

PHOTO BY LINDA KLIEWER



Dec. 16 anti-impeachment rally at Pioneer Courthouse Square in Portland

just out
 The IN publication for the OUT population

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FEATURE

KEEPING THE FAITH: A varied selection of queer perspectives on spirituality
 pp 17-21

DEPARTMENTS

LOCAL NEWS • Appellate court upholds landmark ruling in domestic partner benefits case; the scoop on gay-owned and gay-friendly businesses; youth leaders create second home at SMYRC; Portland-area radio professional's victory over sexual repression
 pp 4-10

NATIONAL NEWS • The low down on queer-related policies of discount retail chains; analysis of incoming House leadership; Chicago's gay ghetto gets a makeover
 pp 11-14

WORLD NEWS • South African activist Simon Nkoli dies of AIDS complications; former Zimbabwean president convicted on sodomy and sexual assault charges
 p 15

ENTERTAINMENT

ART • Northeast Alberta Street is where it's at
 p 28

THEATER • Only for the brave: a look at the dark side of cabaret
 p 29

CINEMA • Notes from the *Gay Video News Awards*; melodrama mars *Gods and Monsters*
 pp 30-31

MUSIC • RPM's CD reviews supply clues for last-minute holiday shopping
 p 32

SHORTS • Gear up for Portland Uniform Weekend VII; AIDS-related art installation in Ashland
 p 33

COLUMNS

I KID YOU NOT • Reviving seasonal spirituality and reinventing the Sabbath
 p 35

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EDITORIAL

BY MARTY DAVIS

Looking both ways

Just Out's publisher reflects on the past year, and ponders the future

This is *Just Out's* final issue for 1998. When you see us again, 1999 will be a week old.

As with each year at this time, I, like many of you, will take some time to reflect on the past and then turn toward the future. Looking back brings thoughts of people gone and people new, of mistakes made, feelings hurt and lessons learned. Looking forward brings questions, not the least of which is: Will anything be learned from the mistakes and lessons of the past year?

The closing out of 1998 seems to be moving fast, with many people already focusing on the arrival of the Really Big New Year come the end of 1999. The end of 1998 seems to be getting slighted in the excitement, confusion and questioning of what may or may not be happening a year from now.

We, however, want to take a moment to glance back at 1998.

It was a year we lost ground in terms of statewide political leadership. Openly gay state legislators George Eighmey, Cynthia Wooten and Chuck Carpenter won't be returning to the Oregon Legislature this session due to terms limits and political defeat. Elli Work, a Bend Democrat and out lesbian who ran for the Oregon House in November, lost her bid despite lots of cautious optimism she could pull off the win.

Matthew Shepard's murder brought to focus, albeit briefly, the need for tougher hate crime legislation nationwide. Massive media coverage of his youthful innocence brought a face to the many faceless victims who preceded Shepard and will undoubtedly follow him.

On the positive side, folks in Ashland and Medford took a leadership role with their visionary gay and lesbian community center, and the

Lesbian Community Project in Portland seems to be flourishing under new organizational leadership. Oregon Citizens Alliance enthusiasts made little headway with their anti-gay, anti-choice measures.

Still, voter turnout remains low and energy levels are sluggish across the board.

Kaiser-Permanente joins the list of major companies offering domestic partner benefits, and court rulings have fallen in our favor. *Ellen* is canceled, but queer roles become almost commonplace in mainstream television and movies.

And what about 1999? What will this mysterious year bring to us?

Will we see the impeachment of our president? Will the Asian economies stabilize? What will happen to our own financial security? Will there be a national queer march in 2000? Is it even necessary?

Will Y2K bring civilization to its knees or will it wind up being no more than one of those big winter storms that are so often predicted and so seldom appear? (If we do have to rebuild society, remember: It's the lesbians who have all the power tools.)

Looking back at 1998 is one thing—finding answers to the questions of 1999 is another. I have no answers for you now, no crystal ball, no predictions. Just the promise that *Just Out* will stay constant and strive hard to bring you the information, the news, the word about our community.

We'll have to continue to work together on finding the answers to the many questions that will arise during the upcoming year. May 1999 bring the best to us all.

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