

Nights of Passion

What gets gays going

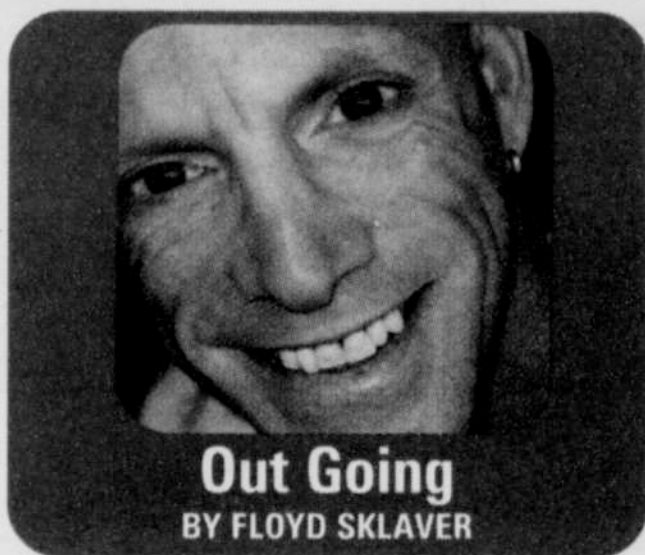
Most social chitchat is dull, dull, dull. But one way I've discovered to get the conversational ball rolling is by asking others what they're passionate about.

At the monthly Salon Q gathering, Bob Speltz spoke passionately about politics, so much so that he and I got into a heated debate about the race for Multnomah County chair. Fortunately, that divisive battle is over and Bob and I are still friends. Another Q boy, Daryl Osbrink, showed me pictures of a secret passion on his cell phone. Daryl has a crush on tenor Josh Groban, whom he met three years ago at an opening night party, and his phone is jam-packed with Josh.

I also met John Krotchko there. John hails from Denver but has a three-month assignment at the coast, where he indulges his passion for surfing. "In fact," he says, "the only thing sexier than getting into a wet suit is watching a hot guy get out of one." Of course, hot guys remind me that Bryce Amato was at Salon Q looking so sexy I could hardly contain my own passion. And in one of the evening's funnier moments, Miguel Barragan said he saw me working out at the gym with "a guy who looked like that author Marc Acito." Ya think?

Speaking of my boyfriend, he and lesbian laugh riot Hillary Carlip were guests on *Live Wire!* last month. Hillary read a very funny essay from her new book, *Queen of the Oddballs*, during which she re-created her singing and juggling appearance on TV's *The Gong Show*. How juggling on the radio goes over is unclear, but the enthusiastic audience had a ball.

The week before, another enthusiastic audience spent big bucks for more than 300 paintings, photographs and sculptures on sale at Cascade AIDS Project's 17th annual Art for Life auction. Among the 1,300 in attendance were Eric Skinner



the intense process of transitioning from one gender to another when he was called to a different volunteer assignment.

Even more than the fine art, what aroused me was the fine sight of the near-naked Rick Dinianian sprawled seductively on a queen-size bed. The former Portlander presented a *tableau vivant* of the steamy French Quarter ads that run in *Just Out*. An astonishingly hot 57, Rick is the oldest centerfold ever to appear in *Playgirl*. But his personal passion is for painting abstract landscapes and semi-nude males.

Of course, yours truly couldn't resist hopping into bed with Rick. (The lengths I go to for my readers!) Fortunately, photographer Jodi Eve was close by. While Jodi agreed with everyone else that Rick's nipples are irresistible, she herself is passionate about raising money for Doernbecher Children's Hospital through her Cupcakes for Cancer project.

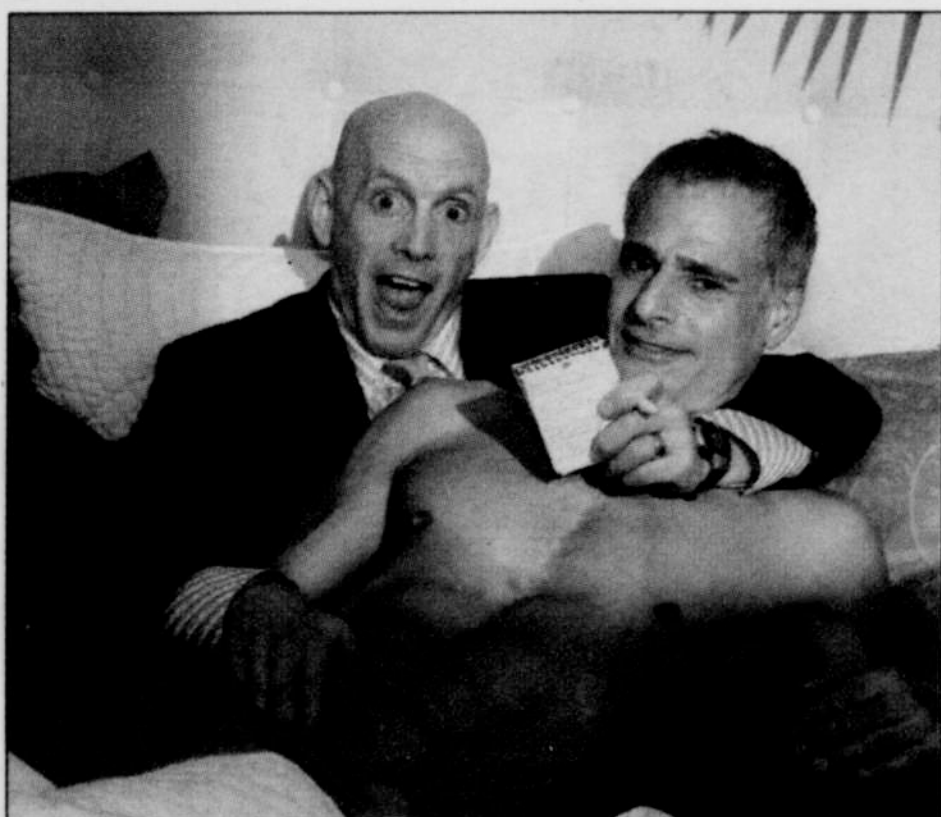
The following day, Thomas Lauderdale and Philip Iosca gathered 200 excited fans of Tom Spanbauer to Thomas' downtown loft for a party to celebrate Tom's fourth novel, *Now Is the Hour*. The author's gentle tone and sweet voice kept the

crowd spellbound as he read a lusty, but literary, skinny-dipping scene.

Among the literati were Multnomah County Circuit Court judicial candidate Trung Tu and his campaign manager, Matt Jaffe, who have been together so often, they should start dating. Connie Calcagno of Utopia Café was there with her business partner, Sarah Pagliaro. The eatery, which is also owned by Connie's girlfriend, Joanne Perkins, was recently voted Best Breakfast in Portland by listeners of KRSK-FM.

Finally, I fed my own passion for musical theater by going to see *Night of 100 Stars*, the second annual fund-raiser for Live on Stage, produced by gay impresario John Oules. My buddy Brian Wilson and I had a great time watching knockout numbers by some of Portland's most passionate performers, all of whom are definitely Out Going. 10

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



Floyd gets cozy with *Playgirl* centerfold Rick Dinianian at Art for Life.

and Daniel Kirk, who outbid me for a stunning landscape by Jeff Houghtaling. Eric and Daniel's passion is the Skinner Kirk Dance Ensemble, which they started in 2002.

Asking about passion yielded surprising results. For instance, Todd Canon confessed he was exhilarated and exhausted after running a 12-kilometer race that morning. Zeke Stroschein was full of youthful enthusiasm for his new job selling Suzukis in Gladstone, and Colin Wolf was just describing

YARN GARDEN

The Mothership of Yarn Shops
Every fiber, every color, every sense.
Friendly, creative staff.

Enjoy tasty food and drink at The Sipperie, while you knit.

Yarn Garden University
a glass for every reason
Open Knitting

10am-9pm Mon-Thu • 10am-6pm Fri
10am-5pm Sat, 12-5pm Sun

503-239-7950 • 1413 SE Hawthorne Blvd
www.yarngarden.net

On a first name basis with you and your car.

german formula, inc.

REPAIR FACILITY & COLLISION CENTER
BMW, MERCEDES & PORSCHE EXCLUSIVELY

503.238.1707 100 NE 11th Ave service@germanformula.com

Coventry Cycle Works

Professional Service
Comfortable Bikes
Recumbents a Specialty!

Open Tuesday-Sunday
(503) 230-7723
2025 SE Hawthorne

CHOOSE FROM 130 FRAGRANCES

CUSTOM SCENTING

Any of our perfume oils or essential oils can be used for our custom scenting.

ESSENTIAL
lotions & oils

3638 SE HAWTHORNE BLVD.
503.236.7976
WWW.ESSENTIALONLINE.COM

Interior view of a modern, well-lit space, likely a gallery or shop.