

Vol. 16 No. 16 June 18, 1999

FEATURE

FAMILY PRIDE: In the spirit of pride, *Just Out* presents a "family album"

pp 27-33

NEWS

LOCAL • Anti-gay activity may be on the rise; CAP cans testing program; SMYRC hosts queer prom; Trent Seager on community and HIV; catching up with past and present sexual minority legislators; The Queer Profit

pp 7-17

NATIONAL • Hormel headed to Luxembourg; tips for finding gay-friendly fast food; appeals court rules ADA can't prevent discrimination in insurance policies

pp 19-23

WORLD • Anti-virals available through Panama's national health care system; Bank of Scotland scraps planned partnership with Pat Robertson

p 25

ENTERTAINMENT

EVENTS • Peacock preview; bingo boosterism

pp 43-44

MUSIC • RPM's June reviews; interview with Roddy Bottum of Imperial Teen

pp 45-47

SPORTS • WNBA may bring women's basketball back to Portland

p 49

SHORTS • The Publishing Triangle announces "The 100 Best Lesbian and Gay Novels"; Portland Pride '99 program

p 51

COLUMNS

OUT LOUD • Remembering Stonewall; time to get tested, like it or not

pp 53-55

TRAVELS WITH BETTY • Rules to live by

p 57

The mayor's mosaic

Portland's mayor presents a pride message

Every year, pride week gives us an opportunity to review progress in achieving equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans Portlanders and Oregonians.

I take pride that Portland has often led the state in trying to create a community that embraces and celebrates the diversity of all its people.

I intend, however, to continue my work of promoting basic rights for all citizens, because as good as our progress is, we still have a long way to go before we have eradicated homophobia and discrimination from our community and our state.

I will know we have achieved further progress in ending discrimination when it is no longer legal in much of Oregon to be fired or evicted from your home simply for being gay. I will know homophobia is on the wane when the media stops its tendency to mention the sexual orientation of only gay people and not straight people in its reporting. I will know the value of equality has taken deep root in our community when Oregonians view it as inconceivable that any member of our state Legislature would ever consider introducing legislation to deny basic rights to any member of the sexual minorities community. And, I will know we have truly embraced diversity when young people just coming to terms with their sexual orientation feel supported and the suicide rate for gay and lesbian teens drops.

A man I consider to be one of my personal heroes once dreamt of a time and place where his children would not be judged by the color of their skin, but the content of their character. As we move into the 21st century, I hope we shape a community and state where we are not judged

by who we share our lives with, but by who we are and what we have accomplished.

Portland has been blessed with numerous contributions by gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans citizens who have helped make this a very special place to live.

Working together, the city adopted the Portland civil rights ordinance in 1991 that barred for the first time discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodation on the basis of sexual orientation. While a local judge invalidated the private right-of-action clause under the ordinance, the city has appealed that decision and we continue to be hopeful—particularly in light of the *Tanner* decision—of a positive outcome. In the meantime, the city has set up a pilot civil rights mediation program to help people resolve complaints voluntarily.

In 1993, seeking to lead by example, the city extended domestic partnership insurance benefits to all its employees and, two years ago, we adopted an ordinance mandating that people who want to do more than \$2,500 in business per year with the city must verify that they do not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation.

And just two weeks ago, the entire Portland City Council joined forces to lobby the state Legislature against passage of House Joint Resolution 29.

While I am proud of the actions this city has taken in regard to equal rights, I know there is more work to do and there are more obstacles to overcome. As recent court decisions and legislative actions demonstrate, we must all be continually vigilant to preserve and protect basic rights for all people.

I hope to see the day when the unique actions taken by the city of Portland to provide equality to gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans citizens are no longer necessary because the state of Oregon has finally adopted fair and equal policies. But until that day comes, I will continue my work to ensure equal rights for all.

Happy pride week.

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REFLECTIONS

What do we tell the neighbors?
Rosanne King examines the trauma parents experience when confronted with their child's identity.

just out

FREE
Vol. 1 No. 16
May 25-June 8

In this issue —
Review of KATU News' special on the gay community
Earl Wright denounces "The Wright Angle"
Film review of *Entre Nous*
Just Travel, out in Oregon and more.

15 years ago in just out

VOL. 1 NO. 16, MAY 25-JUNE 8, 1984

- The editorial hailed Bud Clark's victory over Frank Ivancie in the mayoral primary election, saying: "Portland may continue as one of the most livable cities in the U.S. thanks to Bud Clark—and all the people who voted for him."
- KATU-TV received more than 100 phone calls, about three-fourths negative, after the station aired a five-part series on Portland's gay and lesbian community.
- A new organization, Cascade AIDS Project, formed under the wing of Phoenix Rising Foundation to provide HIV- and AIDS-related services.
It was announced that the number of reported AIDS cases in Oregon had reached 12, and that there had been at least six deaths attributed to the condition.
- The Dyketones performed at Darcelle XV. This was the group's last Portland appearance before setting off on an East Coast tour.
- Canadian singer-songwriter Ferron made her third Portland appearance in three years. Tickets were \$6 in advance and \$7 at the door.
- In national news, the United Methodist Church overwhelmingly voted to bar active gays and lesbians from its ministry.

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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.

The display advertising deadline is the Monday 12 days before the next publication date.

Classified ads must be received at the *just out* office by 3 p.m. on the Thursday 8 days before the next publication date, along with payment. Ads may be accepted by telephone with VISA or MasterCard payment.

Ad policy. No sexually exploitative advertising will be accepted. Compensation for errors in, or cancellation of, advertising will be made with credit toward future advertising.

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A copy of *just out* is available for \$2. Advertising rates are available upon request.

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