

California, here we come

Now that San Francisco allows same-sex marriage, will Portland follow suit?

Wow! That's about as eloquent as I can be regarding the marathon of same-sex marriages that is going on in San Francisco. At last count the number was something close to 3,000 couples, with lines still forming and applications still being requested. Across the nation editorials are being frantically penned and newspaper articles are stacking to the ceiling—or filling hard drives, as the case might be. The endless stream of e-mail is filled with quotes, opinions, legalities, fervor and furor.

Will other cities, counties, municipalities follow suit? Chicago Mayor Richard Daley says he supports the idea of same-sex marriage and basically tossed the decision back on his county clerk. Will Chicago be the next major city to break down the barriers to same-sex marriage? I wouldn't count on Portland following suit anytime soon. It would be a grandiose gesture for outgoing Mayor Vera Katz—quite the legacy to leave behind. The problem with that idea, though, is that the city doesn't issue marriage licenses, Multnomah County does. And you know, somehow I don't see County Chair Diane Linn making such a bold move at this time. With her career already taking a sudden veer toward fast food management, it doesn't seem likely that she'll be so emboldened anytime soon.

Absolutely no one at this time knows what will come of the San Francisco marriages. Will they be legal? Will they continue? Stay with *Just Out* for further details.

The second major news story of this week is the end of the Howard Dean presidential campaign. What a stunning turn of events. From frontrunner to "outta here" in, what, less than a month? While Dean will clearly not be leading the attack against President Bush, he is to be given credit for awakening the passions of a lackluster Democratic Party and for forging a viable path to victory in November.

Oregon Democrats will have no say in the nomination, as the decision will have been made prior to our late May primary—our hope now is that the other states select well for us. At this point John Kerry would seem to be on his way to sealing the nomination, but I still wouldn't rule out "nontraditional" events happening at the convention. Who has the best shot at beating Bush? John Kerry? Al Gore? Hillary Clinton? Right now the president is leading the way by ambitiously working to defeat himself; let's all encourage him in his efforts.

June will find our community facing the end of a legacy. The 18th annual Peacock in the Park will be the final staging for this event. The

reasons behind this decision are valid, varied and vast. The event, in some ways, falls prey to its own success. It has become too big, too popular and too overwhelming for the small yet determinedly dedicated volunteer coordinators and board to manage.

Please don't doubt for a minute that this decision was anything but painful for the coordinators. Their emotional dedication to Lady Elaine Peacock is beyond question. Their dedication and years of work is to be honored. The spirit, the goals, the principles will continue.

I will feel the loss of Peacock in the Park because it is a traditional and a meaningful part of our Portland culture, legacy and social structure. In these rapidly changing days—days bringing wondrous acceptance and assimilation—we also face losing sight of the value of the keystones of our gay heritage. Peacock in the Park is one of these keystones, and we should all be keenly aware that the loss of this event is a significant erosion of continuity and permanence in our community.

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While saddened by the loss of Peacock, my reflections on community were buoyed by the recent *Vive la Compagnie!* concert presented by the Portland Gay Men's Chorus. This musical masterpiece was attended by more than 700 people and was filled with the powerful voices of the choir and of our community. I love those sing-alongs! The audience was a glorious mix of friends, family and community and was a celebration of who we are. Former Oregon Gov. Barbara Roberts was honored for her years of work on behalf of civil rights for all people. The reception that she received from the audience was a delight to behold. We must never fail to honor those who paved the way for the events that are happening today.

Gay men and lesbians are getting married in San Francisco today because Roberts, and others like her, worked for us yesterday.

Finally, a thank-you and a goodbye. The thanks goes to former *Just Out* staffer Melissa Sexton-Sayler, who stepped in and aided us with the production of this issue while another staff person needed to be away with family. The goodbye comes as Erin Sexton-Sayler leaves us to pursue her graduate studies. She has been a valuable and energetic part of the staff, and it's been a pleasure and an education to have worked with her. With her departure we welcome Kari Tate to *Just Out* along with former freelance writer Meg Daly, who has joined us full time as Features Editor.

These are heady times. History is swirling about us. While celebrating and rejoicing, do keep a vigilant look to the right. It's not yet time to dismiss the guard. **JM**

just out

The IN publication for the OUT population

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REFLECTIONS

10 years ago in *just out*... VOL. 11 NO. 8, FEB. 18, 1994



• Nearly 31 years after the murder, Byron De La Beckwith, 73, was convicted in the killing of civil rights leader Medgar Evers. Beckwith, a white supremacist, avoided conviction twice before when all-white juries deadlocked in 1964.

• Brandon Teena, a resident of Humboldt, Neb., and two friends, Lisa Lambert and Phillip DeVine, were found murdered in Teena's farmhouse on New Year's Eve. Teena, a cross-dressing lesbian, moved into the farmhouse last fall. Born a female, she lived and identified herself as a male.

• The Cascade AIDS Project administration has discovered that bills, including rent, health insurance, telephone and grant payments, have gone unpaid during the past several months. All together CAP owes about \$120,000. Attorney Ben Merrill was appointed by the board to conduct an independent investigation.

• For the past 3 1/2 months, the Lesbian Community

Project has been engaged in a search to find a new executive director following the departure of Donna Red Wing. The search is over, and the new LCP executive director is LaVeme Lewis.

• Oregon Gov. Barbara Roberts announced Jan. 28 that she will not run for a second term as governor. She cited family illness and the challenges of her position as the reason for her decision. Robert's husband, former state Sen. Frank Roberts, died of cancer last October. During her career, Roberts has been a champion of civil rights for all people, including sexual minorities.

• The 1994 Gay and Lesbian Pride parade and rally has been set for July 9, said Eric Brown, interim chairman of Stonewall Northwest-Gay and Lesbian Pride, which is organizing the event. The celebration is set for later than past years because of lack of early coordination and funds.

• Last Friday Videos at Widdershins features *Salmonberries*, starring k.d. lang in her big-screen debut, Feb. 25.

• Finally! Portland's premier lesbian nightclub has found a permanent home. Don't miss the Feb. 18 grand opening of Code Blue, now open every Friday and Saturday.

PUBLISHER AND MANAGING EDITOR • Marty Davis
NEWS EDITOR • Jim Radosta
ARTS AND CULTURE EDITOR • Lisa Bradshaw
FEATURES EDITOR • Meg Daly
CONTRIBUTORS • Marc Acito, Meryl Cohn, Jodi Darby, Chelsea Fine, Christopher McQuain, Gary

Morris, Eric Plemons, J.B. Rabin, Bob Roehr, Floyd Sklaver, Rex Wockner
ADVERTISING DIRECTOR • Larry Lewis
ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE • Pam Colton
ADVERTISING ASSOCIATE • Kari Tate
GRAPHIC DIRECTOR • Kevin Moore

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT • Zanne deJanvier
DISTRIBUTION • Kristine Ashton, Allison Benn, Ed Carder, Ashley Conley, Darren Linder, S & E Distributors