

# A Beautiful Day

Governor signs bills legalizing domestic partnerships, banning discrimination

**M**ay 9 was one of those often-too-rare, stunningly beautiful spring days in Salem. This history-making morning was adorned with deep, crisp, blue skies, with only a soft and occasional white cloud drifting through. The bright blues of the Oregon state flag flew sharply and energetically in the morning sky, providing a duo of contrasting shades of azure. As the bill-signing ceremonies began, the sun rose over the Capitol, bathing the gathered spectators in warmth and good will. To add to the splendor of the morning, not so much as a single protester appeared to mar the moment. No buses of Slavic youth, no pious churchgoers, no protest signs—not a single person appeared to dampen the moment. It couldn't have been better.

Gathered together on the westside steps of the Capitol was a veritable living encyclopedia of gay and lesbian history in Oregon. Together again, for this day, were men and women representing more than 30 years of political activism and history. Don Powell, Steve Fulmer, Fred Neal and Terry Bean were all able to bear witness to decades of lobbying before one state legislative session after another, extolling our elected leaders to simply do the right thing. I have no doubt that each of them was giving thought to others who had also labored hard and long but whose own battles had ended before

this day finally appeared. I myself thought of the good work of Bill and Ann Shepherd and wished that they could have lived to see this day. Their memory and their endeavors were kept alive by the presence of their PFLAG co-founders, Chuck and Rita Knapp. The Knapps, accompanied by their daughter Kristan and her partner, Janna Macauslan, are to be honored and thanked for their years of service and dedication to our community.

Gail Shibley and George Eighmey sightings brought to mind the days when we were represented by five openly gay men and women in the state Legislature. Today, Tina Kotek sets a high standard of visibility and activism within the Capitol halls. In the next election cycle, we must strive to send another of us to share her load. Strength in numbers!

Assembled on the Capitol steps, facing a large and cheering crowd, Gov. Ted Kulongoski was jubilant as he prepared to sign Senate Bill 2 and House Bill 2007. His broad smiles were exceeded only by those of former Gov. Barbara Roberts, who declared that this day was one of the proudest moments of her life. Gathered around the signing table was a who's who of Oregon politics. Present were Attorney General Hardy Myers, Treasurer Randall Edwards, Secretary of State Bill Bradbury and a multitude of state senators and representatives. Members of the Governor's Task Force on Equality stood together. Let's not forget their role in bringing honorable and decent recommendations back to the governor.

First came the speeches, each brief yet meaningful. The governor hugged his colleagues, and the steps echoed with applause. Then the moment came for the actually signing. The table was ringed with ceremonial pens, each with an engraved wooden case. Each pen scribed a few letters and was then handed off with smiles and handshakes. Receiving the pens were Roberts, Bean, Powell, Kate Brown, House Speaker Jeff Merkley and Basic Rights Oregon's new executive director, John Hummel.

The official part of the ceremony closed with the Portland Gay Men's Chorus offering a goose-



MARTY DAVIS



MARTY DAVIS



MARTY DAVIS



**ON THE COVER**

Jack Smith and the Destruction of Atlantis—a memorable biography of a genius who was queer in more ways than one—screens June 2 at QDOC: Portland Queer Documentary Film Festival, the first of its kind in the country.

**FEATURE**

**22 SOUTHERN COMFORT**

Oregon Shakespeare Festival hires new out and proud artistic director

**NEWS**

**8-14 NORTHWEST**

Queer literature financed; school tackles queer health education; theater group receives NEA grant; pro-choice comedian entertains at Darcelle's; trans activist imparts experience; HIV Day Center celebrates 18 years

**18-19 NATIONAL**

Half of Americans protected from anti-gay discrimination; California Name Equality Act passes Assembly; trans president elected to SF police commission; Colorado Legislature passes nondiscrimination bill;

**20-21 WORLD**

Gaydar founder jumped to death while on drugs; BP CEO outed, resigns; Jerusalem bomb seen as warning to gays; Singaporean former PM against criminalizing gay sex; Thai gays seek constitutional protection

**ARTS AND CULTURE**

**15 BOOKS**

Author deconstructs "the stigma of effeminacy"

**39 SPORTS**

Rose City Softball Association sees a record increase in new members

**41-43 FILM**

Cillian Murphy smartly picks award-winning *The Wind That Shakes the Barley* instead of execrable sequel *28 Weeks Later*; Portland makes history with the country's first queer documentary film festival

**44 NIGHTLIFE**

Sometimes a hangover is worth it

**COLUMNS**

**16 DEAR ETHEL**

Eyeing the Prize

**31 EPIQUEERAN**

Where to Get Your "Oohs" and "Ahhs"

**35 MS. BEHAVIOR**

Expiration Date

**36 OUT GOING**

Funny Honey

**37 OUT OF MY MIND**

Grief Revisited

**46 JIM'S CLOSET**

Queen of the Desert