

by Marty Davis

Foot in Mouth, Head Up Ass

Just Out is doing its part to help voters make informed choices

Explosive. That's the word best used to describe the March 11 interview conducted by *Just Out* reporter Stephen Marc Beaudoin with state Sen. Gary George, R-Newberg. Posted on "Blog Out" at www.justout.com, his incendiary words quickly spread among the electronic world of news media, bloggers and readers.

George, one of two elected officials co-sponsoring initiatives to repeal the recently enacted Oregon Equality Act, the text of which is featured on the cover of this issue, managed to totally stick his head up his ass with his remarks about gays and "special rights." (Details of the interview can be found on Page 16 of this issue.) Readers vented their outrage in a long series of comments, most of which can still be found on the main page of our Web site. Are these comments ever deleted, censored or edited, you might ask? Not often, but on occasion it will happen. In the case of this post, I will admit that I did pull down one comment that could have been viewed as crossing several lines of cultural and racial sensitivity. Censorship or restraining opinion is the last thing that I want to be held accountable for. That said, there are certain sentiments and expressions that will not find a place of welcome in *Just Out*. This applies to both sides of any issue.

Many readers asked what can be done with an elected politician whose personal belief system is not reflective of the citizens he represents. The first thing to consider is that this man did manage to get himself elected for several terms. Is he actually speaking for his district? Is anyone in Newberg standing up and telling him to "shut up"? If not, it would seem that our problem, and it's not an unfamiliar one, extends beyond this one state senator. We know this, right? He is not the only person in Oregon who feels the way he does. He's just the most recent one to launch into a foolish tirade.

This is why it's so important that we all work together to assure the election of fair-minded, progressive candidates to local, state and federal elected offices. At *Just Out* we are doing our part to keep the flow of information coming in a manner designed to help you, the voter, make informed choices. For the 2008 election *Just Out* will be providing a higher level of election coverage than ever before. We are polling candidates for office on their experience, values and commitment to civil rights for our community. It's all at a special elections coverage blog, "Vote Out 2008," which can be found on the main page of our Web site. Information from candidates will be posted there and available 24/7 for you to read and study. The April 18 issue of *Just Out* will then carry endorsements for all local and many state positions. Are we going to appear to be totally Portland-centric? Yes, I'm afraid that we are. What can be done about other races across the state? You can write letters to the editor in support of your candidate. You can e-mail us information that might be used on our daily blog. You can help keep us informed of races and candidates who might deserve more scrutiny than initially seen from here.

I'm writing this column on the morning of the first full day of spring. To Portlanders, the arrival of spring indicates that the rain will now become warmer. Such was the case today. As most of you probably know by now—I've been somewhat chatty on the topic—I have a new dog. A recent trip to the Oregon Humane Society saw me returning home with Shasta, a burly and genial Australian shepherd. This type of dog requires a great deal of exercise, which is why Shasta is now listed on the Web site staff box as personal trainer to the publisher. My days, and nights, are now filled with joyous movement and slurpy tennis balls.

In the past few years, as my previous dog had aged, we walked less and less, and I realize that I had lost touch with my immediate neighborhood. Now, with Shasta, we walk in increasingly large circles, and I'm seeing again the part of Portland that has been my home for many years. Within these new larger circles I see much change, some enveloped in sadness, some in positive change, all becoming linked in my circles of thought.

Homes that once had been tended lovingly by elders now house college students or have otherwise fallen prey to neglect and carelessness. Cherished rosebushes and yards no longer receive the love and attention that only the retired can provide. As elderly folks age and pass away, their property is often left to the care, or lack thereof, of distant relatives. The fact is, though, that as we age, more than our homes become vulnerable. Our personal care, too, often faces neglect in the hands of the indifferent or the distant.

The aging of gays and lesbians is a topic to be taken seriously. When we can no longer take care of ourselves, to whom will we turn? I find it reasonable to say that aging and elder care should be considered one of the most pressing issues of the day facing the gay and lesbian community. More so than marriage equality? The two go hand in hand. Marriage equality, domestic partnerships, these are necessary steps to provide the rights needed for us to make decisions for ourselves and our partners and loved ones as we go into the later years of our life. We're fortunate in Portland to have an organization, Senior Housing and Retirement Enterprises, advocating for care and housing for gay, lesbian, bi and trans seniors. Look them up at www.sharepdx.org. Get educated, get involved. Don't wait until you're old. Youthful energy is welcome now.

Finally, it's great to see expansion and growth at Q Center (see Page 10). It seems like only a while ago that Sam Adams was holding exploratory meetings at City Hall to determine if there was need and interest in Portland for our own community center. And now look at what we've got: a wealth of ongoing activities and events. One of these events happens to be women-seeking-women Bunco night, sponsored by JustOutPersonals.com. Our next evening is March 30. We'll meet 5:30 p.m. at Q Center. See you there. 10

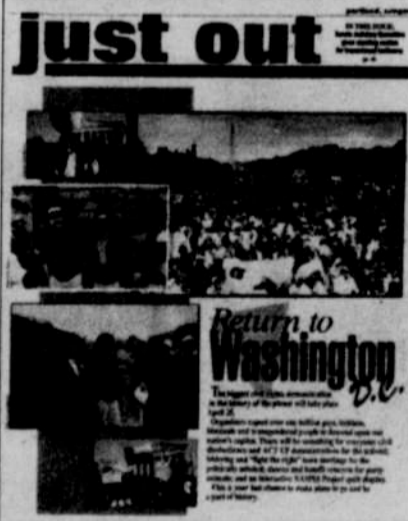
reflections

15 Years Ago In *Just Out*... volume 10 number 9, march 15, 1993

- People invited to Queen Elizabeth's garden parties may now bring unmarried male or female partners, Buckingham Palace said Feb. 11. Gay couples will be as free to roam the estate or queue for the royal handshake as straight couples.
- Dorothy Allison, National Book Award finalist last year for *Bastard Out of Carolina*, was to appear at a writing workshop at the Oklahoma Center for the Book, until the arrangement was canceled because of her sexual orientation.
- The District of Columbia Council is considering a bill called "The District of Columbia Criminal Code Right to Privacy Amendment Act of 1993," which would decriminalize sodomy between consenting adults. Anal and oral sex are still illegal in D.C., with penalties of up to 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

- A chapter of Citizens for Excellence in Education, a far-right group, has formed in Beaverton. Director Lauren C. Lilly sent a 23-question survey to 69 candidates in the Beaverton area asking for their views on gay teachers, sex education, abortion, evolution and school prayer.
- Are Portland theaters racist, sexist and homophobic? The Portland Area Theatre Alliance is sponsoring a forum on diversity in the performing arts community featuring guest panelists and audience participation.
- The Club EX Network, an international gay and lesbian home exchange club, recently established a base in the United States. Club EX Network encourages cultural exchange between gays and lesbians of different countries and was founded as an alternative to "straight" home exchange programs.

- *The Snickers LaBarr Show* is a talk show for gays, lesbians and bisexuals. Shown on MCTV Channel 21. This month features designer Kurt Schultz and entertainer Lauren Andrews.
- The City Nightclub is once again hosting its annual teenage female impersonation pageant. Celebrating 16 years of teenage gender-bending, hundreds of gay youth and their friends are expected to gather for the pageant and coronation. The Rosebud and Thorn Pageant is the longest-running teenage female impersonation pageant in the United States and perhaps the world.



PAGE 40

FEATURE

24 THE ESSENCE OF GAY SPIRITUALITY

Acclaimed author believes we possess the ability to lead society's next phase of cultural revolution

NEWS

8-19 NORTHWEST

State Sen. Gary George roils equal rights activists; play about bullying banned from Sherwood; trans couples find legal loophole; health department launches STD prevention Web site; alliance bestows awards for service; "A Class Act" benefits future lawyers; storytelling event at Q Center focuses on AIDS; arts auction benefits people with AIDS; Samaritan Counseling Center has gay-specific program; Portland Human Rights Campaign bowls for equality; Q Center expands

20-21 NATIONAL

Repeal of HIV travel ban moves to Senate floor; New York's new governor an ally of gays; Oklahoma lawmaker spreads anti-gay hate; Washington domestic partnership law expands

22-23 WORLD

Iranian Nobel laureate denounces treatment of gays; HIV cases set record in Japan; Swedish government to sell dildos; Venezuelan Supremes nix same-sex marriage; Argentine president said to support gay marriage

ARTS AND CULTURE

40-42 PEOPLE

Extreme performance artist Ron Athey comes to Portland

46-47 FILM

1975's *Dog Day Afternoon* demonstrates rare understanding of ideals of gay liberation; *The Witnesses* presents disturbingly realistic picture of confusion and trauma of early years of AIDS

48 NIGHTLIFE

Show your team spirit at gay athletic social

49 BOOKS

Recent titles examine butch identity, family-of-origin disputes

COLUMNS

33 EPIQUEERAN

March Modness

39 OUT GOING

The Seven-Year Itch

43 CORNER VIEW

Bright Lights, Big City

45 SASSY GARDENER

Sucker-Free Gardening

50 JIM'S CLOSET

Boys Do Cry



PAGE 24