

letters

Red Dressers Cut Off

TO THE EDITOR:

I took my boy to the Red Dress Party. We had a very good time and enjoyed hanging out with friends and seeing the Sisters, and the live performance by Storm and the Balls was the true highlight.

However, what we did not appreciate were the more-than-should-have-been very drunken revelers at the party. We were accosted by people several times, and Ms. Oregon State Leather's boy was even kicked in the stomach.

I host and throw numerous fund-raisers monthly around town with alcohol, and I have thrown people out of clubs for less. Next time, I would love to see more security and more diligence by the staff to cut people off earlier.

Have your fun, enjoy yourself, just don't wreck anyone else's good time.

BEN BROWN JR.

Mr. Oregon State Leather 2007

Metro Oregon Responds

TO THE EDITOR:

I'm writing in response to comments made about the LGBTQ Meaningful Care Conference in Frank Roa's letter "Portland Snubs Rural Oregon" [April 14]. His use of the Meaningful Care Conference as an example of rural counties being snubbed is unfair.

The Meaningful Care Conference is an effort of Multnomah County and 18 other organizations in the Portland metro area to promote LGBTQ cultural competence to medical and social service providers. As co-chairman of this year's conference, I can say with certainty that designing a diverse and inclusive panel of workshops was our committee's top priority.

The conference committee sent out a request for workshop proposals across the region, and the response was phenomenal. The committee had to make difficult choices and, unfortunately, had to reject some proposals.

Rejections were based on specific criteria and subsequently communicated to the lead presenter. Lack of inclusion of rural LGBTQ issues was not intentional on the part of the planning committee. In fact, the committee is eager to bring broader representation of both participants and presenters from rural Oregon to next year's conference.

We hope all kinds of Oregonian LGBTQ

providers will benefit from the Meaningful Care Conference.

MATTHEW LASHUA

2008 Meaningful Care Conference

Oregonians for Merkley

TO THE EDITOR:

Around the state, Oregonians are about to sit down with their primary election ballots to choose a Democrat to take on U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith in November.

We believe the best candidate to do this is state Sen. Jeff Merkley. As speaker of the Oregon House of Representatives in Salem, he pushed through and helped enact our domestic partnership law. He was also instrumental in passing our new anti-discrimination legislation giving all LGBT citizens full statewide protections for the first time.

Merkley has earned the endorsements of *Just Out*, Basic Rights Oregon, Planned Parenthood, NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon, SEIU and the Sierra Club. We need his leadership and progressive values in Washington, D.C., working for us.

Smith votes with George Bush 90 percent of

the time. It is time to bring him home. Merkley, unlike Smith, believes in a woman's right to choose and has fought to expand access to affordable birth control and make sure emergency contraception is available to rape victims.

Please join us in supporting and voting for Jeff Merkley, who will be a new progressive voice for Oregon in the U.S. Senate.

BARBARA ROBERTS

TINA KOTEK

DAN RYAN

DON POWELL

JEANA FRAZZINI

JAY CLARK

Portland

New Generation of Leadership

TO THE EDITOR:

As gay parents of two boys who take classes at the incredible Ethos Music Center, we can't say enough good things about Charles Lewis, who is running for Portland city commissioner seat one and somehow didn't even merit a mention in your recent endorsement piece ["Cirque du Vote-Gay," April 18].

Lewis founded Ethos, which serves many kids in Portland by offering affordable music education. He has greatly enriched our community. He is progressive, hands-on, creative and effective and, with Ethos, has an actual track record of making Portland a better place to live.

Of course, he does have a Y chromosome, which often seems to disqualify candidates from a *Just Out* endorsement, no matter how progressive, hands-on, creative and effective they might be. But a vote for Lewis, who has two gay brothers (one elected Mr. Gay Seattle in 1995) will improve life for all Portlanders, including many gay and lesbian families and their kids.

And we're amazed that state Rep. Greg Macpherson and state Sen. Jeff Merkley, who can't even bring themselves to say the word "marriage," get the nod over John Kroger and Steve Novick, who have no difficulty clearly acknowledging our rights.

Kroger and Novick (and Lewis) seem like a new generation that actually gets it—while Merkley and Macpherson, at least, still carefully play to the religiously prejudiced crowd (but I'm sure they whisper some very nice things to you!).

BILL GRIESAR

BOB DUEHMIG

Portland

TRANSITIONS

Daniel Lee Howell, 1963-2008

Daniel Lee Howell died April 8 at age 45. He was born March 26, 1963, in Fort George G. Meade, Md., and was raised throughout the continental United States, Guam and Germany. He graduated from University of Michigan and in 1987 moved to Portland, where he took great pride in being a radiation therapist for Providence Portland Medical Center for the past 21 years.

Known to his friends as Danny, Howell spent many evenings enjoying a cocktail and conversation with friends downtown. He enjoyed taking day trips in his Volvo to Carson Hot Springs, Sauvie Island or Rooster Rock on hot summer days. He cruised the Caribbean and vacationed

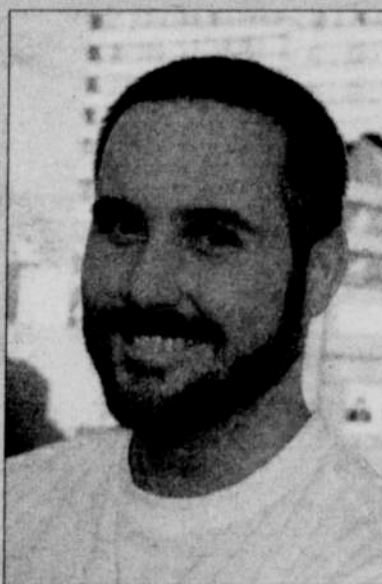
with friends in Palm Springs, Calif.; Mexico; New Orleans; San Francisco; and Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

He enjoyed cooking, canning and sharing his goods with friends and co-workers.

A remembrance gathering was held April 19 at Starky's. More than 100 friends and co-workers gathered in Howell's honor to celebrate his life and share their stories, pictures and fond memories.

He is survived by his beloved Chihuahua, Harry; parents, Margaret L. and Robert D.; twin sister, Dianna C. Ragsdale; brothers, Robert D. Jr. and Donald C.; and many close friends and co-workers.

Remembrances may be made to Dove Lewis Emergency Animal Hospital.



Submit your letters to the editor, commitment announcements, transitions or list your events online at

www.justout.com

CLICK ON THE READER SUBMISSIONS BUTTON.

CORRECTIONS

In the April 18 story "Bears Raise Cash for Injured Bartender," *Just Out* misidentified the location of an assault. Tyler Wiese was injured outside his North Portland home.

In the April 18 article "Always Forward," *Just Out* failed to recognize the tireless efforts of former Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center program managers Joyful Freeman, Venae Rodriguez and Kathy Belge.

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