

1991: A look back

Gail Shibley was appointed to the Oregon House of Representatives, the Oregon Citizens Alliance had nothing but homosexuality on their minds, and Portland's City Council passed a gay and lesbian civil rights ordinance. This was a big year—here are a few of the highs and lows.

by Linda Kliever and Rex Wockner

January

- Gail Shibley is appointed to the Oregon House of Representatives, and becomes the first openly lesbian state representative.
- War is declared, ACT UP Portland splits.
- Ontario extends life, medical and dental insurance benefits to lovers of gay and lesbian provincial employees.
- Queen Elizabeth II knights famed Shakespearean actor and gay activist Sir Ian McKellan. Eighteen British celebrities outed themselves in a letter to a newspaper in support.

February

- A lesbian and gay Valentine's Day kiss-in on the University of Illinois Campus leads to a riot.
- Fireman's Fund Insurance Company of Washington, D.C. recognizes domestic partners on homeowners' policy.
- In San Francisco, 250 couples register on Valentine's Day as domestic partners.
- FBI retains openly gay employee.
- The famous lesbian kiss on "LA Law" between C.J. and Abby is televised nationally.
- German gays and lesbians reported a wave of skinhead and neo-Nazi attacks on gay establishments, a trend that continued all year.

March

- Janice Wilson, out lesbian, is appointed by Gov. Barbara Roberts as Multnomah County District Court Judge.
- Gay activist takes seat in Texas Legislature.
- Gay teacher wins Teacher of the Year Award in Philadelphia.
- New York City Mayor David Dinkins marches with lesbian and gay contingent in country's largest St. Patrick's Day Parade.
- Susan Carney and Patricia O'Scannell are paid \$25,000 by Central Point School District for discrimination based on association with lesbian play, "The Amazon All-Stars."
- Queer Nation comes to Portland.
- Ohio judge rules that a lesbian couple can be considered as "living in a spousal relationship."
- The Swedish government formed a parliamentary commission to draft gay and lesbian marriage legislation.

April

- Queer Nation asks Portlanders to be Queer For A Day.
- SB708, the lesbian and gay state civil rights bill, passes out of Senate committee with help from Gov. Barbara Roberts and other top state officials.
- Hawaii passes state lesbian and gay civil rights bill.
- National lesbian and gay rights bill is introduced into Congress for 16th year in a row.
- FBI invites gay activists to attend news conference to announce Hate Crimes Statistics Act.
- AAA Washington state extends associate membership to domestic partners.
- Hong Kong decriminalizes gay sex.
- The Dutch city of Deventer began offering gay and lesbian weddings even though there is not provision for it in federal law.
- A survey found that nearly 40 percent of Soviet citizens believe gays should be exterminated.
- Czechoslovakia's parliament began studying gay marriage legislation after several officials made a state visit to Denmark.

- Australian immigration authorities created the category "relationships of emotional interdependency" to cover various gay and straight relationships that lack a legal familial link.

May

- Portland Police officer Katie Potter and her father, Chief Tom Potter, are on the cover of *Just Out*. Katie comes out as a lesbian.
- First Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day in Washington, D.C.
- Connecticut governor signs lesbian and gay rights bill.
- San Francisco gives spousal benefits to all domestic partners of city employees.
- Pentagon defends anti-gay military policy as reflecting "societal attitudes."
- Police are video-taped beating an African-American motorist during an arrest in Los Angeles.
- OCA and Lon Mabon file initiative petition listing homosexuality, sadism, masochism, pedophilia, bestiality and necrophilia as abnormal.
- *The Oregonian*, *Willamette Week* and KGW Channel 8 come out with editorials against the OCA and in favor of civil rights.
- *Guide Magazine* stops publishing after five years.
- TV show "Northern Exposure" runs episode where *lesbian* is said at least seven times.
- KOIN-TV airs three part series called "Looking for Love." A lesbian is featured in part 2.
- "Roseanne" introduces regular gay character.
- The Russian gay movement founder Roman Kalinin announced his candidacy for president of the Russian Republic. He lost, but got massive media attention.
- New Zealand said citizens' foreign gay and lesbian lovers could apply for residency.

June

- A lesbian couple attend their high school prom in Manassas, Virginia.
- Lesbian and Gay Pride Portland brings out a record 7,500 people. Police Chief Tom Potter joins the march.
- SB708 dies in the State House of Representatives, an informal, "illegal" public hearing is called to hear testimony.
- LCP starts Homophobic Violence Reporting Line.
- Episcopal Bishop of Washington, D.C. ordains out lesbian Elizabeth Carl to priesthood.
- ILGA's 13th World Conference was cancelled following threats of violence from right-wing groups and aggressive homophobic attacks from government officials in Guadalajara, Mexico.
- One thousand homosexuals staged a "Queer Wedding" in London's Trafalgar Square.
- Former German President Walter Scheel's daughter Cornelia came out of the closet and presented her lover to the public. Germany was stunned.
- The Nova Scotia Legislature banned discrimination against gays and lesbians province-wide, following the lead of Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and the Yukon Territory.
- Nicaraguan gays and lesbians staged their first Gay Pride Day.

July

- Twenty thousand people participate in the first lesbian and gay pride celebration in the Soviet Union.
- British Prime Minister John Major announced that homosexuals may receive government security clearances without any special problems.

- Germany's National Homosexual Association began the battle for gay marriage.

August

- Pete Wilson, head Pentagon spokesperson, is outed by *The Advocate* magazine.
- Jeffery Dahmer is accused of murdering and mutilating at least 17 young men and boys, many of them gay and men of color.

September

- Dr. Simon LeVay releases a study showing that the hypothalamus in straight men is overgrown compared to the same part of the brain in homosexual men.
- HB101, the anti-discrimination bill in California, passed both houses of the legislature and is vetoed by Gov. Pete Wilson.
- Anita Hill is grilled by a Senate committee about her past in relation to Supreme Court appointee Clarence Thomas.
- Amnesty International reached consensus in favor of adopting jailed gays and lesbians as prisoners of conscience—after 17 years of lobbying by homosexuals.
- Sweden elected its first openly gay member of Parliament, Kent Carlsson.

October

- Portland City Council passes ordinance guaranteeing lesbian and gay civil rights.
- OCA releases hate video.
- OCA files initiative to repeal Portland ordinance.
- *Alternative Connection* begins publishing in Portland.
- South Africa's second gay pride parade drew 2,000 to the streets of Johannesburg.
- The Dutch Ministry of Defense announced that gay soldiers sent to foreign countries may take their lovers with them.
- ACT UP/Cape Town, South Africa formed.

November

- Lesbian Sherri Harris is elected to Seattle City Council.
- *Just Out* celebrates eight years of publishing.
- "NightScene," Portland gay late night TV, produces 100th show.
- Sailor Clayton Hartwig is cleared by the Navy of accusations he caused an explosion on the USC Iowa that killed 87 sailors because he was jilted by his homosexual lover.
- Gays in Nigeria made contact with ILGA and said they'd held parties that attracted as many as 1,500 men.
- Gay-ghetto voters elected Toronto's first openly gay city councilor.
- Managua, Nicaragua's first gay disco opened.

December

- Five hundred people call to complain to Fred Meyer about OCA signature-collecting for Portland anti-gay initiative.
- Twenty five Portland queer couples apply for marriage licenses.
- Queer Nation goes to Foursquare Church.
- David Duke runs for President.
- The Canadian Radio, Television and Telecommunications Commission banned broadcasts that abuse gay men and lesbians.
- Karen Thompson and Sharon Kowalski are back together. Thompson is awarded guardianship for Kowalski in Minnesota Appeals Court after an eight year battle.

**HAPPY 1992!
MAY THIS BE
YOUR BEST
EVER!**

**Would you believe
ATLANTIS
Club Med?**

Playa Blanca, Feb. 8-15 and
April 25-May 2... \$795 pp
single share arranged

Sonora Bay, Oct. 10-17...

\$895 pp single share
arranged

Call for more information and
brochure

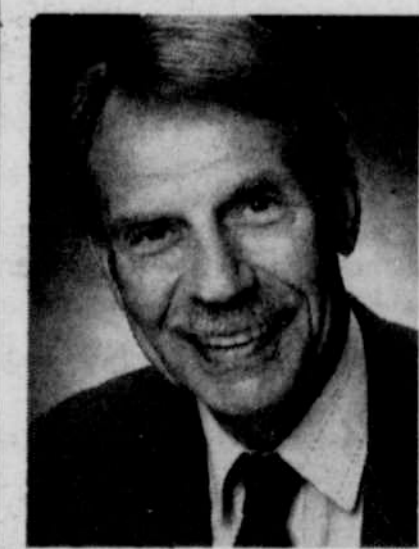
**HAWAII FARES
JUST WENT
DOWN**

Honolulu, rt air and 2 days
car, \$347ppdo

Outer Island, \$437 ppdo

Call for information on gay
hotels and guest houses

**Still cabins on RSVP
Cruises for 1992 and other
cruise lines.
I have brochures
available.**



**WAYNE BOULETTE
TRAVEL CONSULTANT**

Koji

EXECUTIVE TRAVEL

(503) 223-4585

FAX (503) 223-2361

1 (800) 637-3874

1975 SW First Ave, Ste K
Portland, OR 97201