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Out About Town is a courtesy to our readers. Items must be received by the 15th of each month.

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 ten days prior to publication date, along

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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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LETTERS

Refreshing

To the Editor:

Having just recently "come out of the closet" I find your news magazine very refreshing and full of interesting news about the homosexual lifestyle.

It is nice to know that I can read about the latest news in the gay community just as my heterosexual friends can read about their "straight" lifestyle.

It certainly is nice to know there are people out there who feel and understand the way that I do.

Thanks again,

R. Johnson

Thank you, Barbara Grier

To the Editor:

I thank the universe for giving us Barbara Grier. I thank Barbara Grier for editing *The Ladder* back when I had nothing and no one else to tell me I was okay, sane and not alone. This woman, who encouraged me and many others to write, published us then and now. This women's-movement-battered woman has had the vision and the guts to do what she must to make Naiad, whatever its or her faults, successful so that other women, in the position I was in twenty years ago, can have a chance to grab at that lifeline.

I thank Nancy Manahan and Rosemary Curb for their work and vision in creating *Lesbian Nuns: Breaking Silence*, because it is responsible for breaking through so many barriers to reach women who never ever would have had access to lesbian culture otherwise. I thank the women who wrote their stories down and let them go despite the pain it might have brought some of them, so that countless women and men could be touched by the beauty and sincerity of their words. I thank the media, gay and straight, for publicizing the book, for pushing those words farther and farther into the world, to find those buried deeper and deeper inside their closets.

I thank you, the readers, for sharing my gratitude, for being among those who oppose fear and even unwittingly risk damage to your spirits, by believing in your gay selves enough to stand tall, in your words, in a parade, in the simple act of reading this paper.

Lee Lynch

Those missing children

To the Editor:

Public concern about missing children reached a new peak recently, after a nationwide night telecast of "Adam" — a real-life story of the kidnap and murder of a Florida boy. The network showed pictures of several missing children and appealed to the public to help find them.

Photos of missing children show up everywhere: on billboards, shopping bags, milk cartons and matchbooks, even in some of our utility bills. Now 82 US Senators have signed a letter asking the three major TV networks to broadcast these pictures regularly in prime-time slots (*S.F. Chronicle*, May 17, 1985).

But the ugliest truth is now appearing: almost all of the children "discovered" after these pictures are shown were kidnapped by one of their own parents. Barbara Chapman, media director for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in Washington, D.C. has now admitted that 94% of the cases they've handled are parental abductions (*S.F. Chronicle*, May 2, 1985).

Chapman also acknowledged that the annual abductions, including the many parental kidnappings, may be less than 25,000. Yet most experts on missing children estimate that about 2 million disappear each year: about half of them run away, because the horror at home is worse than the horror of the streets, while the other half are "thrown away" (abandoned or forced out) by their own parents. Nearly all of these young people reappear, sooner or later, without the aid of a nationwide dragnet.

On this basis, only about 1% of all missing children actually are abducted. Less than one in a thousand missing children are taken by anyone other than a parent. So the child-savers' own statistics point to a multitude of urgent problems within families, and not to any unusual external menace.

The spectre of strangers who snatch one's children is nothing new, of course. Throughout history, oppressed minorities have been accused of child-stealing and child-murder. In another era, Gypsies were thought to be child-snatchers. Today, the evil role is played by others. What the networks falsely imply, the Falwells proclaim: Adults without children pose a menace to the family.

Children, naturally, are terrified by these

shows. Their horrified parents rush to have them fingerprinted, in the mistaken belief that law enforcement agencies alone, if given more money and public support, can save their children from a terrible fate.

It won't help to continue scaring children and parents with right-wing propaganda. Instead, let's tell the truth: nearly all child disappearance can be traced to real parental problems, power struggles, and the widespread abuse and neglect of young people within contemporary families.

Floyd Conaway

Chorus says "Thanks, Portland"

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Portland Gay Men's Chorus I want to thank you and the staff of *Just Out* for all your support this past season. We sincerely appreciate your ongoing efforts to publicize and promote events that serve to strengthen and solidify the Lesbian and Gay Community.

Due to widespread community support this past year, the Chorus has been able to make some large strides. Last fall we commissioned an original work by black composer Terry Snowden and in the springtime an entire musical satire ("Zillions") by Tom Simonds.

We were honored to sing in the Rotunda of the State Capitol at Christmas for Barbara Roberts' inauguration as Secretary of State and at the opening of the legislative sessions in Salem. We received our first grant from the Metropolitan Arts Commission and were invited to join the Choral Consortium, an alliance of the five major Portland choruses formed to further Portland's stature as a center for fine choral music.

Recently we were thrilled to perform at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall with the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles to a warmly enthusiastic crowd. Singing in the Opera House in Seattle the next night with the Vancouver, Seattle and Los Angeles Choruses, we were accused of prolonging the show because we were interrupted so often by applause!

As your chorus we are proud to represent Portland's Lesbian and Gay Community in Salem, in the Choral Consortium, at Schnitzer Hall, in Seattle and anywhere we have the honor of an audience.

Thank you Portland for your unwavering

support. We will continue to work very hard to earn your love and affection through our music.

Steve Mount
Portland Gay Men's Chorus

Thanks City Nights

Dear City Nights Group:

Congratulations on creating a truly fantastic evening. The Sylvester Summer Party was of benefit to everyone associated with it!

On behalf of the Board and all of us associated with CHSS/PAL Project, I'd like to thank all of you for your astonishing effort on behalf of persons challenged by Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. Your work has demonstrated that it is possible to make a difference in the fight against devastating disease without being morose or desperate. Truly you have shown the potential of joy in the face of grief, and the power of resolve in the face of fear. You have given many in Portland the sure knowledge that everyone can make a difference in the fight against AIDS.

Thank you for all your hard work. Your organization reflected long hours of preparation. Everyone that I have spoken with was stunned that such an incredible party could be found in Portland.

But most impressive of all is the simple fact that you stepped forward without being asked — purely out of your own sense of concern and compassion for others. As you already know, the funds you raised are desperately needed, now, in our own community. All of us in PAL Project hope that you take a great deal of satisfaction in knowing that these moneys will directly support many people, most of whom you will never know.

Those of us who are working on behalf of persons challenged by life-threatening illnesses, are buoyed by the knowledge that others share our concern and are willing to make sacrifices as necessary to support others who are less fortunate.

It seems insufficient to simply say, "Thank you for being there for us," but we hope that it will add to the pride which you must feel after creating such a rousing success. Thank you for demonstrating that life can be rich with fun and entertainment, and meaningful at the same time!

We wish all of you and yours the very best of health.

Steve Fulmer
CHSS Board Chair