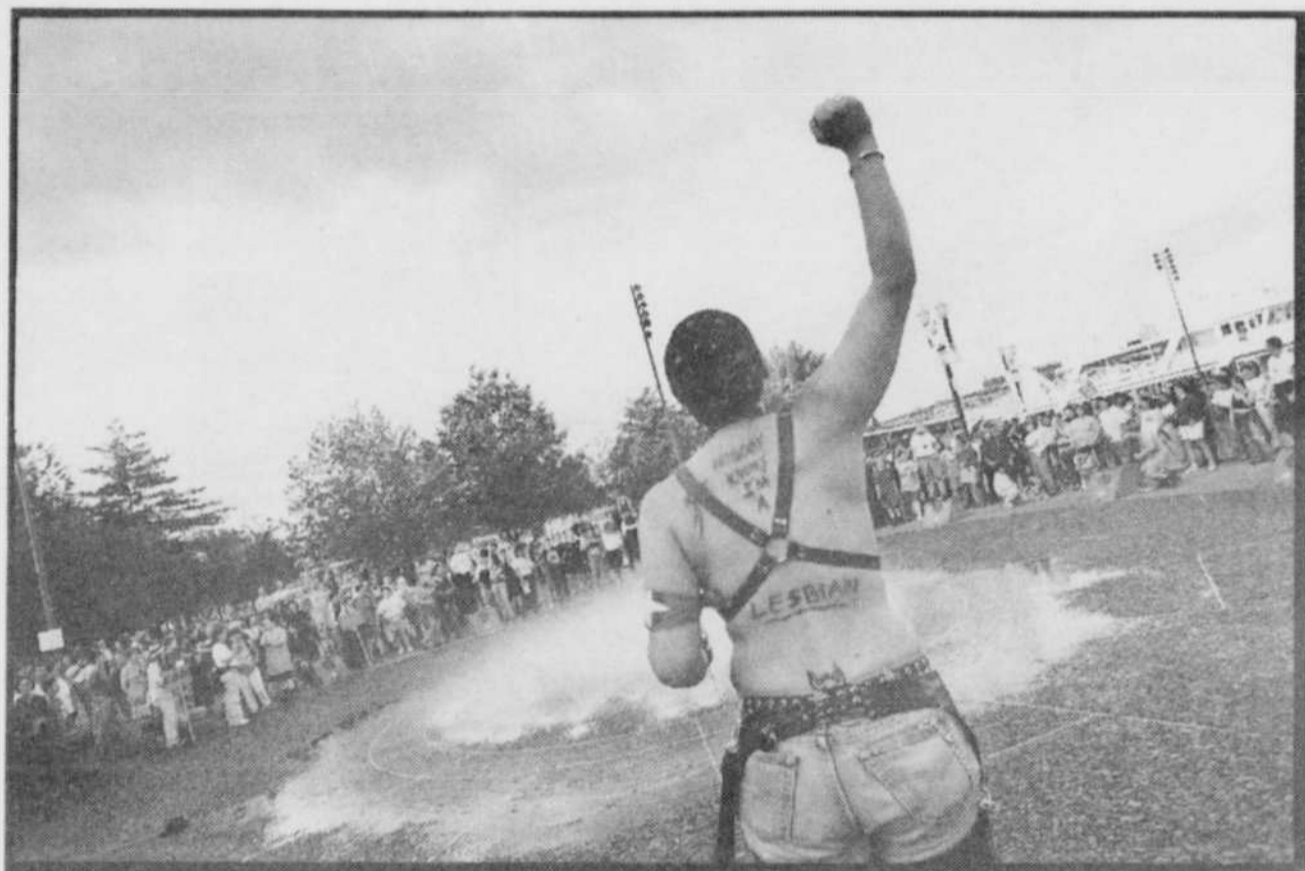




BRING ON THE RAINBOW

Yes, it rained on our parade—and deluged on our festival—but Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride shone through

by Inga Sorensen • photos by Linda Kliever



Clanging and roused, pierced and sprightly, a clamorous clump of queer, dyke, lesbian and bi females of all ages (and some supportive boy friends) kicked off the June 20-21 Pride weekend with the annual (parade eve) Dyke March, staged by the Lesbian Avengers, which rattled along from the North Park Blocks through a portion of downtown Portland before unloading into Tom McCall Waterfront Park near the Burnside Bridge.

Those who stuck around were treated to hours of free entertainment. With night falling, revelers swayed to the sounds of Thomas Lauderdale and Pink Martini, who in turn spotlighted guest performers such as *Oregonian* columnist and local personality Margie Boulé, who in turn sang a duet with a swanky Poison Waters. (Waters looked glamorous in a gold lamé number—and Boulé was nothing to sneeze at in her black gown.)

Spectators waltzed and shimmied. One gay male couple managed to shatter the stereotype that all gay men can dance, while electric grrrl combos smashed the notion that gay girls can't... "Nine years of classical ballet," one young woman particularly prone to the groove explained when I complimented her fabulous moves.

The formal pre-party party lasted until 11-ish, when the beer garden closed camp for the night and folks dispersed to their various bar and club scenes, or home to rest up for the following day's activities.

Two things one should expect when it comes to Pride in Portland, Oregon—raindrops and resilience.

Despite drizzle—which unleashed into a 15-minute wet and windy torrent around 2:30 pm—thousands turned out for the parade and all-day festival at the water's edge across from Saturday

Market. (Portland police tell *Just Out* they don't have a crowd estimate.)

The traditional players abounded, from the leading Dykes on Bikes to the brigade of female impersonators propped gloriously on stretch limos. Square dancers danced, Republicans

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