

music, bright colors and awesome dancers! I felt so proud of my culture and community."

Another politico, Portland City Council candidate Sam Adams, said that what he liked best was "seeing the depth and range of diversity within our local LGBTQ community and the clear reawakening of the need to re-activate our political activism."

While the days of raucous ACT UP-style contingents have ebbed in recent years, those advocating and caring for people living with AIDS were a vital presence at the parade. Joe Jefferson, development director at Our House of Portland, said: "No question, the highlight of Pride for me—both personally and professionally—was hearing people call out to the Our House contingent: 'Thank you. You are our heroes!' This is the highest compliment I have ever received about our work."

Portland Center Stage artistic director Chris Coleman noted, "It's a different world" now. He was impressed to see gay fathers with their kids out celebrating as a family.

Yes, *family* certainly was the theme this year. And while we might have traded a bit of wild 'n' crazy for warm 'n' fuzzy, it's good to remember that our larger queer family is still expanding and that we need wide open arms to embrace every bit.

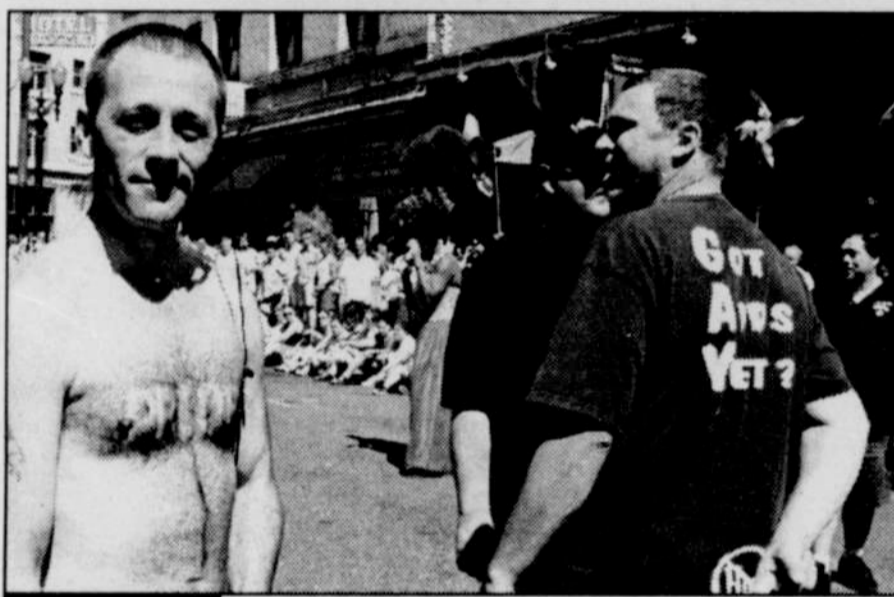
Take, for instance, Oregon Bears president Rick Vandercar's comment: "My favorite part of Pride weekend was walking with the Oregon Bears float and seeing the warm reception from the crowd.... Getting the friendly waves and screams of 'We love you bears!' from drag queens, lesbians, straight people and, of course, bears was very rewarding. It made me feel like the bears have become a part of the greater gay community and are being accepted for who they are."

Now isn't that what Pride is all about? ☐

From left, Multnomah County Commissioners Serena Cruz, Lisa Naito and Maria Rojo de Stetley



Sam Adams gets dunked



Pride vs. hate



Portland Center Stage's Chris Coleman blows a kiss



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-Sasha, "And She Cooks"

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