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Just Out will reject or edit any article or advertisement that is offensive, demeaning, or may result in legal action.

The views expressed in letters to the editor, columns, and features may not be those of the editorial staff of *Just Out*.

Subscriptions are available for \$10.00 for 26 issues. Ad rates are available upon request.

The mailing address for *Just Out* is 923 SW 17th, Ste. B, Portland, OR 97205. Phone 503-223-9652.

C O N T E N T S

Out in Oregon	2
Out across the nation	4
Holiday B(I)ooze	5
BLGU Report	7
Calendar	8
Just Entertainment	10
Sports	14

E D I T O R I A L

The month of December has long been heralded the month of festivities and celebration. From pre-Christian time to today, the two things these festivities shared as a common denominator was the giving of gifts, and tree worship.

Before Christians placed the birth of Christ on December 25, there was a twelve-day feast of Yule which began on December 25, and lasted until January 6. For each day of the festival Yule logs and candles were lighted to protect against evil spirits. At Yule Tide it was believed that those who approached the sacred fir tree of the Scandinavian gods would receive special gifts that were handed out by the gods themselves. This is believed by some to be the origin of Saint Nicholas, also known as Santa Claus.

Yule was celebrated in parts of Germany, England, and Scandinavia. In southern Europe, a festival called Saturnalia was celebrated. For seven days, masters were made equal to slave in honor of a time known as the *Golden Age of Saturn* when all people were equal because nature provided enough so no one needed to work. During this celebration the masters and slaves exchanged gifts.

From these festivals, Christians incorporated many of their present day holidays. From humble roots, patriarchal white ruling-class Christians have created a means of saturating the media with one massive *sellabration*, from Thanksgiving to New Years' Eve. This massive *sellabration* allows those who profit from it the most to be good and loving to their families and others while allowing themselves to feel no guilt during the other eleven

months for their persecution and oppression of minorities.

To the poor and working class people, Christmas hype drives home the fact that they cannot afford the lavish gifts that are advertised, and cannot partake in the spirit of Christmas. Jewish and other non Christian people are ignored and left feeling more invisible than usual. People who don't live the "straight family lifestyle" experience loneliness, depression and often self-hatred that results in higher numbers of suicides than any other time of the year.

It is difficult not to get caught up in the *sellabration* of Christmas when you are bombarded with it by the media, family and friends. It is difficult for some to stand on their own and try to explain their feelings when they fear ostracism by those who are close to them.

It is important for those who get caught up in the *sellabration* of Christmas to remember other members of the community who are oppressed by this hype and be supportive of their needs and wants. One should remember that it is the giving of oneself and the equality of all people that are the true ideals of Christmas.

Renee LaChance, Director

Out there somewhere is a person who *really* likes what we are doing. That person has given us a large measure of positive reinforcement. Unfortunately, we at **Just Out** do not know who that person is. So, whoever you are, **Just Out** thanks you very much.

Jay Brown, Editor

Foxy Lady Review

SUNDAY DECEMBER

18th

8:00 PM

**\$1.00 cover and one can of food gets you in.
Proceeds go to the needy for the holidays.**

Club

927 SW Morrison
231-1606

927

Portland Town Council

announces

A Grand Sale

White metal kitchen cabinet \$30.00. Brown metal cabinet with sliding doors, \$50.00. 3 wooden book shelves, \$15.00. Wooden coat stand \$10. 2 metal office (4 drawers) desks \$85.00 ea. Wall clock \$4.00. Various chairs \$5.00 ea. Sofa \$30. 2 swivel chairs \$20 ea. 2 filing cabinets \$85 ea. Long work table \$40. Misc. office supplies, pens, paper, etc.

Interested? Call Chuck 232-0669 anytime.