



PAGE 3 by Marty Davis

Full steam ahead

Victories for marriage equality, a request for submissions, and a special thank you

First there were none, then there were two, now there are four.

Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont and Iowa: These are America's Fab Four. These states, commonwealths, lead the nation in the ongoing quest for marriage equality. In all four, same-sex couples now enjoy equal, legal marriage rights and protections. In our own backyard, Washington State passed a measure on April 15 to expand the state's domestic partnership law to include "everything but marriage." The bill would give additional spousal rights and benefits to domestic partners, including same-sex couples and unmarried senior heterosexual couples.

On April 16, on the heels of momentum in Washington, New York Governor David Paterson (D) proposed new legislation in his state, advocating for same-sex marriage. Paterson stated, "Marriage equality is about basic civil rights and freedom. That is why we stand together today to embrace civil rights for every New Yorker."

Today there are four; soon there will be more.

And the game plan in Oregon? What's the strategy for dealing with the results of Ballot Measure 36, the passage of which resulted in a constitutional amendment effectively banning same-sex marriage in Oregon? How do we work around that giant boulder in the road? Turn to page 5 to see what Basic Rights Oregon Executive Director Jeana Frazzini has to say.

Are you, or is someone you know, planning to go to college or career training in the fall? Did you know *Just Out* offers scholarships to gay, lesbian, bi, and trans identified students, and/or to the children of gay parents? Working with Equity Foundation, *Just Out* accepts applications

and awards scholarships annually to deserving undergraduate students. To learn more about qualifying, please visit www.equityfoundation.org. The deadline for submissions is June 30, 2009.

One of the primary sources of funding for our scholarship program is *Just Out's* Gay Skate Nights at Oaks Park. Gay Skate benefits the community in many ways: funds for scholarships, food donations for Esther's Pantry and by creating a safe, energetic, fun, family-friendly venue for everyone to attend. The next Gay Skate is Monday, April 20. Map and details can be found at www.justout.com. Hope to see you there. Seriously, we play ABBA and do the Hokey-Pokey. Don't even think about missing this.

Just Out is also currently accepting submissions for our annual Amateur Photo Contest. I wrote about this in the last issue and sent you to the website for complete details. You didn't find them there, did you? It seems there was a slight glitch in posting—the glitch being that I forgot to do it. This has been corrected, and all the info, including categories, is or will soon be available at www.justout.com. The key points to remember are amateurs only; no digital submissions; prints required; photos not returned. The deadline is May 29. You submit a picture, we'll find a category. Prizes? Of course, there will be prizes—good ones, too.

In the slow news week category, a small, fussy storm breezed about Portland on April 15. Pink Martini bandleader Thomas Lauderdale petulantly announced that he was miffed at Mayor Sam Adams and his plans to demolish the Memorial Coliseum, replacing it with a tee-ball court, or some such thing. Lauderdale expressed concern that Adams "wasn't listening" to concerned

Portland citizens. Guess what, Thomas? Adams doesn't have to listen. You yourself assured that course of action when you stood on the steps of City Hall, insisting loudly and proudly that Adams was above reproach and accountability to the people of Portland. You gave him a free pass, Thomas. Now you expect him to listen?

In this space in the April 3 issue, I stated that I was closing the door on the problems of 2009's first quarter. I was putting these difficult months behind us and starting the New Year over. I'm holding myself to that statement—with one exception. Lost in the media flurry over the March departures of a few *Just Out* staffers was one important acknowledgment. Yes, lost in the blog posts and news reports was any mention of the staff who stayed and did not quit. Lost, overlooked, was any reference to the tenacity and strong character of those who did not depart when times got tough. I owe a tremendous thank you to Larry Lewis, Lynda Wilkinson, Justin Taylor, Chris Kramer and Li Li, the staffers who stayed when others didn't. I thank them all profusely for their efforts and hard work, for banding together as a team—a team determined to ride out the rough times as one. Joining us since is Amanda Schurr, whom you met last issue, and Laura Atkinson, who appeared as if from nowhere and became our *Just Out* miracle worker. I anticipate being able to add another staff writer to the mix fairly soon.

That is my closing for this issue, then, to offer the biggest and most heartfelt thanks possible to the *Just Out* staff, for a dedication to this paper and the community. Thanks to them, we're heading into the 2009 Pride season with energy, ideas and enthusiasm. It is, indeed, a happy New Year. **JO**

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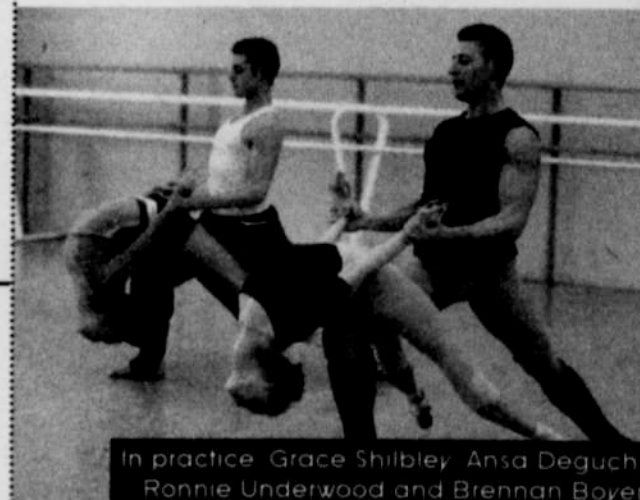
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