

**just out**  
since 1983

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Letters to the editor should be limited to two double-spaced typed pages. Deadline for submissions is the 1st and 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 2nd and 17th of each month.

Classified ads must be received at the office of *Just Out* by the 2nd and 17th of each month, along with payment. Ads will not be taken over the telephone.

Ad policy. No sexually exploitive advertising will be accepted. Compensation for errors in, or cancellation of, advertising will be made with credit toward future advertising.

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A copy of *Just Out* is available for \$1 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. Our fax number is 236-1257.

# steppin' out



Photographic exhibit of family portraits showing lesbian and gay families that photographer Jon Gottshall found through ads in *Just Out*. Exhibit to run May 6-31 at Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, 5340 N. Interstate Ave.

## editorial

# Staying home and watching C-SPAN

*Media coverage of the struggle for civil rights for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people has made tremendous strides in a few short years.*

by Ariel Waterwoman

**T**he lead story on every news station April 25 was about the massive civil rights demonstration in Washington, D.C. by gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgendered people of every color and our supporters. The front page of every newspaper, including *The Oregonian*, was covered with big pictures of the march and rally. It's amazing to see all of the favorable publicity. In just a few short years there has been a tremendous turnaround in the mainstream media regarding queers.

In 1987, the March on Washington, D.C. was barely acknowledged by mainstream media; certainly *The Oregonian* gave it scant coverage. In the few years since 1987, the movement to ensure the civil rights of sexual "others" in the United States has made tremendous progress. And media coverage of this struggle has greatly improved. The rightness of our cause can be found all over mainstream media these days. *The Oregonian* just won national awards and recognition for its humanitarian handling of the Ballot Measure 9 fight. When you stop and look at that small piece of our past, it's as breathtaking as watching a million queers "swarming" over the capital (to steal *The Oregonian's* headline). The power and strength of the sexual-minority, civil-rights movement continues to gain momentum. (I have a strong feeling that the majority of us aren't even "out" yet.)

In thinking about this slice of time, what seems obvious is that AIDS continues to take a heavy toll in every segment of our society, and religious extremist organizations continue to feed on the flesh of our fallen members, like so many jackals. AIDS

and HIV, probably more than anything else, have worked to kick many gay men out of their lethargy concerning activism. One result of this new activism is that more gay men who are in the power elite of this country are dumping millions of dollars into our struggle for civil rights. This financial support is part of the reason we have emerged as such a powerful political movement.

The far right's religious fascism is also contributing to the success of our movement in innumerable ways. Its legislative attacks, and the resulting publicity, have worked to illustrate why it is so urgent that our civil rights be protected. People in the United States are clearly seeing the vicious assault that's directed at us. Many people who never gave a second thought to discriminating against queers are now having to stop and look at whom that puts them in league with. Most people are uncomfortable with discriminatory politics, and rebel at finding themselves supporting fascist dogma. This is helping to build a strong base of public support for our cause. It's impossible to ignore the daily focus in the media about the justness of our struggle for civil rights. It is only a matter of time before we have the same civil rights guarantees that are enjoyed by our enemies.

Every time Lon Mabon and Pat Robertson get on television, and preach their hatred and bigotry toward gays, they are giving our struggle for civil rights that much more credibility.

This latest march on Washington, D.C., and the resultant publicity, is just another measure of the general acceptance our civil rights struggle has gained.

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*On Sunday, April 25, 1993, we made history by taking over the Capital of the United States. In this issue, a four-page pictorial begins our coverage of this historic event. In our May 15 issue, we will continue our coverage with stories and additional photographs.*  
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