

The Oregon Arts Commission recently announced the recipients of \$120,000 in funding, which went to a variety of local communities and art groups.

Robin Lane's Do Jump! Extremely Physical Theater was awarded \$3,315, to be used for a project involving 50 to 100 residents of Columbia Villa-Tamarack, the largest public housing development in Oregon.

The result will be an entertainment spectacle slated for August during the fifth annual Night Out Against Crime.

THE QUEER PROFIT
by **Marty Davis**

Those wild, wacky, campy Pink Flamingos staged a rousingly successful event with their December to Remember dance and carnival held Dec. 11 in Portland.

All the proceeds from the ticket sales—totaling more than \$1,300—were donated directly to Esther's Pantry, a volunteer-run organization serving the needs of people living with or impacted by HIV and AIDS.

Several hundred pounds of nonperishable foods and sundries also were donated to the group.

Weak ticket sales and concerns about a low turnout were the reasons given for the cancellation of Lesbian Community Project's planned New Year's Eve dance.

While many had been confident that the lesbian community could and would buoy two events scheduled for the same evening, it

A FULL PLATE

Queer holiday fare included something hot and something flopped—oh, yeah, and maybe even a dash of Y2K computer woes

appears that economics failed to support the claim.

Millennium Magic organizers honored presold tickets to the LCP event and have since been reimbursed by LCP, which is hoping to reschedule and repackage its event.

Hamburger Marys may be able to lay claim to being just about the only business in the area possibly impacted by the millennium bug—and that claim comes along with a healthy dose of skepticism.

What is known for sure is that the restaurant's computer system worked Dec. 31, then stopped functioning shortly thereafter.

Was it a visit from the famous and fabled glitch or just a plain old systems error?

The excitement over the possibility of an actual Y2K bug sighting in the area prompted Portland television news crews to visit the eatery. This definitely gives new meaning to the phrase "slow news day."

Portland's Northeast Alberta Street continues to hustle and bustle with exciting new shops, galleries and restaurants.

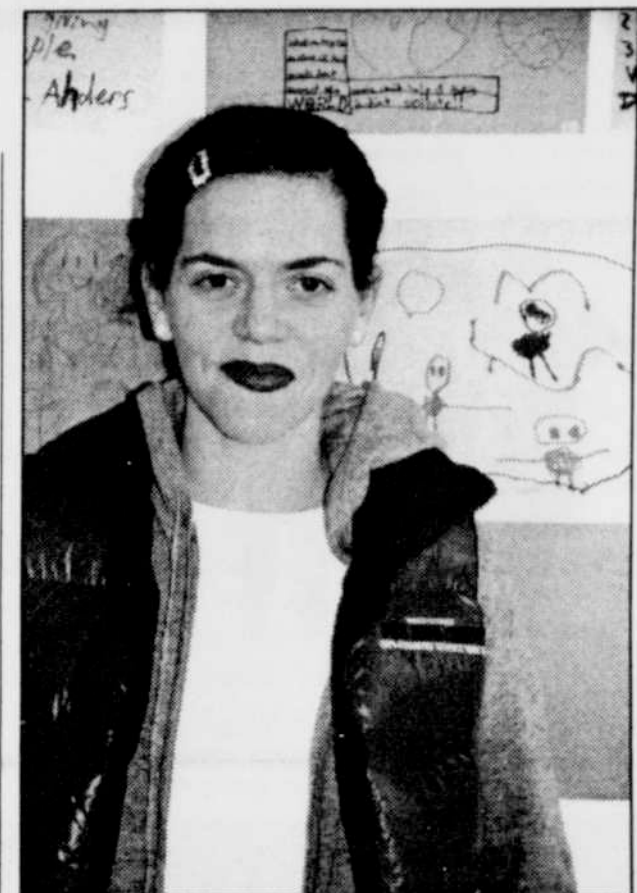
One recent arrival on the street offers a particularly unique service. Meet Staci Cotler and her brainchild, Open Hand, a self-defense school for young people between the ages of 4 and 13, which teaches skills inspiring non-violence, respect, self-confidence, leadership and community activism.

Cotler also emphasizes peer education; physical, verbal and nonverbal self-defense; and conflict resolution. Open Hand programs teach young people the skills they need to become violence-prevention peer educators.

Cotler has been teaching self-defense since 1986 and holds a variety of certificates of mastery.

Regarding her curriculum, she stresses: "This is not martial arts. I teach self-defense as part of a progressive political movement."

In her philosophy, Cotler also considers



Staci Cotler of Open Hand

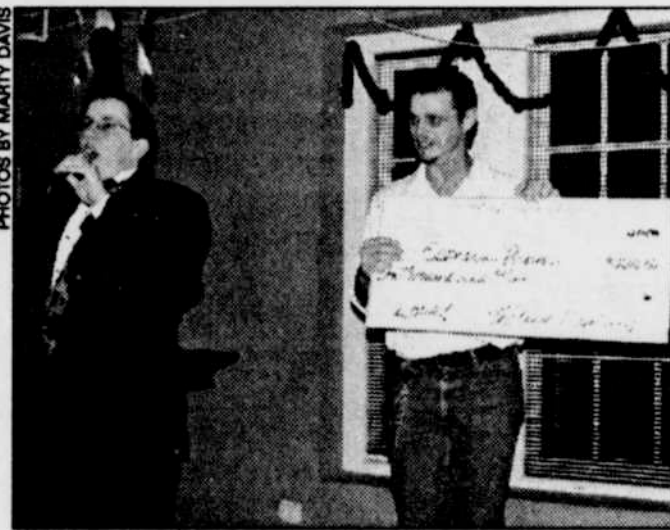
violence against women to be as problematic as racism and homophobia. As a result, Cotler also teaches classes in women's self-defense.

The basic method of all her self-defense classes is to engage women, teens and children in challenging and interactive strategies for building skills and understanding around individual and community safety.

In addition to classes for children, teens and adults, Cotler is available to design workshops for groups of people and organizations.

For more information, call Open Hand at (503) 493-1000.

■ Business news with a queer bent should be reported to MARTY DAVIS at the Just Out office. Her e-mail address is marty@justout.com.



Pink Flamingos gave Esther's Pantry a big check



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PET OF THE WEEK

Sammy is a sweet and loving Labrador Retriever/German Shepherd mix. He is housebroken and has had some training, so he would be a perfect indoor family dog. He is rambunctious, however, and sees no value in sitting still for photographs. See artist's rendering.



Sammy and other dogs and cats need loving homes.
Contact:

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