



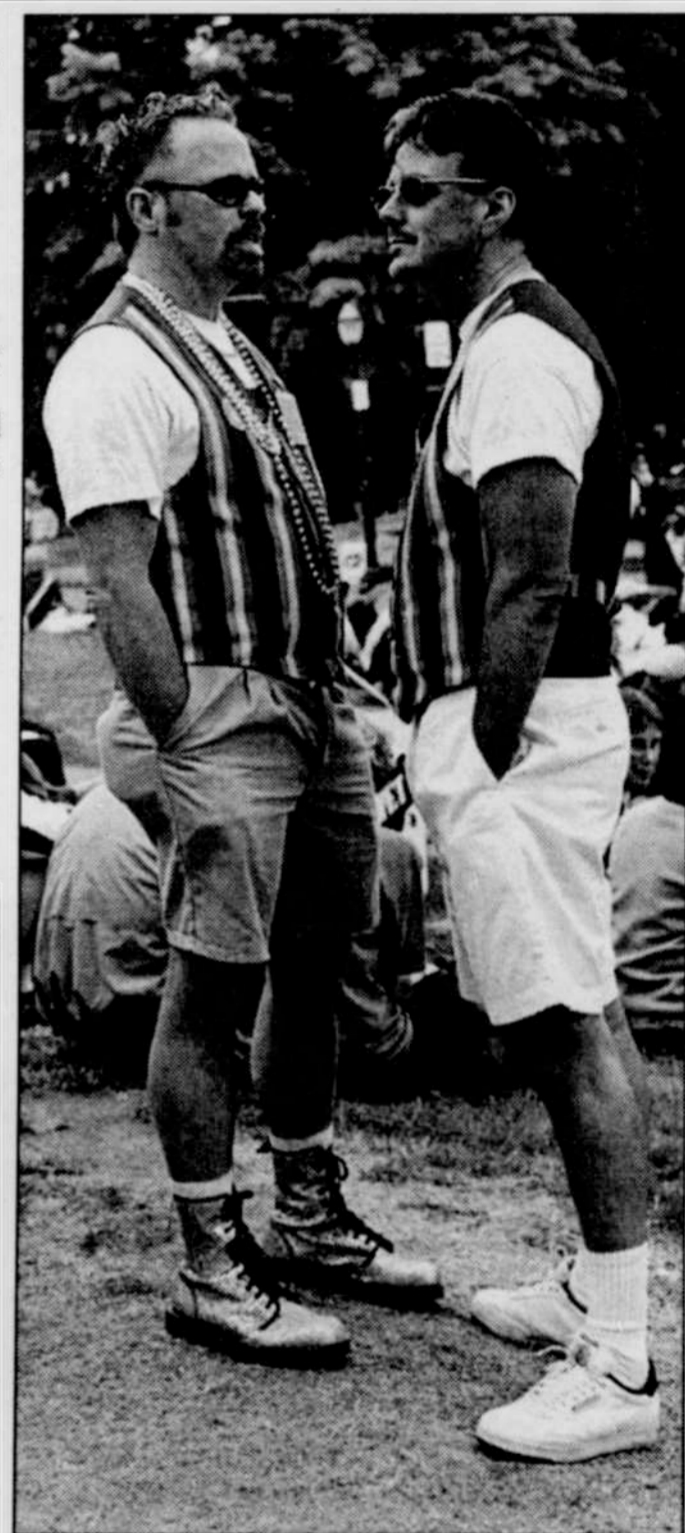
Bikes, three accessibility convertibles and hundreds of women—took its usual course from the North Park Blocks down to Waterfront Park. With few spectators, the march always feels a little unbalanced, but many participants were reuniting with old friends and finding new ones while they walked.

The *coup de grace* Pride Parade, which lasted nearly three hours, featured Grand Marshal Katie Potter, a lesbian Portland police officer. Among the large flatbed floats were the Rose City Softball Association (which wins our prize for longest float ever), and Starky's, which came complete with a working barbecue and friendly folks handing out burgers along the way. There were many returning and new small bands of marchers and, of course, annual favorites: Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays; the Oregon Bears; and the Imperial Sovereign Rose Court. A welcome addition this year was Techno-Dyke, a popular Portland-based Web site.

PFLAG, as always, was serenaded with tears and hugs from beginning to end. The Rose-town Ramblers square-danced their way through the city, while groups such as the Humane Society and Dykes with Dogs walked with their pets to advocate a furrer cause.

Judging the *Willamette Week* float contest this year were Steven Lofton and Roger Croteau, the Portland parents who are fighting Florida's gay adoption ban. The couple, along with their kids Frank, Wayne, Ernie, Tracy and Bert, honored the queer group Poder Latino de Oregon, whose entry was decorated with palm trees and sported colorful dancers both on the float and in the street. Music blared from the energetic contingent, putting a spring in the step of spectators.

Once again, the weather was kind to the proud queers of Portland during all the festivities, which in no small part led to the large turnout and, no doubt, to the many happy (and gay) faces. ☐



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