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"This year we had planned to do a 'loco-vore' Thanksgiving to use as many materials that we had grown or raised ourselves. We wanted to have consciousness about where our food was coming from. This is the first time my partner, Hillary [Smith], has been in charge of a big holiday event. She grew a lot of the food, and we also raised heritage turkeys.



"This spring we got eight turkeys to raise, and it was a big experiment to see if we could stomach eating any animals that we had raised ourselves. We ended up managing to kill four, but we couldn't kill all the turkeys ourselves because we got really fond of them.

"Two weeks before Thanksgiving, my cousins were involved in a car accident in Missouri. It was tragic and I'm very close to them, so I had to fly out there and abandon Hillary to take on all of the Thanksgiving preparation.

"I was out in Missouri dealing with a lot of death and hospital and family and tragedy.

"When I flew back in, Hillary put warm, fuzzy pants and slippers on me and a blanket and said: 'I've got it all taken care of. All you have to do is be with family and friends who love you.'

"Being around the support of my friends and family and Hillary, who pulled everything off remarkably well, and with my cousin surviving her accident, made it, honestly, the best Thanksgiving ever."

CRIS LAND

Basic Rights Oregon board co-chairman

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of La Femme Magnifique Internationals and La Femme Plus pageants. "I would assume it will be traditional and not traditional," said Cole. "Come and have a delightful time. Our Christmas shows are always very successful and very fun." Tickets are \$15.

If you're in the mood for some more conventional holiday music, the Portland Gay Men's Chorus will be performing *Brass, Bells and Wassail* 8 p.m. Dec. 14 and 15 and 2 p.m. Dec. 16 at Reed College's Kaul Auditorium, 3203 S.E. Woodstock Blvd.

The show will include traditional holiday music such as "Winter Wonderland," "Silver Bells" and "The 12 Days of Christmas" as well as classical fare like Francis Poulenc's "Hodie Christus Natus Est." It will

also feature dance performances by The Locomotions. According to artistic director Bob Mensel, the chorus will perform a swing dance to "Cool Yule," a jazz tune by Steve Allen. The rich sounds of brass and percussion will enhance the musical performance.

The event seeks to be inclusive, incorporating video segments from members of the community sharing their knowledge about winter solstice, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Advent and Christmas. "It'll be informative, but not in a dry way," said Mensel. He said one of the videos will be of a "certain public official," who will talk about her love of shopping.

"Some of our other concerts are a little more adult-oriented, but this is a nice, warm family tradition," said Mensel. "Bring Grandma, bring the kids." Tickets are \$15-\$20.

The Portland Gay Men's Chorus will perform *Brass, Bells and Wassail* Dec. 14 to 16 at Reed College's Kaul Auditorium.

Happy Holidays

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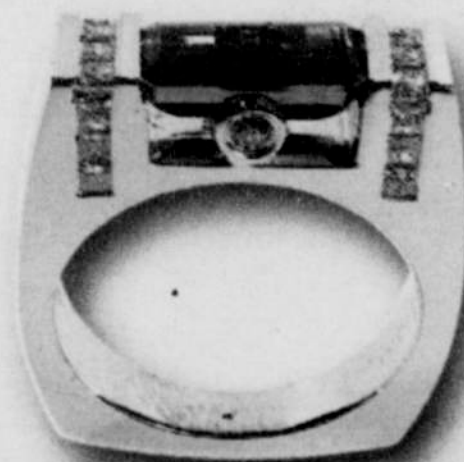
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