

**FEATURE**

**SINGULARLY SATISFIED:** How to enjoy Feb. 14, whether or not you have your own funny valentine  
pp 23-27

**NEWS**

**NORTHWEST** • Big judicial and legislative decisions made in Oregon; Clackamas Community College stands up for tolerance; Empress Misha whips pride into shape; monthly column the Queer Profit; friends and relatives remember Lindsey Alexander  
pp 7-13

**NATIONAL** • Margaret Johnston and the U.S. AIDS vaccine program; Exxon under fire from gay groups; lesbian lawmaker predicts failure for California's anti-gay Knight initiative; U.S. Supreme Court to consider Boy Scouts gay ban  
pp 15-19

**WORLD** • Dutch newspaperman knighted by queen; former flight attendant launches UK-based gay airline  
pp 20-21

**ENTERTAINMENT & CULTURE**

**OPERA** • Hunky gay singer comes to Portland  
p 35

**ART** • Looking at life from both sides now  
p 37

**MUSIC** • Reviews of new CDs—delights and disappointments  
pp 38-39

**FILMS** • New films don't offer much queerness  
p 41

**DIVERSIONS** • Get your trolls ready for bingo; take your sweetheart dancing  
p 43

**COLUMNS**

**MY QUEER LIFE** • Is he or isn't he gay?  
p 44

**AMAZON TRAIL** • Driving in the slow lane  
p 45

**just out is published on the first and third Friday of each month.** Copyright © 1999 by just out. No part of just out may be reproduced without written permission from the publisher.

**The submission of written and graphic materials is welcomed.** Written material should be typed and double-spaced. just out reserves the right to edit for grammar, punctuation, style, liability concerns and length. We will reject or edit articles or advertisements that are offensive, demeaning or may result in legal action.

**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 eight days before the next publication date, along with payment. Ads may be placed by telephone or via the Internet with Visa or MasterCard payment.

**Ad policy:** just out reserves the right to reject or edit any advertisement. Compensation for errors in, or cancellation of, advertising will be made with credit toward future advertising. Advertising rates are available upon request.

**Subscriptions** are \$17.50 for 12 issues. First Class (in an envelope) is \$30 for 12 issues.

Contact just out at P.O. Box 14400, Portland, OR 97293-0400; (503) 236-1252, advertising 236-1253, fax 236-1257; e-mail justout@justout.com. Visit our Internet site at www.justout.com.

**GUEST COMMENTARY**

BY BOB WILDIN

**The red, the green and the blues**

Lamenting a lapse in political leadership in the 2000 presidential campaign

I often hear that the political landscape in America is changing, but I continue to be amazed by the bizarre contrasts emerging from the 2000 presidential race.

Labor, taxes, religious rights and abortion used to be the issues creating the line between Republicans and Democrats, but not any more. Republicans waffle on abortion, Democrats court religious constituencies, everyone wants to cut taxes—they only differ on how—and unions dump money into both parties' coffers.

Meanwhile, the vacuum of real leaders with the ability to unify the country, rather than divide it, hovers far more noisily than Ross Perot's "giant sucking sound" in the 1996 campaign.

The televised candidate debates are like a theater of the absurd. The most vitriolic, xenophobic rhetoric—which used to be heard only from the likes of Jesse Helms—now emanates from the mouth of none other than Alan Keyes, the only black candidate, a Republican. Incredibly, he is also one of only two candidates to say gays should be kicked out of the military, period. Would he object to kicking blacks out as well? The irony might be amusing if he weren't so serious.

When it comes to gays in the military, John McCain unreservedly capitulates to the "experienced judgment" of generals on the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Now that's leadership! One wonders whether he has asked which of those generals' experienced judgments was responsible for his butt landing in a Vietcong POW camp for several sweaty, testicle-twisting years.

Of all the issues brought before the candidates in the preprimary debates, only one unites the candidates from each party and at the same time clearly separates Democrats from Republicans: the right of queers to serve openly in the U.S. military.

Is this a harbinger of the tone of the upcoming general election campaign? Will the acceptance of homosexuality become the only topic that clearly differentiates the final contenders and their supporters? Will this be the pivotal decision Americans will make to pick their next president?

It is not that I think this topic is unworthy. It is important, especially for those who believe that "don't ask, don't tell" is a poster child for the kind of sad, illogical rules produced when one compromises with bigots.

I fear this debate is becoming, like abortion in the 1980s, a lightning rod that draws fire away from the heavier issues—those too difficult for the electorate to understand, or at least too complex for the candidates to articulate in a four-second sound bite.

Does this advance the cause of equal rights for queers? On one hand, the fact that the questions are actually being asked by the media is progress. On the other hand, the answers expose the persistence of putative leaders who are willing to declare openly that gays, rather than the hatred and fear aimed at them, are bad for America.

If gay rights does become the litmus for political polarization in the next decade, we are in trouble. Even conservatives who lean toward more equality for queers, like Oregon GOP Sen. Gordon Smith, will not have the freedom to vote their convictions.

And, as with abortion, all the substantive issues will be recast in terms of whether purloined penis-peeking in the shower will affect a soldier's readiness to put a bullet hole through the enemy's head.

If the military of the 1950s and 1960s could dismantle the prevailing myth that African Americans were dirty, dangerous and stupid, the high-tech military of the new millennium can surely vaporize the illusion that gays are greater sexual predators than straights.

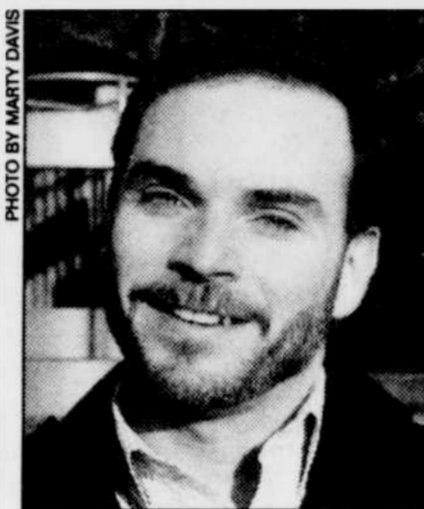
Do they really expect us to believe that the seasoned generals leading our boys into battle, those whose scarred fingers we trust with the nuclear button, can be felled by a young private wielding a lecherous wink? What wimps!

And are the Democrats—who all support at least an overhaul of "don't ask"—really our friends? I wouldn't hold my breath. Have you ever wondered why this issue only comes up in an election year? Why Clinton didn't have the chutzpah to live up to his campaign promises? If Republicans see red when the topic of gays comes up,

Democrats see green—the sweet green of campaign cash. Queers have nowhere else to go, and they know it.

I'm still waiting for a real leader to appear on the election scene. To me, leadership doesn't mean meandering all over the political map to garner votes and manipulate special interests. Leadership means having the ability to make others see the destructive nature of their views and bring them into the fold. It means reinforcing the good among all people. Leadership means not fearing that men loving men may somehow stop men from killing men when someone declares, "Let's make war."

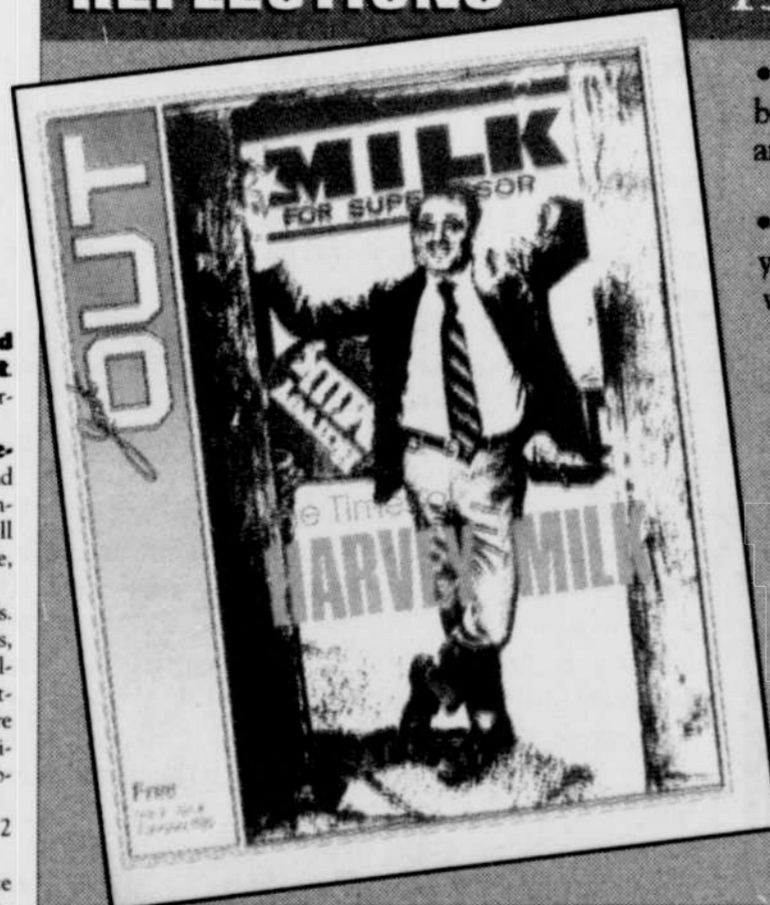
■ BOB WILDIN is a non-native Portlander who fancies himself the love child of William Safire and Ricky Martin.



Bob Wildin

**REFLECTIONS**

15 years ago in just out... FEBRUARY 1985 VOL. 2 NO. 4



• *The Times of Harvey Milk* was hailed as an emotionally powerful and stunning film. Named as best documentary of 1984 by the New York Film Critics Circle, the movie was thought to have an excellent chance for an Academy Award nomination in mid-February.

• Dignity Portland sponsored a concert by Romanovsky and Phillips. The duo, lovers for two years, astounded audiences with their musical affirmation of lesbian and gay pride. The concert was held at the Embers Avenue.

• *Consenting Adult*, the made-for-television movie based on the controversial best-selling novel by Laura Hobson, aired on ABC. Starring Marlo Thomas and Martin Sheen, the film tells the story of how a college student comes to terms with the realization that he is gay.

• Kristan Aspen reviewed Tee Corinne's collection of images titled "Women Who Loved Women."

• In her Help Out column, Sandra Pinches wrote: "Frustration over the failure to find and sustain a committed love relationship brings more people to the counselor's office than almost any other personal problem."

• In national news, the U.S. Supreme Court took on the controversial issue of gay rights in January. The hearings sparked a full-scale public debate over the constitutionality of an Oklahoma law enacted to protect schoolchildren from teachers who "profess homosexuality."

**PUBLISHER AND MANAGING EDITOR** • Marty Davis  
**NEWS EDITOR** • Inga Sorensen  
**ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR** • Oriana Green  
**COPY EDITOR** • Christopher D. Cuttone  
**CONTRIBUTORS** • Marc Acito, Kristine Chatwood, Katy Davidson, Michael Thomas Ford, Sandra Lea LeBel, Lee Lynch, T.K. Mantese,

Gip Plaster, Bob Roehr, Dean Sidwell, Marilyn Sorensen, Mariah Ureel, Rex Wockner, Pat Young  
**ADVERTISING DIRECTOR** • Meg Grace  
**ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE** • Larry Lewis  
**PRODUCTION DIRECTOR** • Christopher D. Cuttone  
**ART DIRECTOR** • Rupert Kinnard

**PRODUCTION** • Oriana Green  
**PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS** • Thomas Christian, Katy Davidson  
**OFFICE MANAGER** • Katy Davidson  
**DISTRIBUTION** • Jerilyn Adams, Kathy Bethel, Curtis Henderson, David Higbee, Lark Jarvis, Marie Price, Meredith Schwartz, Ruth Traut, David Wardell, Larry Williams