

New Year's Eve

A streak of inspiration

I've never liked New Year's Eve. All that forced frivolity seems silly and geared for repressed, middle-aged straight folks. As a gay man, I can have a wild time any night of the year. (I don't—but I could.) As a result, I usually just stay home. So this year, I was determined to learn how others enjoy the celebration, and I began inquiring about their most memorable New Year's Eve.

At Holcombe Waller's holiday party, the only other Floyd I've met in Portland, Floyd "Rocky" Montgomery, told me 2006 was his favorite because he and friends "gave ourselves champagne enemas," which just goes to show that gay guys can be as silly around the holidays as straights. Eric Skinner remembers being at the Trevi Fountain in Rome, and Devan McGrath recalls putting on a drag show at Nocturnal, Portland's now-defunct all-ages club. Matt Hope is "still hoping for a great evening," while Skip Flinn springs to Oklahoma City to see alt-rock band The Flaming Lips in concert. Skip is a recent transplant from Lawrence, Kan.; he's only staying a few months before relocating to Pocatello, Idaho, for a job coaching University of Idaho's debate team.



Out Going
BY FLOYD SKLAVER

Batie reminisced about the Oregon coast with a "bunch of geek friends," one of whom is involved with tracking whales via satellite, aka the "Whales in Space." Steve Cookson holds dear a night in a hotel overlooking Times Square watching the ball drop. Bobby Black does, too. He and 10 others were invited by a close friend, but the celebration turned bittersweet when he returned home to learn that the friend was dying of AIDS and that this trip was among his final wishes.

Dylan Craker, Bobby's beau, said the past New Year's Eve was the best because it was the first the young couple spent together. "We opened a bottle of wine," Dylan told me, "and then the blinds to watch hundreds of people run by in the annual marathon." Rocky Brewer, whose "tonal pop" album, *Beautiful Thought*, comes out in mid-January, remembers his sister exploding "the biggest, loud-



Floyd parties with Nick Orr (left) and Rocky Brewer.

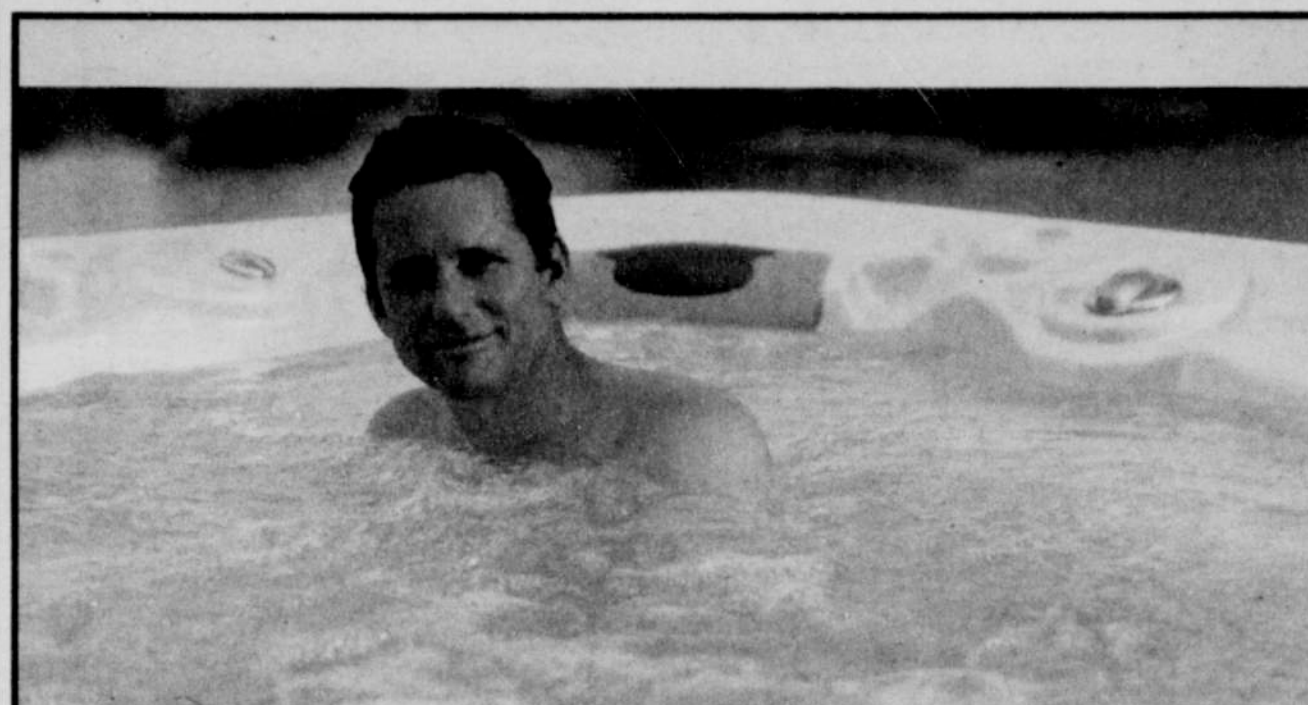
est firecracker I've ever seen or heard." Nick Orr has fond memories of a party his parents threw when he was 12. They had a disco ball on the ceiling, and the walls were covered with mirrors. "I lay on the floor," Nick said, "staring up, watching the lights." Then, wistfully, he added, "I haven't had a good one since."

I feel the same way, Nick, which is why I started this exploration. Yet, despite the many suggestions, Marc and I decided to hang out in our pajamas with a close group of friends and play games. After two hours of Fake Porn Charades, where the clues are imaginative pornography titles (my favorite was *Guess Who's Coming to Rim Her*), someone (OK, it was me) suggested we ring in the new year by streaking around our host's Irvington neighborhood.

We were joined by a clan of straight people, some middle-aged (but definitely not repressed); it was the perfect way to say goodbye to the year that was Out Going. 10

Tales of out-of-town fun were typical at Sticky, Andrew Haddock's 17-year-old creative agency with offices in Portland and Amsterdam. Alan

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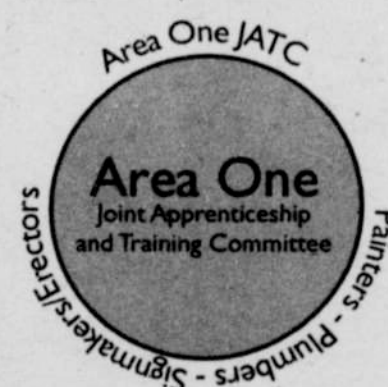


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