

**STEPPIN' OUT**

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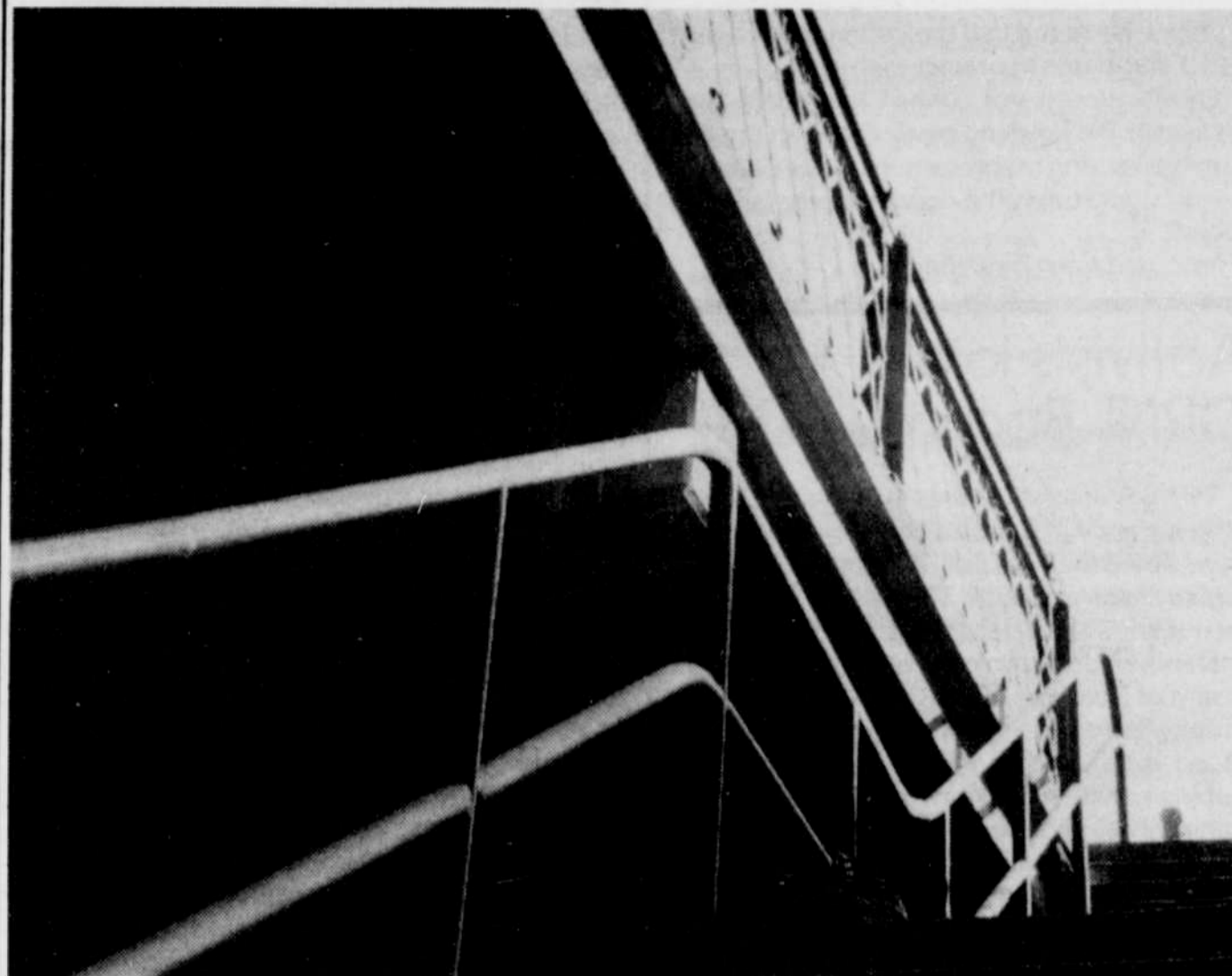


photo by Helen Lottridge

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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.

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*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*.

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**E D I T O R I A L**

**Homophobia wins again**

by Jay Brown

The confusing drama over gay rights, slowly playing itself out in the chambers of the Multnomah County Commissioners, can end in only one way - another defeat for gays and lesbians everywhere. The tragedy of the situation, though, is that the villain of the piece, Drew Davis, will be the only winner.

Drew Davis, self-styled "concerned citizen of Portland," is yet another demagogue riling up the rubes for his own political gain. Davis, by the way, is neither a citizen of Portland nor of Multnomah County; he lives in Lake Oswego, and is registered to vote in Clackamas County.

By way of background, last December outgoing commissioner Arnold Biskar introduced an amendment adding the words *sexual orientation* to Multnomah County's existing human rights ordinance. The amendment was passed during the last session of 1984. At that last session, Drew Davis, arch-homophobe, vowed "to take it to the voters."

So Davis wrote his petition, circulated it along with the standard homophobic lies and came up with more than 12,000 signatures. In the meantime, gay rights advocates and sympathetic politicians, in an attempt to thwart Davis' homophobic actions, compromised by repealing the amendment and replacing it with a resolution which reaffirmed the concept of prohibiting discrimination against gays and lesbians in county employment. This compromise gives protections to gays and lesbians without "condoning homosexuality," according to a county spokesperson.

Davis, determined to "take it to the voters," has threatened to sue Multnomah County to force an election, which would probably be held during Lesbian and Gay Pride Week. (Oh, irony of ironies.)

Most gay rights advocates firmly believe that "it won't come to a vote." (They seem to have more faith in the system than I do.) What they really mean is that they fervently hope it *won't* come to a vote, because we all know that there are millions more homophobes than there are gay rights advocates.

Homophobes, like Drew Davis, are not afraid to come out of the closet. Homophobes, like Drew Davis, can make political hay at the expense of a vulnerable, frightened minority; so no matter what lies they spout they always seem to have the upper hand.

The only way to fight homophobes like Drew Davis is for lesbians, gays and sympathetic straights to conquer their *own* homophobia and combat the ignorance which keeps us in the closet.

**Further depressing note**

*Just Out* has lost one of its most popular distribution points due to the ever-present homophobia around us.

Patrons of the Lloyd Center Tradewell store have regularly gone through 500 to 600 *Just Outs* each month. In January the rack which held *Just Out* disappeared. Upon investigation, we learned that the manager had had some complaints about *Just Out's* subject matter. The manager said about 8-10 elderly people had come in one day and objected to the store distributing the paper, so he took away what papers remained and the rack. He did not notify *Just Out* of his action nor of the objections he had received.

How many gays and lesbians have objected to the manager's actions? We would like to know. Call or write us if you routinely picked up your copy of *Just Out* there, and call or write the manager of the store telling him you would like to see its return.

**LETTERS**

**Let's represent our diversity**

To the Editor,

I was disturbed to read in the last edition of the *Eagle* that a new Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee had been formed with primarily male members. One woman, who works within the Gay Bar community, was included on the board. As a lesbian, and feminist, and a non-bar goer, I resent the implication that one woman on the Lesbian and Gay Pride committee will be able to be the spokesperson for all of the Lesbians in our community. I write this not to discredit Susie, for I'm sure she is as supportive and as interested in Lesbian and Gay rights as we all are.

But to say that one woman, or one man, can speak for hundreds of diverse peoples in our community frightens me. Phyllis Schlafly doesn't represent all women in the United States, and neither does Gloria Steinem. Let's see more diversity on the board, and get some input from all facets of the Lesbian and Gay community, minorities, as well as women. And not just one for "token."

Perhaps if they had advertised the board member positions outside of the bar community we could have had a more representative committee. I want to see us really Proud in terms of "Gay Pride" when it comes to accepting all peoples in our ranks, not just the ones we might be friends with, or work with, but **EVERYONE**.

With Hope for the Future,

Sarah Koehl