

Transition

Kevin Grant Peppel of Vancouver, Wash. died September 13 at the age of 39. As of press time, *Just Out* was in the process of obtaining a transition piece to commemorate Peppel's life. Pick up the October 21 issue for more.

Letters

Welcome Mat

TO THE EDITOR:

In reading Aaron Spencer's "They Came From Mars (Seattle, actually)" [Vol. 28, No. 20, Sept. 16, p. 13], I was struck by a phrase he used to describe MCC Portland. He wrote: "The Rev. Nathan Meckley of the LGBTQ-welcoming Metropolitan Community Church of Portland." Referring to MCC Portland as "welcoming" is kind of like referring to *Just Out* as "[an] LGBTQ-welcoming newspaper." For 43 years this month, Metropolitan Community Churches all over the world have been offering a place for those who wish to find or reclaim the Christian identity that has been stripped away or denied them. MCC has been "marrying" same-sex couples for 43 years, offering commitment ceremonies of couples' choosing, from private ceremonies with witnesses only, to full blow-out weddings with bridesmaids, groomsmen, gowns and tuxes. One time I

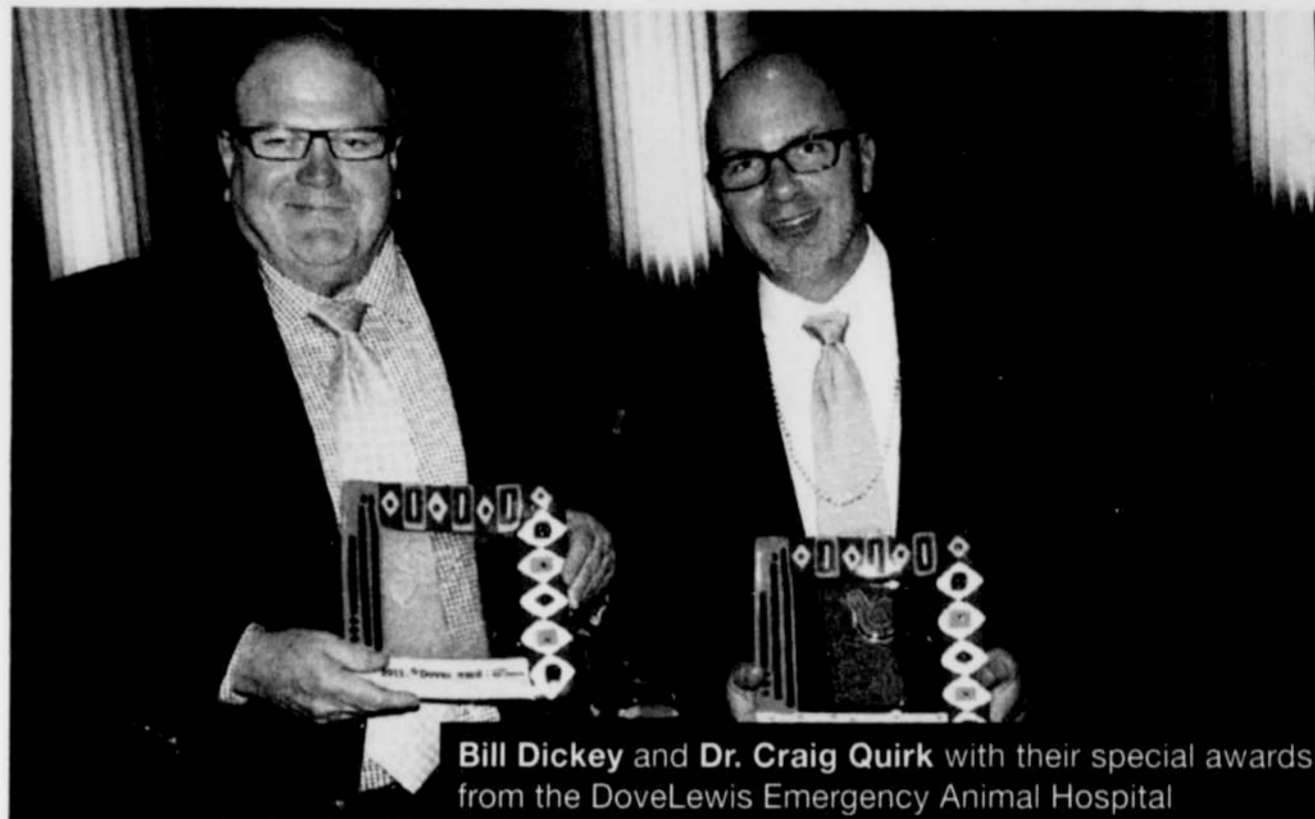
met a man there, who works at another "welcoming" church. But he said that he attends MCC once in a while, "So I can sit through worship with my arm around my partner."

This is not to slam the term "welcoming," nor to discount those congregations who are doing the good and difficult work of changing the culture of their denominations one congregation at a time. They are true heroes and are constantly being challenged to push the status quo further and further in the pursuit of justice. I think MCC deserves a little recognition for being the pioneer, the all-or-nothing church that has LGBTQ persons on its board of directors or as clergy, as Sunday School teachers, ushers, Elders, choir directors, in any position, and we welcome our straight friends and allies, too. You see, we are a welcoming congregation.

Gail Bumala,
member of MCC Portland since 1982, Sandy

Correction

In *Just Out's* September 2 story on the Portland burlesque scene, we incorrectly stated that the Rose City School of Burlesque was established in March 2008 [Vol. 28, No. 19, p. 30, "Crowd-Esque"]. In fact, it was March 2010. We regret the error.



Bill Dickey and Dr. Craig Quirk with their special awards from the DoveLewis Emergency Animal Hospital

DoveLewis Recognizes Dickey, Quirk with Awards at Annual Fundraiser

DoveLewis Emergency Animal Hospital held its annual My Wet Nose Soirée benefit Saturday, October 1 at the Governor Hotel, recognizing two prominent contributors during the gala.

Bill Dickey, owner of Morel Ink, and Dr. Craig Quirk, owner of Rose City Veterinary Hospital, were both honored with Dove Awards for their continued support of the mission of DoveLewis.

"It's an honor to be recognized by one of the top nonprofits in Oregon," said Quirk.

Quirk's recognition also served as a birthday present of sorts for the centennial of Rose City Veterinary Hospital, which celebrated 100 years of service to the Portland metro area this summer. As a member of the DoveLewis Board of Directors, and as president of the Portland Veterinary Medical Association, Quirk works closely with both organizations.

"I think he took on that role more strongly than almost anybody else who's ever been in that role," said DoveLewis director of marketing Tiffini Mueller. "[The award] was really a salute to his dedication to veterinary



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