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Just Out goes worldwide; Mr. O'Bryan goes to Washington

Welcome to our new electronic home; bon voyage to our entertainment editor

Welcome to www.justout.com. Our brand-new Internet site is our latest tool in our ongoing process of remaining current, timely and valuable to our readership.

The site debuted three weeks ago, and so far no major snafus have occurred. This is entirely due to the diligence and determination of Dave Ressler of NetTenna Website Development. Dave has had the less-than-desirable challenge of working with me on a project that I didn't really want to be working on. In spite of my avoidance, delays, crankiness and excessive overuse of the color yellow, we finally have the beginning model of our new electronic "satellite office."

Taking brave new steps in gay and lesbian media, this Internet site features no purple, no lavender, no rainbows and no pink triangles. Lest you start with cries about homophobia, relax, it's merely a desire to avoid that which is overdone. Rainbows hit the saturation point right at the unveiling of the first acrylic rainbow toilet seat. As mentioned previously, there is enough yellow in our site to bring Martha Stewart to her knees, but I am working on letting go of some of that. This will be good news to those of you now forced to wear sunglasses while viewing the pages.

In its infancy the site is intended to serve as a vehicle for readers to contact *Just Out* with letters, classified ads, voice personal ads and submissions for the calendar and other Out & About sections. There is also an area for bulletins and calendar updates, and we put this to good use while the battle over House Joint Resolution 4 was being fought in the waning days of the Legislature. Both former state lawmaker George Eighmey and Basic Rights Oregon were diligently racing to provide e-mail updates on the committee's progress on the legislation.

In a bemusing manner, it appeared almost as if the two camps were competing to see who could provide the quickest and most detailed updates. My imagination, surely. Had not our ever-so-progressive Legislature nixed the pro wrestling idea, I for one would have paid big bucks to see George and BRO Executive Director Jean Harris take to the mat in a friendly benefit for an appropriate charity. If we must have animosity between our leaders, at

least let someone benefit from the wasted energy. Ah, but I digress; back now to the Internet site.

Voice personal ads will benefit in a dual capacity. First, you can send us your ad via the site; secondly, soon all ads received after deadline for one issue will appear on the site prior to publication in the next issue. This will allow readers quicker access to people seeking people.

Our contract advertisers who have their own Internet sites will receive a free listing and link on our site. We will also be providing links for non-profits and community organizations. It is our goal to provide an electronic avenue for readers to access the businesses and resources of our community.

Calendar listings and items for other Out & About sections can now be sent to us electronically. We have also provided a publication schedule so you can determine the deadline for submitting your information.

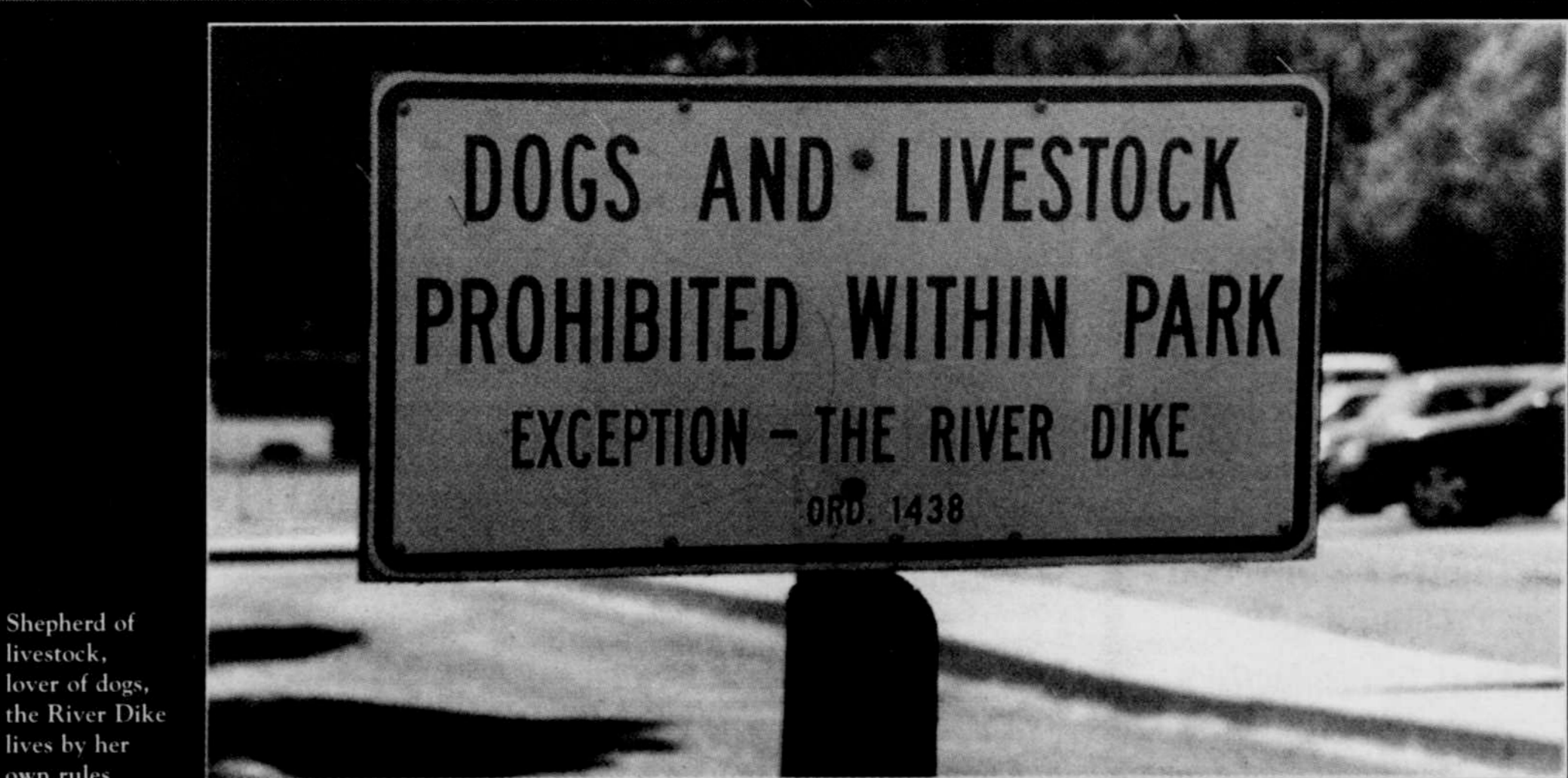
Just as www.rome.com wasn't built in a day, neither is www.justout.com complete. Our site will be a constantly evolving process, one which will be guided by your feedback and comments. Check it out and let us know what you think.

On a more personal note, one of the disadvantages of having valuable and skilled staff is that others in the gay and lesbian media also notice this.

Such is the case with *Just Out* Entertainment Editor Will O'Bryan, who is departing Portland for a reporting job with *The Washington Blade*, one of the nation's largest gay and lesbian weeklies. Our loss is definitely the *Blade's* gain. I am happy to report that Will's column, *Stonewall Baby*, will still be featured monthly in *Just Out*.

While wishing Will great success in his new adventure, please let it be noted that his departure leaves an opening for an ambitious journalist to join the staff of *Just Out*. Details of the job can be found inside the paper. If you're interested, let me know (appropriate office attire required, of course).

REFLECTIONS



Shepherd of livestock, lover of dogs, the River Dike lives by her own rules

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