

just out

The IN publication for the OUT population

FOUNDED 1983 • JAY BROWN AND RENÉE LACHANCE
Vol. 19 No. 7 February 1, 2002

FEATURE

QUEERING THE STAGE: The state of queer theater has never been better
p 26

NEWS

NORTHWEST • Volunteers compiling lesbian health directory; Corvallis resource center opens; Beaverton men fight for human rights
pp 6-19

NATIONAL • Liar, liar, pants on fire
pp 21-23

WORLD • Is a Russian serial killer on the loose?
pp 24-25

CULTURE

ART • Couple's creations commemorate commitment
p 37

CULTURE • The Fetish Masquerade Ball returns
p 39

FILM • *Punks stunk*; *Story* achieves glory
p 40

BOOKS • Sex writers cum to town
p 41

MUSIC • Sarah Dougher does it again
p 43

DIVERSIONS • *Queer Duck* ruffles feathers; Scopitones come to Clinton Street Theater; Wild Abandon turns 7
pp 44-45

FILM • International festival is reely gay
p 46

COLUMNS

MS. BEHAVIOR • Hostile bisexual needs therapy
p 35

OUT LOUD • A Valentine's Day reflection
p 47

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARC • That's all, folks!
p 49

SPECIAL

EATING OUT • Let someone else cook tonight
pp 36, 38

JUST FRIENDS • Free voice personal ads
p 50

just out is published on the first and third Friday of each month. Copyright © 2002 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.

Distribution policy: Just Out is available free of charge, one copy per person. Just Out is delivered only to authorized distributors. No person may, without prior written permission from Just Out, take more than one copy. Any person who takes more than one copy may be held liable for theft, including but not limited to civil damages and/or criminal prosecution.

Subscriptions are \$22.50 for 12 issues. First Class (in an envelope) is \$40 for 12 issues.

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

COMMENTARY

BY MARTY DAVIS

The sidewalks of Portland

Together, we can create a safe and secure haven for all

A few days ago I was surprised to find myself doling out a miserly handful of coins to one of those unfortunate folks who stand at the freeway entrance holding a makeshift cardboard sign while silently imploring passersby to scoop out loose change.

This is an interesting ritual. There is this seemingly understood code that those standing on the sidewalk and those sitting in the cars communicate while never speaking—never, ever making eye contact and seldom acknowledging the other person actually exists—except for those rare and brief moments when a window goes down and a hand hastily extends a bit of comfort.

I pass by these people many times a day and seldom pay heed. I have developed Urban Plight Immunity Syndrome.

This particular day I faltered from my resolute pattern not because of noble and generous feeling toward fellow mankind but rather because it was pouring, and the guy was standing there with his dog—the saddest, wettest, most pathetic-looking dog I'd seen since the last time it rained and someone stood on this corner with a pet as a shield.

So, lest you were starting to think I was having a moment of breakthrough humanity, the unfortunate truth is I most often place greater value on the well-being of the dog than I do on the sodden human companion. You see, I can rationalize that the person probably made bad life decisions to explain his circumstances, whereas the dog never had a damn choice at all about deciding to sit in the rain on the side of the freeway.

The homeless are everywhere we look and everywhere we refuse to look. They are constantly in our face, yet they remain invisible.

Although I am far from becoming an advocate for the homeless, I can see clearly they are the next community of people who face victimization from "mainstream" society. And while I can be as uppity as the next person about the unsightliness of their habits and their ways, I am nonetheless appalled at the recently proposed city regulation making it illegal for "certain" types of people, engaged in "certain" types of behaviors, to sit on sidewalks.

Illegal to sit on sidewalks? Come on now, let's think about this. Is this how we want to see other people treated? Is this right?

Prohibiting certain types of people from sitting on sidewalks will do nothing more than protect the comfort level of those who never have nor ever will have to sit on a sidewalk. Send a letter or an e-mail; make a call to the Portland City Council. This is not a good piece of business for our city.

Keep in mind it wasn't that many years ago gay men and lesbians in Portland weren't treated much better than the way we now view the homeless, the newest victims of elitism, oppression and economic bigotry. Whereas

today the police sweep the homeless camps, not that many years ago they conducted raids on public restrooms looking to roust out yesterday's public enemy: the homosexual. The fact is, in many cities cops still do this, but no longer so often in Portland, where we have achieved a highly positive profile.

Looking at our history, it wasn't too long ago when the city was far less than the safe and secure haven it is now. During those earlier days—of the Portland Town Council, Keeston Lowery and Sanford Director—the Lesbian Community Project was formed to provide support and understanding for struggling women.

Nearly 20 years later, after dealing with finances, staffing, growth, lack of growth and a multitude of issues and problems, LCP is still here. When viewing the rich tapestry of this organization's history, surely the events of the past few weeks will stand out as one of the more colorful sections of the yet-unfinished weave.

During this brief span of time LCP came under attack not from the Oregon Citizens Alliance, not from other right-wing groups, not from an outside enemy but rather from within.

And I'm happy to report to you the attacks came and went quicker than a Mariah Carey movie, and today the organization remains strong and viable, although, of course, perpetually in need of membership, funding and volunteers. On a positive note, I'm sure this most recent incident resulted in a renewed commitment to dust off the bylaws and tend to a little necessary housecleaning.

Now, if I may, a few gentle words to other nonprofits in our community. Yes, you're all very busy; yes, you're juggling jobs and lives and volunteer work; yes, you assume you're all on the same side and working for the common goals of your organization. But now and then you need to stop and check in with yourselves.

Are you on track? Are you meeting your own missions and objectives? Is dissent from within being addressed and handled or allowed to seethe and explode?

Can your organization withstand scrutiny from outside and possibly even from within? If you're not sticking to the letter of your bylaws, then either revise them to reflect changing times or get your group back in focus. We don't need any more behaviors like those seen recently.

LCP has had a turbulent couple of weeks. But it emerged with a stronger board, a renewed sense of commitment and I suspect an awareness of needs that had gone unmet.

Now, if we can, let's skip the fighting among ourselves and get on with the business at hand, which is obtaining full civil rights for all gay, lesbian, bi and trans folks and making the world a safer and better place for all (including those who call the sidewalks home). ☐

Illegal to sit on sidewalks? ...Is this how we want to see other people treated?

REFLECTIONS

10 years ago in just out ..

VOL. 9 NO. 4, FEBRUARY 1992



• The World Health Organization has deleted homosexuality from its International Codex of Diseases. The new codex will be published Jan. 1, 1993.

• Describing it as a "heroic" feat, the conservative Oregon Citizens Alliance submitted 22,875 signatures for its initiative designed to overturn Portland's civil rights ordinance banning discrimination based on sexual orientation.

• Despite occasional rumors about financial instability, the Oregon Citizens Alliance was named one of the top-spending political action committees for 1990. A recent state report lists the group as the state's fifth biggest-spending PAC that year. The OCA reportedly spent \$215,274 on the 1990 legislative races.

• Mica Smith, Cascade AIDS Project board chairman, has been hired as its new executive director. He replaces Paul Starr, who resigned because of declining health.

• The first conference of the Northwest Old Lesbians Organizing Committee took place last month in Tumwater, Wash. Mary Brady, a 60-year-old active in the Portland Lesbian Choir and Lesbian Community Project, attended.

• Phoenix Rising Foundation is facilitating the process to create a lesbian and gay community center for the Portland metro area. Its volunteers are acting as ambassadors and inviting lesbian and gay groups to join in the process. The board of Phoenix Rising hopes these groups will devise a joint plan to lease or buy space to build a center.

• Author Mary Ann Humphrey joins Lanny Swerdlow as co-host of *Nightscene*, a Portland Cable Access program. Her book, *My Country, My Right to Serve*, is the first oral history about the experiences of gay men and lesbians in the military.

• Ten Oregon authors, poets and playwrights are recipients of 1991 Institute of Literary Arts fellowships. Three of the talented 10 are Portland lesbians Anndee Hochman, Judith Barrington and Andrea Carlisle.

PUBLISHER AND MANAGING EDITOR • Marty Davis
NEWS EDITOR • Jim Radosta
CULTURE EDITOR • Lisa Bradshaw
CONTRIBUTORS • Marc Acito, Kronda Adair, Meryl Cohn, Darklady, Katy Davidson, Susan Detroy, Oriana Green, Heather Hybarger, Sarah Leimert,

Patricia L. MacAodha, Christopher McQuain, Gary Morris, Hadley Scott, Sally Sheklow, Tom Stevenson, Rex Wockner
ADVERTISING DIRECTOR • Meg Grace
ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES • Markie Acedo, Larry Lewis
NATIONAL ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE • Rivendell

Marketing Company Inc., 212-242-6863
PRODUCTION DIRECTOR • Kevin Moore
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT • Melissa Saylor
OFFICE MANAGER • Melissa Saylor
DISTRIBUTION • Ian Drake, Rick Geiger, Kelly Keigwin, Bonita Mattinson, Merid Schwartz, Becky Warner, Melissa Weigand, Carla Wright