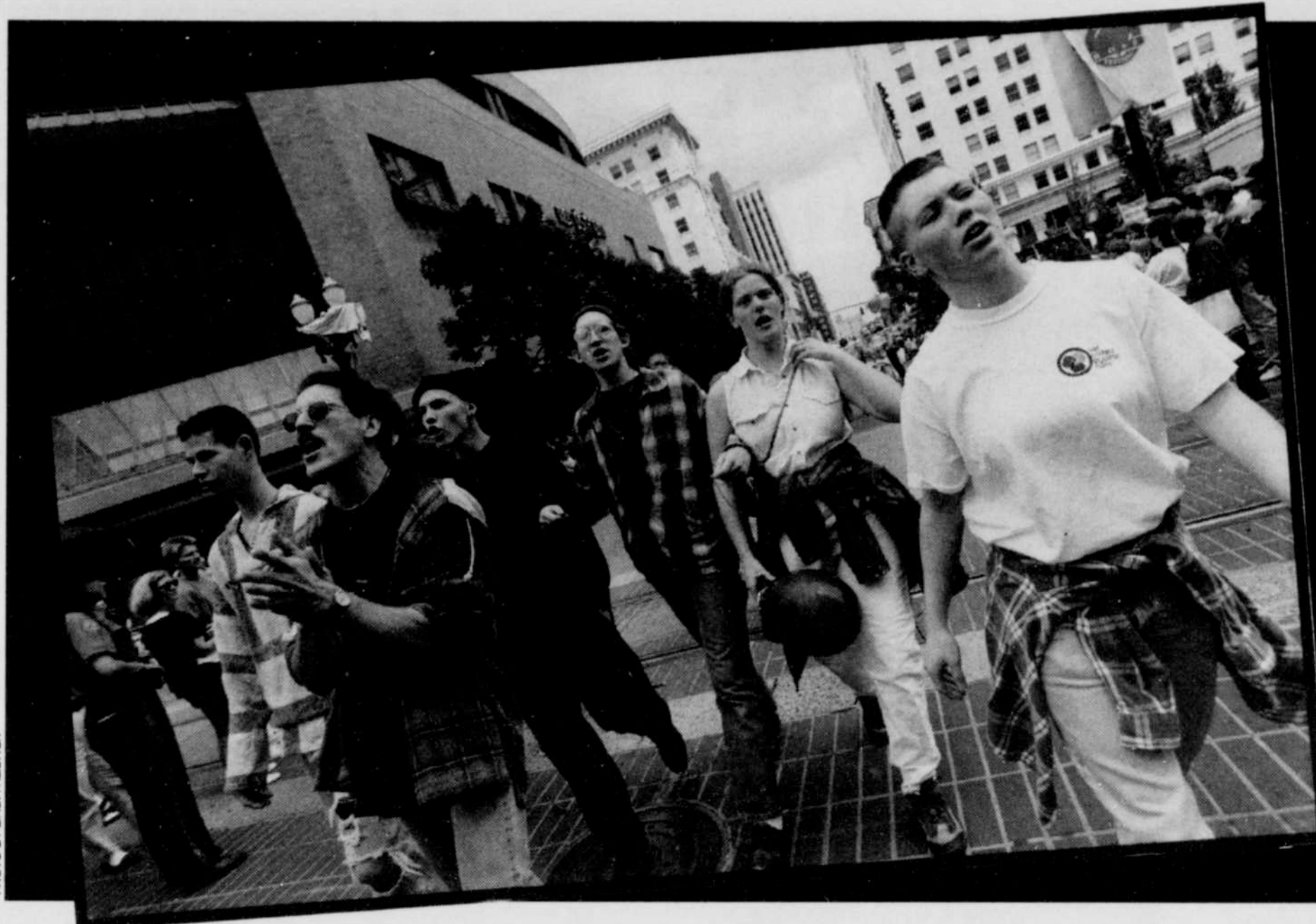


PHOTO BY LINDA KLEVER



# Smells Like QUEER SPIRIT

Hop on, it's time for Pride's wild ride: softball, schmoozing, dancing, eating, photo exhibits, flirting, marching and more

by Will O'Bryan

**T**wenty-eight years ago, the queerest of the queer blocked traffic, stomped on cars, hurled bottles and heels at New York City policemen and initiated what is regarded as the birth of the modern sexual-minority rights movement.

Some hints are in the air that Pride is upon us: **Leaving Silence: Queer Asian Oral History Exhibit** has taken up residence through June 19 at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, 5340 N Interstate Ave. (it moves to the Multnomah County Justice Center, 1120 SW Third Ave., from June 21 to July 18); photos hang in the Bonneville Power Administration Building Lobby, 905 NE 11th Ave., exhibiting **Love Makes a Family: Living in Gay and Lesbian Families**; and the biggest hint is—by the time many people read this issue—**Salem** will have already had its **June 7 Pride Parade**.

Portland's queer community has marked the

anniversary of the Stonewall season with a pride celebration for the past 21 years. So what's in store for this year's festivities, as presented by Pride Northwest Inc.?

For those who register high on the Portland Pride-o-Meter, celebrating can begin as early as Saturday, June 14. In the spirit of the Stonewall riots, again it's Queers vs. Cops, as the **Rose City Softball Association** takes on the **Portland Police Bureau** at Erv Lind Stadium, 1025 NE 57th Ave., at 1 pm. The only projectiles at this rumble are going to be line drives, so bring the kids. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for kids 12 or younger. Proceeds benefit Pride Northwest.

Saturday evening, **Rose City Swing** (sponsored by the Rose City Gay Freedom Band) presents its final dance for the 1996-97 season. The 16-piece ensemble with the big-band sound promises cabaret-style numbers as well as familiar standards. The show starts at 8 pm at the

Portland Police Athletic Association, 618 SE Alder St. Admission is \$10 at the door. For more information, call 790-2170.

**P**rideful Portlanders will have to hold their breath until Friday, June 20, when Pride weekend officially begins. A week of anticipation can be exorcised by letting off a little steam by joining the Lesbian Avengers for the **Dyke March**, which starts at 6 pm in the North Park Blocks. For more information, call 452-5408.

The fastest marchers may even make it to Waterfront Park (by the Burnside Bridge) by 6:15 pm for the **Opening Night Kick-Off Concert and Dance**. Basic needs will be met with food booths and a beer garden. Still thirsty? Try a little Pink Martini with a Thomas Lauderdale back. They'll perform at 9:15 pm, following appearances by Galloway and Luckett Band, Carol Steinel, LMNOP—Nancy Hess, and Spinsters Parlor. The beer garden closes and the concert ends at 11 pm.

What's pride without spirit? Saturday, June 21, Metropolitan Community Church of Portland serves as host for a **Celebration of Faith** at Pioneer Courthouse Square from 9:30 to 10:15 am. Parade marchers may feel divinely inspired following a performance by Portland Gay Men's

Chorus, which is scheduled to appear at the celebration on the square.

The ranks are expected to fall out in the North Park Blocks at 11 am on Saturday, **June 21**, for the **1997 Portland Pride Parade**, Oregon's third largest. The parade boasts more than 100 marching contingents and floats, as well as this year's grand marshal, Keith Boykin. Boykin has made his mark on the community as a writer, as executive director of the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum, and as special assistant to the president in the Clinton administration. As special assistant, Boykin was the highest ranking openly gay or lesbian person in the White House.

After the parade, it's back to Waterfront Park and the **Pride Festival** with its reincarnated beer garden and food booths. The scale will be a bit grander than on Friday night, with more than 100 information and sales booths and a dizzying list of speakers and entertainers.

Saturday's keynote speaker is Charlie Hinkle, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, an attorney and an adjunct law professor at Northwestern School of Law at Lewis & Clark College. He's a past president of the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon and currently serves on the ACLU's national board.

Other scheduled speakers include Boykin; Kim Roth, representing Mayor Katz's office; County Chair Bev Stein and State Rep. George Eighmey. Music is set to begin at 12:30 pm with Virginia Lopez and the Mambo Queens, and the Rainbow Zanies. The show will be signed from beginning to end by sign-language interpreters Louise Curtis and Michael Sorensen. The festival runs until 6:30 pm.

On Sunday, June 22, there will be one last chance to participate in a Pride event. Grand Marshal Boykin will be a featured guest at a community forum at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, 5340 N Interstate Ave. The topic and time have yet to be determined. While the forum is the last scheduled event of the big weekend, Pride season refuses to be restrained.

The Portland Gay Men's Chorus returns on Saturday, June 28, and Sunday, June 29, to perform **Naked Man** (every Pride season needs at least one) at the PCC Sylvania Campus Performing Arts Center. The chorus will complement its poignant **Naked Man** with the festive flavor of the gay Supremes in full drag, as well as a barbershop quartet and Cascade, an intimate ensemble of PGMC members. For ticket information, call 460-3689.

Other opportunities for Portland's proud to make their mark this season are: **Bi Day '97**, from 5 to 8 pm on Friday, June 27, at Pioneer Courthouse Square; **Expose Your Pride**, a Gay Pride underwear party at the Eagle PDX, 1300 W Burnside St., from 8 pm to 2 am Saturday, June 28; and **Peacock in the Park** at the Washington Park Amphitheater on Sunday, June 29. Picnicking starts at noon, show follows at 3:30 pm.

Still haven't had enough? The **July 12 Vancouver Pride** celebration is just around the corner...

## PARADE ROUTE

