

# Just out

## Co-Publishers

Renee LaChance and Jay Brown

**Editor** Jay Brown

**Calendar Editor** Meg Grace

## Staff Reporters

Anndee Hochman

Harold Moore

## Advertising Representatives

Meg Grace, Jeff Fritz, Lynn Landon

**Production Director** Renee LaChance

**Creative Director** E. Ann Hinds

**Typesetting** Em Space

**Proofreading** Marvin Moore

**Graphic Inspiration** Rupert Kinnard

**Distribution** Diana Cohen

## Contributors

Kathy Knowles	Dr. Mary Caselli, N.D.
Dell Richards	Ej Westlake
Lee Lynch	Rex Wockner
Steve Warren	Bradley J. Woodworth
Dr. Tantalus	Billy Russo
Michael S. Reed	Howie Baggadonutz
Elaine Ryder	Dr. Lenora B. Fulani
Jack Riley	Eleanor Malin
Sandra De Helen	

## Steppin' Out

Photo by Jay Brown



## C O N T E N T S

Letters .....	3
What's going on here ....	4
Between the Lines .....	5
Just News .....	6
Books .....	10
Health .....	11
The Tribal Drum .....	12
Profile .....	13
Political stew .....	14
Out About Town .....	16
Eating Out .....	18
Just Entertainment .....	20
Music .....	22
Cinema .....	23
The Amazon Trail .....	24
The Roseburg Report .....	25
Counsel .....	26
Classifieds .....	27

# P A G E T W O

## Coming out is a two-way street

*If you know someone well enough to ask if they are gay, remember that you must create safety for them to respond openly*

BY ELAINE RYDER

The Portland Community College Alliance of Lesbians and Gays and their Friends urges everybody to demonstrate their support for lesbians and gays. Most heterosexuals, or "straight" people, are open-minded and oppose discrimination based on sexual orientation. Many, however, do not know how to show this support.

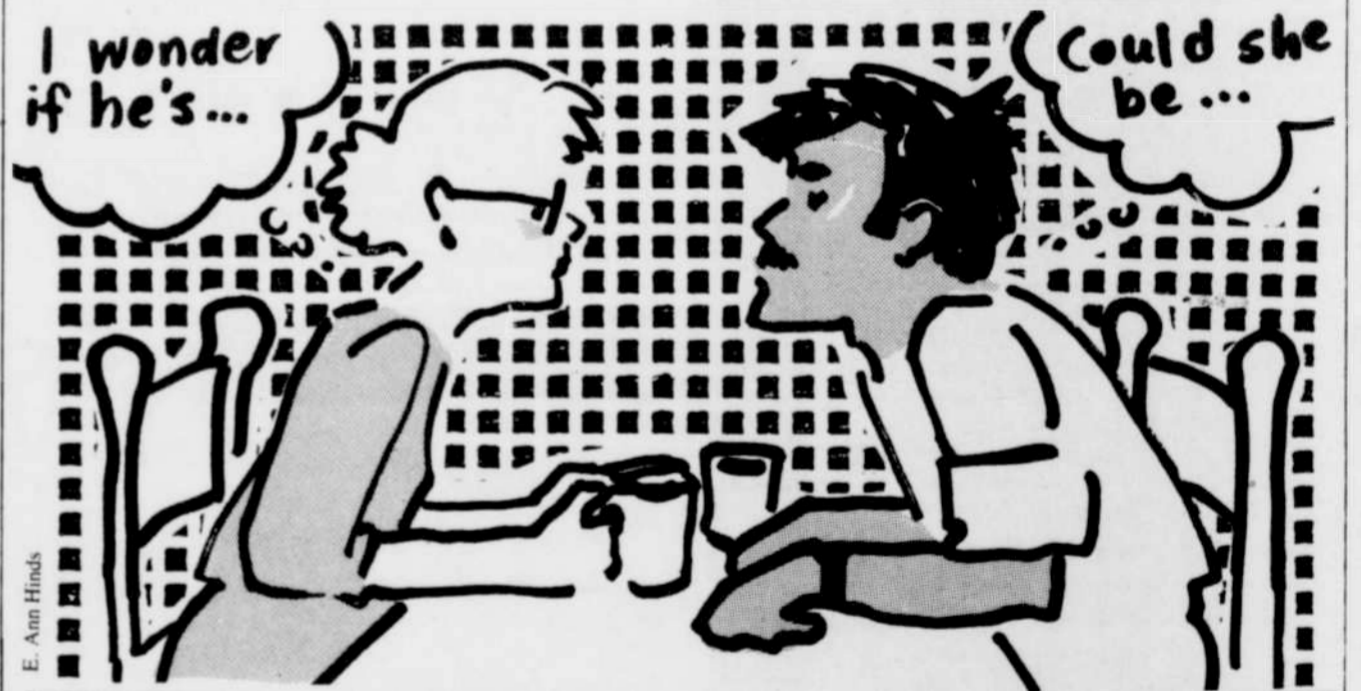
The first problem, of course, is that it's hard to tell if a person is lesbian, gay or bisexual; sexual orientation doesn't show. You can help your friends of different sexual orientations by letting your own feelings be known.

Wear a pink triangle. The pink triangle was the symbol assigned to homosexuals when they were exterminated in Nazi Germany. It has been adopted by contemporary lesbians and gays to identify ourselves to each other as a reminder that our persecution is historic and that we will overcome.

Real fears have pushed gay and lesbian people into the closet. Most of us have friends who have lost their jobs, their children, their professional reputation, their families, or even their lives because it was known or rumored that they were gay. Our lives are risky to different degrees, depending upon our circumstances. Each one of us has drawn lines about where and when it is safe to be "out." Please respect this.

There are a number of things you can do to make the world safer for gay and lesbian people:

- Speak up when you hear homophobic (anti-gay) jokes. Many people use "humor" to test their audience's reaction, to find support for their ideas. All you need to say when you hear a bigoted joke against anyone is "I don't find that funny."
- Notice if you have a friend who consistently omits pronouns when speaking of someone who has obvious importance in his or her life. You can be supportive by not assuming that his or her lover is of the opposite sex. Parrot the



non-use of pronouns. You'll demonstrate that you're paying attention and that there is a possibility you can be trusted with more personal information.

- Write a letter to the editor of your paper in response to community news and advertisements that affect lesbians and gays. Express your opinion.
- Be supportive if you think a friend's children or parents may be gay.
- March in the annual Lesbian and Gay Pride Day march held toward the end of June in downtown Portland.

Acceptance, sense of humor, willingness to listen and learn are qualities you can use to demonstrate your concern. If you know someone well enough to ask if they are gay, remember that you must create safety for them to respond openly. Speak in private and don't push the question if your friend feels uncomfortable. Don't push him or her into lying to you to protect a job or career, or to prevent ostracism, harassment or potential threats to physical safety.

Once a gay person is out to you, consider asking questions about what it's like to live in a homophobic world. What is homophobia? Why is life different if you're gay? What does your family think?

I met a man on a beach a month or so ago. He made a comment about the "freaks" in San Francisco. I pressed him, asked if he meant gay people. When he said "yes," I responded simply: "I think that prejudice will be very unpopular in 20 years or so."

We are at a turning point in history. We look forward to the time when our grandchildren — yes, gay people have children and grandchildren — will look at us in amazement when we tell of the anti-gay world and will ask, "Did people really think that way?"

Thanks for helping to make the world better for all of us.

*Elaine Ryder is secretary of the Alliance of Lesbians and Gays and their Friends at Portland Community College.*

