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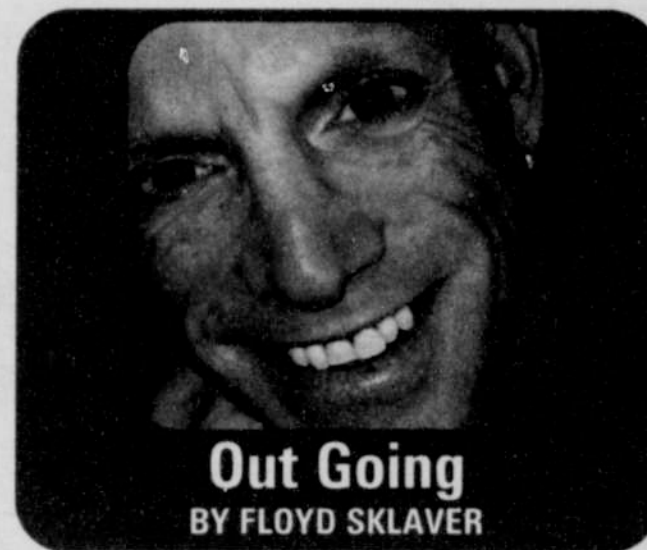
Aristotle said democracy only occurs when there is equality for all. Well, equality took a step forward when the Oregon Legislature passed domestic partnership and nondiscrimination bills. To observe history, I hitched a ride to Salem with **Bryan Boyd**, designated blogger for Basic Rights Oregon, and witnessed the state Senate vote on domestic partnerships.

Walking into the august chambers, I was stunned by the number of queers who had turned out. The first I ran into was **Mike Grigsby**, an organizer for BRO who does "a lot of the grunt work, prepping documents and testimony and begging people to do things." **Diane Hall** and **Tamara Diaghilev** drove up from Eugene. Tamara's uncle was **Serge Diaghilev**, the famous gay Russian impresario who commissioned George Balanchine's *Apollo*, recently performed by Oregon Ballet Theatre. Here, the titular god was danced by **Ronnie Underwood**, who's in bold print not because he's gay (I don't know) but because he's so beautiful and so talented that I want him to be. Also very beautiful and very talented is dancer **Brennan Boyer**, who stood out during artistic director **Christopher Stowell's Eyes on You**, set to the tunes of Cole Porter.

Back at the Senate, **Sean Minogue** (no relation to Kylie) told me he had been there for all of the hearings. Sean sat in the cheering section with **Randy Lyons**, a former competitive cheerleader at University of North Texas. Randy was the first male cheerleader at his Arkansas high school and was recognized as one of the best college cheerleaders in the country.

I sat down to listen to the debate next to **Cheryl Hall**, who brought her own scorecard to keep track of the balloting. On my other side was the news editor of *The Mercury*, **Amy Ruiz**, posting to her paper's blog. Recently transplanted from Seattle, where she worked for *The Stranger*, a few years ago Amy married author and sex advice columnist **Dan Savage**. They had a large wedding reception, which they turned into a fund-raiser for Lambda Legal, but never mailed the license to King County because Dan didn't want to pay for a divorce. The license expired, but not Amy's dreams of marital bliss, which continue with her girlfriend of seven years, **Sonia Ruiz**.

As Sen. **Kate Brown** rose to read an impassioned defense of the bill, I found myself on pins and needles and ready to cry. Was it joy? Nerves? Pride in our legislators? Probably a combination of all three. But once the final tally was announced, I bounded out of my chair and raced over to former Gov. **Barbara Roberts** (in honorary bold for more than 30 years of tireless effort on behalf of equality) so I could be the first to capture her reaction: "I think the most significant quote of the day was [Sen. Frank Morse, R-Albany, who said,] 'Today's vote signals how much heart Oregon has.'"



So, to Roberts, Morse and Sens. Alan Bates, D-Ashland, and Ben Westlund, D-Tumalo, who joked they were going to form a domestic partnership, and all the other courageous legislators, I heart you.

Speaking of hearts, **Kelsey Tyler** and **Robert Burke** tied the knot last month. But first Kelsey's closest friends took him out for a celebratory



From left, Ron Pitt, Todd Pozyski, Floyd, Marc Acito, Kelsey Tyler, Karl Rohde and Matt Neupert recover from a wild bachelor party.

evening of debauched bachelorhood. **Todd Pozyski** arranged for the private party in the back bar of C.C. Slaughters, where Kelsey was toasted and roasted by, among others, **Michael Teufel**, who shared a tasteful anecdote about Kelsey farting on stage.

My task for the evening was to find 69 hot men for Kelsey to kiss as a final hurrah. Among them were **Chris McLanahan** (No. 12) and **Colin Cowden** (No. 13), sitting in a corner commiserating over their broken relationships. After kissing Kelsey (and me—for good luck), Chris proudly showed off his new underwear. **Richard Wolfe** and **Steven Foz** were Nos. 42 and 43, then Nos. 44 and 45 when Kelsey went back for seconds. **Rob Crosby** (No. 4) said he'd only kiss Kelsey if he could use his tongue.

After a slumber party in **Karl Rohde's** living room, we awoke and watched HGTV (otherwise known as How Gay TV). With my boyfriend, **Marc Acito**, frying bacon and eggs, Kelsey thought it would be fun to call his fiancé and tell him he'd caught chlamydia.

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