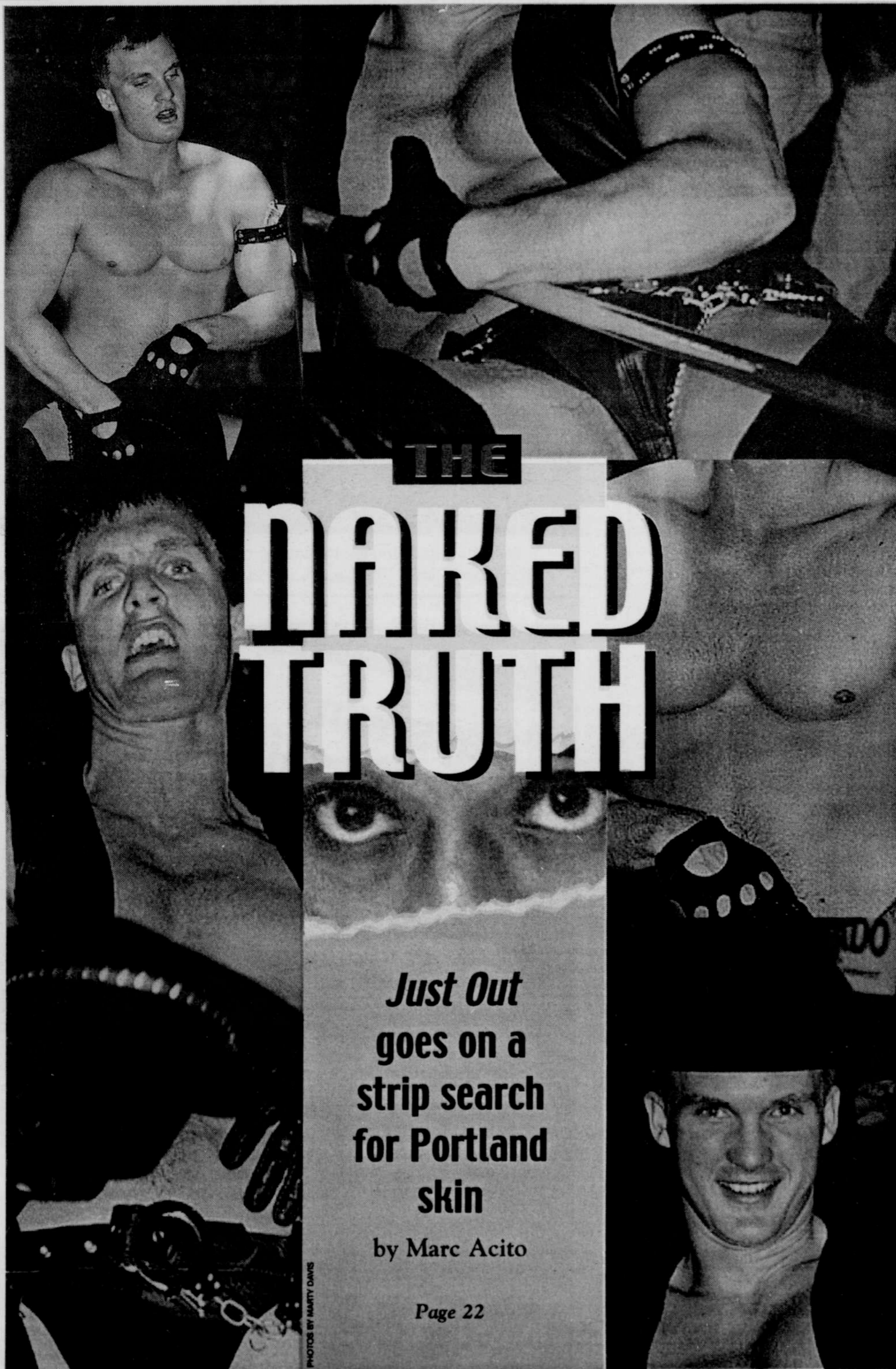


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THE NAKED TRUTH

Just Out
goes on a
strip search
for Portland
skin

by Marc Acito

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PHOTOS BY MARTY DAVIS

Derry, Derry, quite contrary

School board member sticks his foot in his mouth—and can't seem to get it out

BY JIM RADOSTA

Portland Public Schools board member Derry Jackson has refused to resign despite a loud outcry after he told a newspaper last month, "I see the Jews running everything." He later claimed the comments were intended as a compliment to the Jewish community.

This isn't the first time Jackson has offended a minority group. Just three months ago he was at the forefront of the failed effort to return military recruiters to the halls of Portland's public schools.

According to Jackson, the achievement gap affecting inner city schools outweighed the discriminatory "don't ask, don't tell" policy banning openly gay men and lesbians from serving their country. During that ordeal he sent an e-mail to board member Sue Hagmeier, saying homosexuality is a "behavior" as opposed to race, which is determined at birth.

"I do not see the Jews struggling to get over the achievement gap. I do not see the Jews struggling to feed their families.... In fact, I see the Jews running everything."

—Derry Jackson

"Some may choose to live this life [homosexuality] over some other options," Jackson told *Willamette Week*. "I also believe that someone's lifestyle choice should not be the grounds for expulsion from any organization. I'm talking about gays or lesbians, for example. Someone who's lesbian shouldn't be removed from the military because that's who they choose to be."

Jackson has made a habit of sending such mixed messages to the community. Since he was appointed to fill a board vacancy in 1999, he has attended several forums organized by left-wing activists to discuss police brutality. But since his March election, his politics seem to have taken a sharp turn to the right.

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