

TRANSITIONS

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Arthur "Art" William Kranz, 1950-2009

Beloved partner, brother and friend, Art Kranz passed away in the comfort of his home on August 22, 2009. With his partner and friends at his side, Kranz ended his yearlong battle with non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma with dignity and surrounded by love.

Born in Youngstown, Ohio, Kranz served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War and eventually made his way to Portland. He bartended at the former Stark Street CC Slaughters nightclub to pay his way through barber

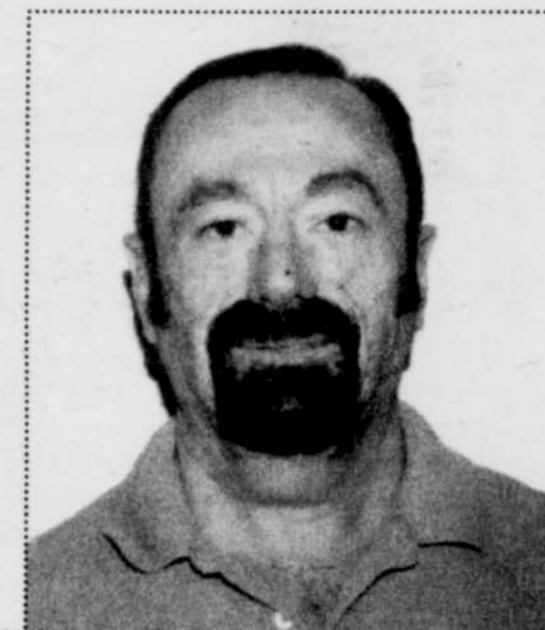
school. After graduating, Kranz opened 310 Hair Salon, where he kept Portlanders looking good for almost 25 years. Along the way, he made lifelong friends and served as a local resource and supporter of the gay community.

An avid traveler and athlete, Kranz proudly participated in the Sydney and Chicago Gay Games. He enjoyed eating out, supporting local businesses, and tending to his garden and dogs.

No matter how casual the contact, people immediately felt at ease with

Kranz. His frisky smile and genuine warmth touched many lives. He was loved and appreciated much more than he ever knew.

Kranz is preceded in death by his parents and previous partner, Randy Colby. He is survived by his partner, Warren Becker, of Portland; sister Donna Gibson of Baker, Florida; and countless friends worldwide. A celebration of life gathering will be held in Kranz's honor from 1-4 p.m. on Saturday, September 19, 2009 at Hobo's Restaurant, 120 NW Third Ave.



SUBMITTED

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Is the State Strategy for GLBT Rights Really A Failed One?

No disrespect meant to Cleve Jones [quoted in *Just Out*, Vol. 26 No. 20, "Marching On?"], who has a celebrated career as an activist, but he is dead wrong when he calls the state strategy for equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people a "failed strategy." Indeed, the only success our movement has had in securing equal rights for LGBT people to date is at the state level.

Fired from your job because you are gay or lesbian? You are protected from this kind of discrimination only if you live in one of 21 states or DC—including Oregon. The federal government does not yet ban employment discrimination. Fired because you are transgender? You have recourse only under the law in 13 states (including Oregon) and DC. In a same-sex relationship? The federal government won't recognize your family. Only in twelve states—including Oregon—will you be afforded the state rights and responsibilities that most families take for granted.

Facing harassment in schools? Victim of a hate crime based on your sexual orientation or gender identity? Victim of domestic violence from a same-sex partner? Want to adopt a child with your same-sex partner?

All of these issues are addressed—when they are addressed at all—only at the state level. None are yet addressed at the federal level.

Without state-based equality groups like Basic Rights Oregon, LGBT people in this country might have no rights at all. The work we need to do begins in our neighborhoods, not in our nation's capitol.

Passing federal legislation is absolutely a critical step in the movement toward full equality for every lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender American. But make no mistake—passing federal equality laws now is only possible because we have been passing laws on the state level—in Oregon and across the country—for the past two decades. Equality Federation, the national alliance of state equality groups, urges all Oregonians to join Basic Rights Oregon and be part of the effort to achieve full equality in every state and across our nation.

Sincerely,

TONI BROADDUS

Executive Director, Equality Federation

Where There's Smoke... Controversy at Pride NW 2009 Continues

Oh, so Kevin Bunker thinks he's not a drug addict? [Vol. 26, No. 20, "Letters"]

Yeah, right. Excuse me, but anyone who smokes is a drug addict, pure and simple. Smoking *is* an addiction, and a really dysfunctional one at that. ... Oh, so he thinks that he should be able to smoke at Pride because it's an "outdoor" event? The response indicates that there have been numerous complaints about the offensive stink and health hazards of second-hand smoke at Pride, so obviously it *is* a problem. This has nothing to do with "political correctness" and everything to do with protecting innocent people from abusive drug addicts.

LEVI MARVEL
Portland

Recently in *Just Out* there has been a discussion regarding the non-smoking policy at the recent Pride Festival which was amusing for the most part until Kevin Bunker weighed in, and it took a nasty turn. ... In the last decade or so, leaders at all levels of society and government have recognized the dangers of second-hand smoke and the inherent injustice in forcing non-smokers to risk their lives in order to socialize in restaurants, bars, clubs, open spaces, retail outlets and even to go to work. ... It isn't intolerance, demeaning, judgmental, or

non-inclusive. ... It isn't about justice for smokers. It is about justice for all.

DAVID BEARD
Portland

I don't know whether to laugh, or get angry, as I read the latest *Just Out*, we are debating about cigarettes, when we have some major issues going on in this community. I left 5 years ago, and had to come back from the East Coast, and I have found the same, fragmented, isolating, discriminating community as when I left. As long as we don't come together as ONE, there will never be a real gay community in PDX. ... The only thing we have been able to do is fool the country into thinking we are actually "with it." I have seen more enlightened folks in Alabama. Shame PDX, shame!

MARC BIGAI
Portland

CORRECTION

The August 21 issue of *Just Out* [pg. 3 and 6] erroneously stated that both the Eagle Underground and upstairs bar Casey's (610 NW Couch St.) were closing. Only the Eagle Underground is closing; Casey's remains open. We regret the error.

Don Valerio, MD Board Certified Internal Medicine

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