

Addicted to love

What were they growing on that land in southern Oregon 15 years ago?

My admiration for the women of southern Oregon continues to grow. They are indeed an intriguing community. They have WomanSource, they have a newsletter, they have a gathering. These powerful women share history, leadership, commitment and strong bonds going back many a year. Sometimes I wish I could have been there at the beginning 30-some years ago, and sometimes I wish I could be there now. But mostly, after compiling the latest installment of "Reflections" (see below), I think I really would have liked to have been in southern Oregon 15 years ago.

Just imagine: Many of these women were living on the land, building houses, living without electricity and water, rearing children, writing books and raising feminist Cain. These women shared land, energy, toil, tears and, apparently and enthusiastically, each other. In 1989 *Just Out* listed the group "Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous" for lesbians and other women in the Rogue Valley.

The Rogue Valley sex and love addicts—who knew? Enough women in southern Oregon with overactive libidos to warrant having meetings. Wow. What were they growing on those acres? Whatever did they bring to the potlucks? And, most importantly, what happened to these women? Did they have a few meetings and then all run off with each other? Did they finally just get plain tuckered out? Is there any chance of a reunion? What did happen to the Sex and Love Addicts of the Rogue Valley? There's a story waiting to be told here. I just know there is.

Closer to home, the weekend of June 18 to 20 marks the beginning of Pride celebrations in Portland and southwest Washington. With good weather in the forecast, I think it's safe to say there will be a party or two going on this weekend. While you're out, please stop by the *Just Out* booth at Waterfront Park and say hello to us. We're always happy to hear your comments and concerns. We'll also have Oregon voter registration cards for everyone who's newly 18, changed their address, new to town or simply hasn't yet gotten around to registering.

This Pride season, please remember to show financial support for the gay and lesbian business owners who sponsor Pride and many other events throughout the year. These folks consistently support the community by giving back over and over again. The past year was

especially tough for many of our small independents. Our community lost Radiance, Chez What and Wild Life. And, unfortunately, I am privy to knowledge of others in similar dire financial straits. These folks are the ones who asked over and over for donations and sponsorships, and it's their continued support that helps provide a firm foundation for our community. Would there even be a Sensory Perceptions film festival without the ongoing generous support of Celia Lyon and Terri Popejoy at Bella Casa Realty? Maybe, maybe not. We're lucky in Portland to have political activist leaders who provide energy and leadership. We're lucky also to have business owners who provide the funding. Thus the momentum continues for 35 years—still counting and still proud. Give your money to those who give it back.

Sharing *Just Out's* booth space will be Sam Adams, candidate for Portland city commissioner. He promises to be around for the whole weekend, and this is your opportunity to meet the man who

we all need to continue to work to elect. Bring him your questions about budget issues, low-income housing, urban density, homeless folks or, what the hell, just bring him a cold beer. Politicians get thirsty, too. Do you think he drinks that beer?

As you probably all recall, Adams was for many years chief of staff for Mayor Vera Katz. Throughout her long political career she has been an ardent ally and supporter of the gay, lesbian, bi and trans community. Well, Katz began chemotherapy treatment June 14 after she learned that a polyp discovered during an examination contained a form of cancer known as adenocarcinoma. It's been reported that the initial chemo treatments were a little rough and that Katz, all the while planning her return to work, has been feeling a little under the weather. So,

let's do what we can to cheer her up. Now it's our turn to offer her support and encouragement, just as she has provided it to us all these many years. We'll have a big "get well" card at our booth, and we'd love to have hundreds, maybe even thousands, of well-wishers stop by and sign it. *Just Out* staff will then see that the mayor receives the card and knows that the gay community was thinking of her during our 2004 Pride celebration.

All righty then, see you downtown, smile when I take your picture, and don't forget your sunscreen. **JM**

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REFLECTIONS

15 years ago in *Just Out*... VOL. 6 NO. 8, JUNE, 1989



- The recently formed Right to Privacy Foundation announces the first in a series of dinner forums June 22. Multnomah County Commissioner Gretchen Kafoury will speak on "20 Years After Stonewall." Admission to the forum is \$15 a person and includes dinner.

- Cascade AIDS Project has undergone several changes recently. The board of directors has voted to remove Mike McGowan as board chairman. Also, Tom Koberstein, executive director for the past three years, has announced his intention to resign.

- On June 30, 1986, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that gays and lesbians have no right to engage in same-sex relations in the privacy of a bedroom (or anywhere else) under the U.S. Constitution. Justice Byron White wrote the majority opinion in *Bowers vs. Hardwick*. Justices William H. Rehnquist, Lewis F. Powell, Sandra Day O'Connor and Warren Earl Burger joined. Justices Harry Blackmun, Thurgood Marshall, William J. Brennan Jr. and John Paul Stevens dissented. Gays and lesbians across the United States will join together June 30, 1989, in the spirit of Blackmun's dissent, to protest the

Supreme Court's adherence to religious persecution.

- Come show your support for the first gay and lesbian float at the Starlight Parade on June 3 in downtown Portland. Purchase light sticks at A Woman's Place Bookstore and wave them when the float passes.

- Portland Frontrunners presents its Stonewall Commemorative Run on June 11. This 10-kilometer and two-mile fun run is immediately followed by a no-host buffet.

- KBOO-FM presents a special day of Gay Day programming June 16. Hosted by Linda Shirley and Howie Baggadonutz, the program will include news, music, comedy and interviews.

- Come to a Jewish Women's Feminist and Lesbian Potluck and Discussion on June 25. The topic this time is "Exploring Our Feelings About the Middle East."

- Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous is for lesbians and other women in the Rogue Valley.

- Fine Young Cannibals have broken through in a big way with "She Drives Me Crazy." The regular 7-inch single is fine, but the extended 12-inch is just that much better.

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