

**FEATURE**

**GETTING DOWN AND DIRTY:** Whatever your gardening challenge, professional help abounds in the queer community  
pp 23-27

**NEWS**

**NORTHWEST** • Betty DeGeneres to speak at Linfield College in McMinnville; BRO to assemble activist network; Oregon queers lobbying for immigration bill; new substance abuse treatment program up and running in Portland; LCP is listening and learning; monthly column the Queer Profit  
pp 6-15

**NATIONAL** • Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund hosts queer political elite; California voters approve anti-gay-marriage Knight initiative  
pp 17-19

**WORLD** • Only gay bar in Belarus shut down after dispute with government; Israel grants residency to foreign partners of two gay citizens  
pp 20-21

**ENTERTAINMENT & CULTURE**

**THEATER** • Jeff Cone costumes the cast  
p 35

**BOOKS** • Judith Barrington bares her soul; Portland author profiles gay screenwriter  
pp 37-38

**GROUPS** • Forest Group: dykes who hike  
p 39

**ART** • Mar Goman has strange angels  
p 40

**FILMS** • Reviews of *Erin Brockovich* and new video release *The Brandon Teena Story*  
p 41

**DIVERSIONS** • Funny girl Suzanne Westenhoefer comes to Oregon; get decked out for the Oscars and a good cause  
p 43

**COLUMNS**

**ROMANCE WITH EMPRESS MISHA** • Queen of hearts hands out loving advice  
p 33

**OUTWORD** • Gunning for safety  
p 45

**just out** is published on the first and third Friday of each month. Copyright © 2000 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 4 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 DONNA RED WING

**This time, it's personal**

Well-known former Portlander explains why an upcoming march speaks to her

In many ways, marches are nothing new to those who have spent time organizing for social justice and civil rights. In my younger years, I marched for peace. As an adult, I organized a march across the entire state of Oregon as part of the efforts to stop anti-gay bigotry and discrimination. And I have marched on our nation's capital with hundreds of thousands of gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans people and our allies.

I have spent my life fighting for what I believe is right. As part of that fight, I have marched. And while my commitment to social justice for our entire community has never wavered, never before has my marching been so focused on my life and the love of my life, Sumitra. This march is different. This time, it's profoundly personal.

I began to work seriously on the issue of marriage in 1994, as the national field director of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. I attended some of the first national marriage roundtables, working with extraordinary people like Evan Wolfson, Donald Suggs, Jim Key, Billy Kahn and Sky Johnson. It was an issue that had, for me, moved from the political to the personal.

A few years before, my partner Sumitra and I met a lesbian couple in Oregon. I'll call them Annie and Carol. Together for 15 years, they adored each other. They were older, smart and had the means to develop—with their lawyers—powers of attorney, living wills and all the things we need to protect our rights because we cannot legally marry.

One Memorial Day weekend, they had driven their new camper to the mountains. The day after they were to return home, Carol called to say that Annie had died.

They had returned home, flush with the excitement of their camping trip. Annie was in the shower. Carol was reading in bed. She heard a crashing sound and ran into the bathroom to see that Annie had fallen. She was unconscious.

The hospital refused to allow Carol to be with Annie. She was not family, they said. While Carol was on the phone with her lawyers, arrang-

ing for the paperwork to be delivered to the hospital, Annie died. Alone.

The funeral home would not allow Carol to arrange the funeral. Carol was forced to call Annie's ex-husband, who graciously arranged the funeral that Carol dictated.

In 1995, I was diagnosed with a brain tumor. It was dangerous and incredibly frightening. The night before I was to be admitted to the hospital could have been my last. I wanted to tell Sumitra all the things I needed to tell her. I wanted to hold her. I wanted to spend time with my dogs. And I wanted to savor the things and the people I loved. None of us knew how I would, or even if I would, emerge from surgery.

Instead, we spent that last night with our lawyer. I had to make decisions about property. Sumitra had no rights as my family or spouse. I had to decide, that night, when and if to stop lifesaving endeavors. I had to make decisions about my care. And the last thing I had to decide was how to dispose of "the body"—my body—if I died.

That night, in a most profound and visceral manner, I understood that I was, at best, a second-class citizen. And until Sumitra and I had all the rights and responsibilities of marriage, we would continue to be treated as somehow less than.

Because I cannot marry the woman I love. Because Annie died alone. Because our relationships are just as sacred and just as magical as anyone else's, I am marching in Washington on April 30, 2000. And I'll be marching with Sumitra.

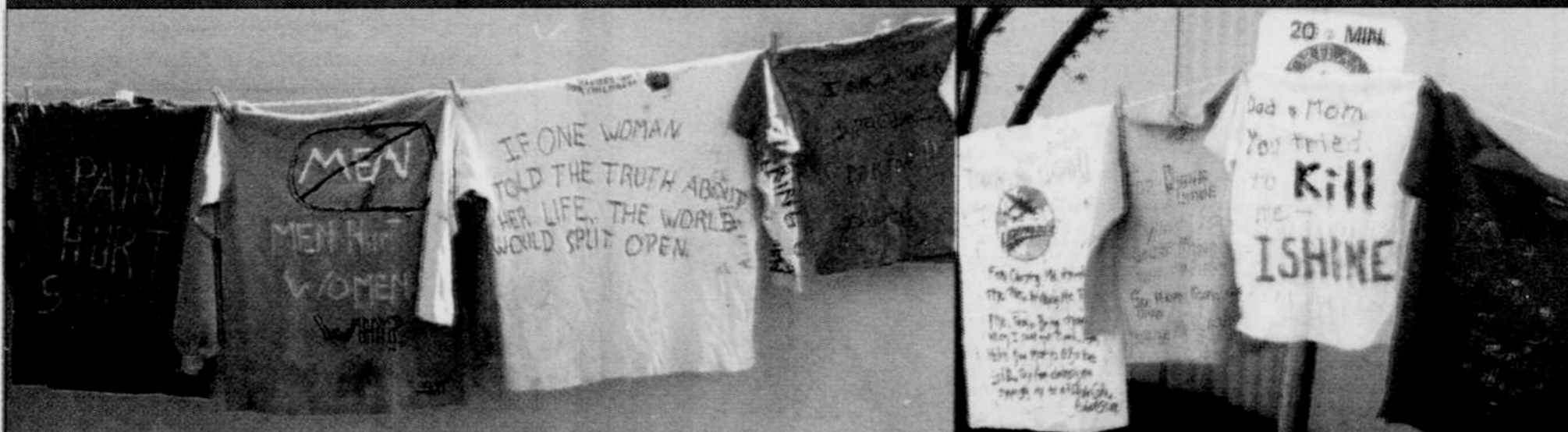


Donna Red Wing

■ DONNA RED WING is the director of the Gill Foundation's OutGiving Project and co-chair of the Millennium March on Washington's board of directors.

For many years, Red Wing and her partner lived in Portland, where she served as director of the Lesbian Community Project. In 1992, she was named The Advocate's Woman of the Year, due largely to her work against Ballot Measure 9, an anti-gay initiative that was ultimately rejected by Oregon voters.

**REFLECTIONS**



The Clothesline Project was displayed at the Portland Conference Center for International Women's Day, March 12

PHOTOS BY MARTY DAVIS

**PUBLISHER AND MANAGING EDITOR** • Marty Davis  
**NEWS EDITOR** • Inga Sorensen  
**ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR** • Oriana Green  
**COPY EDITOR** • Christopher D. Cuttone  
**CONTRIBUTORS** • Kristine Chatwood, Jacob Clark, Katy Davidson, Irene Hislop, Andy Mangels, T.K. Mantese, Christopher McQuain, Donna Red Wing, Misha Rockafeller,

Bob Roehr, Rex Wockner  
**ADVERTISING DIRECTOR** • Meg Grace  
**ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE** • Larry Lewis  
**NATIONAL ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE** • Rivendell Marketing Company Inc. (212) 242-6863  
**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, Michael Albright, Kathy Bethel, Curtis Henderson, Danahy Sharon Rose, Meridith Schwartz, Ruth Traut, David Wardell, Larry Williams