

just out

since 1983

PUBLISHER

Reneé LaChance

EDITOR

Linda Kliewer

CALENDAR EDITOR

Linda Shirley

STAFF REPORTERS

Anndee Hochman

Inga Sorensen

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Catherine Stauffer

ADVERTISING

Linda Shirley

Amanda Colorado

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

E. Ann Hinds

PROOFREADER

Matt Bailey

TYPESSETTER

Amanda Colorado

FORMATTER

Meg Grace

DISTRIBUTION

Coyote Distributing

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Carol Steinel

Chloe De Segonzac

CONTRIBUTORS

Lee Lynch

Dr. Tantalus

Matthew Nelson

Linda Carter

Sandra de Helen

Tom Flint

Ellen Spiro

Dandi Baunach

Paula Jean O'Brien

Melissa Kilby

Tracy Dale

Kimberly Lynn Stedman

Roxann McGlumphy

Joseph Lyons

Pamela Mullins

Just Out is published on the first day of each month. © 1991. No part of *Just Out* may be reproduced without written permission of the publisher.

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



PHOTO BY REX WOCKNER

This is the Siberian delegation to the Soviet Union's first lesbian and gay pride celebration held July 23- Aug. 3 in Moscow and Leningrad. (See page 5.)

editorial

Censorship and cultural bias

This issue of *Just Out* is devoted to lesbian, gay and bisexual youth — an invisible minority. They are out there, it was not hard for us to find them. I'm sure the majority of heterosexual America thinks most homosexuals just appear after age 21— so much for an informed public.

In May, E. Ann Hinds, creative director of *Just Out*, and steering committee member of the Task Force on Sexual Minority Youth, proposed dedicating an issue of the paper to youth. September seemed like the perfect issue.

The majority of the articles were written by members of Windfire, a support group for gay, lesbian and bisexual youth (see profile p. 5). Anndee Hochman and I met with Windfire members and gave them guidance when asked, otherwise the ideas and articles belong totally to the writers.

Hopefully, this issue of *Just Out* will help us all to learn more about what young people have to say—and that what they have to say is well worth listening to.

I believe that by not exposing a part of any culture, we help to keep that group invisible. The straight media has kept us invisible, or at best defined by their limited vision, for years. The queer press keeps queer youth invisible by not giving them a place to speak. This is a form of censorship, and can be applied to any group that is not given a voice. It may not be intentional, it is nonetheless censorship due to cultural bias. Regardless, we are responsible for our biases based upon assumptions of age, sex, race, ability and sexual orientation.

Mainstream news censors us everyday, by not exposing the fact that we exist, by not including us in their picture. When reporter Marsha Coffey did her "Looking for Love" series on KOIN-TV News last spring and included a lesbian as one of the people profiled, she was revealing gays and lesbians as a part of society. Coffey broke a code of censorship in the media.

Other forms of censorship are running rampant these days. Queer artists are constantly under scrutiny when applying for

grants, especially those funded by the federal government, thanks to Jesse Helms. Books are being held at our borders because they might offend someone. And in our own community, we are trying to censor each other. Oh, we don't call it censorship. We call it good judgment.

Just Out received a letter to the Editor this month (see letters) telling the queer media to make judgment calls, to come down hard on those flaunting their sexuality publicly, accusing those people of shoving their lifestyle down the throats of straight people who would otherwise be tolerant.

The very idea that there is an "acceptable" queer behavior is offensive to me. With this attitude, we don't need mainstream culture to censor us—we have each other.

I feel strongly about this and I am going to make a judgment call and come down hard on censorship. Censorship is exactly what he is asking for. I will encourage gays and lesbians to be as out as they dare and then some. I will encourage straight people to look at their biases and educate themselves. I want much more than to be tolerated. I want to be valued, appreciated, respected and celebrated.

The only way we will get the rights we deserve is to be ourselves. To hide in a closet, even if it's as big as a house, is not the way to be accepted. Kissing my lover in public, no matter how long the duration of the kiss, is acceptable behavior. There may be people who are uncomfortable with my visibility, they aren't used to it. Obviously, we need more public displays of affection so more people, straight and gay, have a chance to get comfortable with what the future holds.

In this day and age of the Oregon Citizens Alliance, we need to be more tolerant of each other and accept the fact that our community is as diverse as the world. Picking and choosing who to discard and who to keep based on "acceptability" smacks of the very behavior that has kept us in closets for years.

Come out, come out, whoever you are!

Linda Kliewer

contents

VOL. 8 NO. 11 SEPT., 1991

FEATURE

Tracy Dale leads off a series of articles by queer youth with an article about relationships, being sexually active and AIDS. (p. 13)

Profile

Dandi Baunach writes about Windfire, a support group for lesbian, gay and bisexual youth. (p. 15)

News

A look at the effect of the arrest of serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer (p. 8)

DEPARTMENTS

Letters

(p. 3)

National briefs

(p. 6)

World news

(p. 5)

Local briefs

(p. 10)

Religion

(p. 30)

COLUMNS

Amazon Trail

What is in that box of mementos anyway? (p.33)

Just Dish

Money talks, bullshit walks (p.31)

ARTS

Cinema

Young lesbian filmmaker is making her mark and speaking her mind (p.27)

and more