

# just out

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The submission of written and graphic materials is welcomed. Written material should be typed and double-spaced. Graphic material should be in black ink on white paper.

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month preceding publication.

Out About Town is compiled as a courtesy to our readers. Performers, clubs, individuals or groups wishing 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. Display Advertising will be accepted up to the 17th of each month.

Classified ads must be received at the office of Just Out by the 17th 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 Label Manual on editorial decisions.

Views expressed in letters to the editor, columns and features are not necessarily those of the publishers.

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The mailing address and telephone number for Just Out are:

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Donna Red Wing displays Queen's Award given to the Lesbian and Gay Community float for the Starlight Parade.

## CONTENTS

Commentary .....	3
Letters.....	4
Between the Lines .....	6
Amazon Trail.....	7
AIDS 101 .....	8
Just News .....	9
Just Briefs.....	11
Lesbian and Gay Pride.....	12
Feature .....	14
Profile .....	17
Calendar.....	18
Just Entertainment.....	22
Music .....	24
Books .....	25
Counsel .....	26
ACT UP Newsletter.....	27
Classifieds .....	28

# E D I T O R I A L

## Community pride and community prejudice

Have you hugged your activist today? . . . or . . . Wake up, Rip, it's time to winkle.

I crept into the office early one morning—when no one was there, when the phone wasn't ringing, when all of my thoughts could center upon the essence of Just Out. That's when I finally was able to sort out private person from editor, discovering where they could blend and where they needed separation, finding the path I need to travel. Therefore, for your edification, joy, anger or indifference, I offer a few of my ideals and ideas.

Getting rid of a small annoyance first, I happened to see a few letters from men, saying that we're too lesbian-oriented and some from women, complaining that we're too gay-oriented.

I want to clear this up because we need to work as a real community. "We has met the enemy and he is us" is not a very good epitaph.

A search was made through the past year's issues, counting the staff, contributors and whether an article was gay- or lesbian-oriented. Between June 1989 and May 1990, Just Out's staff and contributors totalled 140 men and 132 women. The article count came to 46 for women and 42 for men. As you can see, that's a fairly good average.

Did you ever notice the more we define new titles or labels for ourselves or others, the more divisive we become? This situation, in turn, creates the need for more labels and we divide again. Each label further separates us, until we stand alone. This weakens us and leaves us even more vulnerable.

The recent past is a good example. The word, homosexual, was an accepted name for both female and male same-sex lovers. Of course, we also had—and still do—faggot, dyke, queen, femme, fairy, butch, queer and lezzie, among many others, both positive and negative.)

The word, "gay," then came into being. "Gay" women became even more invisible with that epithet. Therefore, "lesbian and gay" became the accepted terminology. (Except for some women, for whom the word lesbian carries too many negative connotations. They prefer "gay.")

There will always be some dissatisfied people no matter what is suggested. So what's a paper to do?

This is a community newspaper. Since we can't please everyone all the time, we must be free to give everyone a chance—a place where they don't feel shut out. A place where, if they have two cents they wish to share, they can do so. A place they know is theirs . . . that you know is yours.

In giving each of you an open forum where you can be heard, all we ask is that you, in turn, give

each other that right, without bitching. If you disagree, write a letter or commentary. That's one of the reasons we're here—to let our community know that all of you count and are recognized.

Our thanks go to the leather community, who worked as security monitors as usual and as "toll booth" collectors for our Lesbian and Gay Pride parade and rally. They worked wonderfully and looked hot. We owe the Skinheads Against Racial Prejudice (SHARP) members a "thank you" as well. They helped as security monitors and were friendly, considerate and polite.

Going back to the subject of labels, I have been informed that they consider themselves to be the real Skinheads. The neo-nazis are called Boneheads. Makes sense to me. Since we are a community where labels have been an addiction and a problem, we might want to try and respect their terminology.

The Northwest is the home of bitter enemies of all minorities—the neo-nazis and other hate groups. We are in danger if we don't stick together. We are in danger if we don't support our minorities, so that they, in turn, will support us. We are in danger if we allow racism and prejudice to exist among ourselves.

We cannot stand for the "white washing" which goes on within our own community. "White washing" is a term for covert, sneaky, underhanded bigotry. Very smooth. Very subtle. Very insidious. And extremely dangerous.

Not all of us can be ardent activists, but all of us can help in some way or another. Don't allow bigotry, racism, or prejudice to be present when you're around. Say something. If you don't go out a lot, or if you're still in the closet, support boycotts, write letters. That alone is a big help. We must all do something. We cannot allow ourselves, or our community, to be destroyed by hatred and fear.

The day before the Lesbian and Gay Pride parade and rally, I noticed that we weren't mentioned at all (again, of course) in the Oregonian. Calling later, I found that they rank us with items like the Oregon Berry Festival. We subsequently appeared on the last page of the Metro section, after the Ducky Derby.

That wasn't the corker. A phone call came in from one of our subscribers in Bend. He wanted to

know what was being done about KOIN-TV's "refusal" to run 48 Hours with the segment on gay-bashing.

Since I have no television, I got my information from him. Apparently, the Blazers' game went into overtime, so Steve Currie, the program director of KOIN-TV, decided to "drop" 48 Hours and run the regular programming instead, with no thought for rescheduling.

Look at a smaller, but more open-minded media. The Eugene affiliate put the show on after the game because of the importance of the issue of gay-bashing to all people.

Look at KGW-TV, an exception we are proud to acknowledge. They not only covered Lesbian and Gay Pride Day events, they (along with US West Communications), support us by being sponsors for the parade as well as the upcoming Cascades AIDS Walk in September.

We in Portland are constantly aware of homophobic Oregon Public Broadcasting, the prejudiced, small-town mentality of the local press and most electronic media. Knowing this, how many of us are actively fighting this mind-set?

Why did I hear only from Bend? Where is our community? Do you prefer to stay hidden, ignored, denied the right to be? What did you celebrate on the remembrance of Stonewall? Beemers and Birkenstocks?

Remember, that being ignored by the media (except for news on AIDS and violence), is just as dangerous as the blatant hatred of the neo-nazis. It is actually more insidious, adding to the virulence and power of the obvious bigots. People died in Nazi Germany because so many others preferred to "ignore" what was going on. Don't think it can't happen again.

Our diversity and beauty will only grow stronger if we care about all of us—not just the few in our own private corner.

If "the pen is mightier than the sword," and "one picture is worth a thousand words," then Just Out can be an excellent weapon against hatred, bigotry and prejudice. Won't you help supply the ammunition?

Mollie