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Just Out

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inside

Screening of documentary
about female impersonators
in Havana will benefit CAP
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Portland, Oregon FREE

Resolution for a New Year

Portland City Council
approves a proposal aimed
at curtailing gender identity
discrimination

BY INGA SORENSEN

It's two days before Christmas, and the temperature in Portland hovers in the mid-20s. Winter snow is on the next day's agenda, adding to the existing adrenaline surge that traditionally accompanies the advent of a holiday week.

At City Hall, spirits are high. By 9:30 a.m., the lower level of the council chamber is nearly full and chat-filled. Mayor Vera Katz sits front and center, shimmering in black and gold.

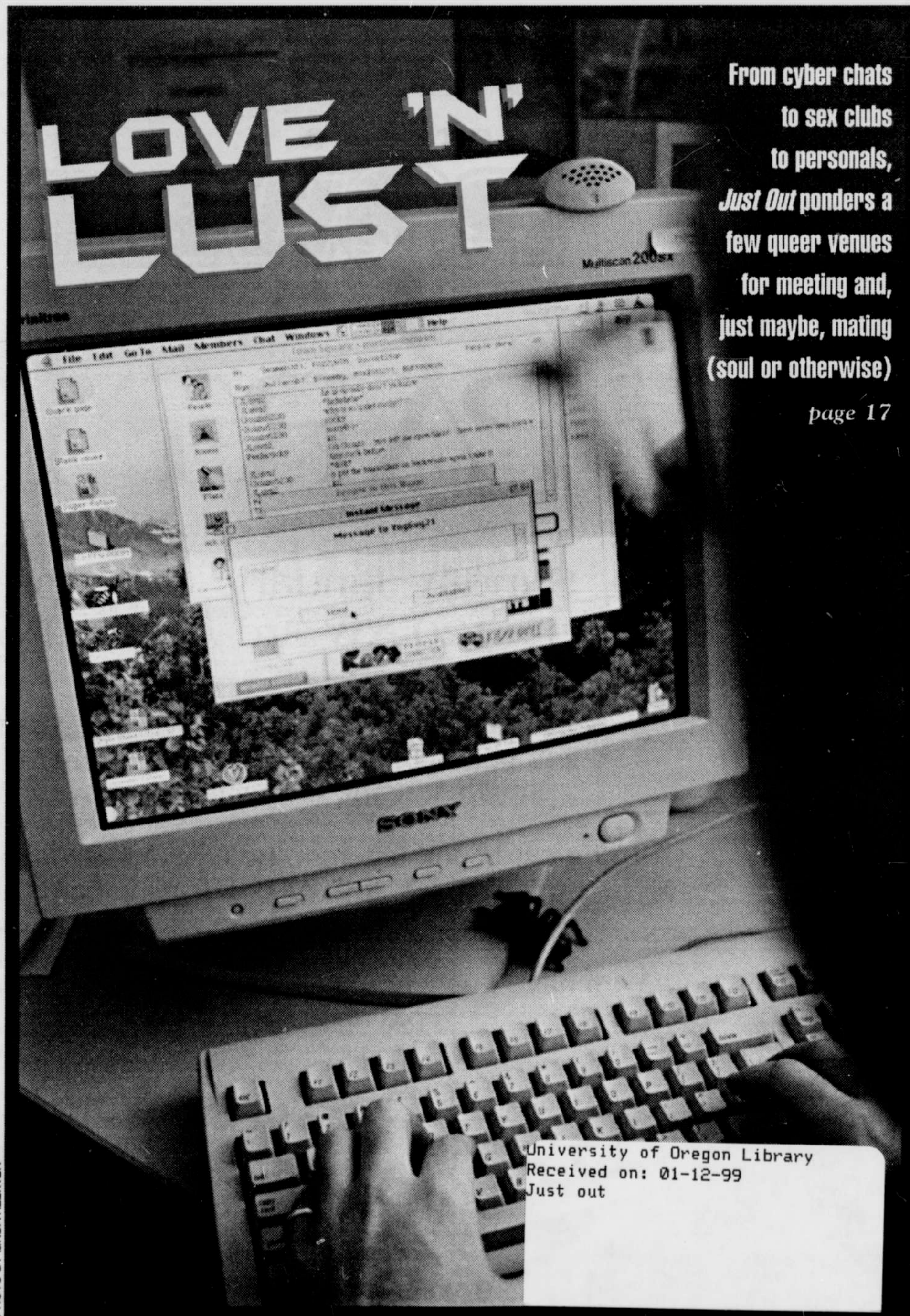
Before commissioners consider other business, they take a few moments to recognize one of their own: Gretchen Miller Kafoury, who is about to step back into the role of private citizen after more than two decades of public service.

A knockout bouquet is presented, not to mention a few smooches and hugs. A forage through the mayor's basement turned up an extra-special tchotchke to honor the outgoing commissioner: a campaign poster of Robert Kennedy, a candidate for whom both Katz and Kafoury hit the pavement 30-odd years earlier.

As we now know, the duo, famous for their head-butting proclivities, would go on to serve together in the Oregon Legislature, where, recounts Katz, they "really kicked you know what" for women's rights. The two would eventually land in city government, and, during this Dec. 23 council session—Kafoury's last as a commissioner—they would again move jointly in the realm of civil rights.

"The city has a long history of protecting the rights of its citizens and employees," says the mayor, later adding, "It is appropriate and right that we do this."

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From cyber chats
to sex clubs
to personals,
Just Out ponders a
few queer venues
for meeting and,
just maybe, mating
(soul or otherwise)

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PHOTO BY LINDA KLEINER

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