



The PGMC welcomes Sue Coffee (left)

Lesbian waves a stick and gay men follow

What happens when you put one lesbian in a room with 140 gay men? You'll have to go to the Portland Gay Men's Chorus *Men with Altitude!* concert to find out, as the guys welcome the Denver Gay Men's Chorus, and its lesbian conductor, as their guests. The founding artistic director of Sound Circle, an a cappella women's ensemble in Boulder, Colo., Sue Coffee first came to the chorus as an interim director after its conductor left suddenly.

"So much of the chorus experience is about community," she says, "that I felt certain they should have a male director." But so pleased was the chorus with her conducting that they called off the search and asked her to remain.

As the conductor now of both a gay chorus and a lesbian chorus, Coffee filters (sorry, couldn't resist the pun) her experiences from both together. "The guys are so funny, so delightful and lovely," she says, "they made me realize I could stand to lighten up." As a result, she has since encouraged her women's chorus to camp it up a little.

On the other hand, she has introduced the men's chorus to the more personal, reflective approach she customarily takes with the women. "It was foreign to them at first, but they're getting used to it," she says.

What comes easily, however, is the chorus's relationship to music written by living queer composers. "There's a very direct connection between the performers and the pieces that

PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS makes for a very grassroots kind of experience," Coffee adds. On that note, the two choruses will premiere the three-movement piece *Here We Are*, written especially for this occasion by noted lesbian composer Diane Benjamin, as well as some of the best works from the recent GALA Chorus Festival.

Whether it's men or women with altitude, Coffee calls it "a privilege...to see people at their most beautiful. When people are singing, you realize that this is the greatest potential of the human race."

Men with Altitude! is performed 8 p.m. June 9 and 2 p.m. June 10 at the Scottish Rite Temple, 1512 S.W. Morrison St. Tickets are \$12-\$20 from any chorus member or Fastixx.

—Marc Acito

Put on your dancing shoes

Join the fellas of the Portland Gay Men's Chorus for the Rainbow Ball, their second annual kickoff to Pride 2001, June 15 at the Crystal Ballroom, 1332 W. Burnside St. Boogie through the decades with three disc jockeys on two dance floors. Poison Waters will be collecting canned food for Esther's Panty. The doors open at 8 p.m., and tickets are \$12 at the door or \$10 in advance from the Crystal Ballroom box office, Ticketmaster or www.mcmenamens.com.

Hooray for the Hollywood

The Hollywood Theatre will screen the June Pride Series, a collection of classic gay and lesbian films, all month long. Sensory Perceptions, the nonprofit organization responsible for the annual LGBT Film Festival, created the series in response to frequent requests for screenings of older gay and lesbian films that have not been seen

recently or were underappreciated at the time of their release. Highlights include *Reflections in a Golden Eye*, starring Marlon Brando as a husband whose eye wanders from his wife (Elizabeth Taylor) to another man. Al Pacino stars in *Dog Day Afternoon*, and Hugh Grant plays gay in Edwardian Eng-



Russell Crowe (left) stars in *The Sum of Us* at the Hollywood

land in *Maurice*. The series also features a pre-implants Mariel Hemingway in the early lesbian classic *Personal Best*. Also for women and anyone who appreciates a great romance is my personal all-time fave lesbo flick, *When Night Is Falling*. If you've never seen this one, you owe it to yourself to see it on a big screen. You'll find the complete schedule at the Internet site www.sensoryperceptions.org or by calling the Festival Hotline at 503-242-0818.

A show of faith

Sticking with Pride events, an unusual display is on view June 11 to 17 at St. James Lutheran Church, 1315 S.W. Park Ave. A *Shower of Stoles* is a collection of liturgical stoles honoring the religious faith of hundreds of gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans people. The project began in 1995 in Minneapolis, where an ordained person was unable to continue working in her church because of her sexual orientation. As a show of support, other people living closeted lives sent her stoles. Today the collection numbers more than 600 from three continents; this show will feature 150 of them. Some stoles were made by church members in support of gay clergy, and others were sent anonymously. In all, they are a powerful testament to faith and commitment. Admission is free; call 503-227-2439 for times.

The art of the matter

The Lesbian Art Guild is showing its work through June 30 at the Jantzen Beach Barnes & Noble, 1720 N. Jantzen Beach. An artists reception will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. June 8. Artists include Kelley Begley, Melissa Frye, Jenny Gilbert, Mary Hauer, Heron, Page Jordan and Maria Pace. Works



Kelley Begley

include acrylics, pastels, watercolors, fine art photography, metal sculpture and jewelry.

Live queer and prosper

Section 31: *Rogue*, the newest book in the *Star Trek: The Next Generation* series, was written by Just Out writer Andy Mangels and Michael A. Martin. The novel pits Capt. Jean-Luc Picard and his crew against a shadowy covert operations division of Starfleet. Throughout the book, Lt. Hawk, a young homosexual officer on the Starship Enterprise, plays a pivotal role in a crisis of galactic proportions. Both authors will read and sign books 7 p.m. June 13 at Borders, 708 S.W. Third Ave. They'll repeat the greet 6:30 p.m. June 20 at Gai-Pied, 2544 N.E. Broadway.

Out on the courts



Portland tennis aces

Team Portland Tennis Alliance will play host to the annual NW Cup at the Portland Tennis Center, 324 N.E. 12th Ave. This will be the sixth year of the event, which is a competition between Team Portland, the Seattle Tennis Alliance and the Vancouver International Pride Association. The hosts traditionally have won the cup, although this year might prove differently. Vancouver is bringing a more advanced women's team than the others, so it should be interesting. Everyone is welcome to watch the event, and admission is free. Match play begins at 9 a.m. June 2, continues until 10 p.m. and resumes from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. June 3.

Good food for a good cause

Dingo's, a new lesbian-owned restaurant and bar, will be donating 15 percent of its gross sales from each Thursday during the month of June to Basic Rights Oregon. (Thursday night has already become very successful with the institution of Girls Night Out.) In addition, BRO will provide donation envelopes for customers as well as information explaining what the organization does. There will also be an informal donation jug at the bar. This will be a great opportunity for education and outreach into the larger community. ☐

Compiled by ORIANA GREEN

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