

Just out

Vol. 4 No. 4

February, 1987

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Deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month.

Out About Town is a courtesy to our readers. Performers, clubs, individuals, or groups wanting to list events in the calendar should mail notices to *Just Out* by the 15th of the month preceding publication. Listings will not be taken by telephone.

Display Advertising will be accepted up to the 20th of each month.

Classified ads must be received at the office of *Just Out* by the 20th of each month, along with payment. Ads will not be taken over the telephone.

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 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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Steppin' Out



The Imperial Rose Court System of North America will be honored at "Night of a Thousand Gowns," a tribute to the pioneering role of drag in the lesbian and gay communities, Saturday, March 27, in the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf Astoria in New York City.

EDITORIAL

Security risks?

The implication that gays and lesbians are "security risks" surfaced recently in Salem; a blast from the past from the governor, no less.

Governor Neil Goldschmidt, while speaking to the Salem Chamber of Commerce on January 19, said the state should not discriminate against gays and lesbians in employment unless security is at stake, according to the Oregonian. "Unless security is at stake?" Does Governor Goldschmidt mean to imply that lesbians and gays are a threat to the security of the state? Is he saying that gays and lesbians should not be given positions of responsibility in the state because we cannot be trusted? (Calls to the governor's office were not returned by press time.)

Whatever Goldschmidt meant, my

memory recalled the specter of Senator Joseph McCarthy whose rabid hounding of homosexual "security risks" ruined countless lives in the early 1950s. I dread to think that in 1987 such sophisticated a politician as Neil Goldschmidt would believe that lesbians and gays in the State of Oregon, or anywhere, pose a threat to "security."

Neil Goldschmidt needs to do a lot of homework in the next few months. After all, more than 10% of his constituency are counting on his signature on House Bill 2325.

House Bill 2325, Neil, will offer "sec-

urity" to about 300,000 people; they will feel secure in their jobs, in their homes, and in the places they spend their money. People whose jobs and homes are safe pose no threat to "state security."

And what is this, anyway? Has Oregon suddenly become a bastion of the CIA?

Special privileges

As House Bill 2325 wends its way through the maze in Salem, I predict that opponents to the legislation will raise a hue and cry about "giving special privileges" to gays and lesbians. Close attention will reveal that those most vehemently opposed to "special privileges" for lesbians and gays are institutions and people who believe their own privileged status is legitimate — divinely inspired, even.

Since 1973, I've been watching gay rights bill after gay rights bill get stifled in Oregon. I gave testimony at a committee hearing in 1979. I was in the gallery during the floor debate in the Senate in 1983. And in every defeat for us, the same privileged people and institutions triumphed.

The privileged people and institutions are, of course, the religionists; their holdings and incomes are exempt from taxation and their beliefs and actions are fully protected by law. Their religious privileges, they sometimes believe, put them beyond the law.

The religionists who oppose us will always win as long as their ignorant harangues drown out reasonable voices. At the committee hearing I attended in 1979, the only opposing testimony came from religionists. They quoted scripture and defeated the bill — and we outnumbered them.

Their special privilege means that religious persecution of gays and lesbians continues to be legitimate activity, and it means that lesbians and gays can legally be deprived of employment, housing and public accommodations.

Let's make sure the lawmakers listen to our side this time. It's the squeaky wheel that gets the grease.

If you have contacts that can be of use in this most important campaign, please call the ACLU, 227-3186 in Portland, and 345-6162 in Eugene. •

CATHARTIC COMICS

Featuring
THE BROWN BOMBER & DIVA TOUCHE FLAMBÉ
BY RUPERT KINNARD

