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Voice in the wilderness

"Just as 'the black problem' turned out to be a problem of white racism, just as 'the woman problem' turned out to be male sexism, so 'the homosexual problem' is really the homophobia of many heterosexuals who just won't grant God the right to a more pluralistic creation. It's bigotry, pure and simple."

— *The Rev. William Sloane Coffin, head of the Sane-Freeze Campaign for Global Security, speaking at a press conference in Washington, D.C., in opposition to a "National Summit on Homosexuality" organized by the rabidly anti-gay Rev. Louis Sheldon and Rep. William Dannemeyer (R-CA) on January 26. (The Baltimore Alternative, February 1990)*

Women with Wings: PLC spring concert

On Friday, April 6, 1990, the Portland Lesbian Choir will present its second annual spring concert, *Women With Wings*. Founded in late 1986, the Choir has grown to over 50 members and has performed at many community events as well as at the GALA III Festival of Gay and Lesbian Choruses held in Seattle this past July. This concert will feature works by women composers such as Kay Gardner and Connie Kaldor. In addition to pieces performed by the Choir as a whole, *Women With Wings* will also showcase small group and solo performances and will feature a wide variety of instrumental accompaniment. The concert is one of a series of major fundraising events the Choir will hold to raise money to attend the GALA IV Festival of Choruses in Denver, 1992.

The concert will be held at First United Methodist Church, SW 18th and Jefferson, Portland, home of the Columbia Symphony and the Portland Symphonic Choir. Off-street parking is available. Doors open at 7:30 and the concert begins at 8:00. Cost is \$8-12, sliding scale, in advance (tickets at A Woman's Place Bookstore) and \$10-14, sliding scale, at the door. Limited low income or work exchange tickets are available; please arrange by April 1 by calling 231-9105. The First United Methodist Church is wheelchair accessible. The concert will be signed for the hearing impaired by the Choir's signer Juliette Gallucci. Free childcare.

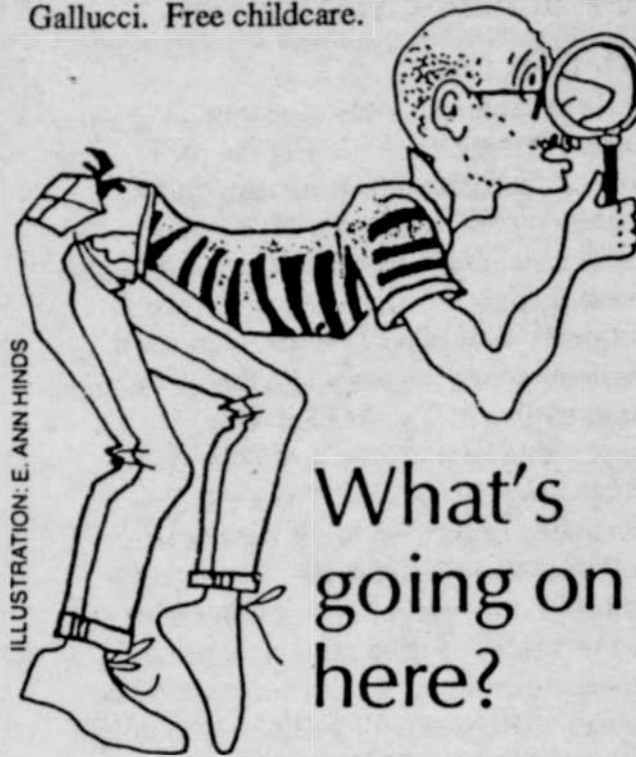


ILLUSTRATION: E. ANN HINDS

What's
going on
here?

B Y J A Y B R O W N

Just Out co-founders departing

Reneé LaChance and I, co-publishers and founders of Just Out, are leaving the publication in the near future. The day-to-day operations of Just Out will be in the hands of a newly-created board of directors which will consist of current and past staff members and other interested parties.

The board of directors is searching for a new editor; resumé's will be accepted through April 1, and may be sent to Editor Search, Just Out, PO Box 15117, Portland OR 97215.

During the past six and a half years, many people have contributed to the success of Just Out as a source of information for gays and lesbians. And many, many more people have come to rely on Just Out as a source for news never reported in other media in the area.

Reneé and I are both grateful to the thousands of people who have supported our endeavors through the years. Our goal, "To present a positive image of, and to promote equality for gays and lesbians," has been met with that support.

Speaking for myself, this has been the most rewarding — and the most stressful — job in all my 54 years on this planet. I learned the job as I went along, and for several years I did it without financial compensation — working elsewhere, so that Just Out could keep coming out. And if I was 10 years younger and in better health, I'd do it all again.

Reneé will be moving to the San Juan Islands to build a house on her own land. I am planning a very long vacation after May 1.

Illinois high school adopts gay rights policy

The headline on the front page of the *Windy City Times* was a delightful shock: "High School Adopts Gay Rights Policy." The story was even more heartening; after a year of many defeats to gay and lesbian rights across the nation, gays and lesbians and their supporters were finally able to buck right-wing fundamentalist opposition.

By unanimous vote, the Oak-Park River Forest (Illinois) High School board moved on December 13 to add the words "sexual orientation" to the list of protected minority

groups named in the school's Human Dignity and Diversity Policy. With the board's move, the high school became the first public school in Illinois (and the nation?) to adopt a gay rights policy for students and faculty.

The school board's move followed passage of gay rights legislation by the Oak Park village board in June, 1989. The village board's revision to its Human Rights Code also passed by unanimous vote. But it took six months of hard work by lesbians and gays — many of whom came out during the campaign — and the help of students, parents, and the local press, who saw through the opponents' campaign of homophobia and hate.

The Oak Park-River Forest victory should be an example to communities across the country that the right-wing religious crazies can be overcome.

Where is Diane Wells?

Diane Wells was four years old on October 1, 1989; that was the day her mother disappeared with her. Diane's father, Bill, and mother, Amy, are divorced. Amy Wells was awarded sole custody of Diane, with certain visitation rights accorded to Bill.

Bill and Amy Wells's divorce decree stated that at age four, Diane would be allowed overnight visits with her father. Bill is gay and he believes that his ex-wife hatched a plot with her family and church that she would disappear with Diane when Diane reached that age. Bill says that Amy's plan was supported by the Church of Christ in Beaverton. Bill believes that Amy is hiding with Diane because of the fact that he is gay.

Bill Wells hired a private detective who reported suspicions that Amy and Diane are being hidden someplace in Vancouver, Washington, but found nothing conclusive to confirm the suspicions. Bill consulted three different attorneys but the costs were prohibitive and he learned that he would have to find Amy and Diane himself, in any case, because Amy has full custody.



Bill Wells is appealing for help so that he can visit with his daughter. Anyone knowing of the whereabouts of Amy and Diane Leigh Wells please contact Bill Wells, 1115 NE Thompson, Portland OR 97212, or call 288-0761.

And the moon is made of green cheese

Anyone who believes Rosalie Huss's denial that she is a racist has to be pretty gullible. Huss and her crew of Cretins for Union Avenue say they are defending the "historical significance" of the street name; their argument would be more credible if the name of the street was Confederate Avenue instead of Union Avenue.

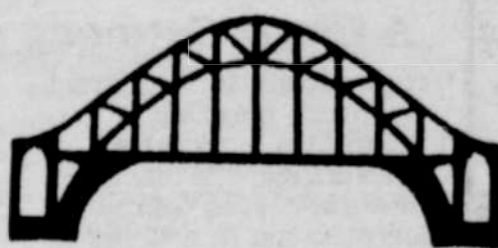
Racists like Huss will always lie to gain support for their despicable agendas, just as the Oregon Citizens Alliance monsters did against the gay and lesbian community in 1988. Unfortunately, the level of ignorance among many Americans is fertile ground for hatred and fear.

Again, anyone who believes that Rosalie Huss is not a racist will be likely to believe that Adolf Hitler wasn't an anti-semitic and whose system of genocide against European Jews, homosexuals, gypsies, and Slavs is a myth.

And the moon is made of green cheese.



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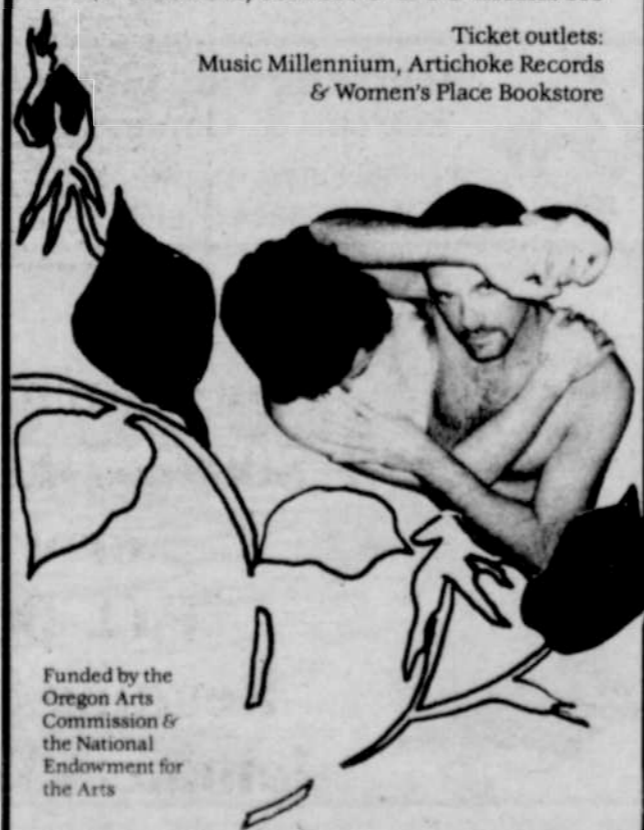
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