

**FEATURE**

**WORLDS APART:** A gay man's journey from Kenya to the United States, from prejudice and fear to acceptance and pride  
pp 23-27

**NEWS**

**NORTHWEST** • Decade-old mystery solved by discovery of body in Southeast Portland; controversial former club owner Lanny Swerdlow ponders his alleged infamy; new organization focuses on youths affected by HIV; gay couple lays foundation for the future; monthly column the Queer Profit  
pp 7-13

**NATIONAL** • First state to ban slavery takes biggest leap yet toward gay marriage; Millennium March plows ahead despite criticism; Virginia court to consider constitutionality of sodomy law  
pp 15-19

**WORLD** • Ireland bans employment discrimination based on sexual orientation; Latvian queers picket EU conference  
pp 20-21

**ENTERTAINMENT**

**GROUPS** • Three Radical Faeries talk about their spiritual paths  
p 35

**BOOKS** • Reviews of new fiction; interview with Portland author Jody Seay  
pp 37-39

**FILMS** • Missed it in the theater? Spend the wet winter catching up with these video rentals  
pp 40-42

**DIVERSIONS** • Get Bruce Vilanch's latest project; a show of support for Esther's Pantry  
p 43

**COLUMNS**

**MY QUEER LIFE** • Who wants to be a homosexual?  
p 45

**AMAZON TRAIL** • Confessions of a cat collector  
p 46

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**COMMENTARY**

BY MARTY DAVIS

**Kinetic energy**

Some initiative and desire can spark and inspire

Unless you celebrated the end of 1999 in far too hearty a manner, you are by now aware that the world indeed did not end with the arrival of Jan. 1, 2000. I suspect that for some this news was met with minor disappointment. After all, it does mean that we're left to face the daunting and dismal task of yet another round of resolutions for the new year. Out of the other closet come the perennial old favorites; lose weight (yada, yada, yada); exercise more (at least once this year); be nicer to so-and-so; start this, stop that...

And, of course, let's not forget to promptly get around to that little ol' time management situation that one or two of us have got going on. For my part, I do solemnly swear to return all phone calls and e-mails in a prompt, professional and courteous manner...eventually.

One serious goal that I am setting for myself, regardless of the time of year, is to remember to acknowledge the achievements, large and small, of friends, co-workers and members of my community.

I can think of no better place to start than to applaud the efforts of the organizers of Millennium Magic, the Lesbian Dance of the Century. Known as the Mischief Makers, Sparky Lindsay, Erika Silver, Cindy Zrinyi and Pam Monette saw a need for a lesbian dance venue on New Year's Eve and set about making something happen. And happen it did. For those not in attendance, the dance can only be described as an overwhelming success.

Attendance was estimated at close to 400 women, and the organizers believe there will be sufficient money available to donate funds to Bradley-Angle House, the Portland Lesbian Choir and Love Makes a Family.

While the evening itself was festive, safe and delightfully fun, the real success lies in the way that the event was organized and planned.

This dance came about as the result of collaboration between community members who saw a need and an opportunity; between sponsors who agreed to provide financial assistance; and, finally, among community members who came out in force to show that gay men and lesbians can and will support community events.

Erika, Sparky, Cindy and Pam are not professional organizers. They had no group or organization providing financial backing. They personally took responsibility for the event. Cost coverage was assured through obtaining sponsors who ultimately picked up many of the expenses for the evening. The support of the sponsors assured the financial success of the event; the financial success of the sponsors depends on the support of the community. This is one of the ways in which gay men, lesbians and our partners in business ensure economic viability. We all work together. The driving force is people like the Mischief Makers who step forward and become our community leaders—they lead by example.

Sponsors garner good will, gain exposure and increase their business base. Event attendees have a great time, increase pride and awareness of community, and learn who they need to support with their lavender dollars.

So here's what we all need to consider as part of our goals for the new year: Step up and volunteer for projects. If you see a void where something should be happening, then work to make it happen. Be a supportive and contributing member of our community. We need activities and events through which we can come together and talk, laugh, dance and celebrate. It doesn't seem to happen enough anymore, and we shouldn't have to wait for the next millennium for an outstanding social event.

Dust off the exerciser, skip the candy bar for lunch, walk the dog in the rain and donate some of your time back to your community.

Oh, yeah, and have a happy new year!

**REFLECTIONS**

15 years ago in ...



• Co-publisher Renée LaChance wrote in an editorial: "It was a long time coming, but now that it is finally here the women of Portland are excited about their new bar, the Primary Domain... The entire bar exudes an atmosphere of femininity and womanness."

• In national news, a private Christian college in southern Illinois refused a man his bachelor's degree based on unspecified charges of homosexuality.

• On Dec. 20, 1984, the Multnomah County Commission added the words *sexual orientation* to the county's civil rights ordinance.

Commissioners Caroline Miller, Arnold Biskar and Richard Levy voted in favor of the charter amendment; Commissioner Gordon Shalburne voted against it; Commissioner Earl Blumenauer was absent when the question was called, but comments he made during an earlier hearing indicated he was in favor of the amendment.

• The Fabulous Dyketones, Portland's own 1950s "rock and role" band, celebrated its eighth anniversary with a New Year's Eve dance at the Pine St. Theater.

• L.A.B.I.A. (Lesbian Access to Babies, Inseminated Artificially) held an organizational meeting Jan. 13.

• Gay Males Together met on Wednesday nights for informal discussions of topics of interest to the gay community.

• In a November meeting, the staff advisory council of the National Governors Association's Committee on Human Resources recommended to the NGA executive committee that it adopt a general civil rights policy that includes the issue of gay and lesbian civil rights.

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