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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 the 15th of each month.

*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 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.

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# EDITORIAL

## Military homophobia institutionalized

by Jay Brown

November 11 marks the 67th anniversary of the signing of the armistice ending hostilities of the Great War of 1914-18. For many years the date was called Armistice Day as was appropriate. More recently the date, still a holiday, has been celebrated as Veteran's Day, which does not seem quite so appropriate.

As a *peacenik*, I have always had problems with the military, even when I was a part of it during the late 1950s. In those days, some people got drafted (I wasn't) and had no choice in the matter.

No one has been drafted in more than ten years and in that time more than 14,000 people were discharged from the military because they were lesbian or gay. One can be sure that few, if any, of those 14,000 were conscripts.

And now, the Department of Defense has ordered all personnel under its jurisdiction considered to be at "high risk" for AIDS (read ages 18-35) be required to submit to the HTLV-III antibodies test.

The military is an entity unto itself. Those persons in the military are there because they have elected to be there; that is, they enlisted. People under the jurisdiction of the DOD, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines (both male and female) are subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice. The UCMJ is a set of rules which supersedes the Constitution of the United States.

If one is in the military, one has no choice but to obey the rules of the military. So when I hear moaning and groaning about gays and lesbians being treated "unfairly" by the military, I wonder at the ignorance.

## Just Out begins 3rd year

With this issue *Just Out* marks our second anniversary. In the scheme of things two years is a very short time, but we think it is pretty exciting and amazing that a gay/lesbian newspaper has been able to survive that long and prosper without the support of the most visible businesses in the community.

Considering that at least half of the copies distributed in the community are picked up in gay bars and businesses in downtown Portland, we know that the patrons of these businesses are reading *Just Out*.

It hasn't been easy on the other side of the fence either. It's difficult always being politically astute, especially when the best of intentions backfires and results in alienation and suspicion.

So, anyway, we are still at it. And to all the people who have helped us along the way, *Just Out* says, "Thank you."

## AIDS fears foster paranoia

A friend of ours, a waiter at a downtown restaurant, was told recently by his boss that "I'm gonna make all you gay boys take that AIDS test."

The man's statement about that "AIDS test" seems to be typical of the level of understanding about the syndrome and the test. First of all, the test will not determine the presence of the virus, but will indicate the presence of antibodies to the virus. Antibodies indicate exposure to the virus, but exposure does not mean that a person in whom the test shows antibodies will actually become ill with the disease nor does it mean that the person will be a carrier of the disease, it means only that the organism (the person) has been exposed to the disease.

AIDS is not a highly contagious disease, nor is it spread through casual contact. The virus does not float through the air, get into food, nor can you get it by visiting with, working with or going to school with a person who has it.

Contrary to increasingly popular opinion, you cannot get AIDS from a toilet seat or a public telephone, nor can you get it from an exercise bench or a swimming pool.

The AIDS virus is transmitted only through the medium of bodily fluids, such as semen and blood, through sexual contact or contaminated needles. A report in the *New England Journal of Medicine* (October 17, 1985) said, "A Florida surgeon with AIDS operated on hundreds of patients without passing on the fatal disease, supporting the belief that AIDS-infected health care workers can safely treat patients," which should dispel some fears, but never underestimate the ignorance of the American public.

# CATHARTIC COMICS

Featuring  
THE BROWN BOMBER & DIVA TOUCHE FLAMBE

YES...I THINK THE FEW PEOPLE WHO THINK THIS STRIP HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT NEGATIVE HAVE A POINT. AND I'M GOING TO GIVE EVERY BIT OF CRITICISM A LOT OF THOUGHT... IN FACT I ALREADY HAVE.



WELL I WAS GOING TO DO A COMIC BASED ON KEESTON LOWERY GOING THROUGH EXTENSIVE OLYMPICS-LIKE TRAINING FOR THE POSSIBLE RETURN OF JERRY WELLER AND FOR THE TUSSELE FOR PORTLAND'S GAY POLITICAL THRONE...



YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DO THE STRIP?

NO, BECAUSE IT WOULD BE TOO TACKY... AND I WANT TO SHOW RESTRAINT!



OH! YOU REALIZE, OF COURSE, THAT YOU'VE MANAGED TO MAKE YOUR STATEMENT, ANYWAY?

TEE HEE... I KNOW... I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF! I THRIVE ON CONTROVERSY!

