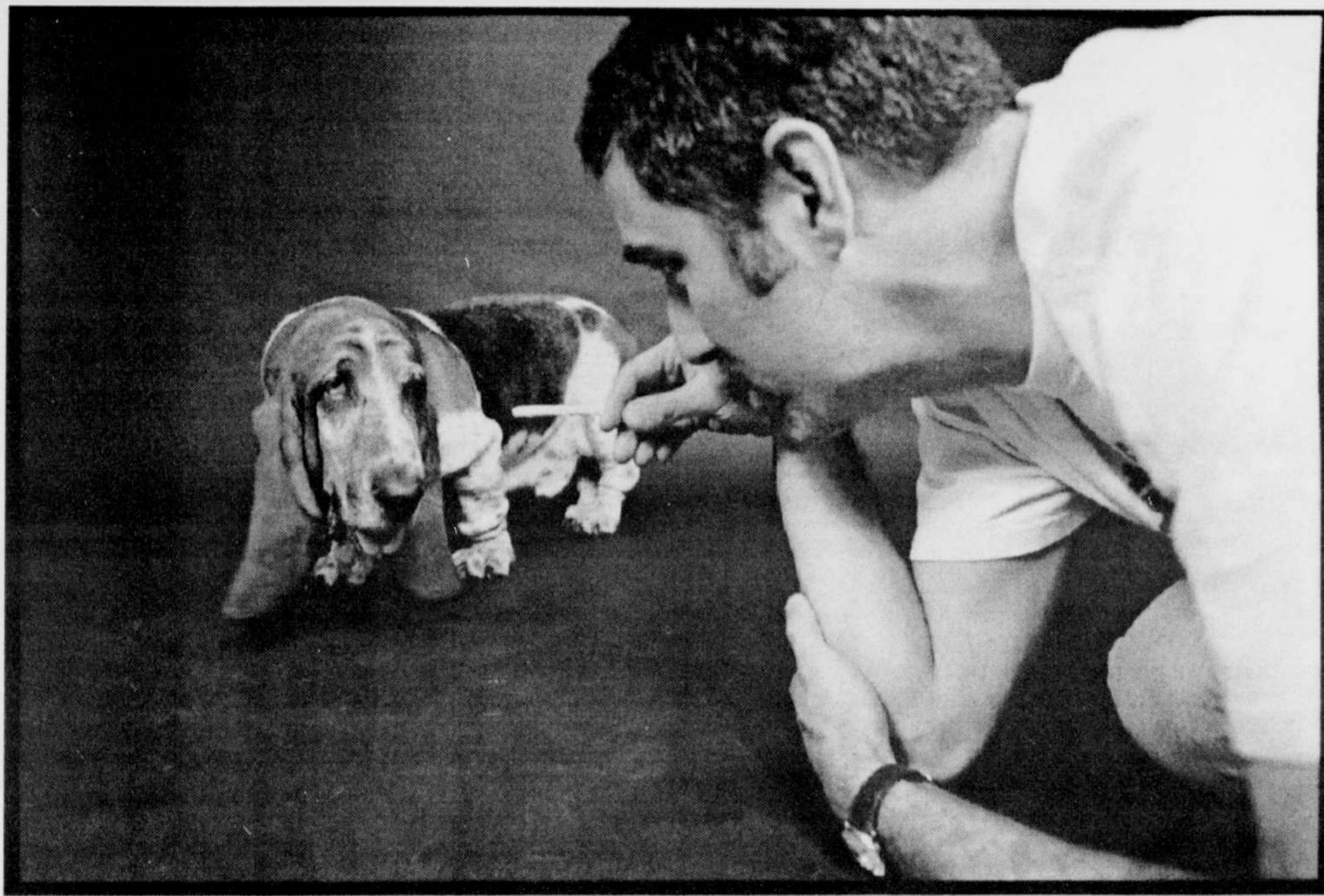


PHOTO BY LINDA KLIEWER



Local promoter Howie Baggadonutz offers Higgins a treat

EDITORIAL

BY RENÉE LACHANCE

Cheers for queers

Our culture may no longer be defined by bars, but they've certainly been along for the ride

When I came out in Portland more than 20 years ago, the lesbian bars were the only places I knew of where I could find others like me. At the time, there were several bars for gay men and several for lesbians and never the two would meet.

Lesbians treated men like invading soldiers who ventured, uninvited, into their sovereign space. Naturally this made my gay men friends feel very unwelcome. If I went to a gay men's bar I was sneered at like I'd stepped in something. Probably it was only my gender that was offensive.

Then, in 1981, a bar opened where everyone was welcome—Aaron's Place. It was on Southeast 39th Avenue and Holgate Street and was an equitable mix of men and women. With three rooms to choose from, patrons could dance, play pool or just sit by the fire.

Jocks and their admirers came there to quench their thirst after softball games. Disco divas came to work up a sweat with Donna Summer on the dance floor. Pool sharks came to chalk their custom cues. And the newly out came to gawk in "we're not in Kansas anymore" wonderment.

It was my second home and I spent far too much time there. While only one of the friendships I made there has lasted to this day I still think of Aaron's Place fondly and hold it up as the standard all other bars must meet. I even tried to recreate it when I opened Cafe Mocha with LaVerne Lewis in 1988. But there was only one Aaron's Place.

Now when I pass through that Southeast neighborhood and see the spot that Aaron's used to occupy, I've got only my memories to keep me warm. The building was razed to make room for a Walgreen's or Walmart or some other "Wal" that doesn't evoke Stonewall.

Dahl and Penne's was a Portland institution for decades. Mostly a gay men's crowd, it featured extravagant drag shows on weekends. My first encounters with female illusionists were there. ("How do they walk in

those shoes?" I wondered.) Its building was replaced by an office tower at the west end of the Morrison Bridge.

The Rising Moon was a lesbian bar on West Burnside near Old Town. It was a scary place for a baby butch like myself 20 years ago. Motorcycle dykes hung out there and scoffed at my 175cc Honda Twinstar. (They made no allowances for my short legs.) Brawls were common in that No Man's Land. The women were a little too radical for me at the time, but I still needed to grow into my politics.

The Otherside of Midnight was an extremely fun place located under the Hawthorne Bridge, sandwiched between what is now Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Grand Avenue. Burger King lives there now.

The Family Zoo lived up to its name on Southwest Ninth Avenue and Oak Street. It was a very wild scene for gay men. It houses a shelter for street youth now.

JR's had two locations, one was on Northwest 10th Avenue and Everett Street. The other was on Southeast Hawthorne Boulevard. Both had a friendly neighborhood bar feel that appealed to both men and women. In the basement of the downtown JR's was a gay men's dungeon bar, The Cell, run by Raunchy Robert. On the occasional Tuesday night Raunchy Robert opened The Cell to women only. With the men away, the women did play.

In retrospect lesbian bars come and go much faster than gay men's bars. The Club 927, the Primary Domain and Brew Sisters Pub come to mind. Many gay men's bars became institutions in our community before falling to progress, economics or the age of AIDS. Some have remained for decades—the Embers Avenue and Darcelle XV's for example.

Whether you'll admit it or not, bars are a part of our collective culture. Few of us can say we've never been in one. Whatever our differences, the bars are places we can go where everybody knows our game.

PUBLISHER AND EDITOR • Renée LaChance
NEWS EDITOR • Inga Sorensen
COPY EDITORS • Christopher D. Cuttone, Will O'Bryan
REPORTERS • Patrick Collins, Rex Wockner
CALENDAR EDITOR • Debby Morgan

CONTRIBUTORS • Bonnie Ruth Beebe, Tee A. Corrine, Lee Lynch, Flora Sussely
PHOTOGRAPHER • Linda Kliewer
ADVERTISING DIRECTOR • Meg Grace
ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE • Marty Davis
CREATIVE DIRECTOR • E. Ann Hinds
GRAPHIC DESIGN • Rupert Kinnard

PRODUCTION DIRECTOR • Christopher D. Cuttone
OFFICE MANAGERS • Michelle R. Knox, Will O'Bryan
OUTREACH COORDINATOR • Marty Davis
DISTRIBUTION • Kathy Bethel, Marcia Cook, James Galluzzo, Clancy Johnston, Michelle R. Knox, Valerie Lutz, Retta Offinga

just out

The IN publication for the OUT population

Vol. 15 No. 11 April 3, 1998

FEATURE

WHERE EVERYBODY KNOWS YOUR GAME:

From dancing queens to leather dykes, sexual minorities are making cultural statements and creating community—it's as simple as going out for a night on the town or a brewskie at the neighborhood pub
 pp 17-21

DEPARTMENTS

LOCAL NEWS • Sexual Minorities Roundtable gets a new attitude; HIV prevention can be fun; *Out* magazine lists Portland in top 10 gay-friendly cities; new project focuses on lesbians with cancer; restaurant gives back to the community
 pp 5-11

NATIONAL NEWS • Federal and state courts hand out good news, bad news for sexual minority interests
 pp 12-14

WORLD NEWS • Arbitrator instructs Chrysler Canada to provide same-sex domestic partner benefits; Malaysian health minister orders deportation of HIV-positive foreign workers
 p 15

COLUMNS

STONEWALL BABY • Getting reacquainted with the perils of singleness
 p 33

AMAZON TRAIL • The lifelong battle with romanticized addictions
 p 35

ARTS

BOOKS • Naiad Press celebrates 25 years
 pp 27

INTERVIEW • Advice columnist Dan Savage tells it like it is
 p 31

THEATER • Miracle Theatre serves up mystical enchantment
 p 32

ENTERTAINMENT • Sandra Bernhard joins the ranks of single celebrity moms
 p 32

just out is published on the first and third Friday of each month. Copyright © 1998 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.

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 may be accepted by telephone with VISA or MasterCard payment.

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 are \$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 upon request.

Contact *just out* at PO Box 14400, Portland, OR 97293-0400; (503) 236-1252, advertising: 236-1253, fax: 236-1257; e-mail: justout@justout.com.