



PAGE 3 by Marty Davis

August and Everything After

A March. Memories. A Different Mayoral Headline-And Wine

High five, Portland, we made it through the heat wave of '09. It was a tad too warm for many, sleeping hours were pared down to a sad few, and certain peeps, none to be named, became a tad testy toward the end of the seeming 143 days of over 100-degree weather. On a fun note, as with the December snowy frigidness, the heat gave the city hours of Facebook entertainment as friends competed for creative ways to whine and complain. The weather was again another community-bonding event.

A non-virtual and very well organized community event of a political and cultural nature launched itself on Saturday night, August 1. This was the evening of Portland's first Gender Free for All March. Several hundred people gathered together in Unthank Park to voice desire for enhanced visibility and understanding within our community.

To capture the feeling of the evening I'm going to share the words of organizer/emcee Jessamyn D. Rae, who spoke eloquently as the crowd prepared to march from the shady park, led in cadence by the Last Regiment of Syncopated Drummers.

"This march is the first stand-alone Trans March in Portland. But I look around and I know that I do not stand alone. I see transfolks, genderqueer folk, gender conforming and gender non-conforming folk. I see folk who refuse or even CONFuse the very idea of a defining label. I'm proud to call us all allies.

Today, we march for the freedom of every individual to express in dress and behavior however they see fit.

We are marching for the freedom to live and play within a duality of gender even as we demand the freedom to live and play outside of a strict either/or choice.

We are marching in solidarity with and as people who have struggled tearfully and joyfully through meta-

morphoses of their bodies.

We are marching in solidarity with and as people who have struggled tearfully and joyfully to love what is.

We are marching as people who have struggled to know who we are, in a world constantly telling us who and what we should be.

We are marching as people who have struggled to be seen for who we know we are.

We are marching to raise awareness that these struggles take place.

The bottom line is: We are marching to celebrate the amazing truth of being human—and we are proof that there are as many ways to be trans as there are people."

Staying much longer in Unthank Park than I had expected that evening, I became caught up in the peaceful, friendly energy of the crowd. I was happy to see new faces and hear new voices. These are the faces and voices that have not been seen and heard enough in Just Out. I look forward to the opportunity to change that. One evening, one march did not leave me with complete understanding of the gender queer, gender free movement. But one evening certainly left me looking for more.

I attended the recent Silverton Town Council meeting where Mayor Stu Rasmussen faced a formal complaint about dress code violations. Rasmussen, as you've likely heard, is the self-identified heterosexual male who often dresses in women's clothing. The complaint was not that he cross-dresses, but rather that he cross-dresses poorly.

Is this all just a cover-up for raging transphobia lurking in the hearts of Silvertonites? I don't think so. I think that most of these people simply want their mayor to dress in professional women's clothing and represent their city well while on official business.

It's easy to jump to conclusions. Not everyone with a differing set of opinions from yours, or mine, is, by virtue of difference, homophobic, transphobic, racist, ageist, sexist, or whatever else causes one to froth and foam.

Sometimes, for the good of the whole, you might be called upon to set aside a part of yourself. Stu Rasmussen might want to consider, at least now and then, stepping out of the media spotlight and putting his community first. Isn't that a reasonable expectation of a leader?

Let's hear it for Hip Chicks Do Wine. On August 15 Laurie Lewis and Renee Neely will celebrate the 10th anniversary of their winemaking business. Hip Chicks has grown into a viable, visible business in our community and this celebration is well earned and deserved.

The first time I went looking for them I left shaking my head at the location, wondering how in the world people would find them. You know what? Find them, they did, and it's all good now. Ten years seems like yesterday. Check out their Web site (www.hipchicksdowine.com) and visit them soon, please.

It's with much sadness that I again close this column with news of the passing of a friend and colleague. Paul Scott Tucker, P. Scott as we'd often see the name, died on July 20 from renal cancer. Scott had become ill in 2008 and worked hard to maintain his business, Super Realty Group, while struggling with his health. Scott was a strong advocate for gay business and social organizations. He gave a lot and cared more.

Our thoughts go out to his partner of 12 years, John Bunn, as well as his family and friends. A complete obituary will be published in our August 21 issue.

Scott always had that ever so slightly mischievous grin. Looking at his picture now makes me smile. Thanks, Scott, for all you did.

just out

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