

Bring It!

Pride coincides with an opportunity for our community to build a space for itself

Welcome to the second of three *Just Out* Pride 2008 publications. This issue is a staff favorite, the presentation of the winners of the annual *Just Out* amateur photo contest. As with past years, we received a mailbag full of entries, and we examined each and every one. To view the winning photos, and our staff picks, please turn to Page 28. Remember, all entries will be on display during the month of July at Q Center.

My first order of business with this issue's column is to offer a heartfelt "thank you" to all the groups, organizations and businesses who participated in the *surprise* advertisement in the May 30 issue celebrating the 25th anniversary of this publication. Now you might be wondering if the ad was a real surprise or if I knew what was going on. Well, thanks to the efforts, and clever scheming, of *Just Out* Advertising Director Larry Lewis, Basic Rights Oregon executive director Jeana Frazzini and graphic designer Christian Messer, the two-page ad was as much a surprise to me as realistically could be pulled off. Toward the last hours of the production cycle, I was aware that there were pages I hadn't seen. Furthermore, my questions as to their whereabouts were not being answered. At this point, Larry simply became stern and told me to back off, a surprise was in the works and I was going to let it happen, dammit. Truthfully, I'm not sure what was the bigger surprise, seeing the final ads the next morning or finding out that Larry Lewis really could be stern. Who knew!

My sincere thanks go out to all those who participated. I was truly touched by the gesture and the generosity. The donations to the *Just Out* Scholarship Fund will be put to very good use. Our November anniversary issue will announce the recipients of the 2008 scholarship awards. Many of you will now be able to take pride in knowing that your contributions will play a part in the education of a deserving and outstanding member of our community. And if you are a student who identifies as gay, lesbian, bi or trans, or are the child of parents who so identify, you still have time to apply for this year's awards. Please visit www.justout.com to view the complete details on how to apply.

After the ad, the second-most-talked about topic of the past two weeks has been Staff Writer Stephen Marc Beaudoin and his somewhat less-than-well-received May 30 "Corner View" column titled "Buyer Beware: Best Way to Show Your 'Pride'? Skip Pride."

Ah, yes, the complaints, the questions, the memories. Memories? What kind of memories could this brash, bold, Pride-hating screed possibly bring to mind? Let's take a little journey to the past, to a Pride of 10 years ago. I'd just taken on the role of Publisher and was writing my first Pride column. I had a few thoughts and opinions of my own that year. I wrote 'em down and sent them out to the world.

And then all hell broke loose.

The column was titled "Keep Your Pants On, Your Grandma Is Watching." It was a sweet, simple work in which I expressed my belief that the world would be a far better place if everyone coming to Pride events dispensed with nudity, drunkenness, displays of sexuality and anything and everything else that I personally viewed as inappropriate and distasteful. It could be described as, well, let's call it a brash, bold, Pride-hating screed.

Just as with Stephen's column now, we received letters then. Many, many letters. These were pre-blog, pre-e-mail days. Folks then, in the old days, were much more passionate and energetic in expressing their displeasure. They made phone calls. They showed up at the office. These were pissed off, proud, Pride-loving people. The Lesbian Avengers tried to picket me at the waterfront. They strutted about carrying around signs saying, "Marty Davis, Keep Your Hands Off My Body." Fortunately, no one knew what I looked like then, so I sat on a table and watched as they paraded around the area, looking for me, the object of their derision.

This was all on-the-job training for me. I learned lessons then, just as I learned from later mistakes. And I'll learn even more from the mistakes I've yet to make. To my mind, the only people who don't screw up are the people who do nothing at all.

So, am I saying that Stephen's column was a mistake, that I shouldn't



Kendall Clawson may be a powerhouse, but she needs the community's support in raising \$200,000 for a permanent Q Center building.

have printed it? No. I'm not. It was a column, a place for his personal opinions, opinions for which he personally takes accountability, as he sees fit. It is the role of newspapers to offer a place for voices of dissent. As a community we are not now, nor ever will be, locked into one mindset. A challenge to your beliefs will make you stronger for it. Columnists, with their opinions, open doors of dialogue. Mutual agreement on all topics is not expected; honoring everyone's right to their own opinion is.

I, myself, am very aware that Pride is supported mainly by smaller, local, independent business and nonprofit organizations. While larger corporate sponsors are more visible than ever before, their contributions do not match those of our homegrown supporters. As the publisher of *Just Out*, and as an individual, I have consistently celebrated and encouraged the support of local business. This support of local and gay-owned business has been the single most consistent message of my tenure as Publisher. My position and my support remain unchanged.

Congratulations are in order to Kendall Clawson, director of Q Center. This month marks her first anniversary in Portland. What a dynamic year of growth, change and progress it has been. Making her first anniversary even more special is the news that an anonymous donor has stepped forward with a gift of \$200,000 toward the acquisition of a permanent Q Center building. This gift, however, requires a community match. We, as in we the community, now have three months to raise our own \$200,000. Are we up for it? Can we do it? Hell, yes. Remember the theme of this year's Pride Northwest events? Bring it!

That's exactly what we've got three months to do. Bring your dollars, your checks, your change, whatever you've got to give. Q Center will be in the parade, at the waterfront and always at www.pdxqcenter.org. Donate now. Help our community build a space for itself. A safe place, our own place. Bring it!

As with many community groups and organizations, Pride runs us a little ragged at *Just Out*. We look forward to a bit of a break when the main activities are completed. We'll be in the parade and at the waterfront, then we're out of here. Where are we going? Well, not Disneyland—it's too damn expensive to travel—but we are taking a week off. *Just Out* will be on vacation the week of June 16. Our next print issue will be out July 3.

Enjoy all Pride activities, be sure and stop by to see us, and always remember, "Keep your pants on, your grandma is watching." ☉

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Amateur photographers snap to it

NEWS

8-23 NORTHWEST

Office of Human Relations secures ongoing funding; royalty crowned in Vancouver and Portland; QDoc sees successful return; SMYRC funding stabilizes, director resigns; radio show explores gender as DIY project; *Curve* sits out of Portland Pride; BRO wants you to eat out; Oregon congressman joins new queer caucus; Concerned Oregonians admit defeat; same-sex couples find options in adoption and foster parenting; shelter provides no protection from trans discrimination; Portlander recounts experiences at Turkey's anti-homophobia march; MCC pastor debuts with pride; Yamhill County couple fight for rights

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Lawsuit claims Social Security Administration ignores gay father; gay organization hides identity in Idaho parade; same-sex weddings being June 17 in California

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