

by Marty Davis

OWL Connection

Portland Pride's powerful moments

Did you participate and celebrate Portland Pride this year? Many did, many more seemingly didn't. Truthfully, if it weren't a work function for me, I don't know that I would continue to go. This is not meant to convey anything negative about the organization or spirit of the event. It's just that after a few years, the booths, the crowd, the parade—they all take on a sameness. In memory, and in actuality, the years are becoming one. I think I am not alone in these thoughts; my observations of the crowds were that they get younger and younger and that those "of a certain age" seem to no longer participate. It's not unlike the "Christmas is for children" phenomenon. After a certain point, try though you might, you cannot recapture the excitement.

That said, Pride 2006 was not without its moments. Sunday's parade kept a good pace, and participants and viewers were energetic and playful. Derek Hartley and Romaine Patterson, hosts of Sirius Radio's "OutQ," did an outstanding job with announcing the parade entries. Truthfully, I had never heard of these people before, but you'd have thought they were born and raised in Portland for all the wisecracking and quips they were able to pull off. Their presence at the parade and on stage greatly increased audience participation and enjoyment.

Parade highlights for me included watching Nancy Sellers, former executive director of Our House of Portland, walking the parade route with her friends and former co-workers. What a powerful battle against cancer she has fought. My second "ah" moment came when I was delightfully caught off guard by the sight of Multnomah County Chair Diane Linn walking side by side with Chair-elect Ted Wheeler as they led the contingent for the Human Rights Campaign. I have to admit to becoming a little teary there for a moment. It was probably leftover emotion from the color guard. Those flags always get to me. It could be the Hamburger Relish Pride Parade and the color guard would still make me cry. That's just the way it is.

With 2006 being an election year, candidates were seen everywhere. Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski and Independent rival Ben Westlund brought their gubernatorial race to our party, while Ron Saxton, to no one's surprise, didn't. Jeff Cogen and Lew Frederick, candidates for Multnomah County commissioner, were spotted riding in cars, surrounded by supporters. Perhaps it was the sun in my eyes, but I swear Frederick was carrying some sort of smallish dog all decked out in butch leather attire? Huh, projection Lew? Linn aside, none of the other Multnomah County commissioners were spotted during the weekend. None of them is running for office right now, which is probably a good thing.


I have a question for Sam Adams, or anyone else who might know. His parade sign proclaims him to be "Portland's First Openly Gay City Commissioner," a tagline he uses often. The "openly" seems to imply there's previously been a clos-

eted gay city commissioner. Who? What am I missing, and why has it taken me so long to ask? I know I should know this, but I don't. Historians, Sam, help me out. What's the rest of the story? Come out, come out, whoever you were.

June celebrations were more far-reaching than Pride events. June 24 found women from across the region heading to Canyonville to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Oregon Women's Land. And I was one of them. This was my second visit to OWL, having previously overcome my misconceptions and trepidation about "those strange women" who live on the land. As it turns out, part of the 30th anniversary story is about the fact that no one actually does live there anymore, except during summer months. The property is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain and keep safe. Buildings are crumbling, the garden grows wild, the road is suffering from the impact of nearby logging, and the lack of electricity, water and basic services no longer holds the appeal that it once did. Overseen by the Oregon Women's Land Trust, there are now discussions about selling the property. But before decisions for the future are made, first the celebration of the past and beginning. About history, or *herstory*, about stories of women and the land they loved and shared. And the women they loved and shared. Oh, the stories these women have to tell.

On this same day *The Oregonian* featured a front-page story about a study showing that Americans are lacking in close friendships and support groups. Not these women, who came together to celebrate 30 years of camaraderie, friendship and family. Which is not to say there's no bickering and quarreling, as that was abundant also, along with small tussles over leadership and control. These are women with powerful backgrounds of leadership and resource. No PC wishy-washiness here. Pages of names were drawn up, founders were honored, gaps were filled in. Stories started by one were finished by another.

I didn't stay for the evening campfire, feeling somewhat of an interloper. It's their history, not mine. Whereas 30 years ago the campfire evenings likely included the ritual of mind-altering drugs, I suspect this anniversary more likely brought shared tales of Centrum Silver and calcium supplements. The times they are a-changin'.

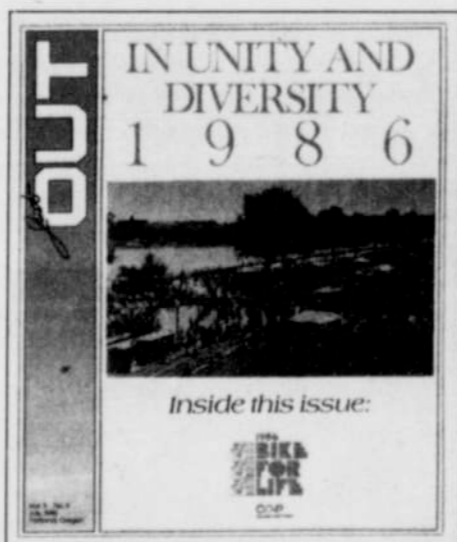
And the times will continue to change at OWL. The elders will grow yet more elder. The need will continue for younger women to follow the path and carry the torch. Will the land be sold? Will there be a new Oregon Women's Land? Is there still a need, a desire? Will there always be women to seek out women's space? Only time will tell. 

To view additional photos of Portland Pride and the 30th anniversary of Oregon Women's Land, please visit www.justout.com.

reflections

20 Years Ago in *Just Out*...
Vol. 3 No. 9, July 1986

- Whether we can call it groundswell of support for a boycott is debatable, but we do keep hearing that more businesses are canceling their Alpenrose accounts, the latest being Nature's and Earthquake Ethel's. Both businesses canceled for the same reason that compelled the people at Food Front to do so: Carl Cadonau's homophobia.
- Approximately 40 gays and lesbians from Portland have joined various teams and are in training for the upcoming Gay Games II to be held Aug. 9 to 17 in San Francisco.
- KOIN Cinemas' first big hit, *Desert Hearts*, has set a record in audience attendance at the new multiscreen complex. *Desert Hearts*, the story of a love affair between two women in Reno, Nev., during the late 1950s, drew sellout crowds during the first three weeks of its extended run. Attendance was "25 percent over its nearest competitor," reported a spokesman for the Seven Gables chain, owners of the KOIN Center complex.
- A New York state court, in a unanimous decision, recently ordered Roy M. Cohn disbarred, calling his conduct in four legal matters "unethical," "unprofessional" and "reprehensible." Cohn, who rose to prominence and political influence with his work for Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy in the 1950s, can no longer practice law before state courts or provide clients



inside this issue:

with legal advice about matters before New York state courts.

- The 13th annual Mr. Hunky pageant, sponsored by Sanford Director and Darcelle XV, was held June 1 and 8. The seven impressive contestants—Carlos Ramirez, Tim Grimes, Tom Williams, Doug Bob, John Appleby, Brian Day and Bob Gonzales—were introduced to the audience in formal wear, casual wear and swim wear both evenings, and on the final evening each performed a talent number and acted out his fantasy.
- Feminist gay men: Here's a chance to meet men like yourself and to discuss issues relating to the gay male experience from a feminist perspective. Our potluck and discussion group meets every third Friday at 7 p.m.
- Billed as the gay film of this year, *My Beautiful Laundrette* is a vivid, rude, wise social comedy about Pakistan immigrants. It is playing at the Movie House.
- Motherlode will be performing July 10 and 11 at East Avenue Tavern. The July 10 concert is a benefit for Educators for Social Responsibility, and donations beyond the \$4 cover charge will gladly be accepted.



MARTY DAVIS
PAGE 22

FEATURE

22 GETTING IT ON
Portlanders celebrate Pride 2006

NEWS

7-15 NORTHWEST

Celebrating Bill Hancock; curious about personal safety?; discussing hate crimes; Our House redux; unstructured getaway under way; marriage equality profitable; ReUnion Party planned; Men's Wellness Center unveiled; Pride president bids farewell; Portland approves symbolic resolution: former *Just Out* intern honored; BRO and HRC join forces; hate group threatens twice, flakes; equality on task

18-19 NATIONAL

Pentagon confirms spying on "don't ask, don't tell" foes; half of Fortune 500 now offer partner benefits; gay-targeted marketing draws yawns; advocacy group embraces new anti-HIV drug; activist and teacher mourned; Arkansas Supreme Court rejects foster parent ban; test measures genetic resistance to HIV

20-21 WORLD

Warsaw gays march legally; civil unions not popular in Northern Ireland; Estonia increases gay protections; life sentences in gay-bash murder; 10,000 march in Zurich; Cameroon men guilty of sodomy; gays march in Mauritius; Australian government kills capital's civil unions; 2.4 million at Sao Paulo Pride

ARTS AND CULTURE

41 THEATER

For theater artist John Ellingson, coming out was an important step in connecting with the integrity of his craft

42, 45 MUSIC

Lucie Blue Tremblay travels the country promoting breast cancer awareness; Morrissey sounds more confident than ever on his latest album

48 FILM

Superman Returns avoids homo nuances

COLUMNS

37 MS. BEHAVIOR

Buyer Beware

38 OUT GOING

An American in Paris

43 EPIQUEEREAN

Get Baked, Part Two: Show Me the Dough

47 DEAR ETHEL

Tri Sexual Minorities

50 JIM'S CLOSET

Perfect Strangers



PAGE 50