



Andrew Hogan: has Pride fabulosity, ready to party.

JRC: What do you say to members of the queer community who boycott Pride?

DB: They make their own choices about what they feel is important. I think it's important to be a witness to who we are and the diversity that we have. We're not just a homogenous group that all think or act alike.

It's in the Bag

Nicole Ritchie, Amy Fisher, Mary Poppins: three iconoclastic divas. But for Andrew Hogan, they're more than that—they're the names he's bestowed on three of his favorite man-purses.

Yes, you read that right, and yes, the 24-year-old fund-raising staffer at Basic Rights Oregon is just kooky and flamboyant enough to name each of his handbags after a favorite female starlet, according to each bag's look and shape. Examples: Hogan's chic bronze clutch purse is "the Amy Fisher," after the infamous '90s Manhattan Lolita; his emphatically oversized bag is, of course, named after Ms. Ritchie, who herself carried such a head-turning tote.

Since moving to Portland from upstate New York two years ago, Hogan has been active, first as a volunteer and now as a full-time staffer for BRO, the state's flagship queer advocacy and education organization.

Stephen Marc Beaudoin: How do you celebrate Pride?

Andrew Hogan: I just make it a point to make it to as many events as possible: to see and be seen, and be amongst the crowd and the energy and the fervor that is Pride.

SMB: What makes you proud?

AH: It really influences the type of person I am, in terms of coming out and fighting for acceptance and equal rights...it's shown me that I'm one pretty tough cookie. My gayness is one source of strength I can really fall back on—it naturally

just helps me to think outside the box...or outside the purse.

SMB: What is your best bet for Pride?

AH: Two things—I just love the parade and seeing people in their costumes. I get a kick seeing what people drag out of their closets. Then Thursday right after Pride we have an event called "Bites for Rights." Around 70 to 80 restaurants donate 15 percent of their proceeds on the day of Thursday, June 19 to BRO.

SMB: What do you say to members of the queer community who boycott Pride?

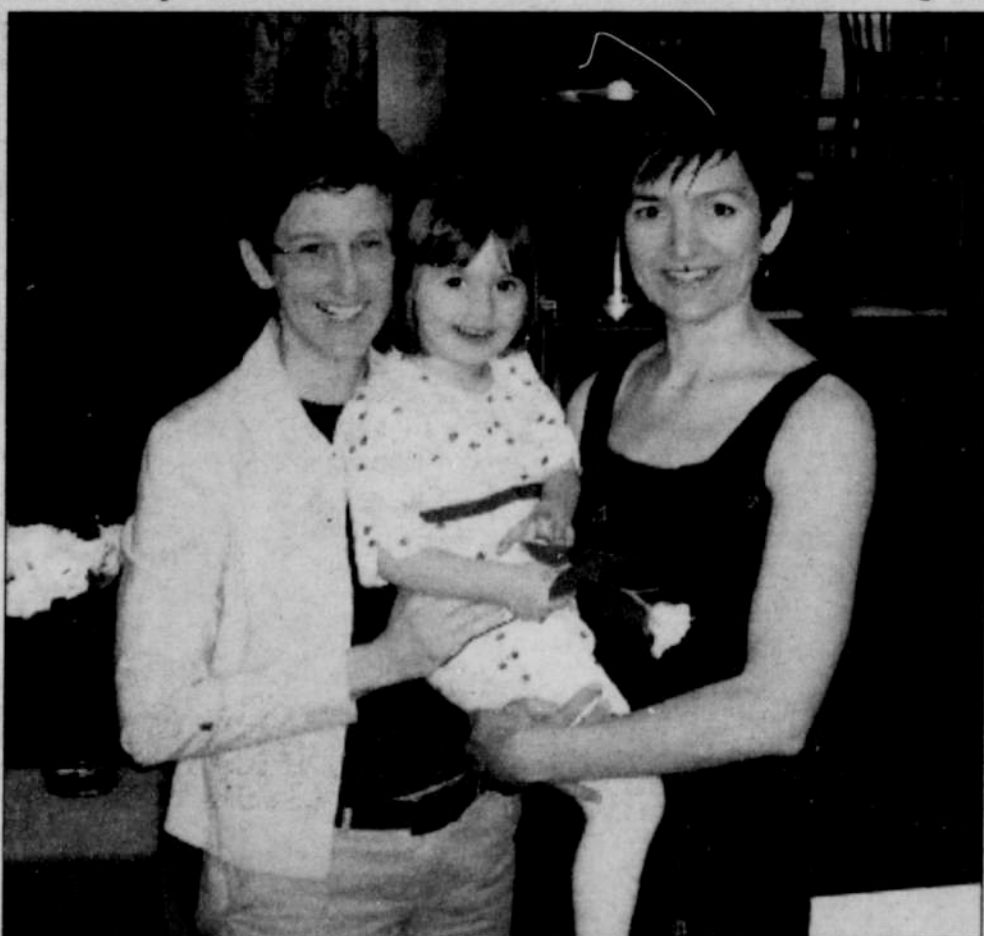
AH: On one end I can see where they're coming from, where we take this one month and come out of the closet and make a splashy show of it. I would hope one day we wouldn't have to have an event like Pride, that there isn't that stigma associated with being gay, and people can be accepted for who they are. That's the dream goal we're all working towards, right?

Moms on Parade

PLOP may not be the most enticing-sounding acronym, but it draws more than 160 lesbian moms to 43-year-old Myra Lavenue's group.

She is one of the founders of Parenting/Preg-

Continued on Page 9P



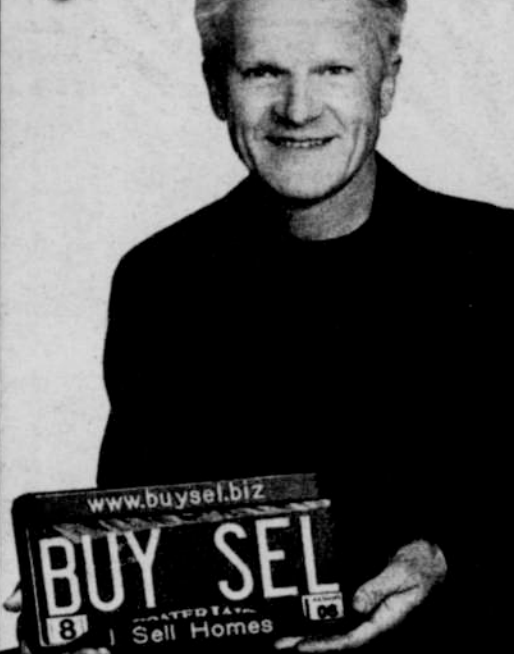
Myra (left) and Elizabeth Lavenue, with daughter Aria—all smiles for Pride.

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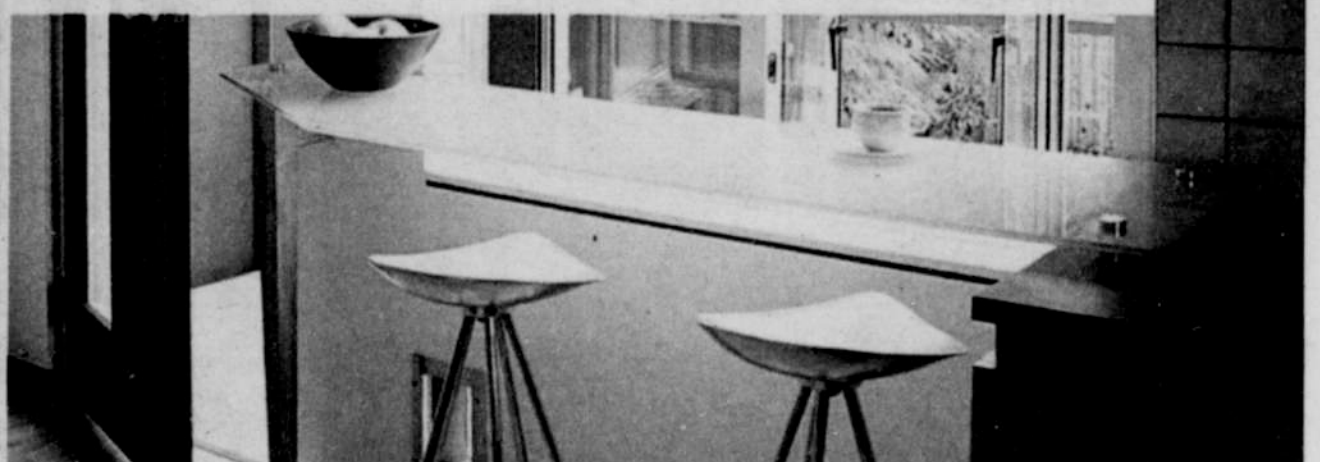
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