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Lend Him Your Ears
Ray Elliott
conducts PGMC

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Portland, Oregon FREE

Hear me roar

Lesbian Community Project
reconnects with women

BY LISA BRADSHAW

Ch-ch-changes. Portland's Lesbian Community Project has gone through them as it continually has worked to reinvent itself to meet the changing needs and wishes of its community.

Since 1986, LCP has been "building community, fighting for justice," as it says above its logo. But the community comes and goes in waves, and LCP has had to learn to roll with it.

Having watched LCP rise from the ashes more than once, current leaders are not just hopeful but positive that the organization is wanted and necessary, no matter what the political or social climate. Several of LCP's leaders were eager to talk about where the organization is headed during a recent interview at 3 Friends Coffeehouse.

At the end of last year, the organization had no staff director, a dwindling board and a low membership. Enter Amazon Knightly. Down to three board members including herself, she encouraged—or "begged," as she puts it—friends with an interest in the project to join the board on an interim basis, while she worked tirelessly to raise money, keep the newsletter going and staff the office.

Enter Kristan Aspen. Having served as interim director for LCP previously, she agreed in January to step into that role again until the organization found a permanent replacement. She since has become that replacement.

During her first couple of months, Aspen learned many women were out of touch with LCP's goals and the organization in general. Going with the theory that LCP must reflect what the members want, she spearheaded a survey project, and questionnaires were mailed to past and present members. "We needed to figure out what women saw as the value of LCP," she explained.

The survey gave multiple suggestions as to what they could be doing and the chance to respond with any idea or concern participants might have had. The results indicated the most popular aspects of LCP were its social groups, political work and forums on various issues.

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You're Invited
to a
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Singles Party
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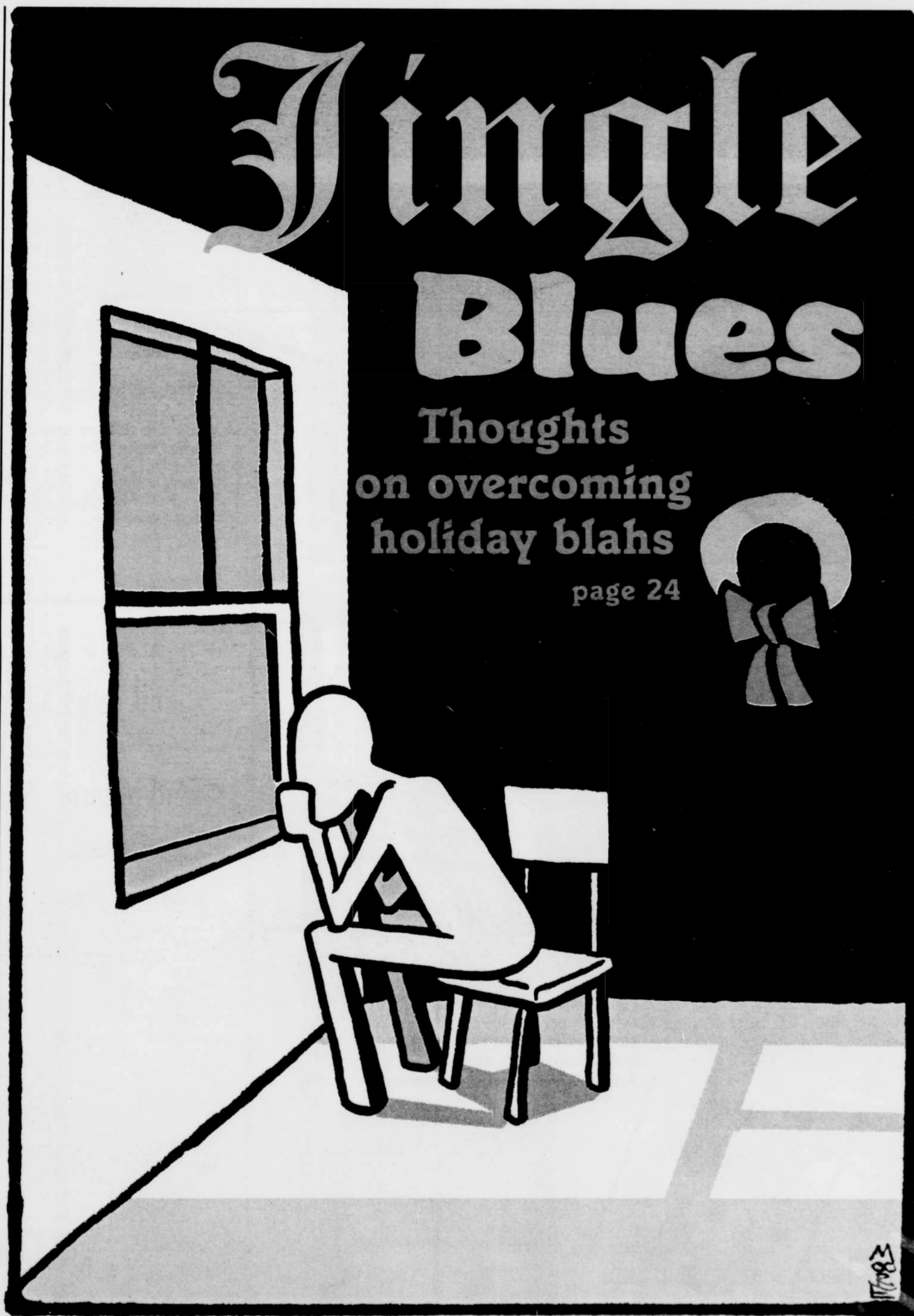


ILLUSTRATION BY KEVIN MOORE