

The royal family

German art collection is a crowning achievement

"We've been invited to meet royalty," Marc yelled as he opened the calligraphed invitation to a reception (hosted by Portland Art Museum and Mario's) welcoming Mafalda Margarethe, princess and landgravine of Hesse, Germany.

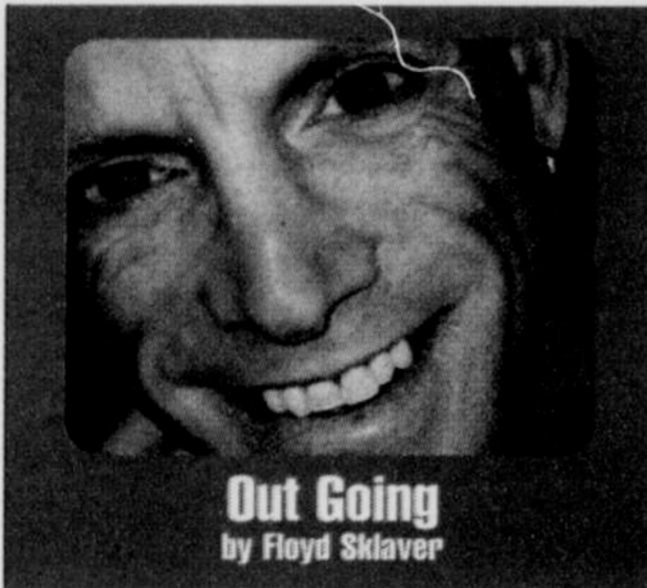
"That's rich," I thought. "The queens are meeting the princess."

So, there we stood among the elegantly dressed, raising our rosé to Mafalda and rapping about the Oct. 29 opening of *Hesse: A Princely German Collection*. Spanning five centuries of art history with 400 paintings and decorative pieces, including some that have never been seen outside Germany, the collection promises to be a sold-out blockbuster and a high point in Portland's cultural life.

Among the queers quaffing cocktails were the well-dressed trio of **Foy Renfro**, **Dennis Deming** and **Chris Pleasant**. Q Center co-chairwoman **Gwenn Baldwin** crashed the party and accidentally hip-checked her royal highness.

While I'm on the topic of royalty, the night before meeting Mafalda, Basic Rights Oregon held a fund-raiser to replace our own monarch, House Speaker Karen Minnis, who's a royal bitch.

As you probably know, Minnis successfully outmaneuvered the queer community, sidetracking a bill that would have legalized civil unions in a move known as "gut and stuff." After those shenanigans, the evil queen should be gutted and stuffed herself, so BRO kicked off its campaign to depose her royal high-ass at the trendy and delicious Masu.



Out Going
by Floyd Sklaver

are well on their way.

On the other side of the political spectrum, I was also invited to an organizing meeting for Log Cabin Republicans, which I tried to attend with an open mind.

Now, let me say upfront that some of my best friends are Republicans. But I don't understand them. For instance, one gay GOPer who shall remain nameless (mainly because I can't remember his name) told me he voted for King George because "I know he's going to stab me in the back, but at least I know where he stands." Yup, right behind you, knife poised.

So, there's just no way I'm ever going to like their politics—although I like their hors d'oeuvres. Republicans have nice canapés, and host and organizer **Brian Wilson** (with help from **Terry Longway**) outdid himself with a spread worth every penny of the Republicans' selfish and misguided tax cuts.

Others planning the rejuvenation of the moribund Oregon chapter (Log Cabin claims 49 chapters around the country) were former Lake Oswego City Councilor **Karl Rohde**, clothing designer and Michael Allen's proprietor **Michael Fredrickson** and Bend resident **Derek Hanna**, co-organizer of the event. Tending bar was former Mr. Gay Pride **Benny Fischer** and his equally handsome beau, **Tyler Spurgeon** (both committed Independents, they assured me).

And if you really want

to see some royal beauties, check out *The Lion King* through Oct. 23 at Keller Auditorium, featuring gorgeous costumes as well as gorgeous men who wear very little. Portland Opera spokeswoman **Julia Sheridan** says that ticket sales are "very brisk" but that good seats are still available.

Lastly, the Rose City loses its queer queen of the avant-garde as Portland Institute for Contemporary Art founder **Kristy Edmunds** moves on to new challenges. Among the many highlights of PICA's third annual Time-Based Art Festival, I'll never forget "kamikaze cabaret" performer **Meow Meow** singing a song of farewell and pressing Edmunds' face between her sizable breasts in a show of solidarity and sorrow. We wish Edmunds well and are sorry to see that she's *Out Going*. [F]

FLOYD SKLAVER wants to know about your event. E-mail him at floydsklaver@comcast.net.



From left, **Joe D'Alessandro**, **Matt Jaffe**, **Gregg Macy** and **Eric Steinhauser** help Basic Rights Oregon "Stick it to Minnis" Sept. 7.

Upon arriving, each guest filled out a name tag that said: "My name is _____. I think that even _____ would make a better Speaker of the House."

I wrote in "my 5-year-old niece [sic]" and then introduced myself around the room until one helpful revolutionary pointed out that *Just Out's* bon vivant columnist couldn't spell.

My favorite suggestions for Speaker of the House included "My Butt" (**Joe D'Alessandro**), "A Banana Slug" (**Chris Towney**), "My Dog" (**Charlie Hinkle**) and "A Furby" (**Arthur Hung**).

Members of the ever-busy BRO PAC, headed by **Alisa Simmons** (who's also Multnomah County Chair **Diane Linn's** campaign manager), hope to turn the successful social gathering into a regular event. Judging by the size of the crowd and the cute factor among the guys (surprisingly, this BRO function skewed heavily—and heavenly—male), they

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