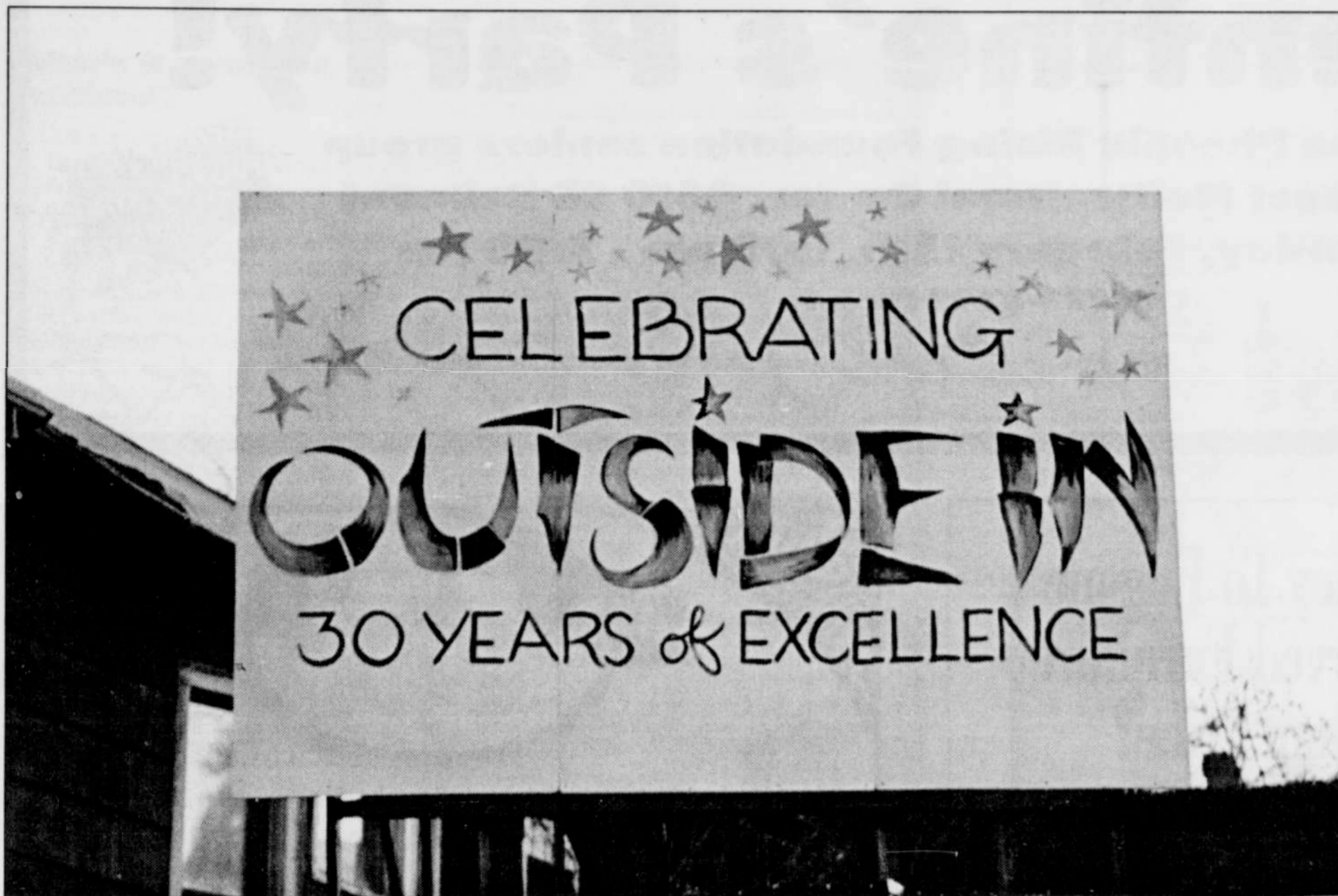


PHOTO BY LINDA KLIEWER



## EDITORIAL

BY MARTY DAVIS

## Leadership woes

Pondering leadership—or lack thereof—and apathy

As votes are tallied and witnesses are called, it has become apparent to many that the president is not to be removed from office. The train of partisan politics has finally run out of fuel. In the midst of all the media hoopla remains a basic question: Did Bill Clinton actually deserve to be impeached?

My credentials for interpretation of constitutional law are admittedly lacking, and I have no more of an answer than all the political pundits and spectators alike. What I do know is this debacle has left more questions than answers, more concerns than assurances, and for many people a genuine sense of sadness about the state of leadership in our country.

The most alarming aspect of this situation is hearing so many people declare: "They all lie. He's no different, he just got caught." They seem to harbor the notion that political, business and social leaders are inherently morally corrupt and, given that, it's simply business as usual.

How did this come to be? Has it always been this way, or is it because in this electronic era no person can escape scrutiny? Where are our expectations of the people who make decisions that impact our lives? What has happened to the idea that those we elect to govern and lead are to be held to a higher standard,

and that by meeting that standard people earn leadership positions? What has happened to respect for our institutions, and how do we regain it?

From the presidency to a neighborhood-watch block captain to heads of our own community service organizations, I question what standards we are setting for those we allow to take positions of leadership. I worry that apathy in our own sexual minorities community mirrors that of the nation. I worry that qualified, concerned persons are not stepping up to lead our groups and organizations and that, as a whole, we are not aware of the shortsightedness of our easy acceptance of "make do" solutions.

We heap burdens of work on those few who do step forth, all the while criticizing their efforts without offering a helping hand. We criticize yet do not volunteer. Rather than working to develop and nurture community leaders, we toss the key to whomever happens along. Most of the time this key is caught by people of good intent, but what if that's not the case? Who will be watching?

During the next few months, *Just Out* is going to attempt to find answers to some of these questions. We'll examine the issue of community leadership by both glancing back at past leaders and looking ahead toward finding the leaders of the future.

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Letters to the editor should be limited to 500 words. Announcements regarding life transitions (births, deaths, unions, etc.) should be limited to 200 words; photos are welcome. **Deadline for submissions** to the editorial department and for the *Calendar* is the Thursday 15 days before the next publication date. Views expressed in letters to the editor, columns and features are not necessarily those of the publisher.

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