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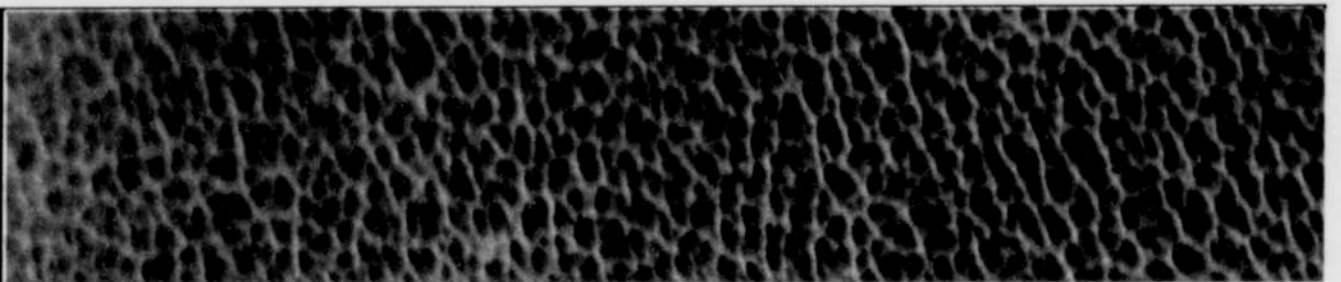
*Don't worry chief,
I will be all right.*



Valentino

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**JUST OUT WRITERS, FROM
A (ACITO) TO Z (ZUCKERMAN)**

*J*ow to break into mainstream media reporting, launch a globe-trotting pop music career and land a breakthrough book deal with a major-studio film option? Write for *Just Out*, of course.

It sounds that simple, anyway, from the way Marc Acito tells it. Acito, a former opera singer turned pencil-pusher, launched his gay humor column, "The Gospel According to Marc," from *Just Out* into national syndication in the early 2000s. At a book reading with transgressive gay novelist Chuck Palahnuik, Acito approached the author for an autograph. He got one, but also walked out with a new fan and supporter in Palahnuik, who helped him land an agent, which led to his first book deal.

"The only way Chuck would have known my writing was in *Just Out*," the award-winning author says of his big break. "I owe my entire writing career"—that's two published novels and a new play, *Holidazed*—"directly to *Just Out*."

Peter Zuckerman's experience was less glamorous. After dropping by the paper's office to offer up his help as an intern, Zuckerman—a Reed College student at the time—was handed two plum assignments: fact-checking *Just Out*'s OutReach page phone numbers, and delivering papers on circulation day. A *Just Out* cover story eventually emerged from the burgeoning journalist, and so did bigger prizes: Zuckerman went on to win a major award for his work at *The Idaho Falls Post-Register*, uncovering Boy Scout sex abuse. He's since returned to Portland, where he reports for *The Oregonian* and is acting president of Oregon's new chapter of the National Lesbian and Gay Journalism Association.

That jet-setting pop star, of course, is native son Thomas Lauderdale, who contributed news and columns to the paper prior to Pink Martini's stratospheric sail. Other early *Just Out* staffers, like Will O'Bryan (Entertainment Editor, 1995-2000) and Inga Sorensen (News Editor, 1991-1999), continued in the queer press. Some,

like Linda Kleiwer, Tim Joyce and Julie Sabatier, left print for new media pastures: Kleiwer for film and photography; Joyce is at Portland KOIN-TV; and Sabatier podcasts and produces for Oregon Public Broadcasting.

Although they've since left the gay press, do Acito and Zuckerman feel gay media is still necessary in the gay 21st century? "Absolutely," they both say, in separate interviews.

"I find that the breadth and depth of coverage is so much broader and deeper [in gay media] than that which you'll see in the mainstream media," erudite Acito says.

Zuckerman's raison d'être for queer media is much simpler: "Gay culture," he says, "is so fascinating!"

—Stephen Marc Beaudoin

HUMOR

Working out

A gay man's search for a gym

The gym. I'm not sure how it happened, but this history of muscularity and muscles has been at the epicenter of gay life for a generation. The message is clear: Those who get pumped get to pump others. As one who never liked the gym, I have only recently made my peace with this phenomenon. You see, in my senior year of college I had actually managed to convince myself that I was in reasonably good shape (they, round is a shape), despite the fact that my relaxed-fit years had gotten so relaxed they were practically comatose. I achieved this deluded state by following a strenuous regimen of resistance training. I resisted training every opportunity I could.

Then, quite by accident, I caught sight of my ass in a hotel mirror and practically needed to be sedated from the shock. Somehow my torso had begun to resemble a Star Pet. A homeless Star Pet at that. Thick and round of it, I signed up for a membership at 24 Hour Fitness, or perhaps in my case I should say 24 Hour Fatness.

Operating on the principle that if you want what someone has, do what they do, I chose a trainer with pecs so big he looked like he was wearing a life vest under his T-shirt. His name was Chuck, and he was big and au-pul, and I loved him for it. (I'm not a fan of the lean, chiseled look; I just don't think there's anything remotely sexy about resembling a pair of jeans.)



**THE GOSPEL
ACCORDING
TO MARC**

by Marc Acito

have put them on my knees where I could reach 'em.
So I tried out some of the swankier places—you know, the kind where you can play handball and get a massage—

Award-winning novelist and playwright Marc Acito got his start at *Just Out* in 2000.

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