



PAGE 3 by Marty Davis

Talk of the Town

Portland Mayor Sam Adams responds

In the Feb. 20 issue, I expressed my frustration and annoyance with the ongoing vandalism and theft of *Just Out* newspapers since the call for the resignation of Portland Mayor Sam Adams. Within the column I asked him to step into the fray and help set a few boundaries with his supporters as to how to express disagreement in a more fitting and civil manner than theft.

The following day I received a call from Adams asking what he could do. Via text messages, we agreed to meet for early coffee the following morning. Now, since I neither drink coffee nor get up early, this meeting clearly was important to me. Adams is still the mayor, he is/was a friend of mine, and we needed to talk.

And talk we did. Our meeting was cordial and personal. So much so that there's very little of the conversation that I'm going to share with anyone. I can tell you that we discussed the divide in the community, the part that each of us has played and the possible steps we can take together to help calm tensions and frayed trusts.

In talking about what could be done, beyond our initial meeting, we agreed that a letter from Adams to the community might be a good starting place. We also discussed the possibility of a moderated community meeting or forum where concerned folks could come together and speak their minds.

Here is an excerpt from Adams' letter:

I learned last week that Just Out's property has been the recent target of vandals. I am writing in response to this news.

I ask those that are engaging in this activity to stop. Do not harm Just Out's distribution boxes or newspapers. Do not do it in defense of me or for any other reason.

If you want your opinions known to the community or the management of this publication, write a letter to the editor, as I am now.

I am sincere in public apologies to the LGBTQ community and the wider Portland for my well-publicized bad judgment. I am grateful to those in the LGBTQ community who have reached out to me or been responsive to my outreach efforts during these difficult times.

I want to thank Just Out Publisher Marty Davis for being one of those people. The dialogue is helping me learn the lessons I am and I intend to learn from this experience to be a better person and a better public servant.

Since Jan. 19 not a single day has passed in which I haven't had to think, fret, fuss or worry about Adams and his/our problems. This is unfortunate for many reasons, not the least of which is that the gloom and pallor are casting shadows over more deserving bright moments in our community.

One of these would be the acquisition and move to the brand new home of Portland's QCenter. Located in the diverse, energetic and accessible Mississippi district, the new QCenter will leave you wowed. Remember the beloved, yet far too small, space on Southeast Taylor Street? Well, QCenter

is small no more. The new facility has all the space we'll need for quite some time. Yes, after years and years in the planning, we truly now have a place to call home. This should be the big story of the day. There's much work left to be done, but it's an exciting, dynamic time for all of us.

If you're in the "women seeking women" category, drop by Q Center 6 p.m. March 8 for our first Bunco game in the new building, located at 4115 N. Mississippi Ave.

The morning of March 5 brought news of the passing of a beloved member of Portland's Imperial Sovereign Rose Court, Emperor XIII Ray Snively.

Snively, a retired schoolteacher, was part of the original advisory council of Emperors in 1974. This council was charged with formulating a plan to elect Portland's first Emperor.

In 1981 Snively was bestowed the lifetime title of "treasurer of the court," a position he held for 22 years. In 1997 the board of directors honored him by creating the Ray Snively Award, of which he was the first recipient.

"He was highly respected both in town and out of town," said Harold Strong, aka Rose Empress XXXI Cicely.

According to a statement on the Rose Court's Web site, "Ray and his Empress, Lady Elaine Peacock, represented us as The Legend of the Rose and were involved in a number of other community organizations. Ray and Lady Elaine are now both gone but are remembered as strong advocates and passionate members of the court."

Snively is survived by his partner of 45 years, Jim Ploeg; son, Roger Snively; and daughter, Kim Snively. A memorial is planned from 2 to 5 p.m. March 29 at Starky's, 2913 S.E. Stark St.

I have spent and enjoyed much time at court activities during the past few years. I have seen firsthand the reverence and care bestowed upon Snively as he aged and his health failed. His loss will be felt keenly by many. I offer condolences to all his friends and to those who cared for him.

In closing I'd like to add a few notes to and about my staff. First, thanks go out to Art Director Blake Martinez, who has spent many long hours working on the redesign and totally new look of *Just Out*. This is his creation, long in the planning stages and now finally a reality. In the coming weeks and months, you will see more refinements and enhancements as we work to bring even greater value to our readers and our advertisers.

Finally, I'd like to offer a very big thank-you to my entire staff for the stamina and determination they've shown in the past weeks as the eye of the storm has been centered directly over us. I am well aware that while the anger and vitriol held by some in the community is directed specifically toward me, they have been greatly affected as well. Their excellent work and deep dedication to *Just Out* is greatly appreciated. JO

just out

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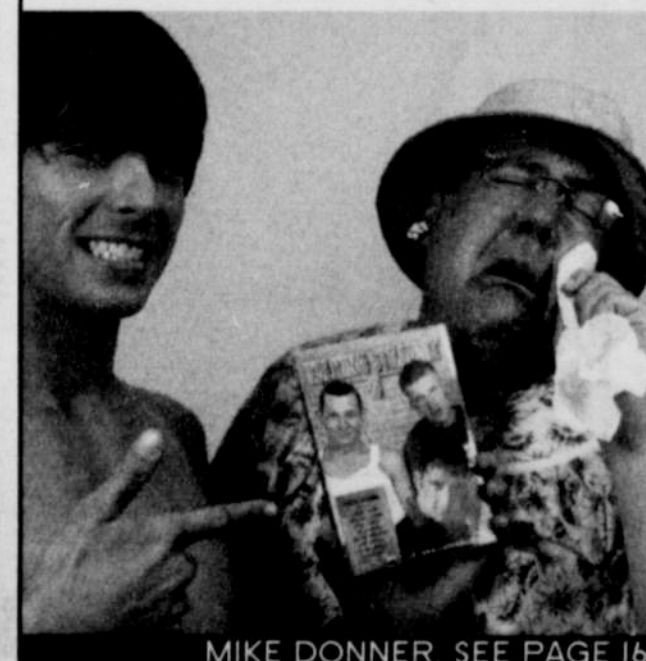
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