

JUST OUT

at 25 A QUARTER-CENTURY OF OUR HISTORY

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Quarter-life crisis? Doubt it! The big 2-5 is feeling pretty good for *Just Out*. We hope this special commemorative issue tells you why.

Just Out's silver anniversary gives us the opportunity for both shameless navel-gazing and serious introspection. We intend to do a bit of both. As one of only a handful of independently owned gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender newspapers left standing in the country—and the only one in Oregon and Southwest Washington to stick it out for a quarter-century—*Just Out* has long championed the voices, stories and struggles of queer and allied Oregonians. And as we look forward to the next 25 years, it's time for a look back.

For this 25-year *Just Out* retrospective, we've tried to address questions like:

- Who have been the major queer players in the past quarter-century, and why are their accomplishments important?
- What are some signature stories for *Just Out*?
- What challenges most shook the foundation of the Oregon queer community, and how has *Just Out* kept pace with changing times?
- Is Walt Curtis still sore about the paper not giving him props in a 1990 story about *Mala Noche*? (see Page 25)

We've offered an answer to that first question by chronicling 25 game-changing gay, lesbian, bi and trans people—in activism, the arts, business, politics, philanthropy and faith—from our

earliest years to today. We've written about why they're worthy of attention, dug up some of these leaders' most memorable quips in *Just Out* and asked them who's next in their field. The editors went ahead and nominated some additional emerging queers to keep your eyes on, too.

What else? There's a series of *Just Out* snapshots of people, issues and trends from the past quarter-century, with a tight-lens focus on AIDS, anti-gay foes, pro-gay friends, community and nonprofit organizations, lightningrod leaders who've passed on and *Just Out* writers of note. We've also dropped in unusual *Just Out* clips from the archives throughout the paper. You might be surprised how much things have changed—or how little.

In attempting to stuff 25 years of queer Oregon history into an issue, did we forget someone critically important, neglect a special segment of queer life or ignore something especially unique? Probably. But we're relying on you to tell us what you dug or what you can't believe we snubbed. Shoot us an e-mail at justout@justout.com.

With that, we invite you to a party 25 years in the making: *Just Out's* 25th Anniversary Celebration 9 p.m. Nov. 22 at Boxxes and Red Cap Garage, 1035 S.W. Stark St., with a pre-party beginning 5 p.m. at Scandals, 1125 S.W. Stark St. Visit www.justout.com for updates on entertainment and special guests.

Dig in, readers. And we'll see you again every two weeks between now and the 50-year mark, if not on Nov. 22.

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