



PAGE 3 by Marty Davis

Overturned!

A pause for celebration - but only a pause as the battle

The week of August 2 started out slowly and lazily in the Pacific Northwest. Cloudy mornings with warm afternoons and cool nights. August, near perfection. The living is easy, fish are jumping and the cotton is high. (Tight cotton shorts riding high and snug, at least).

The biggest decision for many on these lovely days is the choice of Sauvie Island or Rooster Rock, Mexican food or Thai? Facebook postings were sonorous at best; even the drag queens were seldom fighting or getting their feelings hurt. The most energy to be found was the occasional muttering of boycotting Target and an occasional shot at BP, the previous most evil enemy of the people.

Then POW! Like Wonder Woman on steroids, mid-week changed all of that.

The social media hubs exploded with a flurry of excitement and energy as news stories broke open. Celebrate, celebrate, dance to the music, because damn it, we are family. California's heinous Prop. 8 is overturned. The ban on that state's same-sex marriage will move up a notch to the next court level—the next ruling, a decision that could/will impact the nation. Following this exciting announcement, Target apologizes for donating money to the bad guys while the Human Rights Campaign ponders how they get a contribution out of the whole affair. Next up is word that the kinda-dikey-looking-but-not-really-maybe-who-knows-does-it-matter-do-we-really-need-an-experienced-person-for-this-job-anyway woman was confirmed by the Senate to be the next Supreme Court justice.

I think a roomful of Target economists read the Prop. 8 ruling and visualized millions of dollars in potential wedding gifts headed toward competitors' aisles. A sacrificial name was drawn and out went an executive to take one for the team. Truly and sincerely, Target values the gays and is sorry. They will be more careful in the future and leave less of a paper trail. Truly and sincerely.

Suddenly as the weekend approached California gays were exuberantly planning weddings, registering at Target and pondering how to get newly confirmed Elena Kagan

to perform their wedding ceremony.

What a difference a few days make.

On August 4, everyone was talking about the California court decision. By August 5, not so much. We live in a world of immediacy. Yeah, good news, great news, exciting, what's for dinner, what are we doing tonight? The next day brings a new story, new postings, or sometimes just a lazy, hazy day.

The battle for marriage equality in California, in Oregon, in the nation is still far from over. While there should be pause for celebration, it's a pause only. This ruling has the potential to provide a catalyst for active anti-gay organizing and political outcome. We are only a few months away from the November elections. Nationally, even here at home, conservatives will be fired up and outraged by this ruling. These folks don't like to lose. They are out to capture congressional seats. They are out to replace governors. It could well happen right here in Oregon. Can you say Governor Dudley? It will be interesting to see how much of a spike Dudley shows in his fundraising following the announcement on Prop. 8. Oregon may look like it's sleeping through this election but I tell you, not everyone is.

Now is not the time for complacency. The 2010 election is, in many ways, simply the starting gun for 2012. Those elected in 2010 will steer the outcome of the 2012 presidential election, the second most important race of that year.

As I say in this space in virtually every issue, *Just Out* covers all national, and local, breaking news stories with immediacy and efficiency on our blog at justout.com. News doesn't wait for our print issues. Neither do we. We do, however, take the time and the professional effort to separate the fact from the rumor, the wheat from the chaff. This is where journalism takes the lead and steps ahead of social media. We ask questions, we verify information, we strive for the facts. We've been reporting the news for nearly 28 years. We do it differently now; we do it better. You can still count on us.

When we're not reporting the news, we like to give stuff away. Good stuff, lots of stuff. Right now we're in the midst of the *Just Out* Triple Whammy Giveaway 2010. (Please imagine drum rolls, confetti and those things cheerleaders shake).

Details of our grand giveaway can be found on p. 27. Let me mention that this giveaway involves Kathy Griffin, Margaret Cho and Lady Gaga. If that doesn't get your attention, I'm not sure what will. We tried to get Logan Lynn to enter the fray, but it seems he has plans of his own, as you'll also read in this issue. I think a night out with Portland's hottest redhead should be worth a trip to the grocery store though, don't you? I'm gonna keep working on him.

Just Out giveaways are almost always tied to donations to Esther's Pantry. This comment left on our blog on August 5 pretty much tells you why.

"Hi everyone,

I just wanted to say thank you to everyone who drops off donations for Esther's Pantry. I was diagnosed POZ Jan. 2007 and have been blessed to have the wonderful services here in Portland that have helped me and my family. Esther's Pantry and Tod's Corner are run by the most loving and caring people who volunteer their time and they mean the world to me. I just wanted you to know how important the services and people mean to me. Your donations are so needed and I thank you from my heart."

There you have it, folks. Please join us in helping Esther's Pantry make a powerful and positive impact on people's lives—while you enjoy one of the summer's biggest events.

Another exciting local event is, of course, *Just Out's* Gay Skate at Oaks Park. Hope to see you, and your canned food there on August 16. By the way, one lucky skater who brings food will skate home with a free pair of Kathy Griffin tickets, too. If the winner is faint of heart, I'll have a back-up prize.

See you there.

just out

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GAY SKATE

Oaks Park
Roller Rink

Monday,
August 16th,
7-9PM

★ \$6 + DONATION OF FOOD OR SUNDRY ITEMS ★ OPEN TO ALL AGES ★