

# NORTHWEST newsbriefs



Multnomah County Commissioner Lisa Naito and Circuit Court Judge Dale Koch

Both faced tough re-election bids last year because of their decision to uphold the Oregon Constitution and issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. Naito was sworn in by Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Dale Koch, and Rojo was sworn in by Joe D'Alessandro, the openly gay president and CEO of the Portland Oregon Visitors Association.

### A DOWN-HOME MAYORAL EVENT

Portland Mayor Tom Potter showed his support for queers by putting a few of them in the lineup of performers at his inaugural party Jan. 3. The Portland Gay Men's Chorus was among the acts to take the stage, along with an African dance/drum troupe and a mariachi band. The "stage" was actually the dimly lit north end of the City Hall atrium, where a shoddy sound system and a few candles served as props for the entertainment.

Still, they made the best of it. The chorus lined the central staircase and sang two songs, including "This Town Is Your Town," a version of Arlo Guthrie's "This Land Is Your Land," rewritten for the occasion by Reed

College professor Edward Segel. "We all belong here, we've all a song here/This town was made for you and me," the men sang.

Openly gay City Commissioner Sam Adams helped direct traffic to fill up the space when it came time for Potter to speak. To pry people away from their hobnobbing, Adams boomed out an official-sounding "Joe D'Alessandro, you're wanted in the North

Atrium," referring to the openly gay president and CEO of the Portland Oregon Visitors Association.

"I understand you're to do a dance interpretive number," Adams said to Tom Potter.

Indeed, next up was a duet between Potter and drag king Johnny Mozzarella, who led the new mayor, as well as Adams and others, in a heartfelt rendition of Queen's "We Are the Champions."

Perhaps the most delighted audience members were Potter's grandchildren, McKenzie and Madison. They sat in rapt attention at Mozzarella's feet. Ever the gentleman, the Big Cheese crooned directly to them.

The most transgressive queer moment of the evening, however, occurred when a cheerleader-clad burlesque performer, Gigi Bang Bang, mingled with the suits and skirts, handing out fliers for her next performance with Mozzarella.


"Tonight is just a preview," she said, batting her blue-sparkled eyelids, then bouncing off, foot-high blond afro bobbing above her. **J**

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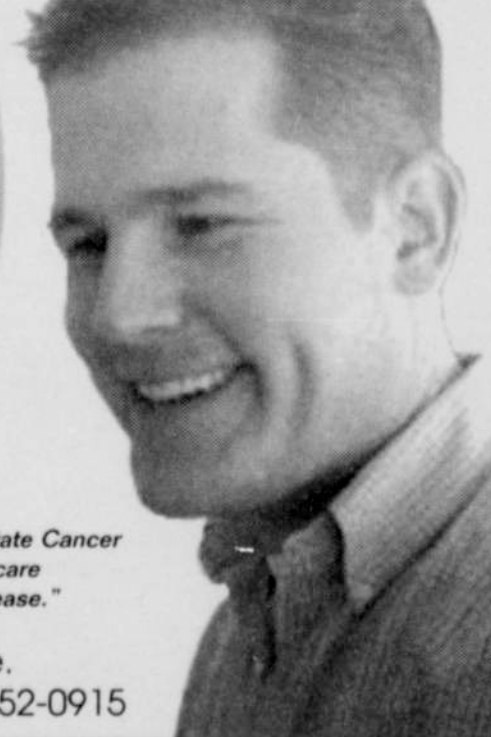
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