musician who wrote, composed and produced his own music. He was an avid photographer, photo restorer, furniture builder and decorator. He worked for many organizations such as *USA Today*, Delta and Hawaiian Tropic as a graphic artist. "He was an amazingly talented person," said Rowe's sister Kathleen DuPont. "Many of us thought he was a genius."

"His friends and family will most remember him by his ability to make us laugh even in our darkest moments. He was very quick-witted and always willing to do anything to help anybody."

"Joe would want people to know he lived life to the fullest and not to be afraid to live the life each one of us would like to lead. He would want everyone to know that laughter is the best medicine. He would want everyone to know he had many family and friends and loved them all. He also loved his dog, Sydney, and traveled across the country with him. He will be missed terribly by all of us. He was a very unique person."

Rowe was a winner of the 2007 *Just Out* Amateur Photo Contest in the environment category. According to relatives, he was proud of the accomplishment and told friends across the country about the award. His winning photo can be seen through the month of July at Q Center.

Rowe is survived by his mother, Mary; father, Jack; sisters, DuPont, Denise Petrovich, Coleen Wilder; brother, Wes Haney; nieces, Nikki, Terri, Emily and Audrey; and nephews, Alex and Christopher.

A memorial was held July 2 in Sanford. Remembrances may be made to Aid Atlanta, 1605 Peachtree St. N.W., Atlanta, GA 30309, or 404-870-7700.



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