

Vote Out

Just Out takes the endorsement process seriously

The ballots are printed and will be arriving in our mailboxes soon. After what seems like endless campaigning, Oregon's primary election is nearly here. Those ballots, once mailed, will all need to be read, studied, marked and returned by May 20.

The *Just Out* editorial staff has done a great deal of advance work for you. We've read, studied, quizzed, interviewed, shadowed and evaluated a slew of candidates. Starting on Page 18 you'll find our endorsements for many local and statewide races. On our Web site, www.justout.com, you will find the written answers candidates provided to our questions. Please check the "Vote Out" blog for the complete text of their responses.

The Democratic presidential race is, as many know, becoming a matter of deep personal conviction for voters. Hillary Clinton supporters stand firm in their beliefs; Barack Obama fans believe their candidate is the one for the job. In this column I have already announced my personal support for Clinton. It is understood that others feel differently. In this race let's honor and respect our individual choices. May the best woman win.

Just Out—to the surprise of no one, I'm sure—has chosen to endorse openly gay Portland City Commissioner Sam Adams for the office of mayor. From comments posted on our blog in the past weeks, we are aware that not all readers are going to embrace this endorsement. We are also aware that there will be questions about endorsing the "gay guy" simply for the fact that he is the "gay guy." But believe it or not, Adams' sexual orientation was not the sole basis for the endorsement. *Just Out* does not automatically endorse candidates for office because they are gay. In the introductions to the endorsements you will read the criteria that were followed in the selection process. Adams meets and exceeds all these criteria.

Sho Dozono is a longtime supporter of our community. He appears to be a kind and affable person. He is not, however, the person who should be Portland's next mayor. Electing Dozono would be akin to re-electing Tom Potter, who is a fine person also. But Portland simply does not need four more years of passivity in the city's highest office. Sam Adams has the experience, the passion and the drive to be a truly fine Portland mayor.

The May 20 primary election will be followed by June and all her statewide Pride activities. Pride Month marks the return of one of *Just Out's* favorite events, the Amateur Photo Contest. This year's contest will be our 25th anniversary contest, and we're ramping up the prizes and the energy. Last year we received hundreds of entries, and we're looking for the same in 2008. All photos submitted will go on display at Q Center throughout the month of July. Last year we had virtually every wall covered, and we fully plan to do it again. There will be a reception for the winners and everyone who enters the contest. Complete rules can be found on Page 28 of this issue.

This week's mail brought the final newsletter of Portland's Lesbian Community Project—a newsletter announcing, to no real surprise, the end of this once much-heralded organization. The good news, such as it is, is that its annual softball tournament will continue. Long gone, however, are all the other programs that gave identity to the group during its earlier years. In the May 2 issue we'll provide a historical overview of LCP and its accomplishments. My thanks do go out to the many women who provided leadership, energy, funding, patience and guidance to this organization when it was so very needed in this community. I do wish that there could be one final reunion event, even if it's just a big old potluck, to gather again together, for one last time, the many women who in some way touched, or were touched by, LCP.

On April 16 the *Just Out* staff hosted the monthly After Hours event for the Portland Area Business Association. We didn't take a head count, but we know a lot of our community's business leaders passed through our door that evening. PABA is doing a great job of bringing together the business community through networking and social activities. As Oregonians feel the financial pinch of nationwide recession, it becomes more important than ever that we support ourselves by buying, shopping and engaging in commerce with our community, including our community of supporters and allies. *Just Out* is proud to be a PABA supporter and ally. For more information please visit www.paba.com.

I don't mean to sound like a broken record in this space and speak of the same events over and over. That said, I'm going to talk about our new Q Center-supported Bunco games again. In the 10-plus years that I've been promoting events in this community, none has had quite the feel-good effect of these Bunco games.

The Bunco games are all about camaraderie, laughter and instant friendships. In a time and place where communications are electronic and the world has become virtual, it's darn delightful to see strangers coming together, and in the span of two hours, laughing and enjoying each other like old friends. In a world where it can be hard to find actual in-the-flesh community, Q Center and *Just Out* are striving, and succeeding, at creating opportunities to bring people like us back together.

Right now the games are sponsored by JustOutPersonals.com and are geared toward women seeking women and men seeking men. I have no doubt whatsoever that soon we'll announce general monthly games open to any and all. Look for news here, at www.justout.com and in the Q Center newsletter. 10



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NEWS

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Repeal Watch; Red Dress Party raises \$30,000; Southern Oregon queer center closes; cabaret revue replaces Peacock in the Park; Vancouver court holds Coronation; Juan Martinez takes fund-raising reins at BRO; health conference brings meaningful discussion; bears raise cash for injured bartender; MCC Portland assistant pastor moves up; county employee named public health hero; on the campaign trail with mayoral candidates; *Just Out* ringleads the elephant and donkey show

22-23 WORLD

Ecuadorian president supports same-sex partnerships; Costa Rica declares National Day Against Homophobia; Euro mayors invited to Moscow Pride; 120 rally in London against deportation of gay Iranian; police reportedly close Beijing gay bathhouses

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From rent boys to school boys, queer peers dabble in the currency of affection

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Looking for Langston is poetic film about intersection of African-American and gay male culture in United States; brilliant but criminally minded queens strangle friend in Alfred Hitchcock's 1948 classic *Rope*

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Humorist returns with sequel to award-winning debut novel

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ON THE COVER

New York City photographer Karl Giant's work has appeared in *Vanity Fair*, *Elle*, *Interview* and other top publications, and his unique visual style has enhanced Marc Jacobs, Dolce & Gabbana, Christian Dior and other top brands. He also directs music videos, including the No. 1 hit "Automatic" by Ultra Naté. For more information visit www.karlgiant.com.



reflections

15 Years Ago In *Just Out*... volume 10 number 11, april 15, 1993

- Rather than honoring the Colorado boycott, comedian Paula Poundstone chose to pay for 15 billboard messages in Colorado Springs, home of Colorado for Family Values, creators of anti-gay Amendment 2.

- The League of Lesbian and Gay Prisoners will be participating in the March on Washington by promoting a Proxy Participation Project through which prisoners will be matched with volunteers on the outside who will represent them in the march.

- Minnesota has become the eighth state to extend civil rights protection on the basis of sexual orientation. The new law covers the areas of housing, employment, real estate, public accommodations, public services, education and access to credit.

- As the six months tick away that President Clinton set aside for discussion before he lifts

the ban on gays and lesbians serving in the military, champions on both sides of the issue are preparing for the showdown.

- Last October, Oregon Citizens Alliance supporters desecrated St. Matthew's Catholic Church in Hillsboro. They spray painted "Yes on 9," "Kill Gays and Catholics" and other threatening and racist slogans in the church and set a fire in the rectory near Assistant Pastor Jim Galluzzo's bedroom.

- Multnomah County's Fair Housing Task Force recently released a report confirming what too many residents already know—that discrimination in housing is rampant. Legal Aid lawyers in the eastern part of the county received 99 complaints last year; a substantial number of them were from Latinos looking for housing.

- Portland Mayor Vera Katz has assembled an advisory committee of 13 community members

to help her in the search for a new police chief to replace Tom Potter, who is retiring.

- The Portland Awakenings Youth Group has been put to sleep. The YMCA of the Columbia-Willamette canceled the support group for gay, lesbian and bisexual youth at the end of March. While YMCA President Jerry Balsler says the group was canceled because of insurance risks, co-coordinator Peter Rosenblatt says the real reason is homophobia.

- If you can't go to Washington, come to the People's March on Springfield. Thumb your nose at Oregon Citizens Alliance types and celebrate equal rights for all. United voices join in a peaceful march opposing the oppression of all human beings.

