

LOCAL news

MEDIA MEDLEY

From lesbians on the run to queer Mormons and first-place photos, Oregon garners national attention by Inga Sorensen

FUGITIVE COUPLE'S MEDIA DEBUT IN JUST OUT

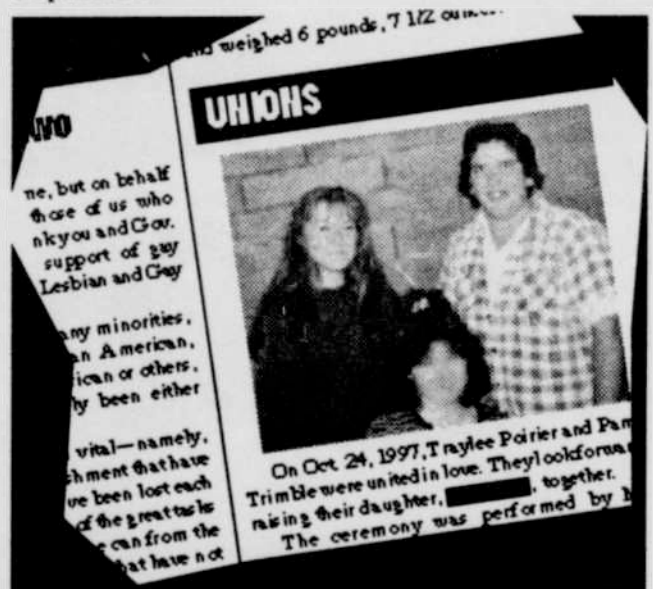
From the pages of *Just Out* to the nationally-televised *America's Most Wanted*, Tracey Lee Poirier and Pamela Kay Trimble are covering the media gamut eclectically and with high drama.

We first caught a glimpse of the couple during a touching matrimonial moment: In *Just Out*'s Nov. 7, 1997, issue, a photo of the two-some ran under the heading "Unions." The duo had submitted the picture and a blurb about their Oct. 24 bonding.

The ceremony was performed in Salem. That's because the capital is home to the Oregon Women's Correctional Center, where Poirier was serving life without parole for the stoning death of a man in 1990. Trimble is a former prison guard.

On Aug. 28, Poirier escaped from the correctional facility, and authorities have identified Trimble as her accomplice.

The couple have eluded law enforcement—but perhaps not for much longer. A crew from *America's Most Wanted*, the popular show that has led to the nabbing of many a criminal, was in Salem Sept. 3 to film a segment about the case. The program was slated to air by mid-September.

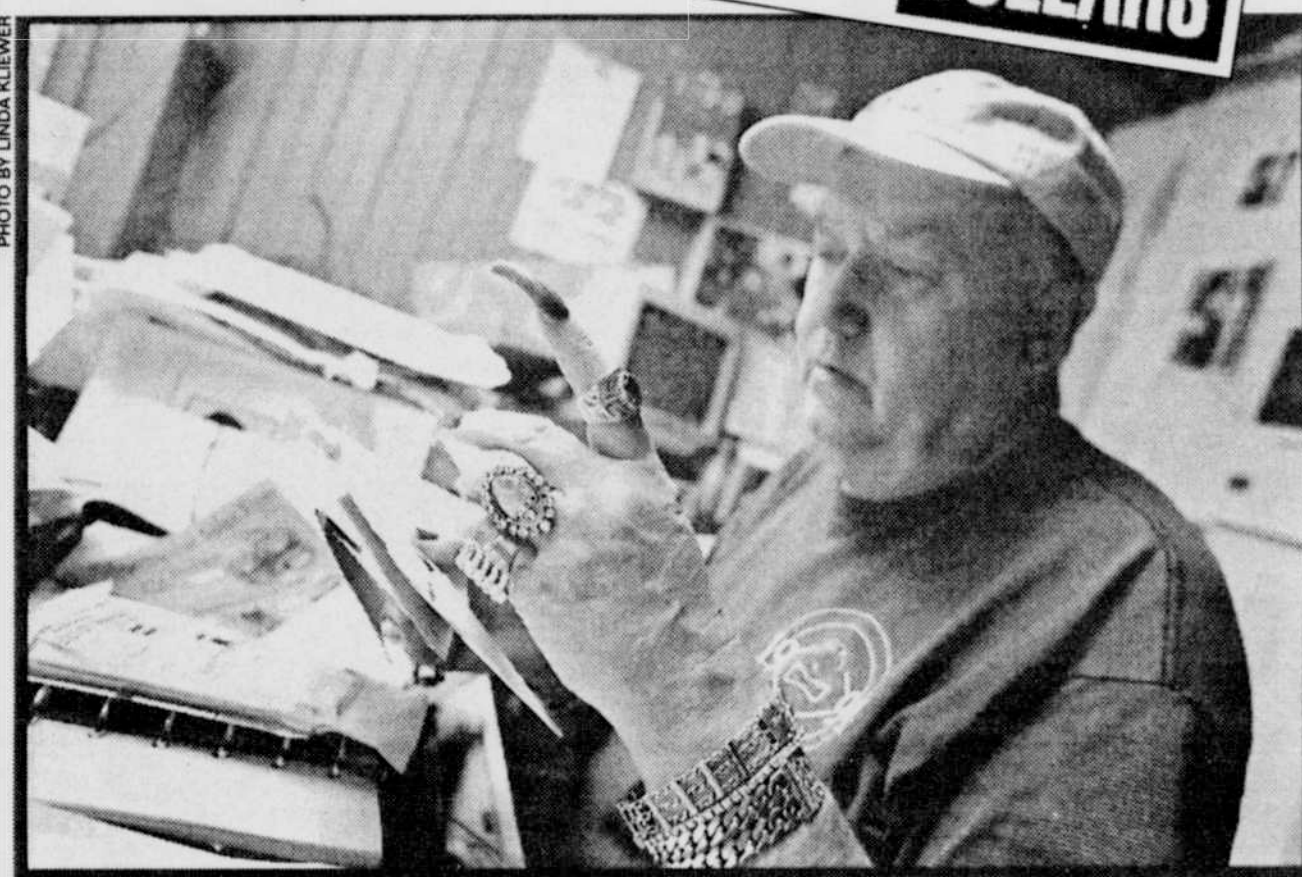


Meanwhile, according to a Sept. 5 report in *The Oregonian*: "Based on witness accounts, Trimble might have cut her hair extremely short and dyed it black in an effort to look like a man, police said.... Investigators [also] said tips suggested the women had fled to the San Francisco area."

Hmmm...

JUST OUT PHOTO SNAGS TOP AWARD

Linda Kliewer, *Just Out*'s staff photographer, received first-place honors for best photo in the 1998 Vice Versa contest for her shot captioned "That's no lady."



That's no lady! It's Walter Cole—a Portland institution as Darcelle—balancing the books

The photo ran as the cover shot for *Just Out*'s June 5 feature story entitled "Decades of Dollars: Spotighting the Old Guard of Portland's Queer Economy." The picture's focus is Portland institution Walter Cole, a k a Darcelle XV.

The judges' comments about shot? "The baseball cap, the nail, the face—lovely ironies."

The Vice Versa Awards were established in 1997 to honor the 50th anniversary of Vice Versa, North America's first lesbian or gay publication (a mimeographed lesbian newsletter produced in Los Angeles).

Eighty publications from 29 states, two provinces, and the District of Columbia participated in this year's contest.

The Vice Versa Awards are coordinated by Q Syndicate, North America's largest content provider to the gay and lesbian press. The awards ceremony is slated to take place Oct. 1 in Las Vegas.



The AP also quoted "believer" Drew Smith, a gay Seattle resident who struggles with his orientation and religion.

Smith says, "My involvement in the church is important enough to me that I haven't decided to partake in sexual activities because I know that would jeopardize my role with the church."

According to the wire service, Smith, 32, "swears off alcohol and cigarettes, believes the divine revelations of church founder Joseph Smith, and tries his best to live by the *Book of Mormon*. [However] he also goes to gay clubs to dance with friends."

INSPIRATION FROM WITHIN ...AND SAN FRAN

The September issue of *Girlfriends* magazine includes a profile of former Oregonian Maya Christina Gonzalez, a Latina lesbian artist who is reportedly doing well in life and art in San Francisco.

In the piece, Seattle-based reporter and photographer Silja J.A. Talvi writes of her subject: "With only one other Latino family in or around Eugene, Oregon, Gonzalez grew up as a child with the perception that her distinct, broad features were different—and therefore undesirable."

"After coming out and finding her place within Eugene's lesbian community, Gonzalez steadily found buyers for her jewelry and art, and plenty of supportive acquaintances who appreciated the way in which her work communicated personal issues of incest, rape, and abortion. But Gonzalez continued to feel out of place."



So, according to Talvi, a few years back Gonzalez and her partner of 10 years, Wendy Raw, headed south to San Francisco's Mission District, where Gonzalez blossomed professionally. Her paintings have become widely sought after.

Gonzalez tells *Girlfriends*: "In Oregon, I was perceived as 'exotic.' I moved here and I was [finally] perceived as being really normal. That was a huge relief. I found my painting just exploded. A more universal energy entered my work."

GAY MORMON GATHERING GETS NATIONAL ATTENTION

The Associated Press ran a piece Sept. 10 in part about the nearly 300 gay and lesbian Mormons who converged on Portland a few days earlier for the 20th annual conference of Affirmation, a gay and lesbian Mormon organization.

Serving up standard fare, the AP quoted anti-gay forces, including Mormon Don LeFevre of Salt Lake City, who said the church believes, "It's the behavior that's wrong.... Those who want to change homosexual practice are encouraged to do so, and we will work with them."

According to the report, the "Mormon Church was founded in 1830 by Joseph Smith. Some credit the church's emphasis on traditional family values with its quick growth to a current worldwide membership of 10 million."

STEP INTO THE LIGHT

- Mirror Image
- Sodomites! Oh No!
- A man shall not do what?
- The Apostle Speaks
- Truth or Consequences!
- "Eunuchly" You


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