

by Marty Davis

Travel Oregon

Our state has mountains, deserts and an ocean—all within a day's reach

I'm not a great fan of summer. I put up with it because, well, I really have no choice. I never have and never will be a fan of hot weather. Stretches of sunny days make me ache for clouds and rain. Yet, give me an air-conditioned car and some travel articles with maps and I'll head joyously in any direction, at any time, for summer getaways and adventures.

The constraints of small-business ownership don't allow me to disappear for long periods of time; however, I long ago learned that Oregon offers a never-ending bounty of locales to visit and view. Even brief four- and five-day sojourns can be a marvel. Oregon offers her residents and guests mountains, deserts and an ocean—all within a day's reach.

While eastern Oregon calls to me most frequently, I am never one to turn down a trip to the coast. From Astoria to Brookings, I love it all. Well, actually, I despise Gold Beach, but that's another story for another day. Twice I've almost been arrested there. Seriously. I'll tell you about Gold Beach someday when I'm feeling calm. I may have to move to that place one day and take over as the lesbian mayor. It would be only fitting.

Over on Oregon's central coast, Lincoln City is putting out quite the welcome mat for the gay, lesbian, bi and trans community. Sure, a good part of the effort is about the dollars we bring on our travels. I am not naive to the concept of marketing. That's what business is about: promoting your products and your services and hoping for the best result. But Lincoln City, like every other destination, has choices, and Lincoln City is choosing to welcome us warmly to its community. I encourage you to accept its invitation.

Our central coast friends are even planning a specific Pride celebration. The inaugural Iris Festival will be held the weekend of Sept. 19 to 21. Festival coordinator Nichole Le Sage writes, "With Iris being the goddess of the rainbow and the messenger of peace, we feel she is the perfect symbol for Lincoln City's GLBTQ event." There you have it: It's not iris the flower, it's Iris, the goddess of the rainbow.

Promoters hope to be able to bring portions of the AIDS Memorial Quilt to Lincoln City for the Iris Festival. These panels, although sobering and thoughtful, should always be viewed when the opportunity arises. The quilt is a deeply thought-provoking tribute to the saddest chapter of our shared history.

Just Out will provide more details of the Iris Festival as they become available. Check our print edition as well as online at www.justout.com.

Here's my personal travel tip for Lincoln City. One of the most attractive

and overlooked hiking trails in the state can be found on the outskirts of the town. The Drift Creek Trail features an awesome waterfall, a suspension bridge and some of the best scenery to be found anywhere. Check it out.

When I head out on my adventures, I take on a bit of an evangelical persona. It's not that I can't leave work behind, it's just that, well, I can't leave work behind. Whenever I stay in a motel or eat in a restaurant, I leave a copy of *Just Out* behind. I imagine that most, if not all, are either recycled or thrown away, but I have this notion that maybe, just maybe, a copy will reach someone who needs it and wouldn't find it any other way. I recognize that the Internet has removed many of the barriers of isolation facing those who are gay and rural, but there's still nothing quite like a newspaper in your hand to foster a feeling of connection. Or so I like to think.

I'm not good at talking to strangers and tend to leave a trail of missed opportunity behind me everywhere I go. I recall one incident, in a small store over around Maupin. I stop in nearly every country store I come to. They are often stocked with fascinating items that I always want but never need. In this specific store there was a young woman—very young, 15, 16, who knows. But she had "baby dyke" written all over her. If you spent a weekend at the E Room, you wouldn't find a cuter and butchier-looking young girl. And here she was, out in the middle of nowhere. I wanted to talk to her. I wanted to know how she was, who she was, was she OK? Did she have folks who were good to her? Was she being taken care of? Did she know how to find the way to be who she was? I wanted to ask all these questions and give her a *Just Out* and let her know there were people out there just like her.

I did none of this. I second-guessed myself and pictured her discomfort if I was wrong. What if she was simply a county girl still in her tomboy phase? What if she already suffered torment and teasing from her peers? Wouldn't I possibly make her uncomfortable? I had no right to do that, well-intentioned or not.

I bought a bottle of water and left.

But I left knowing that if it had been me, when I was that age, when I was that young girl, that if anyone had taken the time to stop and look at me, to talk to me, to see me, I would have burst out in tears of sheer joy.

To be truthful, I still have days when I feel that way. As the outer body ages and wears, the needs of the inner child remain the same. Don't let anyone tell you anything different.

Enjoy your travels, and please share your stories with me when you return. ☺



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Four vacations within state lines

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8-15 NORTHWEST

Nike pulls "That Ain't Right" ad campaign; Equity Foundation beefs up staff; gay Washingtonians observe anniversary; Portland hosts international soccer tournament; *Just Out* dominates in "Papergate 2008!"; Pride marches on in Eugene; trans man works with queer homeless youth; gay leader hired as CEO of educational nonprofit

16-17 NATIONAL

"Don't ask, don't tell" repeal hearings under way; Bush leaves legacy with AIDS bill; McCain backpedals on gay adoption; Massachusetts opens marriage to out-of-state residents; anti-gay Oklahoma lawmaker brings gun to work

18-19 WORLD

Singer: No gays in Cuban Communist Party; large, violent attack on Budapest Pride; Wowereit welcomes Obama to Berlin; Moscow officials ban gay picket at Iranian Embassy; Lambda Istanbul eradicated by court; 120,000 at Vienna Pride; Italian man wins discrimination case; British army joins gay equality program

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Man on Wire documents one of the greatest pranks in history; infamous drag troupe exits in style with film parody, documentary

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reflections

15 Years Ago In *Just Out*... volume 10 number 18, august 1, 1993

• A former top health official in Oregon and Washington, as well as a professor of nursing and public health, Kristine Gebbie is now the nation's first federal AIDS czar. She was appointed to the post by President Clinton after the job was turned down by other candidates, including U.S. Rep. Jim McDermott, D-Wash., and New York Health Commissioner Margaret A. Hamburg.

• *The Oregonian* reported Oregon House Speaker Larry Campbell, R-Eugene, would not be seeking re-election to another term in office. He has been the main block to gay and lesbian legislation for the past two sessions of the House.

• The Metropolitan Human Rights Commission is seeking applicants for five three-year positions of the 15-member commission. The appointments are made by the mayor of Portland and the Multnomah County chair.

• The Oregon Citizens Alliance did not get

enough signatures to qualify for the ballot in Forest Grove. In preparing to fight the measure, the Forest Grove Human Rights Coalition put together educational information for the community. The coalition is going ahead with plans to print bumper stickers and buttons. In case the OCA tries again, the information will be available and the community will be prepared.

• The Portland Area Business Association welcomes state Rep. Gail Shibley, D-Portland, as guest speaker at its monthly luncheon. She is the first openly lesbian member of the Oregon Legislature and helped author the controversial House Bill 3500, designed to nullify local anti-gay-rights initiatives throughout the state.

• The Sexual Minority Roundtable with Chief Charles Moose is a time set aside to discuss

topics of interest to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities inclusively, as they pertain to the Portland Police Bureau. These are ongoing, informal discussions that take place in a relaxed atmosphere of mutual trust and respect.



• Stonewall Northwest invites you to a community meeting to express your ideas, thoughts and concerns about the 1993 Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade and Festival. Bring your ideas for next year's event as well!

• Bridges, Portland's lesbian and gay choral ensemble, is looking for a musical director and administrative coordinator for the '93-'94 season. There is some pay, but applicants would be working for the love of music and the gay, lesbian and bisexual community.