

# Little Men Who Have Adventures Together

Antique shopping trip unearths vintage treasure

**A** recent Sunday afternoon found me wandering the back roads and small towns of Yamhill County. I was on a hunt for treasures, and in Lafayette I found one. There, in a small locked and dark case, was a book waiting just for me. "Buy me, buy me," came the call as I walked by. And there was my new gem, *Queer People with Paws and Claws*.

The book was published in 1888, clearly at a time of different word meanings. At this time "queer" was used to describe that which was "odd and curious." Now possibly at that time being called queer would not have been to everyone's liking, but the connotation was still far different from the later usage of hatred and wrath that consumed the word in the mid-1900s.

The author of my new book, one Palmer Cox, is credited on the title page with a previous publication, *The Brownies, Their Book*. A Google search of Cox brings up a great deal of information, not the least of which is the fact that Cox's Brownies are "little men who have adventures together." Furthermore, because of the popularity of Cox's Brownies, one of the first popular hand-held cameras was named after them, the Eastman Kodak Brownie camera. The Wikipedia entry continues, "Each Brownie has a distinctive physical appearance: For example, one wears a top hat and monocle, another is dressed as a stereotypical Chinese peasant, yet another is dressed as a Red Indian chief in war bonnet."

Clearly what they're saying is that Palmer Cox—a great name, by the way—was also the founder of the original Village People.

My new treasure turns out to be one in a series of three books. The others are *Queer People, Such as Goblins, Giants, Merry Men and Monarchs* and *Queer People with Wings and Stings*.

I wonder what Palmer Cox, were he here today, would be writing about in 2007. My guess is that this gentle soul would simply throw up his hands in despair over the futility of battling political correctness in the world we live in now. The world is no longer kind toward "little men who have adventures together."

Somewhere, after 1888 and the time of odd and curious people, the world became a harsher place.

**T**he Human Rights Campaign and its rush to mobilize celebrities and other prominent people—in the name of the cause, of course—continues to irk me. Especially when the new spokesperson just happens to have a new book being published and promoted at the same time as his rise to national spokesperson status. It all seems to be very self-serving, on the part of the newly "outed" as well as HRC. Heaven help us if Paris Hilton decides that she's a lesbian this week. What will they make her national spokesperson for?

The struggle for gay civil rights has neither been won nor led by celebrities or athletes. The accomplishments and progress that we enjoy today are due to the hard work of grassroots activists who have dedicated years, not days and weeks, to achieving rights and equality for all of us. Again, I ask, where are the national

awards and kudos for the men and women who formed community-based organization, donated countless dollars and time, led marches, championed legislation and dedicated lives to the cause? As I ask the question, I also know that these same people did not do what they did with hopes of awards and acknowledgment. They toiled with passion and dedication. This does not mean, however, that they don't deserve thank-yous and accolades for jobs well done.

**G**ood news for photographers and those who love them. It is once again time for the *Just Out* Amateur Photo Contest. As with last year, the winners will have their photos and accompanying profiles featured in the June 15 Pride issue of *Just Out*. This issue will be distributed from our booth at the Portland Pride Waterfront Festival. This year, the rewards and the prizes are even better. All entries will be on display at Q Center, possibly throughout the entire month of July. The contest will award great Pacific Northwest weekend getaways to one winner in each of the following five categories:

- People
- Pets
- Travel
- Environment
- Abstract

In addition to the five grand prize winners, honorable mentions will be awarded for *Just Out* staff favorites.

All entries must be received at the *Just Out* office no later than May 29. Photos may be mailed to P.O. Box 14400, Portland, OR 97293-0400, or dropped off at 123 N.E. Third Ave. Suite 465. No electronic submissions will be accepted. The minimum size is 4 inches by 6 inches, with no maximum size requirements. As mentioned, all photos will be on display, so I encourage you to take the extra time to produce larger entries. It will be worth your time and effort.

Show us the world through your eyes. We look forward to seeing all your works.

**F**ebruary's Gay Skate was a rather stunningly high-energy event, with more than 350 in attendance. For those of you who enjoy this event, and those who might prefer something slightly less energetic, check out our partner event, Q Center Bingo. Bingo can be your first-Monday-of-the-month event, while Gay Skate holds down the third-Monday slot. Bingo offers laughter, prizes, serious competitiveness and the chance to simply be in the company of the lovely and witty Poison Waters. March 5 is the next bingo night; for additional information visit [www.pdxqcenter.org](http://www.pdxqcenter.org).



## reflections

15 Years Ago in *Just Out*... volume 9 number 5, march 1992

- Someone tossed a bomb in the stairway to Little Sister's Book and Art Emporium in Vancouver [British Columbia] last month. There were no injuries, but the explosion knocked books off shelves and damaged the stairs and walls at the gay-oriented shop. It was the third bombing at the store since 1983.
- A survey by the Gay London Policing Group found that 40 percent of gay men and 25 percent of lesbians have been physically assaulted because of their sexuality. Most of the attacks happened near gay bars. Half of the victims had been attacked more than once.
- Twelve AIDS activists, protesting the price of the AIDS-related drug Foscavir, blockaded the entrance to Astra Pharmaceutical Products in Westborough [Mass.]. Astra, a Swedish company, charges \$21,000 for a year's worth of Foscavir. It is one of the most expensive drugs in history.
- The four leading Democrats for the 1992 presidential nomination have agreed to sign legislation ensuring equal rights for gay men and lesbians.
- A Fred Meyer spokeswoman says an Oregon Citizens Alliance-sponsored boycott of the food store chain has thus far proved unsuccessful in forcing

the company to change its "pro-human rights" beliefs.

- Gay and lesbian activists are considering a boycott of Allan Bros. Coffee Co. following the company's refusal to carry *The Lavender Network* or *Just Out* at its coffee-serving establishments throughout Oregon.
- Winona LaDuke will be speaking on the quincentennial of Christopher Columbus' invasion of the Americas and what it means to Native American people. LaDuke, a member of the Ojibway people, is a longtime political activist and a member of the indigenous Woman's Network.
- The First Tuesday Coffeehouse celebrates its fourth anniversary with music by Mary Rose, Musica Femina, Sunny McHale, SkyeDancer, "passage" and Carol Steinel.



**FEATURE**

**20 HEY MR. DJ**  
Radio personality takes a brave step out of the closet

**NEWS**

**8-15 NORTHWEST**  
Midwife delivers options; garden gallery offers treasures; photographer makes us look good; Mr. Oregon Bear goes international; Our House holds auction; Equality riders plan trip; youth center fills void; county observes LGBT Health Awareness Week; trans conferences takes on work force; gender-fiction of Stark Street continues; gay rights litigation, legislation announced

**16-17 NATIONAL**  
Governator weak on marriage equality; lesbian legal team expands; donors endow sexual orientation law position; N.J. civil unions extend to married couples; victims of bullying protected by N.J. Supreme Court; gay rights pioneer Barbara Gittings dies

**18-19 WORLD**  
Putin respects gays, worries about birthrate; Ukrainian human rights chief denounces gays; Gaydar co-founder, chairman dies; Ontario sperm banks ban gay ejaculate; Colombian high court rules for gay couples; feds squash Australian civil union bill; transsexual MP quits; African gay paper celebrates 200th issue

**ARTS & CULTURE**

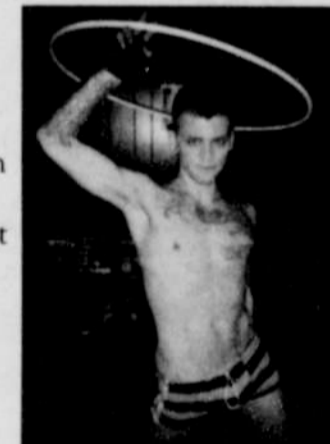
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Stars come out for Camp Starlight

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