



# BRING ON THE RAINBOW

Continued from page 19

republicaned, and Lesbians with Big Dogs were led along by their companions (of the canine variety, that is).

At the festival site consumers had lots of choices—from T-shirts sporting decals such as Betty and Wilma dancing close, Peppermint Patty seductively wiggling her toes at Marcie, and Charlie's Angels to rainbow jockstraps to long-backed Adirondack chairs, billed as "Priscilla-esque because," the salesman informed me, "they have flair."

Political groups, of course, had their place. Right to Pride snapped up zillions of signatures for postcards poised to be sent to state lawmakers—more specifically Senate leadership—who have blocked action on an employment protection bill. Basic Rights Oregon head Jean Harris towered above, on a soap box disguised as a chair, making sure everyone remembered that the Or-

gon Citizens Alliance was still lurking out there.

Keith Boykin, executive director of the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum and the parade's grand marshal, levied copious smiles, waves and handshakes throughout the day, as Spirit of Pride award winners savored the moment.

Speakers representing an array of organizations including Brother to Brother, Somos Orgullo Latino, Radical Women and the Portland Bisexual Alliance took to the stage.

The 1997 parade and festival, brought to you by Pride Northwest Inc., marked the 22nd anniversary of Pride celebrations in Portland.

To the pleasure of many, this year's moniker—the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Parade and Festival—reflected a growing embrace of diversity within the community.

