

just out

since 1983

PUBLISHER

Reneé LaChance

CO-EDITORS

Philip Anderson
Linda Kliever

CALENDAR EDITOR

Philip Anderson

STAFF REPORTERS

Anndee Hochman
Inga Sorensen

ADVERTISING

Linda Shirley
Amanda Colorado

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

E. Ann Hinds

PROOFREADER

Philip Anderson

TYPESETTER

Amanda Colorado

GRAPHIC INSPIRATION

Rupert Kinnard

DISTRIBUTION

Coyote Distributing

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Carol Steinel
Chloe De Segonzac

CONTRIBUTORS

Lee Lynch
Dr. Tantalus
Rex Wockner
Sandra de Helen
Marilyn Davis
Matthew Nelson
Catherine Stauffer
Linda Carter
Bradley Woodworth
Kathy Bambeck
Pat Bates
Ellen Hansen
Lisa Johnson

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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.

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steppin' out



Lots of queers gathered to celebrate our new billboard. Just Out Publisher Reneé La Chance, who initiated the idea, and Co-Editor Linda Kliever (inset) look with pride at a great sight—COME OUT! in three-foot bright orange letters. There's been lots of smiling and honking from drivers on Broadway lately. If you haven't seen it yet, the billboard is located on Broadway at Flint, near the Coliseum. You can't miss it. On June 24th someone threw paint on the billboard, tacky beige and brown. But we were ready. A new copy of the billboard went up within 48 hours. We're here. We're queer. They'd best get used to it! The billboard will be up through July 5.

guest editorial

We must find common ground

Inspirational address at the Lesbian and Gay Pride Rally

Lesbian and Gay Pride, what a concept! We're here to celebrate ourselves. We're here to affirm and validate our culture and our community. We took to the streets today to show the world exactly who we are, to make ourselves visible.

Today is a day to celebrate how far we have come. And we have much to be proud of. But, as we do that, I ask the question, "How far are we willing to go? How much are we willing to risk?"

As we work towards an agenda for the future, I must also ask, "Is there a place for everyone in this important work? Is there a place for lesbians and gay men of color? Is there a place for those with disabilities? Is there a place for the leather dyke and the drag queen, for faggots and fairies? Is there a place for the lipstick lesbian and the button-down three piece suit? Is there a place for every lesbian and gay man?"

The answer must be "yes." We must come to know each other. We must come together around an agenda that makes sense to each of us. We must find common ground.

And we do have common ground. Each of us knows the oppression of being denied basic human and civil rights. Each of us knows homophobic violence and the potential for that violence. Each of us knows discrimination. Each one of us knows what it is like to lose family and friends. That is our

common ground.

We must come together and articulate a vision for our future, a vision that is fair and inclusive, a vision that each one of us can own.

And we must ask, again, how far are we willing to go to transform that vision into a reality? A reality that guarantees our community basic human rights, a reality that does not condone or allow violence against us, a reality where young women and men who identify as lesbian or gay are affirmed, a reality where no lesbian or gay man will lose their home, or their job, or their children simply because of who they are or whom they love. That is the vision that I hold.

And again, we must ask ourselves, "What am I willing to risk, how far am I willing to go? We must understand that we are talking about our lives, the very quality and integrity of our lives. Am I willing to risk my comfort and my safety and my complacency? Am I willing to be out, on all levels, as a proud lesbian or gay man? Am I willing to work with my brothers and sisters? Am I willing to invest my time and my money and my energy in my community and my culture?" The stakes are high, incredibly high.

I ask you, how far are you willing to go?

Donna Red Wing
Executive Director LCP

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