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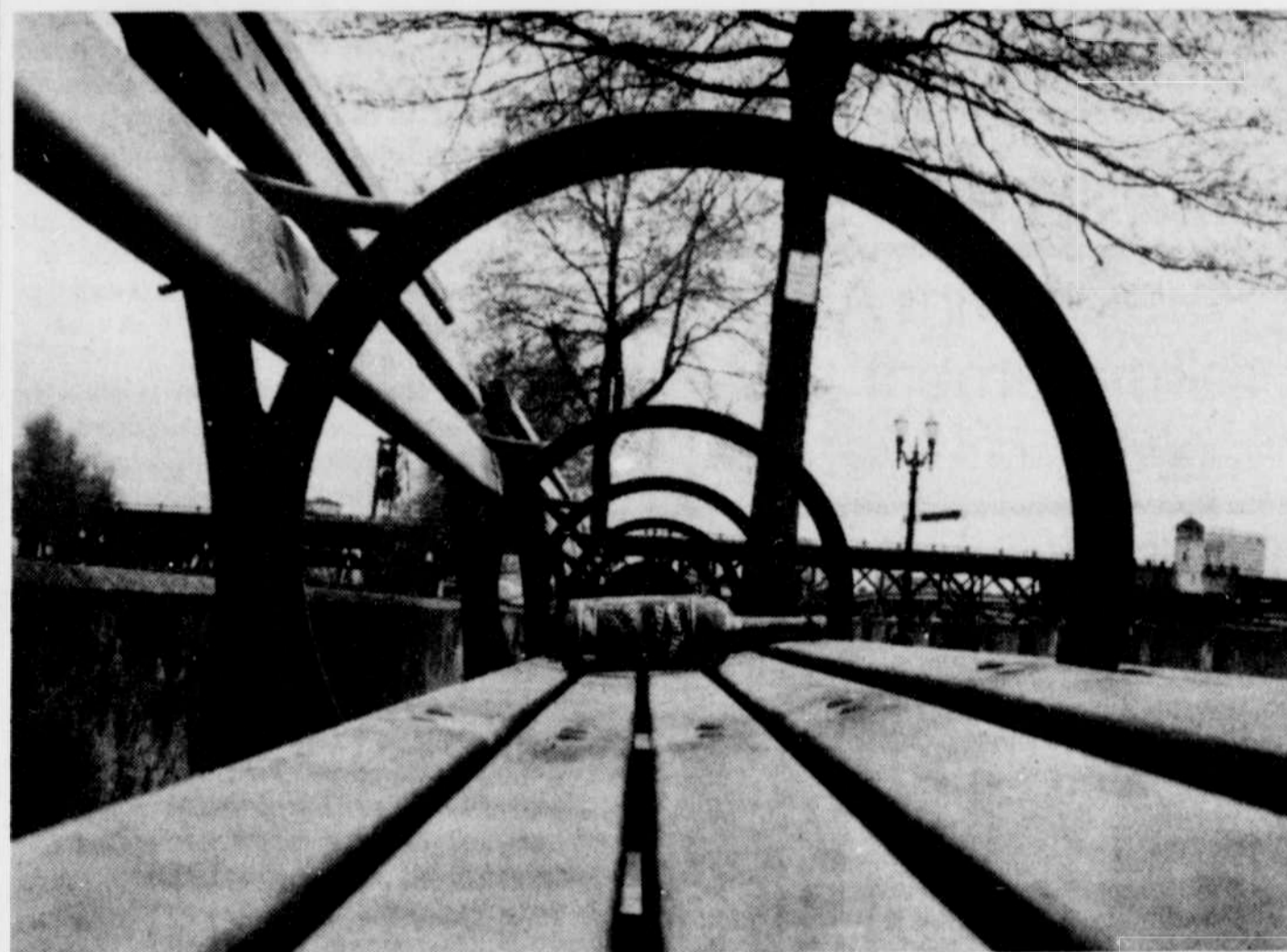


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Just Out will reject or edit any article or advertisement that is offensive, demeaning, or may result in legal action.

The views expressed in letters to the editor, columns, and features may not be those of the editorial staff of *Just Out*. *Out About Town* is a courtesy to our readers. Submissions to *Out About Town* must be typed, double-spaced and received ten days prior to publication date.

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CONTENTS

Out Around the Nation	4
Out in Oregon	5
Power and Politics '84	6
Out about Town	8
Entertainment	10
Insight	12
BLOU Report	13
Just Advice	13
Gays of Our Lives	14
Classifieds	15

EDITORIAL

The word "politics" is derived from the Greek word "politikos," meaning *of the citizens*. In the United States, from the smallest local body to the most powerful national body, the various political governments are representative democracies (democracy; *demos* the people + *kratein* to rule, *kratos* authority.) Thus, the citizens of the United States rule themselves by choosing from among themselves representatives to a legislative body which derives its "powers from the consent of the governed" (Declaration of Independence).

An oligarchy is a form of government in which the power is vested in a few. In modern times oligarchies have been formed in countries emerging from colonial status, such as the nations in Central America, Africa and Southeast Asia.

Since the end of World War II and the subsequent beginning of the so-called Cold War with the Soviet Union, the United States has been evolving into a quasi-oligarchic state. The direction toward oligarchy is to protect the few, which in the United States is the Military/

Industrial Complex, at the expense of the many.

The majority is forced to support the minority through the extraction of considerable portions of their incomes with no recourse to control the expenditure of these moneys.

But, since the United States, in principal, is a representative democracy, its citizens can, if they wish, use the prevailing political process to elect representatives who will voice the will of the majority.

In 1980, Ronald Reagan was elected President of the United States by approximately one quarter of the citizens eligible to vote. Many other government officials have been elected with far less votes.

What happens in City Hall, in Salem, in Washington, concerns *you*. It is the quality of *your* life which is being affected. It is *your* money which is being spent on bombs and prisons.

Vote on May 15 for the candidate of your choice.

LETTERS

Thank you,

Cynthia

To the editor:
"Jesse Jackson and the Rainbow Coalition"

by Cynthia Cumfer is an excellent article. I want to thank her for writing it and you for sharing it with your readers.

The May 15th primary election in Oregon is going to be very important this year. By my calculation lesbians and gays comprise the largest minority classification in the state, with the exception of women who are a majority minority. Our impact on this election should be equal to this fact. We can have that impact by voting for Jesse L. Jackson for President. With Gary Hart and with Walter Mondale our votes will be lost in the traditional coalitions. With Jackson and the Rain-

bow Coalition we will stand out politically.

Jackson is no doubt taking considerable flack for his position on Lesbian/Gay Rights from his more traditional supporters. Yet, he knows it is the right new direction and will follow it.

Compassion is an important quality in a candidate. Jesse Jackson has lived and survived rejection by the larger society. He knows what it is like to be held back for being who you are.

Jackson is a person of action. While others were talking about freeing Lt. Goodman from a Syrian prison, he did it! Jackson is willing to

take risks for peace.

April 25, 1984 is the last day you can change political parties in Oregon. You must be a registered Democrat in order to vote for Jesse Jackson.

Think about the advice of Eugene Debs, a great labor leader early in this century: "I'd rather vote for someone I want and not get it, than vote for someone I don't want and get it." Get it!!

In unity,
Richard L. Pastega,
Klamath County Jesse Jackson
for President Committee