

by Marty Davis

Hillary Speaks

Slow and steady wins the race

We gave it our best shot. In a town where the majority of the newspapers, mainstream and alternative alike, are running amok with tributes, pledges, endorsements and love letters to Barack Obama, *Just Out* set out to buck the trend. We attempted to secure some quality one-on-one time with that other Democratic presidential candidate, Hillary Clinton.

Alas, this was not meant to be. Running a presidential campaign, while a sitting senator, can leave one a tad pressed for time. As such, *Just Out* did not make the cut to obtain a phone interview. Even a snippet of time was not in the cards. But neither were we completely left out in the cold. While we've not yet had the chance to sit down face to face with Clinton, *Just Out* was given the opportunity to query her electronically. It is, after all, 2008, and technology has opened new doors. Via staff liaison, we were asked to submit questions to the candidate. Assurances were made that Clinton herself would participate in the answering process. We were assured of the authenticity of the answers. I decided it best to set skepticism aside. Prudence has its place when questioning the next president of the United States.

You'll find our Q & A with Clinton on Page 7. There's nothing groundbreaking, nothing new. I won't attempt to lead you into believing otherwise. There comes a point in these campaigns—to my mind, at least—when there's really little left to be said. Substantive dialogue falls prey to a contest of physical and emotional endurance. But, dear readers, let it be noted that this candidate did make an effort made to reach out to our community and to our readers. This cannot be said of her opponent in the Democratic presidential primary.

My guess is that, for many of you, the grumbling will start immediately upon reading the pull quote in the upper-right corner. Yes, there it is again. Clinton is not an advocate for same-sex marriage. She supports, instead, civil unions. No viable candidate running for president speaks out in favor of same-sex marriage. It is not yet time for this.

It's easy for candidates to say what they know people want to hear. Anyone can play to the crowd of the day. I don't find this to be a quality characteristic. What I do respect is the person who stands by his or her beliefs and principles, even when those conflict with others. Hillary Clinton stands by her principles and tells us what we don't want to hear.

Get over it, folks. It is going to be several years yet before there's an electable presidential candidate who can speak out in favor of same-sex marriage and still stand a chance at getting elected. In the meantime, strive to elect the candidate who holds the best promise for working with and for us in the future.

I can personalize the struggle for same-sex marriage by comparing it to my lifelong battle with excessive weight. I want to lose weight, but I want it right now. I don't want to hear the doctor say it's a slow process. I don't want

to hear that I need to eat less and exercise more. I don't want to hear that I need to focus on small, manageable goals, one pound, two pounds a week. The end is too far away. I can't keep distant goals in my sight. The process is slow and hard. Even when there is momentum, you will run into a wall, hit a plateau. Forward movement ceases, often you even fall backward a step or two. Failure to achieve goals that weren't reasonable in the first place results in frustration, impatience and depression.

Slow down. Keep the pace. Slow and steady wins the race.

There I am, late at night, in one of my favorite places. A smoky bar with blaring, absurdly loud music. All I want to do is take my photos and head home. Conversation is impossible. As I fiddle with my camera, I hear someone come up next to me and scream in my ear, "I hear the paper is going broke."

Say what?

"I've been hearing from people that *Just Out* is in trouble." He yells again. I'm thinking that there must be a better time and place for a conversation like this, but no, apparently we're going to continue now, even though I can only hear every fifth word.

I ask if he's seen or read the paper recently. He admits that he hasn't. So, let me share with you the answer that I gave him. It's short and sweet.

No. We're not in trouble

To me, the answer is obvious. Look at the paper you're holding in your hand. Or at the Web site you're viewing. Seriously, look at it. Look at the contents, look at the ads, look at the artwork. Does this look like a publication in trouble?

No, it doesn't. And it isn't. As we celebrate our 25th year of publishing, *Just Out* retains a strong, secure position in the community. That is my honest answer to the question.

I am happy to answer questions such as these. I know the community has a strong interest in our continued well-being. You give to us; we give back to you. I also know success is too often marked by the number of naysayers and detractors who are drawn in.

If you read *Just Out*, you can see we're doing well. If you don't read us, why would you care?

Finally, a few dates should be noted. The next Bunco party for the single fellas, hosted by the affable and witty Stephen Marc Beaudoin, will be May 11 at Q Center. The next Bunco for single women, hosted by the affable and witty me, will be June 1.

Gay Skate for May is on our regular third Monday, May 19, at Oaks Park. In June, however, we have a date change and will skate June 9.

Don't forget to write this all down. We'll see you out there. ☺



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Christopher Stowell wraps up fifth season as Oregon Ballet Theatre's artistic director

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Just Out presents 25th Anniversary Amateur Photo Contest



This is the big one!

Entries are now being accepted for the *Just Out* 25th Anniversary Photo Contest! There will be one Grand Prize Winner, with an award of \$250.

There will be five category winners, one in each category. Each of these will be awarded \$150. In addition, *Just Out* staff will each select a "staff pick." Photos selected will be awarded special restaurant/dinner certificates.

For 2008 the categories are:

TRAVEL PETS PEOPLE ENVIRONMENT ABSTRACT

All photos entered will be on display at Portland's Q Center throughout the month of July 2008. All winning photos will be featured in the June 13 issue of *Just Out*.

The deadline for submitting entries is May 27.

Entries may be mailed to P.O. Box 14400, Portland, OR 97293, or dropped off at 6234 N. Greeley Ave., Portland, OR 97217.

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