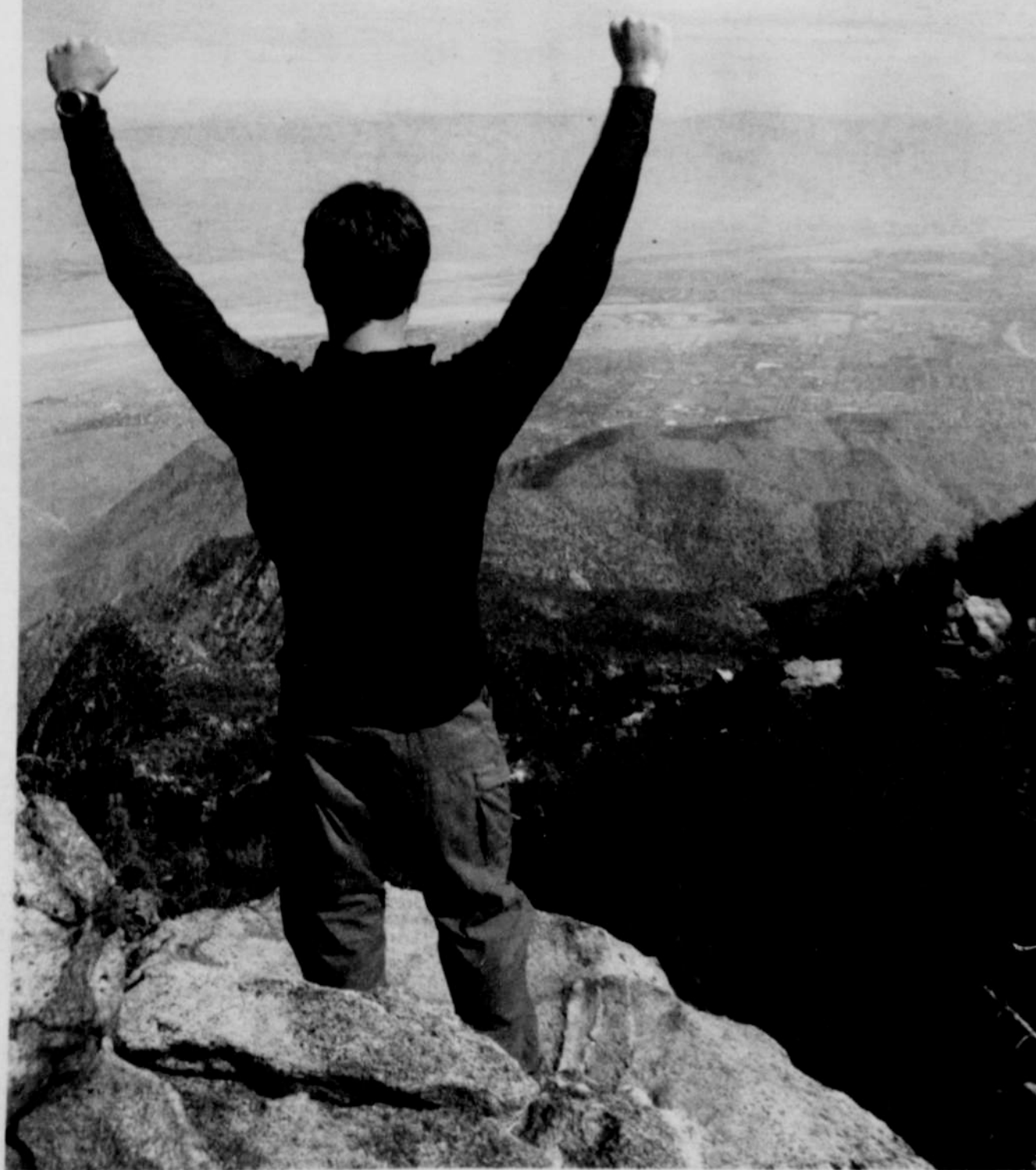


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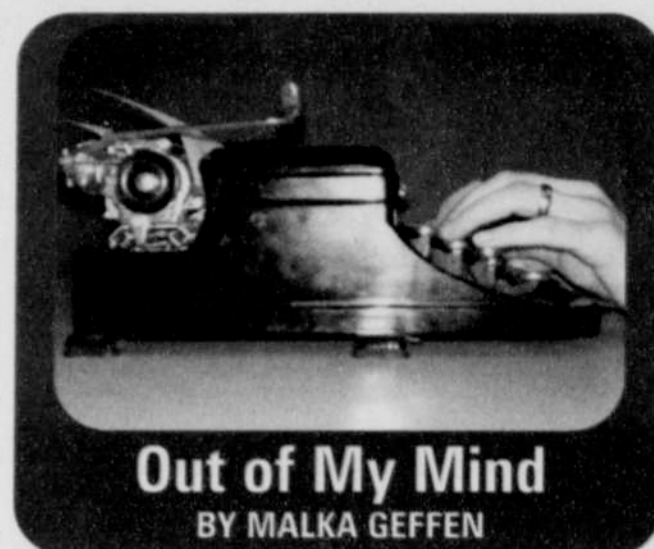
Tongue Untied

Who am I, and what is this column?

Soon after I was offered my own column in *Just Out*, I began harassing my friends and family for title ideas. "My Thoughts Exactly" was too long. "Purple Prose" was too alliterated and obscure. A friend in Texas suggested "Tongue Tied," which I physically happen to be. He also put forth "Ragtime," but I don't anticipate the column will be fraught with complaint. Some Super Bowl-watching straight friends recommended "The M Spot" and "Intercourse with Malka," which was the wife's favorite.

To my surprise, I received an e-mail from my mother with the subject line "Out of My Mind by Malka Geffen" in all caps. The message read: "What do you think? Daddy says that he concurs. It's a type of tongue in cheek but also can be taken literally. I won't feel badly if you choose something else. It was fun coming up with it."

There are two things that make this e-mail and my subsequent decision funny: My parents are both therapists and Jewish. Urban legend has it that children of therapists tend to be more skewed than the general public, hence "Out of My Mind." Cultural legend has it that Jewish parents will use reverse-psychology guilt to achieve their goals, hence "Out of My Mind."



Out of My Mind
BY MALKA GEFFEN

prepared, bank accounts were created, and benefit concerts were held. Being new to Portland's queer community, I have been so moved by these stories. They not only make me glad I chose to move here, but they teach me never to take my wonderful family of friends for granted.

Speaking of taking things for granted, I have a confession to make. Until very recently, I had not been to Portland's fabulous new queer community center. My new year's resolution was to get to Q Center and become a regular visitor. My first visit was for Poison Waters' bingo night. I will definitely be making this a monthly destination.



MARTY DAVIS

Poison Waters took my Q Center virginity at Bingo Night.

What has been on my mind as of late is community. I looked to my community for a way to label this column, but I turn to them, and them to me, for so much more. When I have a home repair project that's way out of my league, I call my super-dyke carpenter friend Jen. When she needs relief after straining her back on said project, I happily direct her to my massage therapist wife. It's a lovely give and take—one in which I magically have no responsibilities.

So then I began thinking about how this works on a larger scale. Since I've been working at *Just Out*, I reported on three members of our community who befell unfortunate circumstances. On Aug. 27, 2006, Vickey Chalfant lost her leg in a boating accident on the Columbia River. On Nov. 19, 2006, two-step instructor Sue Baker was badly hurt in a car accident. On Jan. 8, blues musician Sonny Hess came home from her first chemotherapy treatment to find her house had burned down. In all three cases, the community rallied together to show its support. Phone calls were made, dinners were

I not only won three games and great prizes, but I had the opportunity to sit in a big room surrounded by my people. I didn't get to talk to everyone, but I saw faces I hope to recognize at future community events and shared a good time for a good cause. Waters made her best jokes unintentionally and usually when bingo balls went flying. I recall one comment about "shoving back the balls" that got quite a raucous laugh. The playful flirting between Waters and Q Center board co-chairman Tim Healea, who assisted with ball placement, was adorable.

So now that I have this column, I plan to seek out the best queer culture and community Portland has to offer, filter it through my mind and share the results with you. More often than not, fun and funky ghosts of my past and personal life will pop in for the queer hilarity of it all. Hopefully you'll come to anticipate my particular take on the issues and my musings on life after the U-Haul. 10

Staff Writer MALKA GEFFEN has plenty of room in her head. Fill it by e-mailing malka@justout.com.