

just out
since 1983

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Letters to the editor should be limited to two double-spaced typed pages. **Deadline** for submissions to the editorial department and for the **Calendar** is the Thursday before the first and third Friday for the next issue. Views expressed in letters to the editor, columns and features are not necessarily those of the publisher.

The **display advertising** deadline is the Monday after the first and third Friday for the next issue.

Classified ads must be received at the office of **just out** by the Monday after the first and third Friday for the next issue, 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 14400, Portland, OR 97214-0400; (503) 236-1252. Our fax number is 236-1257.

steppin' out



PHOTO BY LINDA KLEWER

editorial

Whomped by flu and snow

You can't keep a good staff down, and our staff battled an epidemic and a blizzard to get this issue to you in a timely manner

by Renée LaChance

We have had issues in the past 12 years that have been difficult to get to press for a variety of reasons. Lack of staff, financial crisis, inclement weather, attempted break-ins, crashed computers, and other barriers come to mind. This issue marked a first for us.

Our office became ground zero for the flu epidemic in Portland. Or so it seemed. No sooner than the Feb. 3 issue had gone to press, all but one of us got flattened by a killer flu that put us out of commission.

The paper was delivered on time, but the mailing to out of town readers got out several days late because no one could get out of bed and down to the office to get it to the post office.

We checked in with one another by phone and compared symptoms. Fever, dry cough, exhaustion, clogged sinuses, general fuzzy-headedness. Mudhead, I called it.

By the time we could crawl out of bed our production schedule was off by two or three days, and none of us was moving very fast or thinking very clearly. We were the walking dead. It was almost comical as we trickled into the office one by one, sluggish and exhausted, exchanging stories of how we had to nap after simply getting dressed and comparing how far we could get on five-minute bursts of energy.

For me, it brought into focus the challenges people in our community face daily with immune deficiencies and

life-threatening illness. No matter how bad I felt, I knew I was going to get better. Yet, for too many others of us, such physical debilitation is a way of life.

Then, as if the flu wasn't enough to throw us completely off schedule, Mother Nature walloped us with a foot of snow, making it difficult to get to the office to do the work that we were finally well enough to do.

We began to think this was a doomed issue, and maybe we should give it up for Lent. But less-muddled heads prevailed, and since you are reading this, we must have finally gotten this restless baby to bed.

In the history of *Just Out* I can think of only one or two times when the paper did not come out when it was supposed to. For a queer newsmagazine that has published since 1983, that is a phenomenal record.

I applaud the tireless effort and dedication the staff of *Just Out* puts into each issue so you can get the news of our communities. I hope you will, too.

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Correction: In the Feb. 3, 1995, issue of *Just Out* we referred to the owner of It's My Pleasure in our story "Valentine Vignettes" as Holly Hart, when in fact her name is Holly Mulcahey. Holly Hart is the owner of the restaurant Old Wives' Tales. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

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