



photo by Sallie Bird

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photo by Sallie Bird

About noon on Saturday, June 21st, 2000 people marched in downtown Portland, down Broadway from NW Couch to SW Alder, thence to Waterfront Park on Alder. That's quite a distance.

At Waterfront Park the crowd swelled to double its size before the day was over. Now, that's a pretty big crowd to ignore, but that's

just what happened at the local daily newspaper.

Last year Lesbian and Gay Pride rated a photo on the obituary page, but this year the *Oregonian*, a newspaper which is currently comparing itself to the *Washington Post*, did not even mention the fact that a significant number of citizens living in this state came

out to be counted in the struggle for gay and lesbian civil rights.

On the following Monday, a student intern was assigned to write a story on reactions to Attorney General Edwin W. Meese's directive that employers and public health officials who believe they are preventing the spread of AIDS may discriminate against people disabled

with it.

The reporter, Dave Austin, seemed ignorant of the existence of a lesbian and gay community, or as might be the case, he was just not interested. What did interest him was the amount of money raised. But in this time of Reaganomics money talks louder than civil rights ever could.