

**STEPPIN' OUT**

photo by Helen Lottridge



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Written and graphic materials are welcomed for submission. All written material should be typed and double-spaced. All graphic material should be black ink on white paper.

Deadline for submissions is 14 days prior to publication date.

Out About Town is a courtesy to our readers. Items must be received 14 days prior to publication date.

Display advertising will be accepted up to five days before publication date, if camera ready, if not then seven days prior.

Classified ads must be received at the office of Just Out seven days prior to publication date, along with payment.

Editorial policies allow the rejection or the editing of an article or advertisement that is offensive, demeaning or may result in legal action. Just Out consults the Associated Press Stylebook and Libel Manual on editorial decisions.

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

Subscriptions to Just Out are available for \$7.50 for 12 issues. A free copy of Just Out and or advertising rates are available upon request.

The mailing address and telephone number for Just Out are

P.O. Box 15117  
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236-6628

*Just*  
**LETTERS**

**An open letter to the Gay Men's Chorus**

I woke up this morning angry and felt that I had to write you. For a long time now, I have been inspired by your voices. I love to go to your concerts and have even worked the lights for you. But I am more and more disturbed by your message.

I try to convince myself that the Christianity you are forever singing about in your choice of music is necessary — that much of the good choral music available to you is written that way, so that is what you sing. In spite of the fact that Christians have persecuted gay men and women for centuries and are right now organizing — with the support of our President — to deny us our rights, I try to accept what you sing as good music and ignore the words.

But I cannot ignore it when you combine that Christianity with the political message of a song like "God Bless America." America is on the verge of re-electing a man who justifies the horror of his policies in the name of bringing God back to America. God bless America — and the rest of the world can go to hell.

I cannot ask whatever god there may be to

bless a nation which pays for the slaughter of people in Nicaragua and El Salvador. I cannot sing proudly for a people who allow their government to support apartheid in South Africa. I will not come to hear a chorus of gay men sing sweetly about God and country when it is that very ideology which is used to justify leading the world closer to nuclear war.

Under the banner of God and America, the Christian political right is waging a holy war to deny women the right to abortions, to cut off desperately needed aid to this country's poor so that we can build weapons, to block the Equal Rights Amendment, and to deny us as gay men and lesbians the very right to exist. *How can you contribute to this extremely dangerous combining of Christian fervor and American pride?*

Yes, I want to live in America. But I want an America which is guided by compassion for the poor, understanding of our bond with other nations, and justice for minority groups — not by the puffed up, proud, and vengeful god of Reagan and Falwell.

If you must continue to sing of god and politics in the same breath, please sing "God Bless Nicaragua." They need it much more than we do. They have Ronald Reagan's America as a neighbor.

Paul Starr

With this issue, Just Out begins its second year of publication.

During the past year Just Out was honored by the Gay Press Association for "outstanding overall design." Just Out was described by Phil Nash, GPA Awards Coordinator, as a good-looking "issue-oriented paper."

Just Out has established itself as a truly alternative newsmagazine by mirroring the diversity of the lesbian and gay community. Just Out has dealt with issues such as unlearning racism, physically challenged gays, gays in prison, gay youth, alcoholism in the gay community, in addition to monitoring the media.

Impacting the straight as well as the lesbian and gay community, Just Out has consistently reported on issues which affect everyone, such as nuclear disarmament, feminism and mainstream politics.

As we look forward to many more years of keeping you informed and entertained, the staff at Just Out says "Thank you," to all our friends for the support you have given us during the past year.



**phoenix rising foundation**  
408 S.W. 2nd Avenue, Suite 407  
Portland, Oregon 97204  
(503) 223-8299

**Fall Offerings**

**On-Going Men's Therapy/Support Group:**

Openings now.

**Lesbian Women's Therapy/Support Group:** Begins

November 6, Tuesdays

**Pre-Orgasmic Women's Group:** Begins November 5,

Mondays

**Introduction to Homosexuality for School**

**Personnel:** November 10, Saturday

**Lesbian Healing Seminar:** Begins November 9-10,

Friday evening & Saturday

**Coming Events**

**Assertiveness Training:** Begins January 12, 1985,  
Saturdays

**AIDS Support Group:** Begins February 1985

**Incest Survivors Group:** Begins March 1985

**Safe Sexual Practices for Gay Men:** Begins  
March 1985

**Call 223-8299 to register  
or for more information**