

# Just Out



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Beren deMottler  
observes lesbian  
cancer culture  
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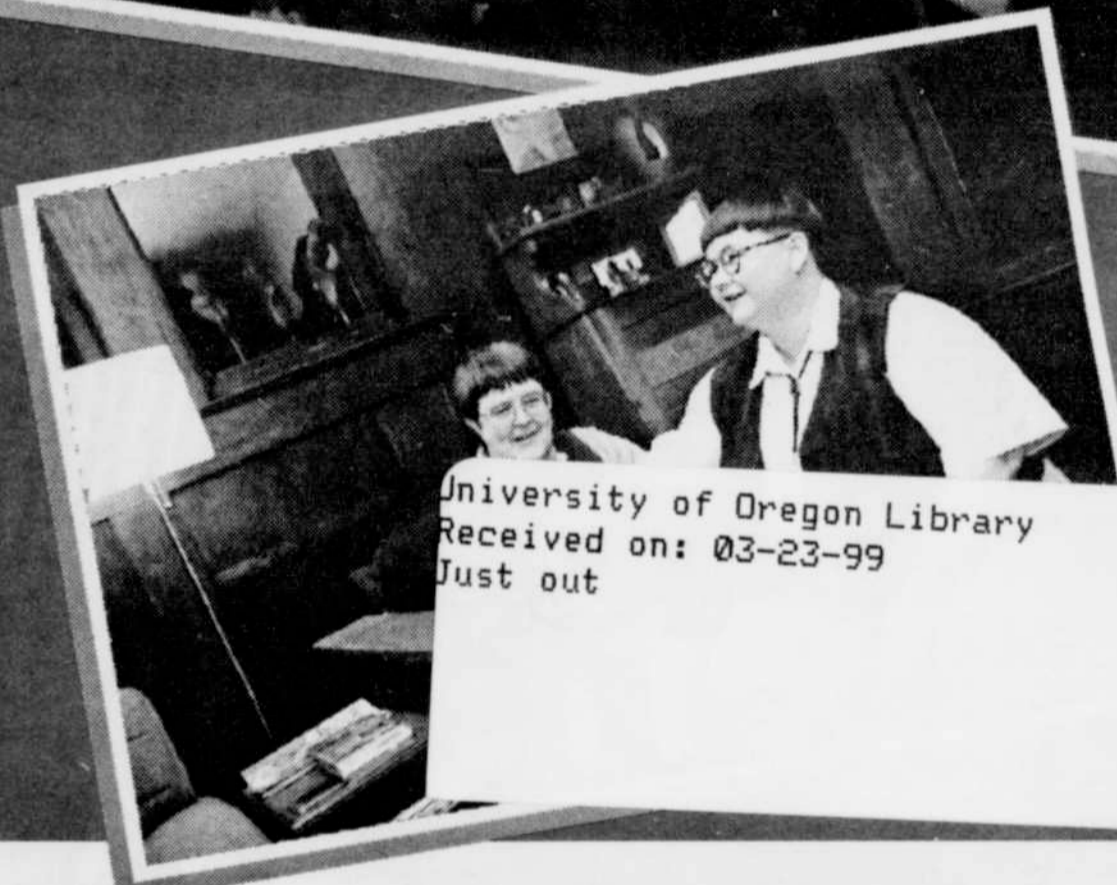
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Portland, Oregon FREE

# HAPPILY EVER After

*Just Out* talks to some of  
queerdom's long-term  
committed couples

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Above: Donald Hutchinson (left) and Lee Swantek reel in the years; left: Virginia Lindley (left), Mar [unclear] and [unclear] their dog, [unclear] lacey, enjoy the fruits of domesticity

PHOTOS BY LINDA KLEWER

## Reconstruction=Resurrection?

Embattled Phoenix Rising Foundation announces changes in leadership, but other—perhaps more important—questions are still looming BY INGA SORENSEN

The plea, smacking of presumptuousness, strains for acknowledgment: "Greetings! We appreciate your continued support and interest in Phoenix Rising Foundation..."

The appeal, dated Feb. 23, proceeds to inform prospective donors of shifts that are currently underway at the 20-plus-year-old agency—changes that are designed to pump life into the seriously weakened community institution.

The changes include word that Allanya Guenther, Phoenix Rising's executive director for the last half-decade, has tendered her resignation, as has Margie Paulson, board president, effective by the end of March.

Guenther and the board have taken copious lumps since news broke in January that the

Portland-based nonprofit sexual minority social services agency was severely hobbled by some unscrupulous goings-on, including allegations that a former employee embezzled funds and failed to pay the necessary bills and payroll taxes, eventually plunging the agency into debt and forcing it to devour its reserves. (*Just Out* contacted the Portland police detective assigned to the case, but he was unavailable for comment before press time.)

Phoenix Rising's powers-that-be have been slammed for shoddy managerial oversight and, according to some critics, concealing the dilemma from the queer community until the last possible moment—a charge Guenther and the board have adamantly denied.

A few weeks ago, agency staff and board members hosted a public gathering—attended by about 60 people—at which they fielded questions about the morass and pondered ways to extricate themselves from this quagmire.

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## Film Philanthropy



Theme is key when Portland's social stars get together to celebrate Oscar in the name of CAP

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