

**just out**  
since 1983

**PUBLISHER AND EDITOR**  
Renée LaChance

**ASSISTANT PUBLISHER**  
Teri Ventura

**COPY EDITORS**  
Kelly M. Bryan  
Karen Kantor

**REPORTERS**  
Inga Sorensen  
Bob Roehr  
Rex Wockner

**CALENDAR EDITOR**  
Kristine Chatwood

**PHOTOGRAPHER**  
Linda Kliewer

**ADVERTISING DIRECTOR**  
Meg Grace

**ADVERTISING REPS**  
C. Jay Wilson Jr.  
Marty Davis

**CREATIVE DIRECTOR**  
E. Ann Hinds

**GRAPHIC DESIGN**  
Rupert Kinnard

**FORMATTER**  
Christopher Cuttone

**TYPESETTER**  
Christopher Cuttone

**DISTRIBUTION**  
Ambling Bear  
Rachel Ebor  
Helen Ford

**CONTRIBUTORS**  
Sasha Alyson  
Kristine Chatwood  
Cathay Che  
Christopher Kamera  
Lee Lynch  
Will O'Bryan  
Gip Plaster  
Eric Rofes  
Richard Shumate

**just out** is published on the first and third Friday of each month. Copyright ©1996 by **just out**. No part of **just out** may be reproduced without written permission from 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 500 words. **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 **just out** office by 3 pm the Monday after the first and third Friday for the next issue, along with payment. Ads will not be taken over the telephone.

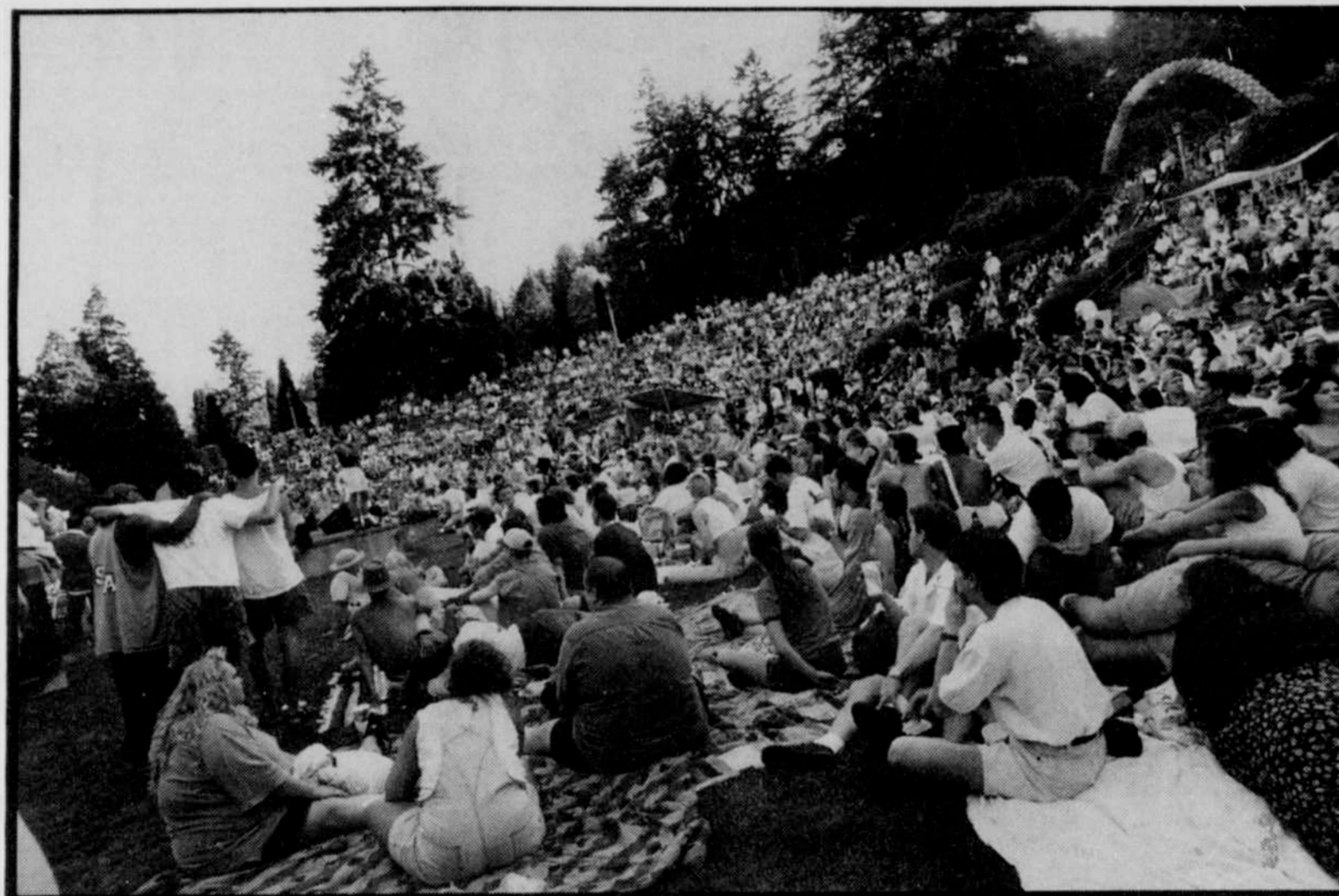
**Ad policy.** No sexually exploitative advertising will be accepted. Compensation for errors in, or cancellation of, advertising will be made with credit toward future advertising.

**Subscriptions to just out** are available for \$17.50 for 12 issues. First Class (in an envelope) is \$30 for 12 issues.

A copy of **just out** is available for \$2. Advertising rates are available on request.

The mailing address and telephone numbers for **just out** are PO Box 14400, Portland, OR 97293-0400; (503) 236-1252. The phone number for the advertising department is 236-1253. Our fax number is 236-1257. Our e-mail address is JustOut2@aol.com.

# steppin' out



Wowed by the crowd: Four thousand picnickers made this year's Peacock in the Park the biggest ever. Ray Southwick, one of the event organizers, says that \$5,000 was donated by individuals and organizations for the Audria M. Edwards Youth Scholarship Fund.

PHOTO BY LINDA KLEWER

## guest editorial

# An uncomfortable silence

*The accusations against Cmdr. Mike Garvey and the lack of public support from the gay community point up our own confusion about sex*

by the Rev. Roy A. Cole

**T**he silence is deafening. In the midst of the accusations and the assumed guilt, the silence convicts us of our ambivalence.

Mike Garvey, an openly gay man who, until recently, was commander of the Portland Police Bureau's Central Precinct, has been accused of paying for sex with a male prostitute. As his career falls to shreds, what does Mike hear from the gay male community? Nothing! Who of our leaders are making public statements to support this man in what must be the most wrenching experience of his life? The silence is deafening. The ambivalence is uncomfortably real.

The accusations made against Mike and the lack of public support and encouragement point up to us our own confusion about sex. Oh, we know how to have sex—safe sex, risky sex, unprotected sex, lethal sex. We have lived through more than a decade of having the mechanics of gay male genital sex explained to us ad nauseam. Yet we don't quite have the "who" and the "when" of sex figured out as a community of men.

Most of us grew up equating sex with sin. Many of us grew into adulthood hiding our sexual activity from parents, family and friends. We became adept at clandestine sex. Sex in the dark. Sex without names, without strings, without accountability. The images we continually see as gay men reinforce sex as a casual recreational activity—just look at the latest mailing from Atlantis, or a Damron guide, or even the back pages of *Just Out*. Sex is for sale; sex is for fun; sex is for emotionally healthy, out, gay men. Monogamy and long-term committed relationships are great, but until they come along, we are free to celebrate sexuality without the constraints of celibacy.

Yet here is Mike Garvey, accused of paying for sex. If he did what he is accused of, then his error is that he didn't pay for it the old fashioned way with two or three drinks at the bar, with

admission to Club Continental or, for the more genteel, with dinner and a movie. Mike may have bought sex through an escort service—something that any number of gay men have done or may yet do—yet our public silence about it points out how uncomfortable we are in openly and honestly discussing sexual ethics for gay men.

If it is OK to play on Sauvie Island or at Rooster Rock, if it's OK to run up our phone bills with 900 numbers, if it's OK to trick when the mood and opportunity present themselves, then what makes it not OK to buy sex? We need to answer these questions for ourselves and as a community.

Eric Rofes, in his new book *Reviving the Tribe*, states that "Often anxiety and confusion about our individual sex lives go unstated.... [S]ignificant numbers of gay men in America appear to be experiencing confusion, dysfunction, impotency, and deep ambivalence about sexuality and intimacy between men. Those who are single increasingly become frustrated with the limited options for meeting appropriate men."

In our anxiety about appropriate sexual activity, we must not allow Mike to bear the weight of this cultural confusion alone. The questions raised by these accusations are valid questions for us to address in the full light of day. To fail to do so continues to reinforce the perception that sex is dirty and must be hidden away.

If Mike paid for sex with a male prostitute, then he will have to face the consequences of that action with his employer. But he does not deserve to be treated as an outcast from the gay community. We, you and I, have no basis on which to judge or condemn him. He is a member of the gay men's community. Let us not do as so often is done: Let us not shoot our wounded. Rather let us draw near and extend a hand and a heart that offers compassion and comfort to one who is hurting.

## contents

VOL. 13 NO. 17 JULY 5, 1996

### FEATURE

**Cyber liberation**  
*It's a virtual community: The Internet is linking and transforming queers worldwide*  
(p. 19)

### DEPARTMENTS

#### World news

*Hungary legalizes same-sex common-law marriage; Romania bans gay sex if it upsets the neighbors*  
(p. 4)

#### National news

*Coretta Scott King speaks at Atlanta Pride; AIDS and animal rights activists clash; two lesbians are murdered on the Appalachian Trail*  
(pp. 5-9)

#### Local news

*Arson strikes a local church; Oregon Freedom to Marry holds a July summit; the lowdown on Portland Pride*  
(pp. 11-17)

### COLUMNS

#### Venturing out

*Sasha Alyson's travel tips will point you in the right direction*  
(p. 31)

#### Stonewall baby

*1969: the birth of a movement, the birth of a columnist*  
(p. 32)

#### Amazon trail

*The demise of a '76 Volvo spells car trouble*  
(p. 33)

### ARTS

#### Books

*Alan Helms tells tales of the gay high life in New York; an excerpt from Reviving the Tribe*  
(pp. 27-28)

#### Cinema

*A bevy of queer films jockey at the starting gate of summer*  
(p. 29)

#### Theater

*Shakespeare reigns this season at OSF*  
(p. 30)