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do what he has done, what would prevent him from doing other things that would seriously damage the people and reputation of our great city?

THERESA KENNEDY
Portland

I Don't Agree, but I Understand Your Position

TO THE EDITOR:

Thank you for your editorial calling for the resignation of Sam Adams. I don't agree with you but understand your position, agree with your thinking and respect the decision you made. Lying, telling the young man to lie and using his lie to discredit a political competitor are wrong.

After thinking it through, however, I landed in a different place than you did. I think two decades of leadership and service to this community should count for something. I understand what he must have felt. I also want there to be a place for compassion and forgiveness in politics.

Just because we disagree doesn't mean *Just Out* doesn't have my support. Our community is lucky to have you. We need a publisher/editor who is willing to take risks and take stands. We don't always have to agree.

KATHY OLIVER
Outside In Executive Director

Flaming Cowards!

TO THE EDITOR:

How dare your publication condemn our mayor when we don't know even half the facts, and

half the facts we do know are none of our damn business to begin with?

I have never liked *Just Out*, only tolerated it, with your banal content and cowardly editorial policy. You have done severe damage to this community with your lynch mob mentality so as to appear defensible to the lowest common denominator segment of the population.

Falling in line with conservative yellow journalistic rags like *The Oregonian* and *The Portland Tribune*—you flaming cowards! You do not represent this community or the spirit we are trying to foster.

WILL ROMANELLI
Portland

An Open Letter to Sam Adams

TO THE EDITOR:

Thanks to you, Sam, while the rest of the country is swept up in a new spirit of good will, hope and change, it is reassuring for us to know that we have more of the same from our leader here in Portland.

Thank you for not admitting the truth about your relationship until you were completely cornered and outed. It was a wonderful show of support to all the other gay men who still feel shame about who they are and who they choose to love. As a gay man, I was worried that, as mayor, you would set such a strong example of pride to follow that I would have to quit my relationship therapy.

And thank you for not resigning. Never forget: Personal ambition trumps integrity any day. My boyfriend will cross-stitch that on a pillow for your office if you tell us what color you would like.

You know, after the last presidential election, I was afraid we all were stuck with a strange and crazy optimism, a hope we would be able to trust

our leaders and government again. We were getting swept up with a feeling in our hearts that things were actually different, that at least for a while, we would be singing the Obama version of "Happy Days Are Here Again." Thank you for bringing us back to reality. Change makes me nervous. Thanks for more of the same. Thank you, Sam. Thanks a lot.

GARY GERMER
Portland

Adams Didn't Ask for Drama

TO THE EDITOR:

Mayor Adams never wanted to inject his personal life into the political process, instead wanting to focus on policy. In a world so fixated on the personal and with a media system so focused on the potential soap operas, a man who knew his own life would overshadow his bright ideas for the collective good was forced toward an error in judgment. He knew how his relationship would be spun into something treacherous, something vile, something outrageous. He should have admitted it from the beginning, but that does not negate the fact that he was elected the best person for the job, and he still is.

SCOTT EVANS
Portland

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

www.justout.com

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TRANSITIONS



Russ Joyce, 1969-2009

Russ Joyce, one of the founders of the Red Dress Party, died of cancer Jan. 26. He was 39.

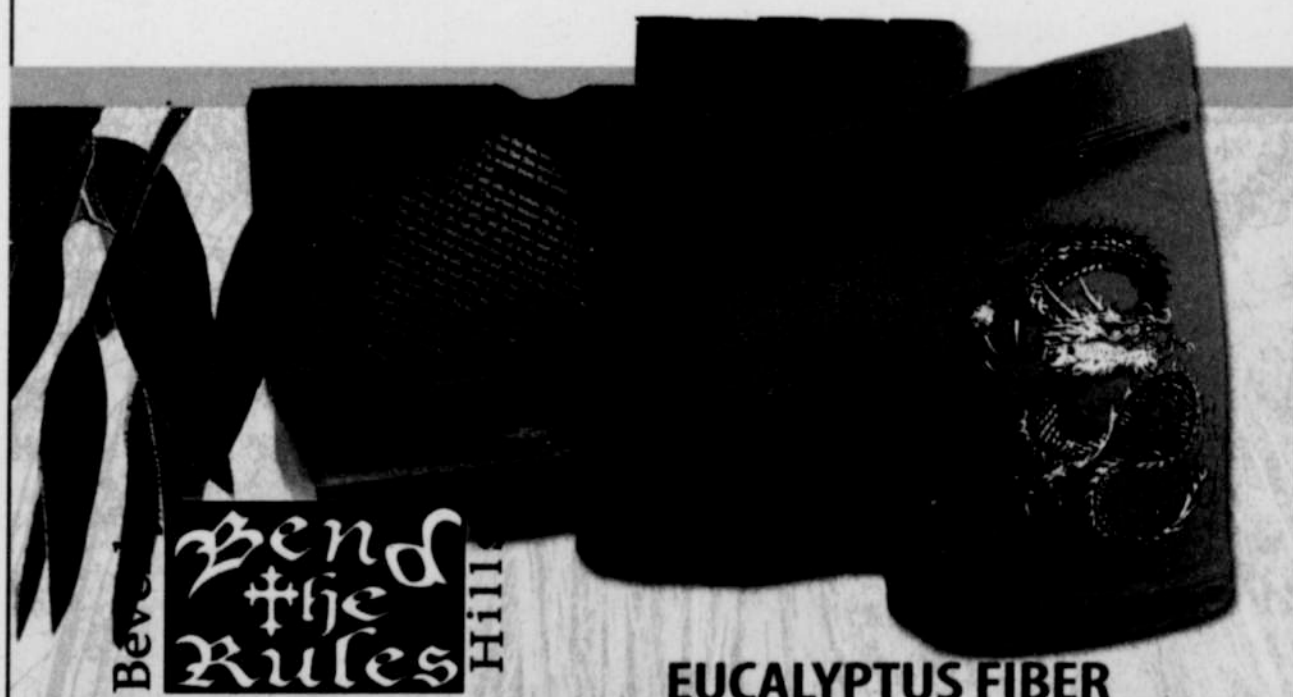
Joyce was born March 22, 1969, the fifth of six children. He grew up in Sublimity, attending Sublimity Elementary and Regis High School. He then attended Gonzaga University and graduated from Oregon Health and Science University with a degree in nursing. After graduating, Joyce worked for OHSU, providing care and comfort to the patients in the neurosurgery unit. He then worked for Providence and Regence in case management. He was a good listener and cared deeply for all.

Joyce is survived by his partner, Andrew, and Andrew's children, Kate and Alex; dogs, Otto and Ruby; parents, Dave and Kate; brothers, Mike, Doug, Kevin and Adam; sister, Debbie Esposito; and 15 nieces and nephews.

A vigil/rosary was held Jan. 30 and a memorial Mass was celebrated Jan. 31 at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Sublimity, followed by a celebration of life at Silver Falls Vineyard. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Red Dress Party (www.reddresspd.com) or the American Cancer Society (www.americancancersociety.com).

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