

# Just out

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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 over the telephone.

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## Steppin' Out

Photo by Jay Brown



Kiss-In, Atlanta, July 18, 1988

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# P A G E T W O

## Gay Oregon delegate leads fight

*"Early on, I recognized shock from people listening to my message. They had not heard issues of gay and lesbian rights discussed so openly."*

**R**andy Sullivan, the 1st Congressional District delegate to the Democratic National Convention, led the fight in Atlanta for increased awareness and knowledge of issues of interest to lesbians and gays. Sullivan, 34, a marketing representative from Portland's West Hills, took every opportunity during the four-day convention to raise the issues that the platform of his party refused to address: gay and lesbian rights, a comprehensive AIDS Bill of Rights and the issue of human rights for all Americans.

A Jesse Jackson supporter, Sullivan recalls the beginnings of his journey to Atlanta.

"I attended the March on Washington last October with four of my closest friends and heard Jesse Jackson speak at the rally. I decided then to support him.

"The delegation selection process is sort of a long process. I filed to run as a precinct committeeman and at the same time filed with the state Democratic Party that if elected as a delegate I

would be supporting Rev. Jackson." Sullivan was elected.

"At the state Democratic convention I ran as an at-large delegate from the Jackson caucus and was elected officially an alternate to the convention. When Ron Herndon elected not to attend the convention I became a full delegate.

Declaring no political aspirations for himself, Sullivan does see a personal political role in the future.

"I've been involved in the Democratic Party since 1968. When I was 14 years old, I rang doorbells for Robert Kennedy."

Discussing the reaction by state Democratic Party leaders to his gay orientation, Sullivan said, "There wasn't any discouragement. But basically I talked about Jesse Jackson's message of inclusion. When he talks about the rights of gays and lesbians, Jesse is talking about the broader issues of civil and human rights for all Americans. This message has been well received.

"I come from the 1st Congressional District, which is just a little more conservative than the 3rd District. And early on, I recognized shock from people listening to my message. They had not heard the issues of gay and lesbian rights discussed so openly.

"Once I arrived in Atlanta and it became apparent that the voice of the gay community was going to be focused through some of us, I received great support. My own congressman, Les AuCoin, has been very supportive; Secretary of State Barbara Roberts and state Party chair Judy Carnahan have both been supportive as has been the entire leadership of the Jackson caucus and for that matter the entire Oregon delegation."

The voice of Randy Sullivan will remain one of the highlights of the 1988 Democratic National Convention. His message and the courage of that message will last long after the hoopla has died down.

Sullivan's parting words: "There is some disappointment in the defeat of Jesse Jackson. But after the grieving process is over we will all be supportive of the Dukakis/Bentsen ticket. The alternative is four more years of Republican B.S., and none of us can afford that."

— Harold Moore and Jay Brown

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