

just out

The IN publication for the OUT population

FOUNDED 1983 • JAY BROWN AND RENÉE LACHANCE

Vol. 17 No. 18 July 21, 2000

FEATURE

STRANGERS IN THE NIGHT: The ins and outs of public sex
p 21

NEWS

NORTHWEST • Youths turn the table; OPB breaks a promise; county OKs domestic partnership registry; AIDS efforts refocused; anti-OCA campaign launched; Sister Paula praises Portland
pp 7-15

NATIONAL • Louisiana Supreme Court upholds 195-year-old sodomy law; New York governor signs new hate crimes law
p 17

WORLD • Azerbaijan legalizes gay male sex; pride parade horrifies Vatican
p 18

ENTERTAINMENT & CULTURE

FILM • Three new movies with queer content
pp 33-34

BOOKS • Something for the bi-curious—his and hers
p 35

ART • Portland Art Museum wants to entertain you
p 37

THEATER • The cake man cometh
p 38

MUSIC • Katy spins four strong CDs
p 39

DIVERSIONS • Ladies gather; divas dish; Richard bares all
p 41

COLUMNS

MS. BEHAVIOR • Call the dogs off
p 31

MY QUEER LIFE • Buy the books!
p 43

COMMENTARY

BY MARTY DAVIS

Mothers, mourning and Mona

Revelations and realizations from the publisher

As I start to write the words for this column, my concentration is hampered by an incredible and nearly overwhelming pain in my right arm. I'm sitting here waiting to hear back from a doctor, I'm wondering if I should have someone take me to the emergency room, the pain is intense to the nearly intolerable level.

Yet even while using such dramatic words I can remain coolly calm about this.... It is, after all, my right arm, not my left, and I know it's not a heart-related condition. As much as I hate to admit it, I realize that I'm about to be taken down by the physical side effects of major overload and stress on my emotional being. The muscles in my neck and shoulders have simply gone rigid and taut, and the effects of this shoot down my arm and into my jerking, shaky, gray fingers. Excruciating pain caused by the simple act of tensing muscles. Wow, there go any and all butch points that I may have accumulated in the last few months. I'm letting my staff chase down doctors for me as I admit that I'm fighting a losing battle. As much as I want to reason the actuality of the situation away, as much as I want to use logic to make the pain vanish, my body is refusing to cooperate. "Deal with me now," the sharp, pointed spasms of pain demand.

The assault on my tense and tight muscles comes from many fronts. Having to accept the failure of a once-promising relationship can be externally trivialized, but internally the damage is far greater. The feelings of loss and anger, and even those of the more trivial annoyance, contribute greatly to my lack of well-being. This was not the way things were supposed to turn out. I'm not where I thought I would be.

The death of my mother last week created a set of circumstances that brought about not the traditional grief and bereavement but instead even more anger, intense frustration, legal impotence and near arrest in Curry County. The muscles grow tighter—can they actually go so tight as to crack and break? I fear that I'm about to find out.

My mother's death was expected, yet unexpected. My brother and I

spent a week with her; we left for our homes on Saturday, she died on Monday. As I write this I start to say I was not close to my mother, but that's not accurate. The truth is that my mother and I together were not close. The relationship, or lack thereof, involved both of us, it was not just about me. I am not at fault, I am not to blame. Prior to my mother's death, I knew I would not feel deep grief or loss; I was concerned, however, that I would feel guilt over not feeling the seemingly required grief and loss. I worried about how this would happen; how great would be the burden of guilt, what would it feel like, how would I cope, when would it end? Now I realize that this is not going to happen either. There is no cause for guilt. There is no burden to bear. I understand the circumstances of my relationship with my mother. I understand the reality, even while others might not. It is not for others to judge.

All mother-daughter relationships are not created equal. There

are as many diverse dynamics and circumstances as there are stars in the sky. My mother was 18 when I was born. That's very young to become a mother, both then and now. I don't know all the whys of what happened during those early years of my childhood, but I know it was my grandmother who loved me, raised me, nurtured me and cherished me more than any other person ever has. It is her death and her loss that I still mourn and grieve. More than 35 years have passed since her death, but I still cannot speak or think of her without tears. Indeed, I did have a close, loving relationship with a mothering figure; but, no, it was not with the woman who gave birth to me.

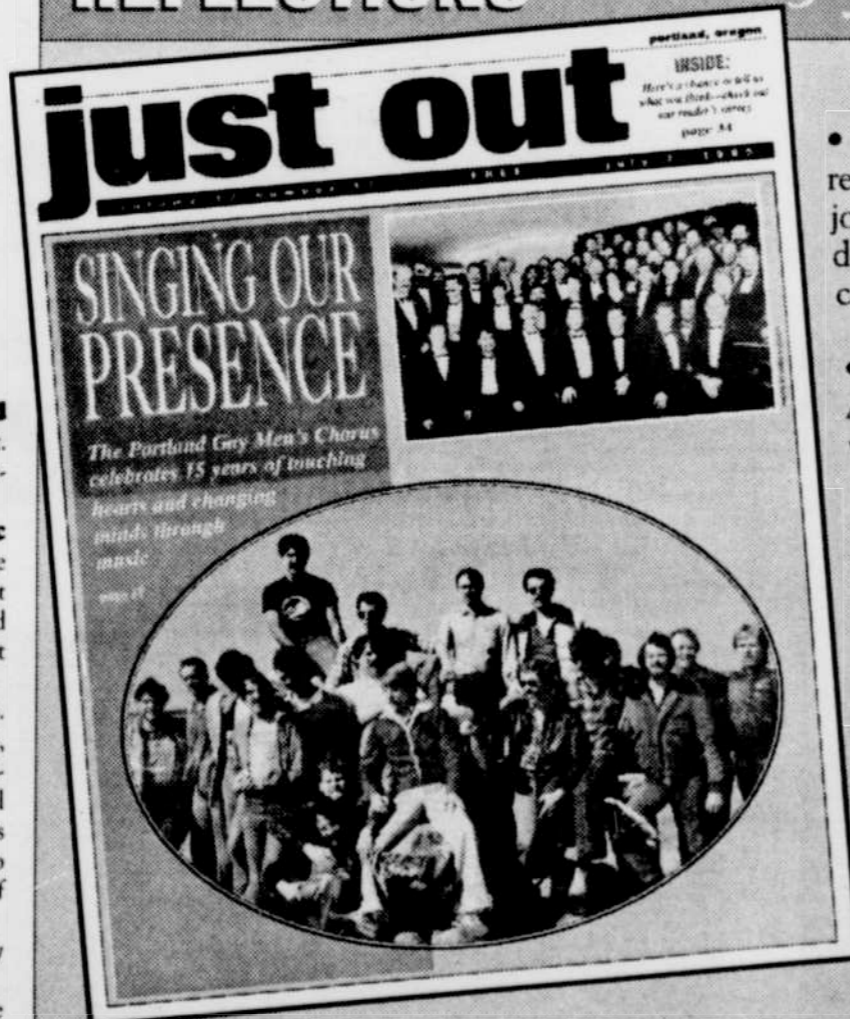
My mother left myself, my brother and sister in death on July 3. In life, she left us many, many years earlier.

I will not close this with an evangelical plea to cherish your mothers while they're alive. However, I am going to become uncharacteristically warm and fuzzy, albeit just for a moment. For more than 30 years I've had the best-ever of best friends, my friend Mona. When you've got a friend who stays put even as the sheriff drives up, you know you've got a friend! Thanks, Mona, for all the help and for always being there.

Prior to my mother's death, I knew I would not feel deep grief or loss; I was concerned, however, that I would feel guilt over not feeling the seemingly required grief and loss.

REFLECTIONS

5 years ago in **just out**... VOL. 12 No. 17, JULY 7, 1995



- The Colorado newspaper *Out Front* reported May 31 that the Adolph Coors Co. joined the ranks of corporations offering domestic partner benefits to same-sex couples.

- The Employment Non-Discrimination Act was reintroduced in Congress in June, with 10 more co-sponsors than when it was introduced in the previous session. The legislation sought to prohibit job discrimination based on sexual orientation. Conspicuously absent from the list of supporters were Sen. Mark Hatfield and Reps. Jim Bunn and Wes Cooley.

- *Out* invaded cyberspace. In June, the magazine launched *Out.com*, the first commercially sponsored queer site on the Internet.

- Kent, Wash., was the site for the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Association's Catch the Spirit World Series. About 4,000 gay and lesbian softball players were expected to pump more than \$4 million into the local economy.

- Community activist and arts advocate William R. Jamison Jr. died June 21 of AIDS-related illnesses. He was 49.

- Portland resident Barry Pack was named executive director of Right to Privacy, an Oregon gay and lesbian political organization.

- Don Horn's Triangle Productions was a big winner at the Drammys on June 19. *Falsettos* captured the top two awards for a musical production.

PUBLISHER AND MANAGING EDITOR • Marty Davis

ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR • Oriana Green

COPY EDITORS • Christopher D. Cuttone, Jim Radosta

STAFF REPORTERS • Katy Davidson, Jonathan Kipp

CONTRIBUTORS • Marc Acito, Kristine Chatwood, Meg Daly, Michael Thomas Ford,

Andy Mangels, Christopher McQuain, Glenn Williams, 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 MASTER • Kevin Moore

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT • Melissa Saylor

OFFICE MANAGER • Melissa Saylor

DISTRIBUTION • Jerilyn Adams, Michael Albright, Kathy Bethel, Jody Boyer, Jennifer Davidson, Merid Schwartz, Ruth Traut, Larry Williams

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.