



From left, Blend owners Lara Miller and Kristy Rastle sling mud for Christina L. Sigwart, Portland Area Business Association vice president

While achieving comfortable success as a neighborhood hangout, Blend would also appreciate the support of the gay and lesbian community. Yeah, there's a Starbucks every few feet in Portland, but that doesn't mean you have to go there now, does it? Support your local independent gay- and lesbian-owned businesses.

Janyce Bender and her partner, Gail Davis, are in the process of designing the new world headquarters of Bender Properties. The corner of Southeast 60th Avenue and Belmont Street, longtime home of Seaton Pharmacy, will now

house the real estate brokerage and property management company.

Davis—in her, um, typically understated and reserved fashion—radiates energy as she states that the new owners are “thrilled, excited and delighted” to have acquired the property. Added bonus: Now they can even walk to work.

In one way or another, most of us have jobs and most do some sort of work. There are those among us who, through our jobs, have the opportunity to make a significant impact on the lives of others as individuals and on the community as a whole. Such is the work done by Bob Mensel, artistic director of the Portland Gay Men's Chorus. This month marks the 10th anniversary of his tenure with the chorus, and his accomplishments and feats are many. In addition to the many musical achievements the chorus has attained under his direction, his bold statements in fashion and his impeccable sense of style are testament to the remarkable leadership qualities of this man. I'm confident that Mensel can single-handedly bring sweat pants back into fashion.

Bob, we're happy and grateful to have you with us, and we look forward to the next 10 years with you. 

Business news with a queer bent should be reported to MARTY DAVIS at marty@justout.com.



Drugstore cowgirls Gail Davis (left) and Janyce Bender have found a new home for Bender Properties



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This Man

A Tribute to Bob Mensel
on his 10th Anniversary as
Artistic Director of the
Portland Gay Men's Chorus



How many strangers first joined to make noise?
How much discordance, first heard, did alloy?
How many voices, now swelling in joy
Buoy MUSIC, because of This Man?

How many novices - Muses, advise?-
Did shyly apply that they might qualify?
How many artists, eyes proselytized,
Ply BEAUTY, because of This Man?

How many hearts, once bourgeois or genteel,
Now race to embrace each emotion yet real?
How many bosoms, inured to coneal,
Feel PASSION, because of This Man?

How many spirits, enjoined *not* to grow,
Learned early to whisper, to blend, to stay "low"
How many souls, now in rainbow tableau,
Know PRIDE, all because of This Man?

Now let us, in chorus, pay tribute as one,
To This Man whose fervor will ne'er be outdone,
This Man, whose commitment has only begun;
This Man, whom we cherish as ours!

We celebrate This Man, whose vision is clear;
Whose passion and purpose we hold ever-dear;
This Man who has touched countless hearts these ten years;
This Man, whom with love, we call ours!

Brett Hart Brockman
August, 2003

The Portland Gay Men's Chorus