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## The Games We Play

Q Center celebrates with bingo

I love games. All kinds. Charades, crossword puzzles, Twister. So I was delighted to receive an invitation to Q Center's first anniversary celebration, which coincided with its monthly bingo game. Pinch-hitting for **Poison Waters**, who was out of town, were the stars of 105.1 FM's *Afternoon Buzz*, **Daria O'Neill** (in honorary bold) and **Mitch Elliott**, so comfortable with his newly out status that he announced he was ready to touch some balls.

During the pregame show, **Bob Speltz** served slices of sumptuous cake, lovingly made by Q Center interim coordinator and master baker **Tim Healea**. Between bites I chatted with **Veronica Ledoux**, who was recruited from Chicago to do post-doctoral work studying how pesticides on produce affect our nervous systems. I also chatted with **John Hicks**, who was excited by a recent visit to the Classical Chinese Garden with his gay gardening group, and I looked at the exquisite exhibit of photographs by **Antimo Cimino** that juxtapose Baroque architecture with the human form.



**Out Going**  
BY FLOYD SKLAVER

Mitch and Daria kept us laughing; similarly, when another radio personality, Janeane Garofalo, brought her partisan humor to town, we laughed 'til we cried. The tart-tongued comedian made fun of everything from politicians to the pope to Portland's own In Other Words bookstore. Guffawing in the gay section with me were *Just Out* Arts and Culture Editor **Jim Radosta**,

**Kevin Easton**, **Todd Pozycycki** and **Ron Pitt**.

Marc and I also had a really good time at former *Just Out* writer **Aaron Scott's** birthday/going-away party. (Aaron is off to journalism school in New York City.) There we met up with **George Winborn**, an advertising copywriter whose expertise on urban chicken rearing was featured in *The New York Times*. Buxom burlesque performer **Ezmerelda** was also there, chatting with **Miss Conception**, who "strolled the streets of High Wycombe in full drag" during her recent visit to



Queer photographer **Serena Davidson** celebrated her 30th birthday during *Andaz*, a monthly dance night at *Fez Ballroom*.

the United Kingdom. She admitted that perhaps she was "a bit much for the locals" in the town of 70,000, which is 29 miles from London.

Another birthday celebrant, **Serena Davidson**, invited friends to fete her 30th during *Andaz* at the Fez. This monthly gathering features Bhangra (a hybrid of Indian music combining traditional Punjabi vocals with modern hip-hop and dance beats) and Bollywood sounds. Hips swung during this hip mix of gays and straights, which included **Richard Gagnon**, a massage therapist and nursing student who's training for his second marathon, and **Stephanie Routh**, who recently appeared in a production of Noel Coward's *Private Lives* in which she played both female characters. **Jenn Dolan** told me she hitchhiked to South Dakota, where her car was stranded because the friend who was supposed to bring it to Oregon didn't know how to drive a stick. And **Megan Manley** told me she loves to dance so much, she recently commissioned private tango classes for 15 of her closest friends.

Apparently, it takes more than two to tango. Now that's what I call Out Going. 10

Along the way the usual bingo jokes were swung: B-4 ("and after," the crowd yelled back). Of course, Ohhhh-69 always got a laugh. But my personal favorite was when Mitch called, "I-18," and Daria responded, "U-Wish."

Q Center likes to keep bingo interesting. So, in addition to creative variations on the up-and-down and straight-across patterns (including a Q-shaped one), participants stand when they're just one number away from victory. I guess **Kelsey Tyler** and I could have used those lucky daubers, because we remained stubbornly in our seats all night long. My partner, **Marc Acito**, came close and jumped up with such excitement that **Oratio Torres** said, "Ooh, what's he sitting on?"

A new addition to the roster at Q Center is Gayme Night, which organizers promise will include board, card, party and trivia games that are easy to learn and fun to play. Keep score of all Q Center events at [www.pdxqcenter.org](http://www.pdxqcenter.org).

FLOYD SKLAVER wants to know about your event. E-mail him at [floydsklaver@comcast.net](mailto:floydsklaver@comcast.net).