

just out

since 1983

PUBLISHER

Reneé LaChance

ACTING EDITOR

Linda Kliever

CALENDAR EDITOR

Philip Anderson

STAFF REPORTER

Anndee Hochman

ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE

Linda Shirley

PRODUCTION

Sutree Irving

PROOFREADER

Philip Anderson

TYPESETTERS

Jesse Jordan
Amanda Colorado

COVER

Dan O'Neil

GRAPHIC INSPIRATION

Rupert Kinnard

DISTRIBUTION

LeeAnn LaBar

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Carol Steinel

CONTRIBUTORS

Dr. Jerry Exel
Lee Lynch
Jack Riley
Marti Staehle
Dr. Tantalus
Steve Warren
Rex Wockner
Jeffrey Zurlinden

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The submission of written and graphic materials is welcomed. Written material should be typed and double-spaced. *Just Out* reserves the right to edit for grammar, punctuation, style, liability concerns and length. We will reject or edit articles or advertisements that are offensive, demeaning or may result in legal action. *Just Out* consults the *Associated Press Style Book and Libel Manual* on editorial decisions.

Letters to the editor should be limited to 400 words. Graphic material should be in black ink on white paper. Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month preceding publication. Views expressed in letters to the editor, columns and features are not necessarily those of the publisher.

Display advertising will be accepted up to the 17th of each month.

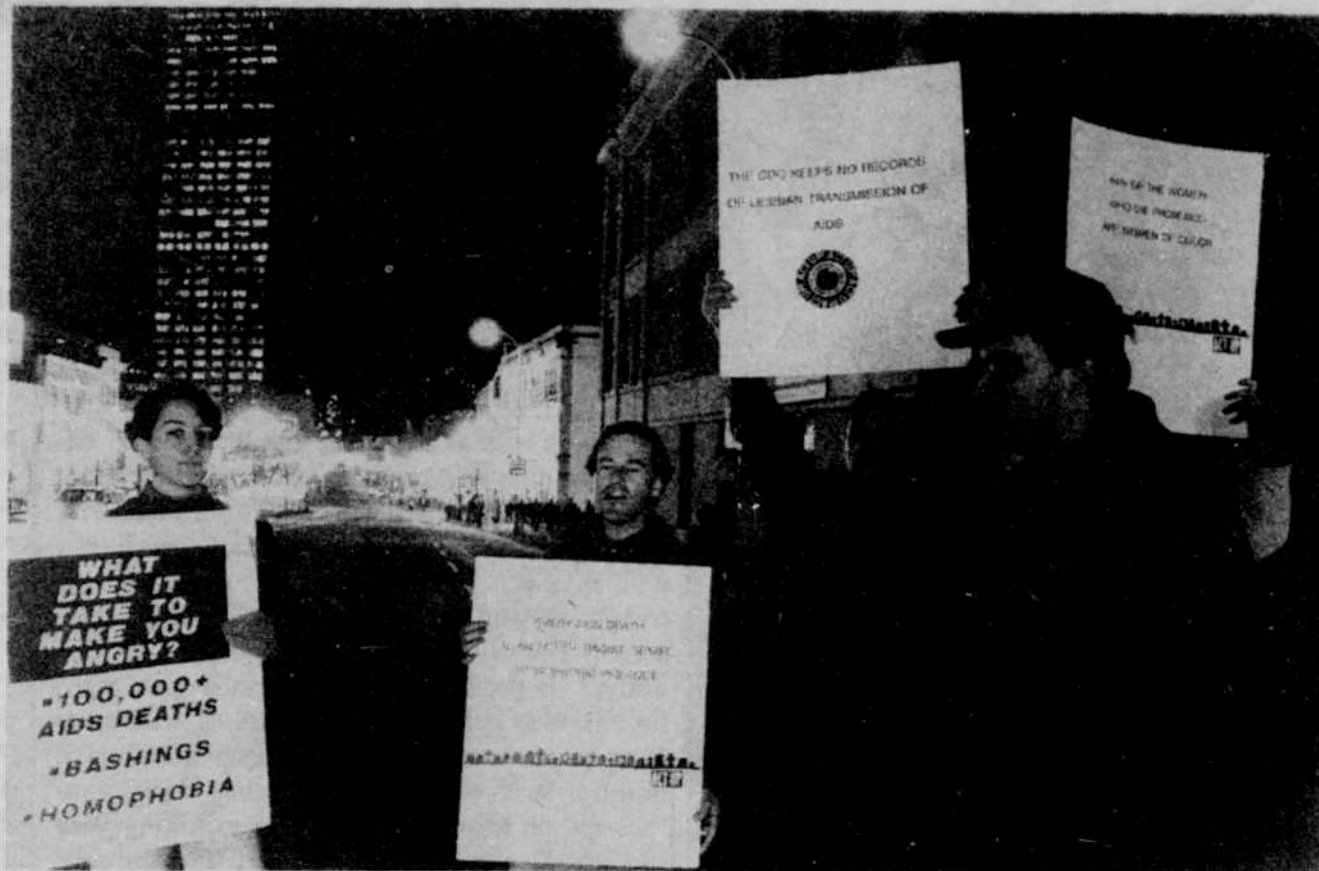
Classified ads must be received at the office of *Just Out* by the 17th of each month, along with payment. Ads will not be taken over the telephone.

Subscriptions to *Just Out* are available for \$17.50 for 12 issues. First Class (in an envelope) is \$30 for 12 issues.

A free copy of *Just Out* and/or advertising rates are available on request.

The mailing address and telephone number for *Just Out* are: PO Box 15117, Portland, OR 97215; (503) 236-1252

steppin' out



ACT UP Portland blocked the Burnside Bridge on Dec. 3 to commemorate 1,000 cases of AIDS in Oregon.

publisher's note

Not down and out—Just Out!

The love and support I have experienced in the past month have made me very proud to serve this community, and I thank you all for that. The cards, letters phone calls and hugs have helped me, and without them I wouldn't have survived as well as I have. I especially want to thank Sarah Koehl, my lover of seven years and eight months for standing with me through all of this. It has been a lot of stress to bring home, and has been very difficult for both of us.

In the seven years that I have been publishing *Just Out* I have always been out on the front line, accessible, accountable and vulnerable, fighting for our right to love whomever we choose. I have never been as vulnerable as I am right now with the "exposé" about myself and *Just Out* on the cover of the Dec. 5 *Willamette Week*.

One of the most difficult things for me to deal with about this situation is that the troubles at *Just Out* were brought to *Willamette Week* before they were brought to me, by people within *Just Out* whom I considered to be my friends and family. I have always believed that conflict is best resolved with each other, within our community or at the very least within our organizations and not in anti-gay media or through homophobic institutions. The most heartbreaking part of all this is the violation of that trust.

To date, none of the former board members or staff have attended a mediation session, though Mary Forst has been doing her best to intervene and get us all to sit down at a table and work this through.

I have been encouraged by some to tell my side of the saga, and to give details conveniently left out of *Willamette Week's* smear article. Others have encouraged me to just let it rest. I will be happy to talk to people who have concerns. I can be reached at the *Just Out* office from 10 am to 4 pm most weekdays. I encourage anyone with questions to contact me.

Most of all I want people to know that I have done nothing wrong. No crime was committed and the alle-

gations of the former staff members quoted in *Willamette Week* are distorted and unjustified. The most I can be accused of is making some bad business decisions. The other business ventures I engaged in were all done as Out Media, Inc., the parent corporation of *Just Out*, and all filled voids in the gay and lesbian community. In August 1989, Jay Brown and I decided to keep the businesses separate.

The staff that went to *Willamette Week* seemed to want *Just Out* destroyed. I am happy to say that it has had the opposite affect. The lesbian and gay community will finally mobilize against *Willamette Week's* gay bashing and homophobic articles (see Letters, page 4) and support for *Just Out* is as strong, if not stronger, than ever. In fact, the *Willamette Week* article has drawn the attention of several individuals who want to see *Just Out* survive and are so committed to that end that they are willing to invest money to see it grow and prosper. Which means that publishing every other week, a long time goal, is just around the corner. In addition, I have not been contacted by the police or the Internal Revenue Service.

Be assured that *Just Out* will continue to publish because the word must come out, and that word is that gay men and lesbians live, love and work throughout the world and are proud to do so.

Special thanks

I particularly want to thank our wonderful advertisers who continue to believe that *Just Out* is still the best way to reach our community. I also want to thank the people who have volunteered this month to answer phones and greet people who came into the office (shifts available in January). And I want to thank the staff that did not abandon ship, Anndee Hochman, Philip Anderson, LeeAnn LaBar and all the writers and columnists. Plus thanks to the staff that jumped in to help, Linda Shirley, Linda Kliever and E. Ann Hinds.

— Reneé LaChance

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