



Maupin, 62, plans to marry Christopher Turner, 34, in Vancouver, British Columbia, after reading from *Michael Tolliver Lives* at an Equity Foundation benefit in Portland.

He ascribes the famous gay bitterness to "buying a lie that life is over at 30. I didn't know shit until I was at least 35! [Laughs] Even in the last decade I've learned a lot of things that have made my life easier because I've let go."

This includes learning about relationships. *Just Out* learned that after his appearance Feb. 15 as Equity Foundation's featured guest at the seventh annual Investments in Dignity Awards, Maupin and his 34-year-old partner, Christopher Turner, plan to continue up the coast to Vancouver, British Columbia, where they will be married. "We've considered ourselves married for some time, and would be in a civilized country."

Of his relationship, Maupin says: "We're both deeply sentimental people who want the heart to come first. I think there's a certain courtesy and kindness about Christopher that I find compatible with my own."

"I think gay men of any age come to conclusions about what is important and what should be a deal breaker and not a deal breaker. These are all exam-

"People... would say it was a good thing I hadn't continued writing Tales, because Michael would be dead by now. One day I looked around at all the people who weren't dead, and realized that all these people had made a very valiant effort to remain alive for a very long time. I thought that was worthy of celebration and examination."

—Armistead Maupin

ined in the book, including questions about the difference between fidelity and monogamy. How wide should you open a relationship before there's nothing there at all? I can't speak for women except through my own empathy, but I think men in general decide that they have to make contracts with each other that accommodate their maleness.

"If this other person is truly the primary relationship in your life, and you are devoted to making that clear every moment, then you are far less likely to hurt each other when the opportunity comes to play with someone else. I had trouble with this for many years. So did Michael. Getting strict monogamy tangled up with fidelity."

Maupin tells how Michael resolves it: "He says to his younger partner, Ben, before they decide to be a couple, 'You're too young to be monogamous, and I'm too old.' How they come to terms with that—sexually and otherwise—is one of the themes of the book... I think I've handled it in my usual lighthearted fashion, and yet touched on some issues that are central to the relationship, whatever decision they make."

"I think there are a lot of people out there who haven't gotten over going to the baths and cruising online and have kept their hearts on ice because of it. And that's what saddens me. My partner, Christopher, observed that there are plenty of gay men of my generation who are terrified of sex in a long-term relationship. They don't know how to do it."

"I think it's possible to keep love and lust alive within a committed relationship, but it doesn't necessarily mean strict adherence to monogamy. I think that's the greater challenge—to not allow a passionate, loving relationship to be neutered by your situation, monogamous or messing around. Both things are perilous." 10

ARMISTEAD MAUPIN reads from his latest work, *Michael Tolliver Lives*, during the seventh annual Investments in Dignity Awards and Auction 5:30 p.m. Feb. 15 at Portland Center for the Performing Arts, 1111 S.W. Broadway. Tickets are \$65 from Ticketmaster. Proceeds benefit Equity Foundation.

Newly minted Portlander GEORGE WINBORN is a freelance writer, part-time rat terrier wrangler and partner to an outstanding pastry and baking student. You can reach him at gu@boymeetsword.com.

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