

About 2,300 queer activists descended upon Portland from Nov. 6 to 10 for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's 15th annual Creating Change conference at the DoubleTree Jantzen Beach.

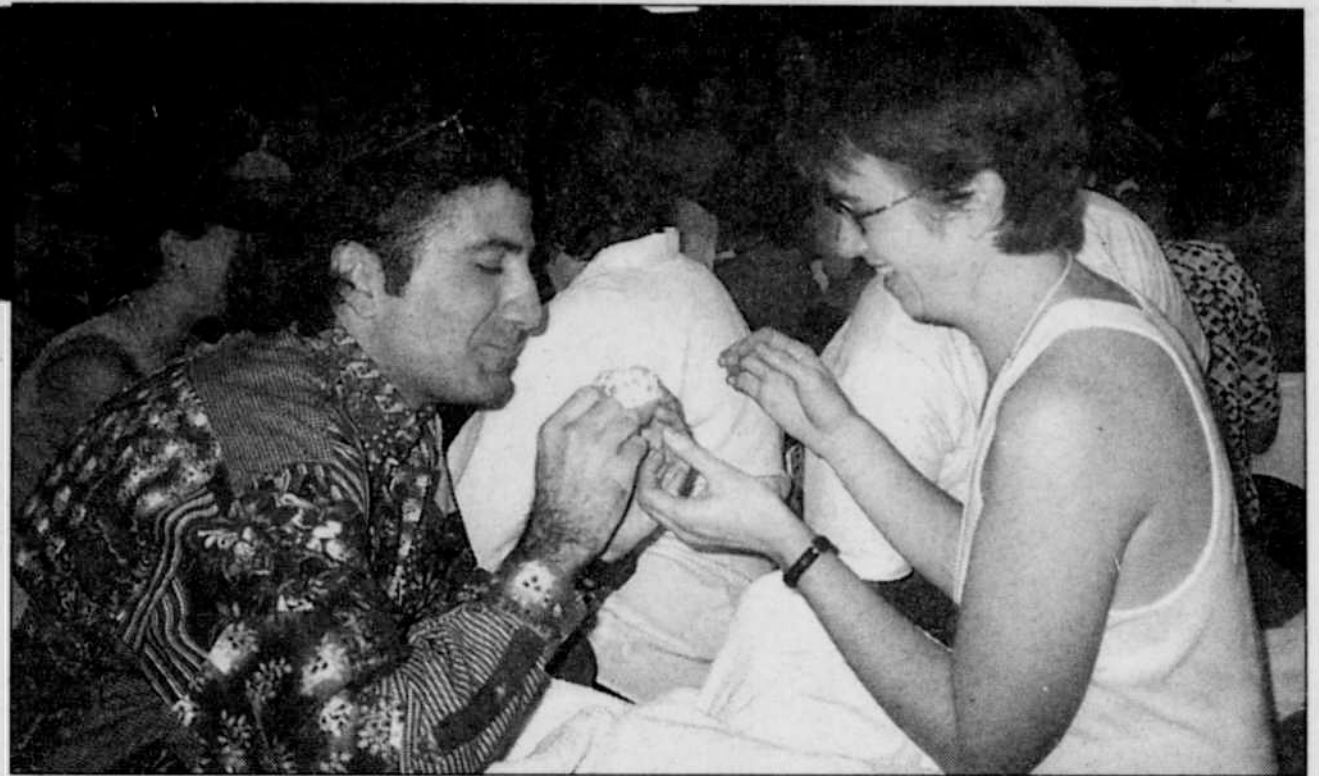
It was a record-setting weekend in many ways. The conference tackled a theme for the first time ("Building an Anti-Racist Movement: Working for Social and Economic Justice"), received its highest number of session proposals (310) and had more volunteers (about 400) and children (thanks to Love Makes a Family) in attendance than ever.

Conference director Sue Hyde praised Portland host committee members for all of their hard work, especially co-chairs Alissa Haslam, Gary Coleman and Anisah Miley. "I had not a

single complaint or piece of negative feedback about elder or youth hospitality, which is very unusual."

The weekend was not without its share of strife: fire code violations, demands that NGLTF take a position against the war on Iraq, mild disappointment about the theme. "You know, this is a gathering of 2,000-plus people, and so it's a reality that whatever we do...is not going to meet everyone's needs," Hyde said.

She already is brainstorming for next year's conference, which will be held from Nov. 5 to 9 at the Radisson Deauville Resort in Miami Beach, Fla. "The most obvious thematic focus...would be to repeat this year's theme, because clearly 'Building an Anti-Racist Movement' will not be accomplished in five days or one year." []



Conferencegoers demonstrate how to make an orange orgasm during "Playing Doctor: Renaming Desire," a penetrating session about sex between trans and nontrans people



Faisal Alam (left, with HRC's Kylar Broadus and GLAAD's Loren Javier) discusses the alarming increase in hate crimes targeting Muslims since Sept. 11, 2001



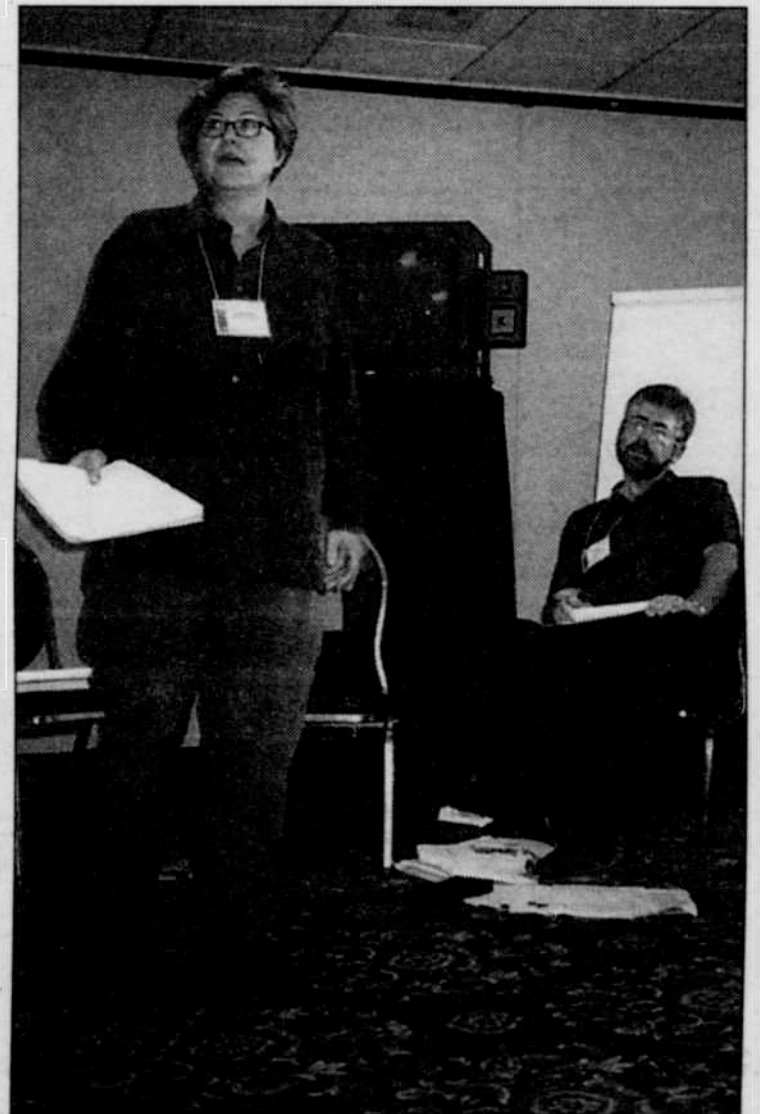
Kathleen Saadat (left) and Ramon Ramirez reflect on Oregon's 14 years of fighting right-wing ballot measures



"There is life after 60," says Vera Martin, one of the original Old Lesbians Organizing for Change



Sharra Greer of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network asks and tells during a forum about gays in the military



Valerie Fein-Zachary outlines the fight for the right to marry; seated is attorney Jon Davidson, who also delivered a presentation on sodomy and lewd conduct laws

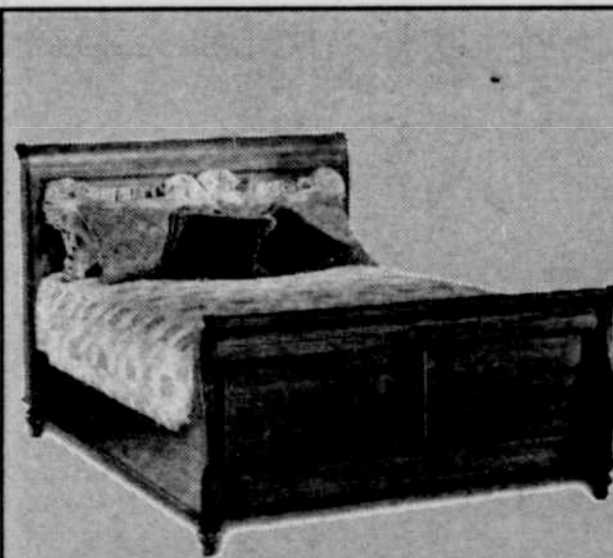
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