

a community memorial service  
to honor the life and work of

# Kaelin Bowers

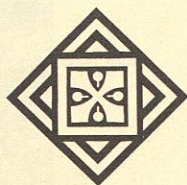


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✧ a community memorial service ✧  
to honor the life and work of

# Kaelin Bowers

gathering with cello

opening thoughts from Reid Vanderburgh



Roey Thorpe

Morgan Madrid



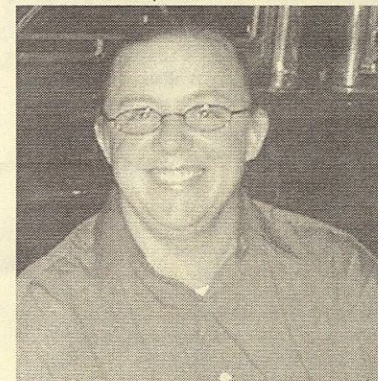
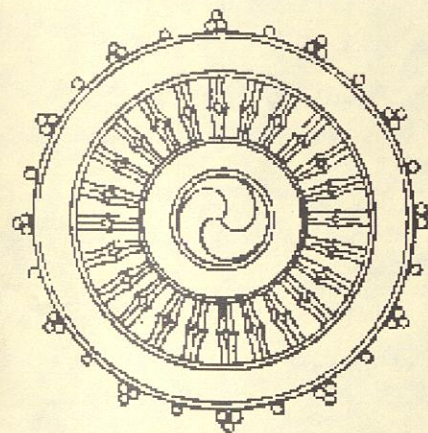
individual memories and reflections

"Amazing Grace" with everyone

closing thoughts from Reid Vanderburgh

departure with cello

:: cello by David Potter ::  
thank you ASL interpreters



Amazing grace, how sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm found  
was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
and grace my fears relieved  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed

Through many troubles, toils, and trials  
I've already come  
'twas grace that brought me safe thus far  
and grace will lead me home



Kaelin (center) in Washington D.C., 2003



# in Kaelin's own words...

"I will do all that I can to help keep the notion of liberty alive. I will do this despite the lack of concern I see in other people and in my Representatives because I think that democracy is worth fighting for."

--from *The Grass is Growing in D.C.*

One Perspective of the Grassroots Movement  
to Defend the Bill of Rights

<http://www.lanerights.org/kaelin.htm>



"Fortunately, the fact that I get to be me each day is an incredible source of joy for me. I manage to get through the day without too much heartache. I have a great support system of friends and that really makes all the difference. I feel like I have finally come home."

--from *Personal Story*

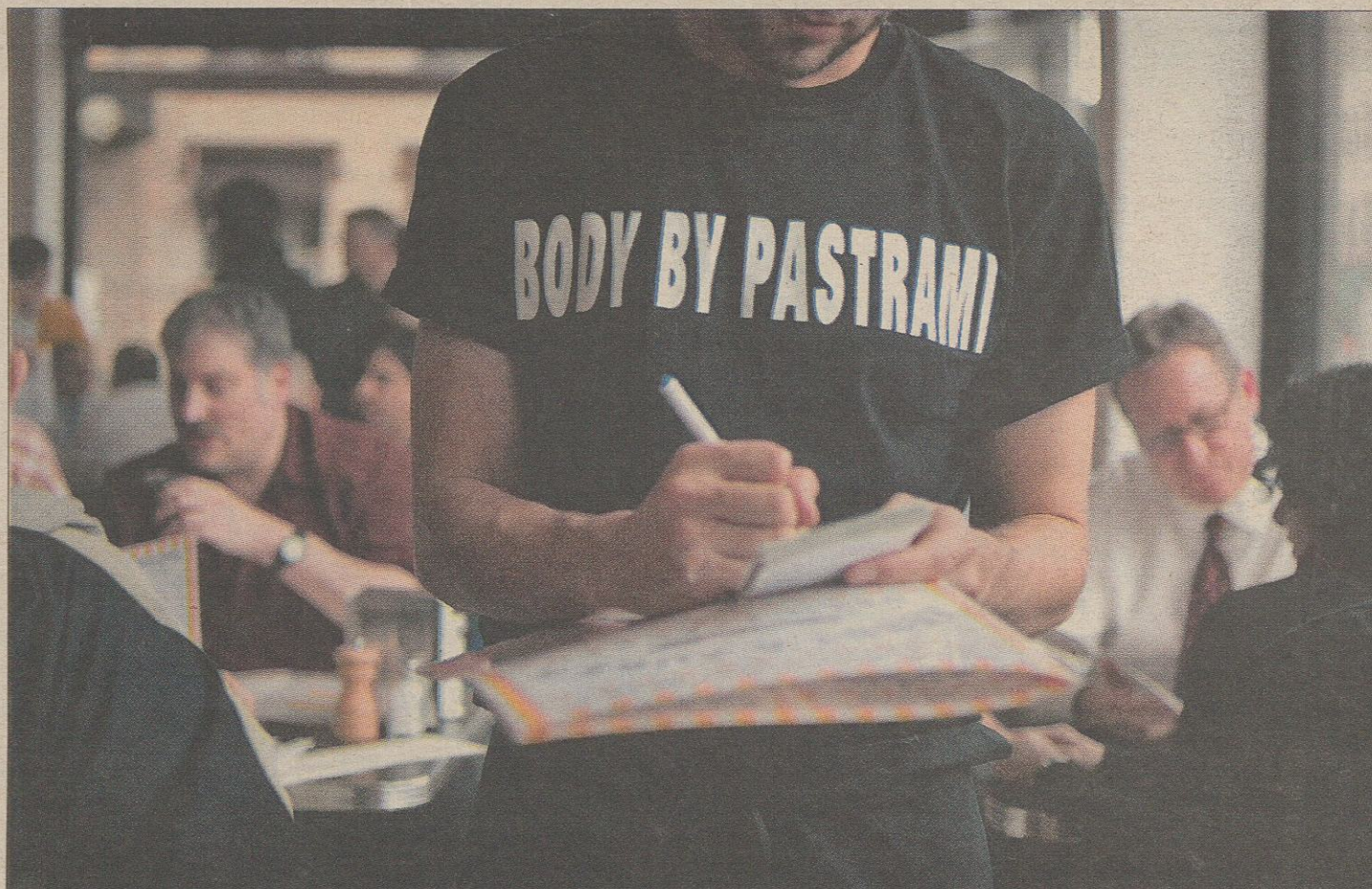


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# TRANSFORMATION AT THE TRIANGLE



■ TOP LEFT: Construction crews have dug a hole 60 feet deep at Southwest 12th and Washington for a 22-story apartment-and-office tower. It's one of the upscale projects being built in the historically gay neighborhood.  
 ■ ABOVE LEFT: Kenny and Zuke's Delicatessen opened last week at 1038 S.W. Stark St. in a neighborhood known at various times as the Burnside Triangle, the Gay Triangle and the West End.



■ TOP RIGHT: Charlie Beard sweeps the sidewalk in front of Georgia's Grocery, a mainstay on Southwest Stark Street, where new restaurants and apartments are changing the neighborhood.  
 ■ ABOVE RIGHT: Boxxes is one of the remaining gay bars on Southwest Stark Street, where some in Portland's GLBT community welcome new development.

If you spread out a map and trace the black ribbon of West Burnside Street from the Willamette River to Southwest 12th Avenue and take a left, you'll find a scruffy, historically gay commercial district undergoing a facelift that would put Joan Rivers to shame.

A trendy hotel has opened on Stark Street, in the heart of what's known as the Burnside Triangle. Around the corner, a new movie theater feels more like home than a multiplex. A giant hole in the ground will soon sprout a 22-floor apartment and office tower, and a second tower nearby may soon throw shadows over all the fabulosity below. Plans call for a walkway north across Burnside to the rare air in the Pearl District.

All this comes at a cost, of course. Businesses catering to the gay community have moved or closed. Rising rents could force out others. And an area that gays and lesbians have embraced as their own is beginning to look like a "hot" neighborhood, with developers swooping in and outsiders following close behind them.

"We didn't bring a lot of money into this neighborhood," says David Fones, who works at Scandals, a gay bar on Stark Street. "But we made it fashionable. So now people are bringing the money in."

The redevelopment in the area has caused angst among some who fear its rich cultural past will be lost. But there's also a sense that the changes will provide the rest of the city with an open invitation to join gays and lesbians on their own turf.

"It allows the community to see people as themselves," says Douglas Neff, who works and socializes in the area. "There's no separation."

It's been called the Gay Triangle, the Burnside Triangle and the West End. The epicenter is the block bounded by 12th, Burnside and Stark. But with Burnside as its northern edge, the neighborhood is loosely defined as the area between Southwest Ninth Avenue, Washington Street and 14th Avenue, spreading south and east to cover nearly a dozen city blocks that for decades have housed social service agencies, the poor and a gay commercial center featuring clubs, restaurants and shops.

The neighborhood has been a meeting place for Portland's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community since at least the beginning of the 20th century and maybe earlier, according to a report completed in 2003 by the Burnside Triangle Advisory Group.

The group compiled the report for the City Council to aid planning and to help maintain the neighborhood's historic character. As part of the West End Development Plan, the city has promised the area's "continuation as a Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender friendly environment."

But city officials haven't always been so solicitous. The police targeted the area in the early and middle part of the century "to control the activities and suppress the civil rights of gays and lesbians," the report said. In 1912, it said, undercover officers working in the clubs arrested several prominent men on sodomy charges, though their convictions were later overturned by the state Supreme Court.

In the '70s, a gay business association called the Portland Town Council worked from the Burnside Triangle to bring civil rights protections to the gay and lesbian community.

And as the gay-rights movement evolved, the neighborhood grew as an entertainment district, especially for men. A string of bars and dance clubs, including CC Slaughter's, Scandals, the Silverado and Eagle PDX made Stark Street a one-stop social hub where gay men could be themselves.

It wasn't the only gay club scene in Portland, but it was the most prominent.

"It was convenient," says Walter Cole, aka Darcelle, who operates a storied drag club in Old Town. "You wouldn't have to spend all evening in one location. Just a few steps away was another doorway."

Many of the bars remain and the neighborhood maintains a gritty feel, thanks to low-income housing and landmark businesses such as Georgia's Grocery.

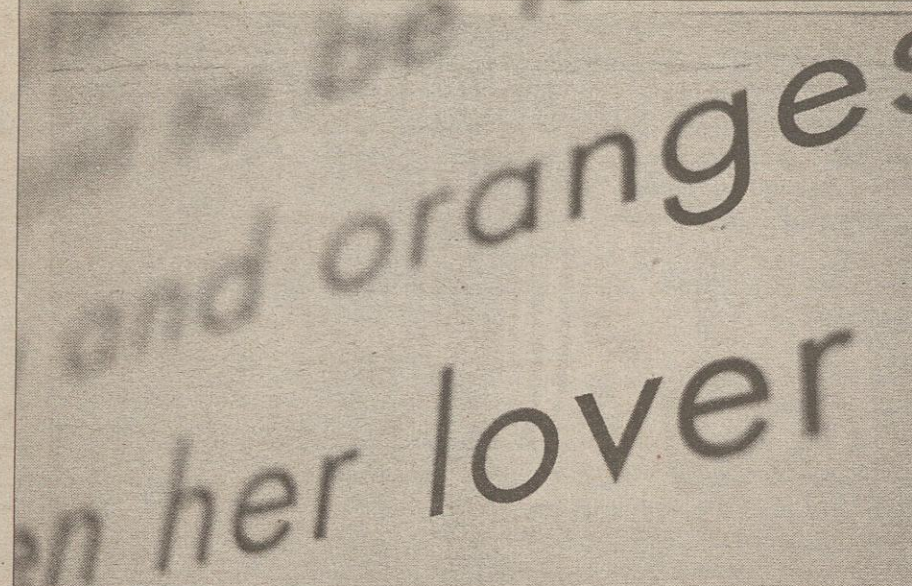
For decades, a wedge along West Burnside has been a center of Portland's gay life. Will a wave of development change that?

By Stephen Beaven  
THE OREGONIAN

Photos by  
Jamie Francis  
THE OREGONIAN

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13





■ ABOVE LEFT: The lyrics to "Suzanne," a Leonard Cohen song, are written on the wall of the Ace Hotel, which opened this year on Valentine's Day and seeks to appeal to wine, food and arts enthusiasts

■ ABOVE RIGHT: The Joyce Hotel is a link to the past in the Burnside Triangle area, where housing for the poor has always been available. The Joyce offers rooms for \$27 a night.

[COMMENTARY By Wade Nkrumah]

## GAY TRIANGLE'S FATE HAS MEANING FOR ME

Portland is somewhat of an anomaly among West Coast cities with sizable gay populations. We don't have a gay ghetto.

San Francisco has the Castro. Los Angeles has West Hollywood, or WeHo. Seattle has Capitol Hill. San Diego has Hillcrest.

Even in the deep Southwest's Houston, generally not regarded as a haven for gays — or anyone, really — there's Montrose.

Downtown's Gay Triangle area — centered around the triangular block bounded by West Burnside, Southwest 12th and Stark — is the closest Portland comes to a "gayborhood."

Stark is the Triangle's spine. It has bustling with the sights and sounds of gay nightlife since the early '70s and the dawn of the post-Stonewall era — the 1969 riots in New York City that many cite as igniting the modern gay and lesbian civil rights movement.

I certainly appreciate the Triangle's significance as a cornerstone in the city's gay and lesbian history. Still, I've yearned for a gay ghetto like the Castro, WeHo, Capitol Hill, Hillcrest, Montrose.

Though I came out in Portland, I lived in cities with gay ghettos before moving here. I was born in Chicago but spent the latter part of elementary school in San Francisco and started junior high school in a neighboring city. I went to high school in Houston and college in the Los Angeles area.

I think of a gay ghetto as being like

home, in a different sense. It's a gayborhood with bars and nightclubs, but also where we live and worship, dine and shop, work and play, and simply hang.

It's the same way I identify with certain cities as *Chocolate Cities*: Atlanta and Washington, D.C., quickly come to mind, as well Oakland, Calif.

Or, as in my birthplace, how I strongly associate Chicago with the South Side. As the city's center of black community and culture, the South Side is where I feel most welcome.

There's little that's more comforting than being around or with your peeps, especially when, in the bigger picture, you're a minority. In the company of your own, you have fewer worries about being judged — and fearing worse.

In that context, the gay ghetto and our city's Gay Triangle share equal standing. That's why I'm worried about the Triangle's fate — what it will become in the near future and whether it will exist in 10 years.

Redevelopment in the area, coveted for its proximity to the glittering Pearl District just across Burnside, has claimed at least three longtime gay hangouts along or within a block of Stark in the past decade. Rumors have been swirling the past 18 months about closure or relocation outside the Triangle of two more places.

Until further notice, though, we still hang at Boxxes, Red Cap Garage, Eagle PDX, Scandals and Silverado.

These bars and nightclubs, pulsing with eye candy and flirting, are comfortable — if smoke-filled — places to see and be seen throughout the week and, particularly, into the weekend.

And for many gays and lesbians in the city, there's no shame in the Triangle falling short of a gay ghetto. For them, it speaks to fitting seamlessly in Portland, without the so-called refuge a gay ghetto can be perceived as providing.

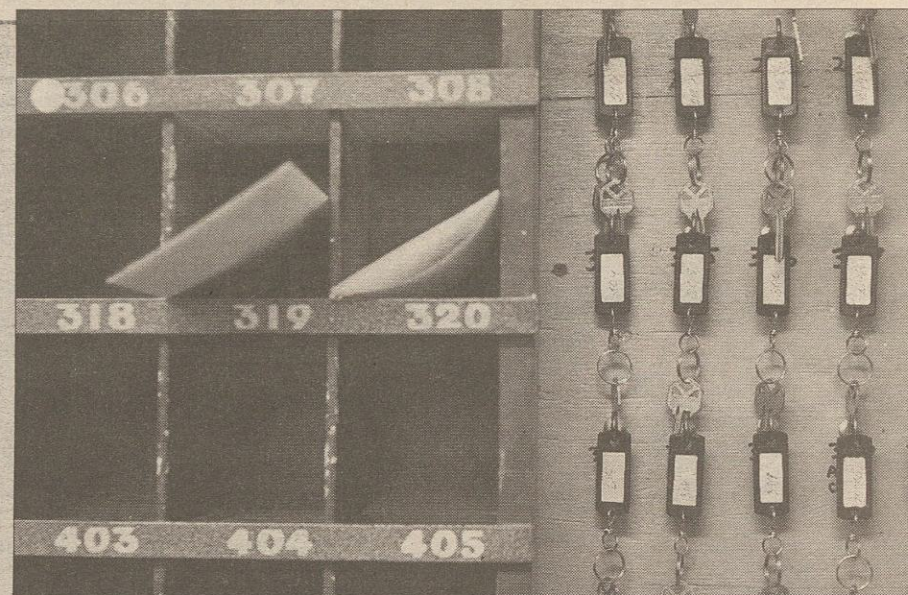
Indeed, gay and lesbian nightlife and social life in Portland isn't centered exclusively around the Triangle. There's a cluster of bars and clubs in Old Town/Chinatown as well as Eagle Portland on North Lombard, Egyptian Club on Southeast Division, Joq's on Northeast Broadway and Starky's on Southeast Stark.

Plus, there are many more social outlets: rugby and softball leagues, church and church-related gatherings, and other groups.

Even so, it's nice knowing the Triangle is there. No, it's not a gay ghetto. But it's very central to what we have.

At least while it's still around. ■

Wade Nkrumah: 503-294-7627;  
wadenkrumah@news.oregonian.com



## NEIGHBORHOODS | WOODSTOCK

### Residents beat the clock to rescue postal station

By Edward Hershey  
SPECIAL TO THE OREGONIAN

After two weeks of scrambling, Woodstock residents managed to save a U.S. Postal Service station days before it was set to close.

The station, known in Postal Service parlance as a postal contract unit, has operated for years inside the Safeway at 4515 S.E. Woodstock Blvd.

Building owner Gene Dieringer of Milwaukie posted a closure notice after the operators told him they would leave when Dieringer's Postal Service contract expired Oct. 31.

Residents complained, so Dieringer invited the Woodstock Neighborhood Association to find new operators.

"There has been enough negative feedback from neighbors to make us realize this is a community service," he said last week.

So the networking began. Kathryn King, the association's chairwoman, peppered the Internet with e-mails, and two longtime activists, Elizabeth Ussher Groff and Stewart Buettner, canvassed shops along Woodstock Boulevard.

"I always see lines there," Groff said. "The location is optimally wonderful for elderly people but also mothers

pushing strollers and anyone who would rather avoid driving. It would be a shame to lose, especially just before the holidays."

Buettner, a professor emeritus of art history at Lewis & Clark College, hated the idea of driving or bicycling two miles to full-service post offices in the Sellwood or Creston-Kenilworth neighborhoods. Safeway, he said, is an ideal location.

"They have a pharmacy and a bank there, and they sell bus passes. It is convenient for seniors who arrive by bus to do one-stop shopping."

Peggy Hofemann, who runs Featherstone Mortgage just off of Woodstock Boulevard, got the word and alerted Cheryl Woodruff-Biggs, a client looking for a job. Dieringer says Woodruff-Biggs signed on to run the postal unit Tuesday morning, and he extended his Postal Service contract.

Kerry Jeffrey, acting Postal Service retail manager for greater Portland, says the service is happy to retain a presence in Woodstock. But he acknowledged the tenuous nature of such operations.

"Contract postal units are small businesses," Jeffrey said, "and they do go in and out of business." ■



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#### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

But upscale development is closing in from nearly every direction. The Brewery Blocks sit on the northern edge. The city's retail core is expanding from the east. And a line of retail and residential projects is pushing up from the south. Combined, they've made the triangle and the area around it attractive slivers of dense commercial property, ripe for an overhaul.

Although there's not much publicly owned land in the area, the city and the Portland Development Commission have subsidized development in nearby neighborhoods, sparking the wave of private projects under way or in the planning stages, says Lew Bowers, a senior development manager at PDC.

The former Clyde Hotel was remodeled into the Ace Hotel, geared toward guests with a taste for good food, good wine and the arts.

Gerding Edlen Development is building a 22-floor office-apartment tower at 12th and Washington. The firm also plans to redevelop the building at 12th and Stark that houses Silverado and that until last summer held Club Portland, a gay bathhouse.

That building may be demolished and replaced with a tower with seven to 20 stories, says developer Mark Edlen. Or it may be renovated with an upscale restaurant on the ground floor. Either way, Silverado will move. The Living Room Theaters at 10th and Stark replaced a gay club called Panorama.

These are the kinds of changes that

some in the gay community feared before the redevelopment began.

The neighborhood survey submitted to the City Council uncovered a concern that "people might want to 'straighten' things up to make it more sellable to a mainstream audience," says Melinda Marie Jetté, who co-chaired the advisory group.

"When you do historic preservation, there's always the question of destruction and creation," says Jetté, a former Portland resident who now teaches history at Franklin Pierce University in New Hampshire. "That certainly was our concern, that this would all be erased and the only goal would be to make money."

The survey found that many respondents didn't want anything changed, as well as a strong sentiment for public recognition of the area's history.

There's also the worry, say Fones and others, that gays and lesbians who remain in the closet will avoid the neighborhood,

for fear of being outed, if more straight people show up.

For their part, the city and developers say they have no intention of breaking up the gay entertainment district or downplaying its cultural significance.

"I just don't think anybody is looking to do that," Edlen says.

Instead, he believes the redevelopment will open the doors to new businesses that will serve the gay community in different ways.

That's what Glen Dugger sees. Dugger is the principal owner of Scan-

dals and has owned clubs in the area since about 1980. The neighborhood's gay community "is firmly entrenched," he says. "That's not going to change."

Gay clubs remain, including the Red Cap Garage, Eagle PDX and Boxxes. The Ace and the Living Room Theaters are among gay-friendly new businesses.

Along with the construction crews and new businesses, there's also a new identity. The Burnside Triangle is still gay. But it's not the same down-at-the-heels neighborhood it used to be.

"This neighborhood, compared to 10 years ago, you don't have as many street people, you don't have the transients," says Dan Zilka, who owns a half-block of commercial property between Stark and Burnside.

"It's cleaner. It's different. It's not as ghetto-y as it once was."

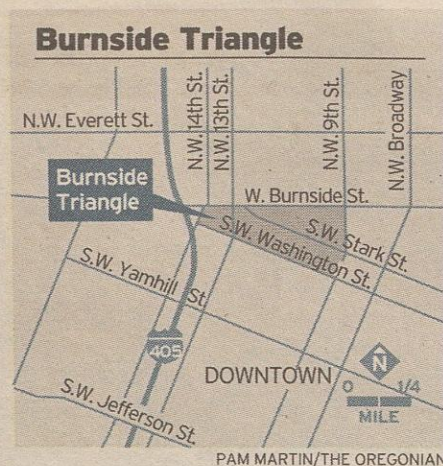
Scandals, in many ways, reflects the new attitude on Stark Street. It moved to its current location in 2006 to make room for the Ace Hotel. It's an open, airy place, with floor-to-ceiling windows looking out onto the sidewalk. You might call it a "straight-friendly" club.

Fones says the neighborhood is less exclusive these days, and the need for segregated, clandestine gay bars has diminished. Gays and lesbians are welcome nearly everywhere in Portland and have several commercial districts where they can dance, have a drink and eat dinner. Opening up the neighborhood also gives the rest of the city a chance to experience gay culture close-up.

Still, the redevelopment of the Burnside Triangle doesn't mean the gay community is handing over the keys.

"Yes, the neighborhood is changing," Fones says. "But I don't think we're going to be disappearing." ■

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stevebeaven@news.oregonian.com



■ ABOVE LEFT: A customer enjoys a morning cup at the Ace Hotel on Southwest Stark Street.

■ ABOVE RIGHT: A dancer performs at Boxxes, a club in the middle of one of Portland's most visible gay commercial districts.



# just out

VOLUME 22 • NUMBER 20 • AUGUST 19, 2005



Angel in America  
Noicombe Waller's seraphic  
voice provides comfort  
during *Troubled Times*

Page 37

Portland, Oregon FREE

## HIKING "THE CAMP"

AN ANNOTATED WALK  
THROUGH TIME

by Dave Kohl  
Page 22

Readers steamed about cafe reviews  
Page 4

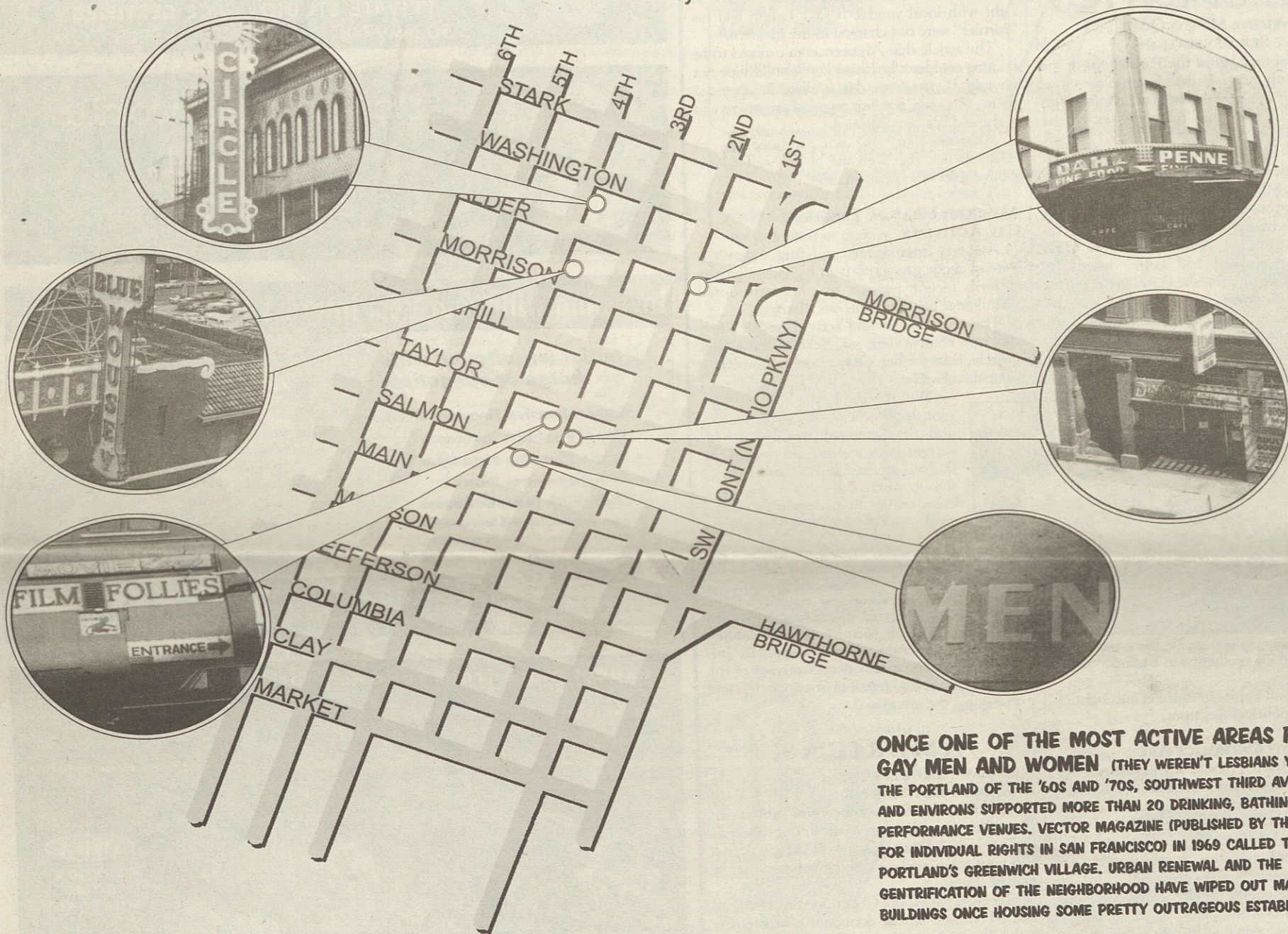
HRC finds an "emerging community" in Portland  
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# HIKING "THE CAMP"

## AN ANNOTATED WALK THROUGH TIME

by Dave Kohl



ONCE ONE OF THE MOST ACTIVE AREAS FOR GAY MEN AND WOMEN (THEY WEREN'T LESBIANS YET) IN THE PORTLAND OF THE '60S AND '70S, SOUTHWEST THIRD AVENUE AND ENVIRONS SUPPORTED MORE THAN 20 DRINKING, BATHING AND PERFORMANCE VENUES. VECTOR MAGAZINE (PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY FOR INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS IN SAN FRANCISCO) IN 1969 CALLED THIS AREA PORTLAND'S GREENWICH VILLAGE. URBAN RENEWAL AND THE GENTRIFICATION OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD HAVE WIPED OUT MANY OF THE BUILDINGS ONCE HOUSING SOME PRETTY OUTRAGEOUS ESTABLISHMENTS.

SO LET'S TAKE A WALK AND SEE WHAT IS AND ISN'T THERE, VISITING A FEW GHOSTS ALONG THE WAY.

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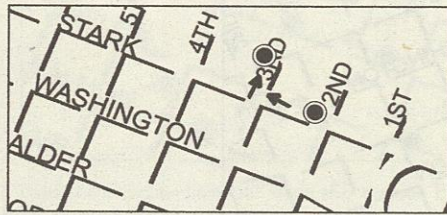


## VICTORIA'S NEPHEW WILDE OSCARS

Begin your tour at Southwest Stark and Second. Now called Mother's Bistro, this space was once an eatery named Victoria's Nephew, popular with both gays and straights for noon-time dining.

Walk up Stark to Third Avenue and detour north to 330 S.W. Third Ave. Now it's Temptations, but in the '90s, this was Hart's X Movie Arcade, the northernmost of the Sin City-type video shops on Third. More significant for Portland gay history is the restaurant at 318 S.W. Third Ave., now the Red Sea, but for six years this was Wilde Oscar's.

When it opened in 1976, Earl Wright ran a European-style cabaret with musical shows, food and drink. When he began renting, the place was called the Filling Station, and for years before that it was called the Crystal Pistol. Wright redecorated in an 1890s style, with a large portrait of famous English author Oscar Wilde near the front. The sandwiches were notoriously delicious, and the place was popular with men and women, straight and otherwise, and not really a cruising bar.

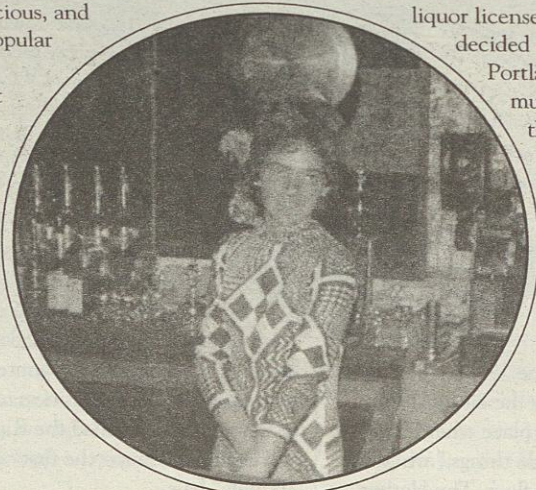
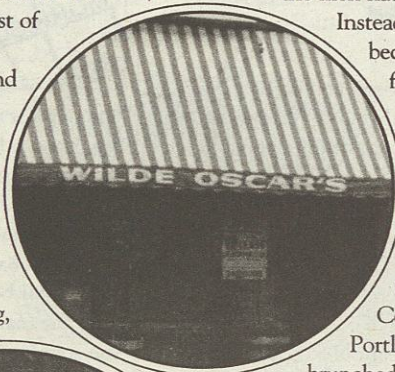


There was some controversy early on in that the women wanted it to be a lesbian bar and the men had the opposite opinion.

Instead, the establishment became a meeting place for several groups including Gay Men Together, Oregon Fair Share, a William Temple House counseling group and the Portland Gay Men's Chorus. Metropolitan Community Church of Portland members often

brunched there, and on Easter Sunday in 1977 they held an Easter breakfast there after having a sunrise service around Skidmore Fountain.

Oscar's was wildly popular, to the point that the landlord decided to double the rent in 1983. There had been some difficulty with the Oregon Liquor Control Commission concerning the liquor license, and Wright decided to close one of gay Portland's classier spots. It is much missed by those who were frequent patrons.

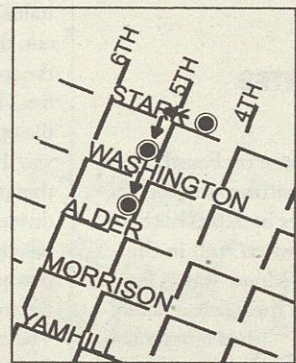


## THE WATER CLOSET UP THE DOWN STAIRCASE POLYESTERS MAHON'S/OLYMPIC BATHS CIRCLE THEATER LOUVRE CAFE

Backtrack to Stark and continue west to Southwest Fourth Avenue. Rounding the corner brings you to a building that was constructed in 1890 as the New Mayer Hotel. At 424 S.W. Fourth Ave. now stands The City—a sports bar and restaurant. For several years in the 1970s, this was called The Water Closet or just WC's. A narrow stairway took patrons upstairs to a large open space, excellent and popular for dancing. A bar served the libations, and several tables and seats were

arranged on a stepped riser in the back. The loo was down stairs, where another bar called Eli's functioned in the 1980s. Eli's later became Up the Down Staircase. After closure, the space became Polyesters.

Head south on Fourth, and under the Greek Cuisina at 509 is a bolted doorway that once led to one of the oldest baths in Portland called Mahon's. Business began in 1903 and operated through the



1960s, when it became the downtown Olympic Baths after the original Olympic on Morrison was closed.

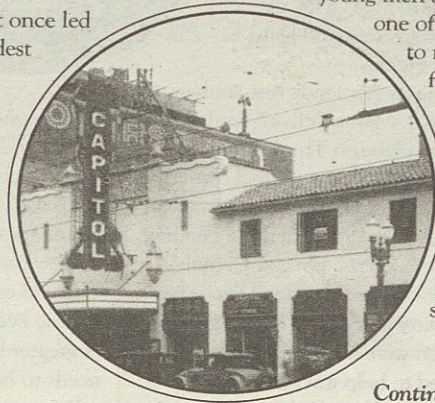
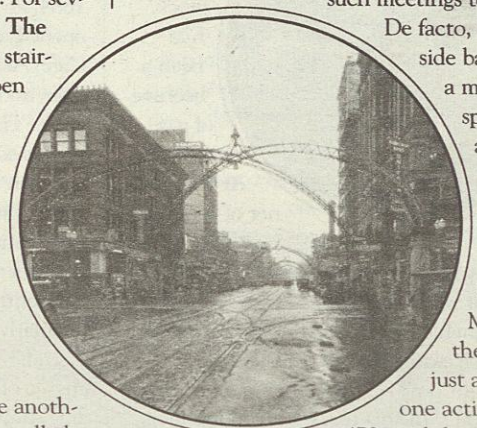
Across the street, you will see a parking structure. This was once the site of the Circle Theater at 516 S.W.

Fourth Ave. Famous as a place for anonymous encounters, there were two balconies where such meetings took place.

De facto, the right side balcony was a men-only spot, whereas the other balcony was "reserved" for straight activity. Mention the Circle to just about anyone active in the '70s and their eyes often

glaze over with memories. Behind the theater on Third was the popular Pink Cat Bookstore and Arcade at 523 S.W. Third Ave.

Looking across Fourth, you see the site of the once-famous Louvre Cafe on the northwest corner at Alder. In 1912, several men involved in the famous YMCA same-sex scandal were known to meet there. The owner, Fritz Stroebe, reportedly kept company with several young men and often took one of them to Seattle to recruit performers for his "bohemian" place. He closed it in 1913, but it appeared for years in the newspapers in reference to same-sex activity.



Continued on Page 24

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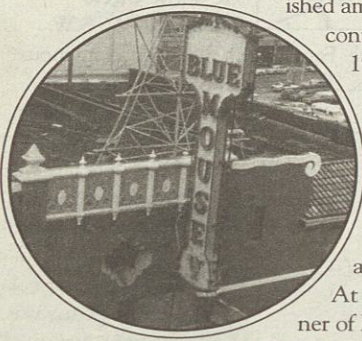
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Continued from Page 23

**BLUE MOUSE THEATER  
THE GRAND OASIS  
THE OTHER INN  
GAY COMMUNITY CENTER  
DAHL & PENNE'S**

Continuing the pilgrimage on Fourth is another parking structure, sitting atop the site of the **Blue Mouse Theater** at 626. This had been the Capitol Theater when built in the 1920s. The balcony of the Mouse was as busy as many bathhouses until the theater was demolished amid much controversy in 1977. The



entire block had been a beehive of gay activity: At the corner of Morrison (359) had been the

original Olympic Baths, and at 339 S.W. Morrison St. was yet another theater, the **Round Up**, which had been there since 1917, built as the **Rex**.

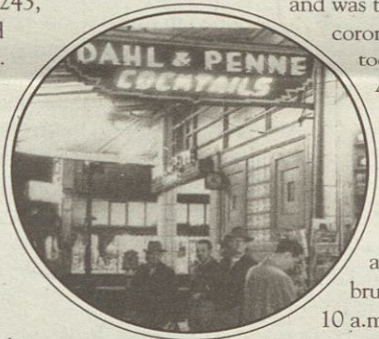
Walk right on Third back to Alder, then left toward Second. In this block were four major action spots of the mid-'60s to mid-'70s: **The Grand Oasis** at 242, **The Other Inn** at 243, the **Gay Community Center** at 258 and **Dahl & Penne's**, 604 S.W. Second Ave.

Of the four locales of interest in this block of Alder, only one building still exists: the location of the **Grand Oasis**, a popular watering hole, now **MinuteMan Press**. The **Grand Oasis** (once called the **Last Resort**) formed part of the "Dirty Triangle" with the **Other Inn** across the street and **Dahl & Penne's** down the block.

The **Other Inn** was Portland's first leather bar, opening in 1964. **Mama Bernice** tended bar there after her own place on Third shut down, and she bought the place from original owner **Jim Frantz**. She was loved by all, and even after the **Other Inn** closed in 1982 when the building was demolished to build the **Oregon Dental Service** tower, she continued to tend bar at her daughter **Gail's Dirty Duck** until her passing in 1986. Leather men were her "little bluebirds," and she often tried to help wayward younger men by giving them jobs at the bar.

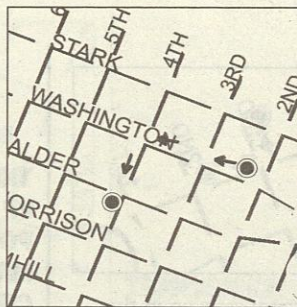
Above the **Other Inn** was once a large Italian restaurant. When the Italians moved out, the **Second Foundation** was able to rent the space in May 1972, forming the city's first **Gay Community Center**. Coverage of the opening of the center in *The Oregonian* was the first gay-positive article to appear in that publication. The upstairs space was divided into three rooms, space for dances, meetings and offices for the foundation and its newspaper, *The Fountain*. In October of that year, the treasurer and the rent money disappeared. The center was able to reopen briefly in the **Pythian Building** but closed in 1973.

The pearl at the tip of the "Dirty Triangle" was **Dahl & Penne's**. The building dated from 1884, and the first **Dahl & Penne's** soda shop opened in 1916 in what had been the **Alder Cafe**. Alcoholic drinks were introduced later, and by the mid-'60s, **Dahl & Penne's** had a gay following, with homosexual patrons appearing between 1 and 2:30 a.m. In 1972, a straight couple from California, **Sam** and **Jean Landauer**, purchased the place and refitted it with a back room, popularly known as the "**Royal Flush Corral**." **Van Richards (Vanessa)** took charge of interior decorating and organizing drag shows. **Dahl & Penne's** became the host tavern of the **Imperial Sovereign Rose Court** and was the site of several coronations and shows too numerous to list.



Among the many regular events at **Dahl & Penne's**, one of the more unusual was **Sunday Mass**, a morning-after brunch between 8 and 10 a.m. When the

**Oregon Legislature** passed a law allowing gambling by nonprofit groups, **Dahl & Penne's** became one of three licensed bars in Portland to conduct gambling. All proceeds were aimed at local gay charities. **Dahl & Penne's** would be with us today had not plans for the **Bank of America Building** materialized. The end came in 1983, but not without several closing events and much-publicized parties. A greater history of **Dahl & Penne's** and its era needs to be written. The **Landauers** still live in retirement in the sunny Southwest.



**HALF MOON TAVERN  
HARBOR CLUB**

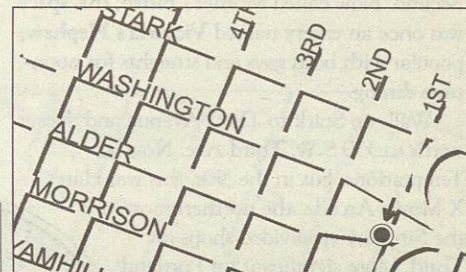
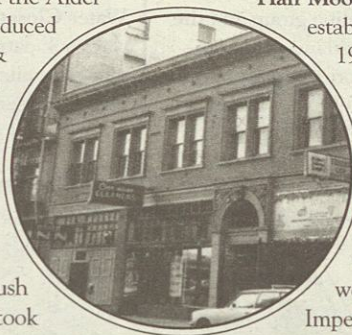
Walk south to Morrison and east to First. Where today's **RiverSide Hotel** sits once stood a grand waterfront cast iron-fronted commercial building at 72 S.W. Morrison St. This was the

**Half Moon Tavern**, a gay-friendly establishment from 1956 through 1961. It was here in 1958 that several patrons concocted a spoof on the venerable 50-year-old **Rose Festival** with a black rose court of their own. Hence began the long line of official queens and empresses that would become the **Imperial Sovereign Rose Court** system. When the

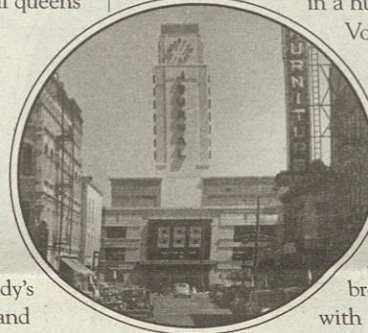
1880 building was demolished, the tavern moved a block south to 122 S.W. Yamhill St. in November 1960.

Sauntering south on First from the site of the **Half Moon**, you will see **Paddy's Saloon**. Stop for a moment, genuflect and observe a moment of silence for one of the great early gay taverns of Portland, the **Harbor Club**.

The **Harbor Club** dated from World War II and was a popular hangout with sailors until the U.S. Navy became suspicious of reported "activities" there and declared it off-limits. Nonetheless, it was the premier gay bar from the 1950s until it was closed down by the city in 1965. The mezzanine level was a place where boys could sit in the dark and "do things," while the women occupied the main floor. The **Harbor**



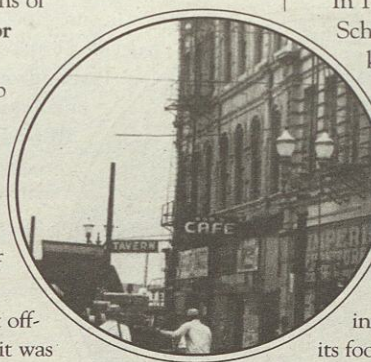
was popular with several early gay groups, the best known being the **Florists**, a successful women's national softball championship team. It was raided just once, under City Commissioner **Stanley Earl** in 1964, the only **Rosetown** bar to witness any police harassment. As the bar became more popular, men took over the main floor and the women climbed the spiral staircase to the upper level. There is a story that once after a confrontation between the men and women, the women left in a huff. They found a



**Volkswagen** bug parked nearby, and several of them picked it up and set it down directly in front of the **Harbor Club's** only door, blocking the men inside until a call to police brought out a squad car with recruits to move the car out of the way.

In 1965, the city under Mayor **Terry Schrunk** tried to shut down eight taverns known to serve gay men and women.

Using a twist on **OLCC** rules, they hoped to close these objectionable places that were giving Portland a reputation as bad as that of **San Francisco**. **Oregon Gov. Mark Hatfield** was not swayed and refused to sign the closure orders. Only the **Harbor Club** eventually closed, caught in a **Catch-22** when the city took away its food license, thus invalidating its **Class A** liquor license. Not to be daunted, owner **John Honegger** moved his business to a restaurant/lounge called the **Riptide** at 10th and **Stark**, becoming the first of the "Gay Triangle" bars.



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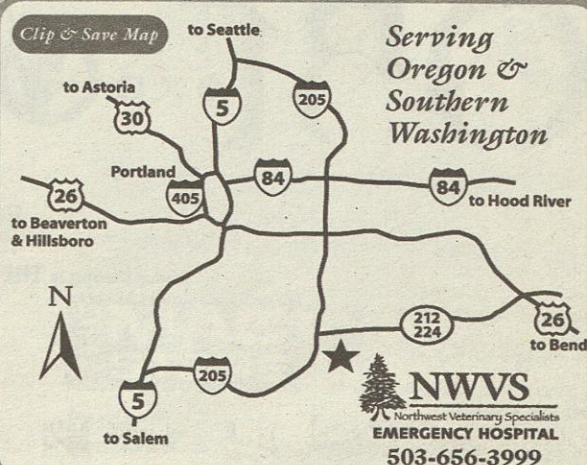
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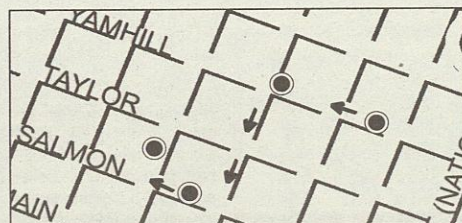


# **"THE CAMP"** **LOTUS CARD ROOM AND BAR** **LOWNSDALE PARK** **LITTLE BROWN JUG** **BUDDIE'S POST TAVERN**

Walk west on Yamhill 50 feet and observe the Franz Building at 122 S.W. Yamhill St., set in the midst of today's Yamhill Marketplace. This once-bustling block was the site of produce markets, just up Yamhill from the Oregon Journal Building (where the fountain now cools summer youngins'). The Franz was the location of the new Half Moon, often just called "The Tavern." Owner Ray Willitson operated the popular spot from 1960 until a suspicious fire gutted it in 1981. He opened a new bar on Broadway north of Burnside, calling it Ray's Ordinary Bar and Grill (now the Tiger Bar).

At the intersection of Third and Yamhill is the corner known in the '60s through the '80s as "The Camp," where underage men headquartered. Here, boys and men were cruised and picked up by mostly closeted men driving by, looking for anonymous sex for hire. Originally popular among Portland boys, word spread of this place, and soon guys from other parts of Oregon and even Idaho were frequently competing with local trade any night of the week. Police turned a semi-blind eye toward this phenomenon, occasionally stopping or arresting a fellow for loitering. It was this type of activity that caused organizations like the Second Foundation to form, with goals of giving young gays an alternative to selling themselves in order to come out. Several underage clubs also functioned in this pursuit, namely Stairs Down, 9th Street Exit and Epicenter on the east side and Evolution, the City Nightclub and Mildred's Palace on the west side. The role "The Camp" played in Portland's gay adolescence deserves a full chapter in Portland gay history.

Several bookstores, cinemas and bars occu-



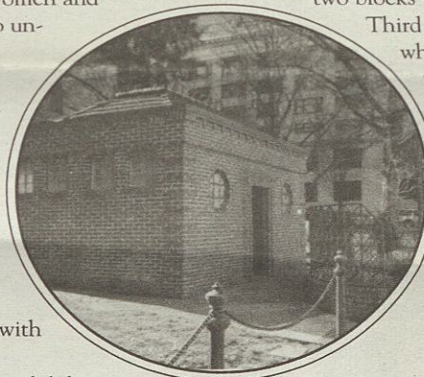
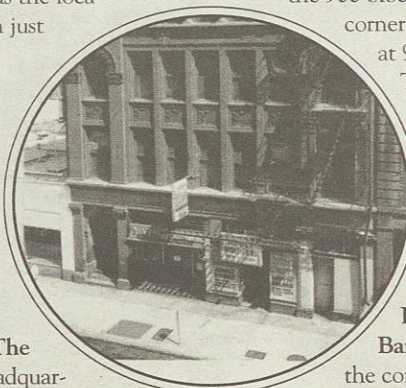
piated the two blocks south from this corner. Eros Discount books was at 725, Book-a-Rama was at 820, and Eros Adult Books was at 837. The Eros Theater was just off Third on Taylor, and Film Follies was at 915, across from the Hard Times bookstore at 926. Four taverns were in the 900 block of Third. On the

corner of Alder was the Reed at 901, called the Taylor Tavern until 1943.

Next was the Rose City Club Tavern at 917, and across the street was Dinty Moore's (in the 1895 Auditorium Building) at 924. The Lotus Card Room and Bar at 932 was and is on the corner of Salmon, operating continuously since 1928.

From the Lotus, look south into the two parks separated by Main Street and the famous Elk sculpture. You are closest to Lownsdale Park, which was infamous already by 1913 as a cruising spot, complete with a brick restroom. In order to protect women and children from exposure to undesirable contact with "inverts," the city declared that Chapman Park, south of Main, was to be restricted to women and children only. This made Lownsdale a de facto men's-only square. Apparently the city did not realize it had created the ideal recreational zone, complete with "T" room, directly in front of the Multnomah County Courthouse, and did not reverse the designation until the 1970s!

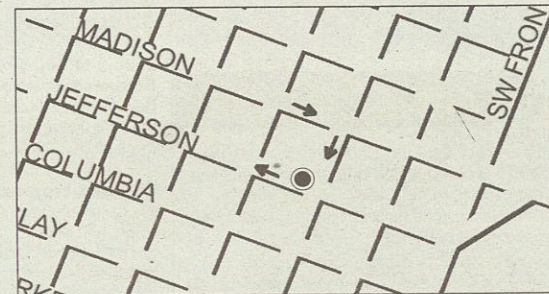
It's interesting to note the beautiful art deco bronze lettering set in the cement marking the restroom for "MEN." You might walk up Salmon to Fourth and divert north on Fourth to find numbers 908 and 926, the respective locations of two 1960s gay bars, the Little Brown Jug and Buddie's Post Tavern.




# **TRANSFUSION INN** **OLD GLORY TAVERN** **VERITABLE QUANDRY** **AERO VAPORS** **MODEL INN**

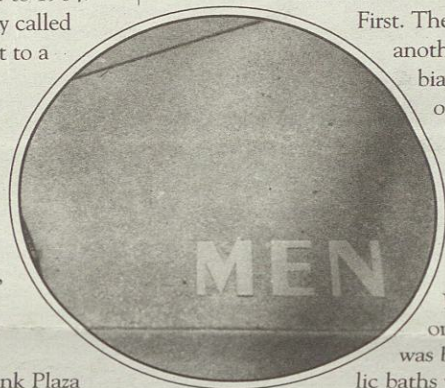
Retrace your steps back to Salmon, then east past the Lotus to the corner of Second, where once stood the Town Pump, yet another popular '60s bar. More significant, the parking lot at First and Madison by the Hawthorne Bridge on-ramp is the site of the Transfusion Inn, 1139 S.W. First Ave. This was the lesbian bar of its day, operating from the 1950s until 1964 and popular with working-class and leather-clad women. At 118 S.W. Madison St. stood the Old Glory Tavern, open from 1962 to 1964. Perhaps predictably, it was popularly called the "Glory Hole." Across First, next to a grassy plot, is Veritable Quandry, open for 39 years under the same owner, who validates that the VQ was on the route between the Transfusion, Dahl & Penne's and the Aero Vapors baths located

two blocks west on Third at 1237, where you will find Terry Schunk Plaza today. The Vapors provided many an afternoon's delight from 1958 to 1972. From 1962 until



1964 Mama Bernice ran her bar across the street at 1228, where she would watch and comment on her patrons entering and leaving the "tubs." Her site is now the Federal Building.

To complete your gay pilgrimage of Southwest Portland, you could visit two anti-climatic sites farther south on First. The Model Inn, another popular lesbian bar of the '60s, once stood at 1536 S.W. First Ave., now the Crown Plaza Building. More interesting and ironic perhaps is Keller Auditorium on Market. When it was built in 1918, public baths were located in its basement level. These were most likely eliminated with the reworking of the auditorium at the time the entire area was "revitalized" with the urban renewal frenzy of the 1970s. 



Look for more annotated gay walking tours in future issues of JUST OUT.

DAVE KOHL is preparing a history of Metropolitan Community Church, to be published this winter in anticipation of MCC's 30th anniversary in January 2006. Research for this walking tour included works by Tom Cook, Peter Boag and the Gay and Lesbian Archives of the Pacific Northwest, housed at the Oregon Historical Society.


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# out & about



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## august

### 19 FRIDAY

Columbia-Edgewater Country Club hosts the **2005 Safeway Classic**, the second-oldest tournament on the Ladies Professional Golf Association Tour, through Aug. 21. (2220 NE Marine Drive. [www.safewaygolf.com](http://www.safewaygolf.com).)

Queer parents and their children hike, sing by the campfire, create craft treasures, wade in the ocean, go for trail rides, paddle canoes and enjoy the beauty of nature during **Family CampOut** through Aug. 22 at Camp Westwind near Lincoln City. (503-294-7400. [aurora@ywca-pdx.org](mailto:aurora@ywca-pdx.org).)

**GO OUT** Come to PGE Park for the first-ever **Portland Beavers LGBT Night** vs. the Salt Lake Stingers! (6 pm. 1844 SW Morrison St. \$5.50-\$9.50 from Jason Weatherley 503-553-5427. [jweatherley@pgepark.com](mailto:jweatherley@pgepark.com).)

**Pride Northwest** meets in Room 323 at Portland State University's Smith Memorial Center. The board welcomes community participation in the planning of Pride 2006! (6:30 pm. 1825 SW Broadway. [www.pridenw.org](http://www.pridenw.org).)

The **Portland Avalanche** rugby studs invite interested players and fans to meet the team at Scandals. (7-9 pm. 1038 SW Stark St. [www.avalancherugby.org](http://www.avalancherugby.org).)

Queer musician Joan Meyer performs with her folk-rock band **Jessie Rae** through Aug. 20 at Hayden's Lakefront Grill in Tualatin. (7-11 pm. 8187 SW Tualatin-Sherwood Road.)

C.C. Slaughters throws a **Farewell Party** for Rainbow Room bartender Kevin. (8 pm. 219 NW Davis St. \$2.)

**WOW NOW: 30 Years Later** reunites the dancers, musicians, comedians (including lesbian Sally Sheklow) and other artists who popularized the Eugene venue in the 1970s. Repeats Aug. 20. (8:30 pm. 291 W Eighth Ave. \$10-\$15 sliding scale per night.)

Punk rock accordionist Nomy Lamm lends her famous multi-octave voice to **Tricrotic**, performing with **The Gossip**, **Grizzly Bear** and **The Lovers** at Holocene. (9 pm. 1001 SE Morrison St. \$10.)

**GO OUT** Noir presents the monthly **Queer Fetish** night featuring Splendor of Sissyboy and her new act, Splendor & the Gender Fluids; electro duo the Cancer Fags; DJs Chaotique, Stormy, Puppet and Nancy Bear; and Spittles the Clown spanking for Camp Starlight, an annual adventure for kids whose lives have been affected by HIV/AIDS. Dress code will be enforced. (10 pm. 203 NE Grand Ave. \$5 freaky, \$10 vanilla. [www.queerfetish-r.us](http://www.queerfetish-r.us).)

### 20 SATURDAY

Enjoy wine tastings, bands, kids games and sidewalk sales during the **Hawthorne Boulevard Midsummer Celebration**. ([www.thinkhawthorne.com](http://www.thinkhawthorne.com).)

**Asian & Pacific Islander Lesbians and Gays** raft down the Deschutes River at Maupin. (\$19 from Mike 503-957-5915 or [mjonez@comcast.net](mailto:mjonez@comcast.net) by Aug. 12.)

The women of **The Forest Group** take a moderate 6-mile hike up Larch Mountain. Dogs OK. (503-659-2782.)

**The Adventure Group** takes a moderate 7.2-mile hike to Red Lake and Potato Butte near Mount Jefferson. Meet at Starbucks inside the Hollywood Fred Meyer store.

(8 am. 3030 NE Weidler St. Peter 503-314-6792. [pfallow@yahoo.com](mailto:pfallow@yahoo.com).)

**Lesbians Enjoying Nature and Science** take a moderate 7.1-mile hike at Ramona Falls. Meet at the Northeast Glisan Fred Meyer. (8 am. 6615 NE Glisan St. RSVP to Leigh 503-774-0247.)

**Portland Frontrunners** take a 2.7- to 6.5-mile run along the Willamette River, followed by brunch. Meet at the intersection of Southeast Main Street and the Eastbank Esplanade. (9 am. [www.portlandfrontrunners.org](http://www.portlandfrontrunners.org).)

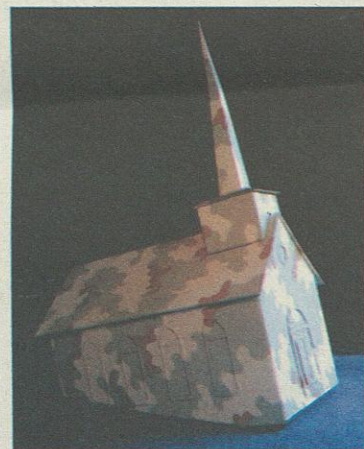
Homowo African Arts presents **Homowo African Storytelling**, a daylong celebration of folk stories told around the glowing embers of a fire, at Jamison Square. (2-8 pm. 810 NW 11th Ave.)

**GO OUT** The modern world meets old-time vaudeville in the punky pop sounds of **Erin McKeown** at Music Millennium and Roseland Grill. (3 pm, 801 NW 23rd Ave., free. 8 pm, 8 NW Sixth Ave., \$14 at the door, \$12 in advance from TicketsWest.)

Celebrate love and a life less ordinary during **Darklady's Summer of Love Birthday Party** featuring B/D/S/M fantasies, body painting, a drum circle and an outdoor hot tub in Battleground, Wash. (7 pm-2 am. \$15 festive garb, \$20 street clothes. RSVP to [darklady@darklady.com](mailto:darklady@darklady.com).)

C.C. Slaughters welcomes legendary drag diva **RuPaul** for its fourth annual Block Party. Proceeds benefit **Street Roots**. (7 pm-2:30 am. 219 NW Davis St. \$15.)

Portland SummerFest and Astoria Performing Arts present Gaetano Donizetti's comic opera masterpiece **The Elixir of Love** in Astoria's newly restored Liberty Theater. (8 pm.)



Painter **Kenny Higdon** asks **'Questions for the Christian'** through Sept. 30 at Artreach Gallery.

1203 Commercial St. \$12.50-\$25 from TicketsWest.)

Get your mind, body and spirit hummin' during **CoZ Tribe Boogie**, a barefoot and smoke- and alcohol-free dance featuring free spa treatments at Caravan Studios. (8-11 pm. 4050 NE Broadway. \$10 sliding scale. 503-253-3348.)

**Bear Bust** at Gail's Dirty Duck. (8-11 pm. 429 NW Third Ave. \$8 members, \$10 nonmembers.)

This is *not* your grandma's bingo. Tough Titties Productions presents **Burlesque Bingo** hosted by Portland hotties Glam Star Burlesque and featuring MC Marie Fleischmann, DJ Harmony and queer punk rock trio T-reXXXa at Mississippi Pizza Pub. Sign interpreted and wheelchair accessible. Proceeds benefit In Other Words. (9:30 pm. 3552 N Mississippi Ave. \$5-\$10 sliding scale plus \$1 a game.)



Let the cool Pink Martini chill you out Sept. 3.

Lesbian-owned restaurant/bar Vitis Enoteca stays open late every first and third Saturday for **After Hours**, a fabulous party for women. (10 pm-2 am. 535 NW 16th Ave. \$5.)

### 21 SUNDAY

**The Adventure Group** floats down the Clackamas River in Estacada. Meet at Starbucks inside the Hollywood Fred Meyer store. (9 am. 3030 NE Weidler St. Catherine 503-452-9184. [sneakyp@pcez.com](mailto:sneakyp@pcez.com).)

**Elder Resource Alliance**, serving sexual minority senior citizens, holds a volunteer orientation at Data Systems Plaza. Your energy and ideas are valued! (Noon-2 pm. 975 SE Sandy Blvd. [www.elderresourcealliance.org](http://www.elderresourcealliance.org).)

The queer-infused **Sweet Thunder** jazz trio performs as part of Tryon Creek State Park's free concert series. (2-3 pm. 11321 SW Tervilliger Blvd. 503-636-4398.)

**GO OUT** Channel your innermost Annette, Frankie or Moon Doggie during **Beach Blanket Bingo** hosted by Poison Waters at Vitis Enoteca. Proceeds benefit the Portland Lesbian & Gay Film Festival. (4 pm. 535 NW 16th Ave. \$12 at the door, \$10 in advance from Vitis Enoteca, [Balloons@BroadwayandHaven](mailto:Balloons@BroadwayandHaven). 503-241-0355.)

Fife restaurant hosts the second annual benefit for the **Rock 'n' Roll Camp for Girls** featuring a three-course dinner, wine, a silent auction and a live performance from The Ready. (5:30 pm. 4440 NE Fremont St. \$65 from 971-222-3433.)

### 22 MONDAY

Take a 2.7- to 6.5-mile run/walk along the Willamette River during the **Portland Frontrunners Ladies Night** every Monday. Meet at the intersection of Southeast Main Street and the Eastbank Esplanade. (6 pm. Kamm 503-804-6159. [wsuvel@yahoo.com](mailto:wsuvel@yahoo.com).)

### 23 TUESDAY

**GO OUT** Critically acclaimed multi-instrumentalist, song/noise composer Lauren K. Newman aka LKN performs

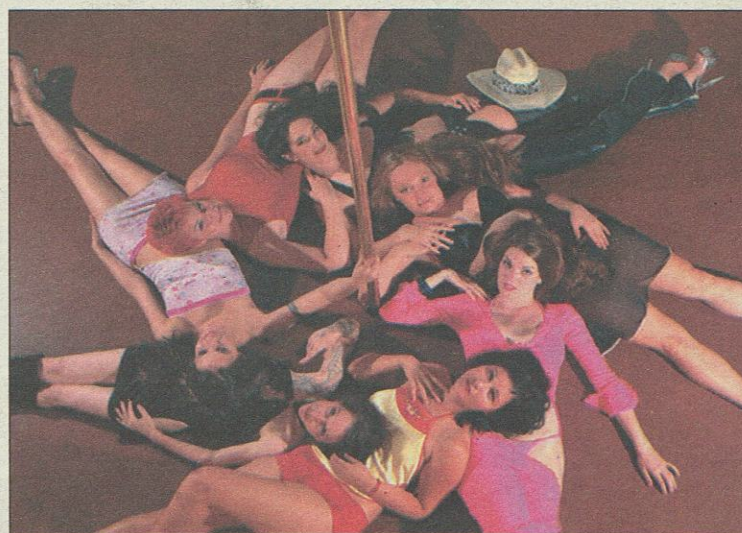
during **Hog**, a new rock 'n' roll queer night every second and fourth Tuesday at Kelly's Olympian. DJs Hot Dog and Stormy spin. (9 pm. 426 SW Washington St. \$3.)

Local designers (including *Just Out* Art Director Bonnie Barrett) transform Holocene into a fully functioning course during the second annual **Mini-Golf Art Invitational** through Aug. 24. Putting attire encouraged! (9 pm-2 am Tuesday, 2 pm-2 am Wednesday. 1001 SE Morrison St. \$5.)

### 24 WEDNESDAY

**Radical Women** throw a work party to help spruce up the Bread and Roses Center. (6:30 pm. 819 N Killingsworth St. 503-240-4462.)

Q-LAND and LoveTribe present a free **men's yoga class** to treat back pain, excess weight, allergies, depression, HIV, digestive problems and other chronic challenges. (6:30-8:30 pm. 503-223-8822, ext. 3.)



Seers Network reveals a new-and-improved **Pure Gold Baby** Aug. 26-Sept. 17.

[yoga@qland.org](mailto:yoga@qland.org). Register at [www.lovetribe.org](http://www.lovetribe.org).)

Pittsburgh singer/songwriter **Eric Himan** performs pop, folk, funk and even a little country music at Mississippi Pizza Pub.

(7:30 pm. 3552 N Mississippi Ave.)

The Doug Fir Lounge presents a lovely evening of whip-smart balladeering with **Holcombe Waller**, Trespassers William and Rachel Taylor Brown. (9 pm. 830 E Burnside St. \$7 from TicketsWest.)

### 25 THURSDAY

**The Adventure Group** takes an easy 3.75-mile hike/walk through Sellwood, one of the older neighborhoods in Portland. Meet in the parking lot at Sellwood Riverfront Park. (6 pm. Evan 503-701-7922. [chair@adventuregroup.org](mailto:chair@adventuregroup.org).)

Lesbian-owned taco bar Dingo's presents **Girls Night Out** every Thursday. (7 pm. 4612 SE Hawthorne Blvd. 503-233-3996.)

DJs Anjali and The Incredible Kid expose electronic sounds emerging from around the world during **Rocket Rickshaw**, a new weekly dance night at Berbat's. No cover!

(9 pm-midnight. 19 SW Second Ave.)

Bring an attitude: Guest DJ Fucking Asshole spins with Puppet, Stormy and Heewee during **Booty: Queer as Ye Be**, a weekly queer night at Porky's Pub. (9 pm-2 am. 835 N



# GIVE PEACE A CHANCE

**Lesbian pacifist was accused of sedition more than 80 years ago for Portland protest** by Pat Young

**D**uring the Burnside Triangle public history tours in September, the story of one outspoken woman contained provocative parallels to the U.S. government's current crackdown on anti-war agitators.

Who was Marie Equi? A doctor, feminist, pacifist, agitator, lesbian?

"She was always in the newspapers surrounded by controversy," community historian Tom Cook says. "She was totally into other women. She didn't have any interest in men at all."

And that was just for starters.

Equi was born April 7, 1872, in Massachusetts. She attended Wellesley College, where she met her good friend Bess Holcomb.

When Holcomb accepted a teaching position in The Dalles, Equi moved out West with her. The town seemed to accept the two women and thought nothing of their Boston marriage.

However, in July 1893, they created quite a stir when Equi threatened to horsewhip the Rev. O.D. Taylor, president of the school's board, concerning a dispute in Holcomb's salary. She almost had her way, but he escaped her wrath, and she was arrested for her efforts.

A few years later, the pair moved to San Francisco, where Holcomb found another teaching job. Their relationship did not last. It's unclear why they broke up, but Holcomb married and remained in California. Equi entered college and later moved to Oregon, where in 1903 she became one of the first women to graduate from University of Oregon Medical School.

In Portland, Equi set up a health clinic in the Lafayette Building located at the corner of Southwest Sixth Avenue and Washington Street. The majority of her patients were women, and most were poor. In addition to regular care, she was one of the few doctors in Portland who performed abortions.

Equi hired Harriet Speckart to be her medical assistant in 1906. They ended up as lovers and remained together for almost 20 years, during which time they adopted a daughter. They lived in several places on the west side of Portland, including Hotel Oregon at Southwest Broadway and Stark Street.

"While she was with Harriet, she was having affairs, too," Cook notes. Planned Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger "made a comment that every time a political woman came to Portland, Marie Equi was there to capture her attention."

Cook points to when she was on trial for her opposition to World War I. The FBI's source was a woman who lived in the hotel room next to Equi's.

"She was telling the FBI the things that she was hearing through the walls, and these were the nights when Harriet was not in Portland," Cook says with a laugh. "But you have to take that with a grain of salt."

In addition to her work as a doctor, Equi was an advocate for the working class and immigrants. She supported the Industrial Workers of the World and women's suffrage and assisted Sanger when she came to Portland.

Equi was often on the streets protesting one cause or another. But it was her opposition to World War I that ultimately landed her in prison.

According to Nancy Krieger's 1983 article "Queen of the Bolsheviks," Equi joined the American Union Against Militarism, an organization that believed the real reason the United States wanted to enter the war was for economic profit. She gave emotionally charged speeches at several gatherings.



Marie Equi was one of the few doctors in Portland who performed abortions

Meanwhile, rallies were held across the nation in support of the war. On June 14, 1916, about 20,000 people flocked downtown for Portland's Preparedness Day Parade.

Krieger notes, "Equi outdid herself by carrying her anti-imperialist politics" when she walked into the crowd and held up a banner reading: "Prepare to Die, Workingmen. J.P. Morgan & Co. Want Preparedness for Profit. 'Thou Shall Not Kill.'"

Needless to say, she almost started a riot as people tore the banner apart and police arrested her. But a few days later, she was at it again. Only this time, she climbed a telephone pole and waved another banner—"Down with the Imperialist War." Police needed the assistance of the fire department to get her down from the telephone pole.

As soon as the United States entered the war, the government passed the Espionage Act, which clamped down on anti-war activities. When the Sedition Law was added in 1918, it became illegal to criticize the government, constitution, military or flag. "It was this new law which finally snared Equi," Krieger writes.

Equi was arrested in June 1918 for a speech she gave in Portland. The Justice Department hired an informant to keep tabs on her until her trial, which didn't start until Nov. 12, 1918, a day after the war ended. The government lined up an assortment of people to speak against Equi. And she responded with just as many supporters.

Krieger describes a confrontation between Equi and the prosecutor as the highlight of the trial. Newspapers reported there seldom had been such a courtroom battle of wits between a man and a woman.

Equi was found guilty and sentenced to three years in jail. She appealed the case but eventually was ordered to San Quentin Prison on Oct. 19, 1920. Her sentence later was commuted to a year and a half.

After prison, Equi lived a quieter life because of the calmer political climate and her failing health. She died July 13, 1952, in Portland. **JP**

PAT YOUNG is a Portland free-lance writer and gay and lesbian historian.



JUST OUT 12/6/02

## NORTHWESTnews

# OUT OF THIS WORLD

Gay globetrotter goes on an international adventure

by Tom Stevenson

**B**efore you read this story, take a breath—a deep, deep breath. Because after you learn about Brian Westbrook, it's almost a guarantee you will be exhausted.

This 25-year-old gay Portlander is, in all respects, a man on the go. If you need a cliché to judge him by, think of the Energizer Bunny, double the action, and you might come close.

Westbrook has spent the past year roaring through queer festivals worldwide. He has celebrated in the midst of tens of thousands of gay men and lesbians at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla.; served as a key party man at Portland's own Pride event; checked out the newest, hottest and best clubs in Washington, D.C.; and whooped it up with the throngs in London, Paris and Italy.

It all started in May with his trip to Orlando for Gay Days 2002. He describes the event as a "fun-filled weekend of circuit parties, Disney magic and plenty of hot shirtless gay boys.... I think I was the only one not on drugs, which made it even more fun."

Westbrook says Portland Pride 2002 in June gave him a chance to see the other side of the celebrations. He volunteered his time by running errands, coordinating various aspects of the event and dealing with the media.

"I enjoyed Portland's Pride because it was local and because it's a great chance to hang with all my friends here in town," he says. "I most enjoyed the festival and working with all the volunteers. I worked long, exhausting days, but it was a great sense of pride when it was all done."

Less than a week later, Westbrook was off to Washington, D.C., to celebrate his father's retirement after 30 years in the Air Force. He transformed it into yet another special adventure. "It was Dad's retirement turned Brian's weekend out in D.C.," he says with a chuckle.

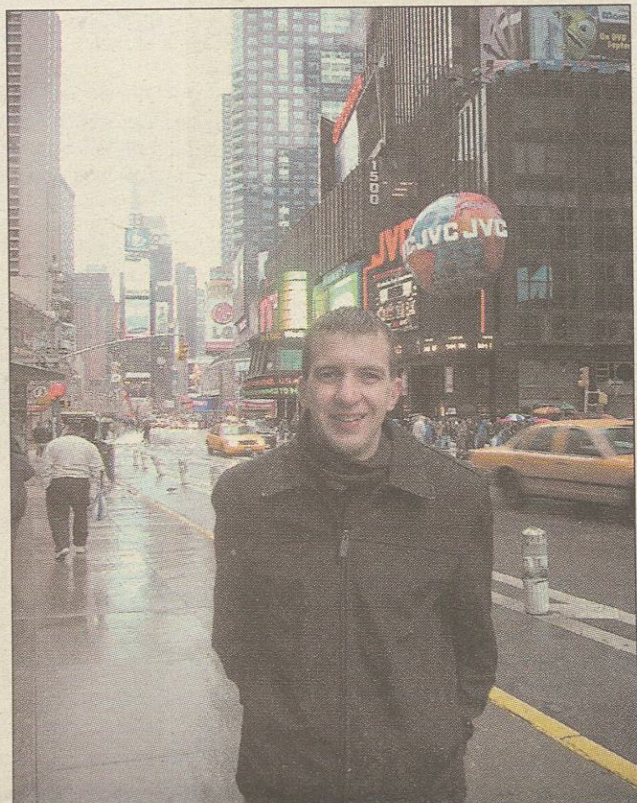
After another long flight home, he left just three days later for Paris and London. He is no stranger to Europe and has friends in both cities.

Westbrook arrived in Paris on a Saturday, celebrated Pride, then fulfilled a longtime dream by traveling via the Eurostar high-speed train to London. He arrived in time to "do some clubbing" and to enjoy that city's gay Mardi Gras festival.

Since then he's taken trips to San Francisco for September's Folsom Street Fair; Anaheim, Calif., for October's Gay Days 2 at Disneyland; St. Louis to visit friends; and New York City on business. He also just spent Thanksgiving in Italy, and he'll be ringing in the new year in Europe.

Westbrook, who says he is single but accepting applications, has made his home for the past year in the West Hills of Portland. He grew up in Vancouver and Kent, Wash., as well as Southern California.

He has been out to himself since age 18 or 19 but came out to his parents, friends and co-workers two years ago. "Now I take a very laid-



Brian Westbrook in Times Square

back, 'those who need to know, know' approach," he says.

Westbrook works as the Internet developer for the Portland Trail Blazers and its affiliates: the Portland Fire, the Rose Quarter, Jammin 95.5 FM, NewsRadio 750 KXL and some cable networks. He also has done on-the-air work for the radio stations, reporting on "mostly techy-type stories." He enjoys both facets of his job.

"I am responsible for 18 Web sites," he says. "It's challenging and rewarding, but most of all it's a lot of fun. I'm fortunate to work for a supportive company, and I really enjoy the people I work with. I'm out to most of my co-workers, and nobody really seems to be bothered by it.... Working in radio has proven to be a dynamic industry...lots of changes and plenty of interesting people to work with."

On top of all his travels, Westbrook served as co-host of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show Party" in October at Boxxes. He and Portland drag queen Misha Rockefeller put on the wild event, which featured water guns, a costume contest and "lots of lingerie."

Considering his vast experience exploring the "gayborhoods" of so many cities, Westbrook has been able to formulate a few observations about how Portland stacks up. He says some queer districts are obvious, with rainbow flags and same-sex couples holding hands; in other places, people have to know where they're going.

His advice for the Rose City? "Portland's 'gayborhood' needs an identity," he says. "There's no recognition, and even those in the community itself don't even know what that means. I know there's an initiative to officially recognize the neighborhood...but a true 'gayborhood' like the Castro in San Francisco or the Dupont area of D.C. are more defined, where people live and play...not just where a few bars and clubs happen to be located together." ■

TOM STEVENSON is a Portland free-lance writer who can be reached at [ruraltom@yahoo.com](mailto:ruraltom@yahoo.com).

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# just asking

## How should the sexual minorities community respond to First Baptist Church's complaint about scantily clad women at Portland Pride 2002?

Don't look, don't watch the parade....

EVA HOFFMAN  
Milwaukee

...

My partner and I had a debate on this very topic. She felt that this public display had no place in Pride and that it put the sexual minorities community in a bad light. This is just the sort of thing that the media focus on rather than

the less exciting parade entrants such as accepting churches, community employers and Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

I saw it from the point of view of protesting sexual double standards in our community. No one complained about the topless men!

Yet I also had to look at it from the viewpoint of a parent. My 9-year-old daughter was embarrassed by it, and we had to discuss it afterward.

I was raised in the Baptist faith, and I'm sure that wasn't all they complained about. In fact, if the church had its way, we'd all be in reparative therapy and the parade wouldn't happen at all.

ALISA BREWSTER  
Portland

...

Why do we always have to explain every gay person's actions? Does every Baptist? It's a no-win situation with many of the churches. No matter what we do they will nitpick.

I attended my first Portland Pride this year. I was amazed at the number of different religious groups represented. But yet did the media mention that? No, they always focus on the extreme.

I consider myself a moderate politically and

a staff to help me. And from my pay as a delivery driver for the Irwin-Hodson Company, I am running my campaign while still keeping up my basic living expenses.

I do not have the money other campaigns have to buy hundreds of lawn signs and bus seat signs or even to have my own van painted. Because of all this, I have to work even harder to get my message out—hoping voters will look beyond the amount of lawn signs a campaign has and see the passion I have for the future of this city.

But thanks to the *Oregonian* claiming I am, as well as four other candidates who did not file for the voters' pamphlet, not serious about this campaign, basically we have been written off. I speak only for myself in saying that their irresponsible reporting has cast my candidacy in an unfair, negative light. Is the *Oregonian* only going to give serious attention to the candidates with money to spend for their campaigns?

As for myself, I do not want to buy this election, I want to earn it. And so I will work endlessly, against the negatives of the media, with the time and resources I have to earn the position on the City Council.

Hopefully the *Oregonian*, and other news agencies, will be respectful and give everyone a fair chance. One voice can make a difference. I am trying to make a positive difference, and I hope the media will follow.

RIC BERRONG  
Portland



Is this letter concurrent with these teachings? Is this the message they want to send to their youth? That those who are different from them and celebrate their heritage in different ways are bad and should be avoided? That "out of sight, out of mind" is a better solution than acceptance and compassion?

CODY BLAND  
Portland

...

What is the need to respond? There always will be people and churches wishing to make comments about something.

If change is something they seek, then offer a chance to work with the community. If action is what they seek, ask them to assist in the local AIDS association programs. If all they seek is a chance for a headline, they have had it, and there is nothing anyone should or needs to say about it.

MICHEIL MACCUTCHEON  
Dover, N.H.

**next issue** The Burnside Triangle Advisory Group seems to be facing nothing but hostility from conservatives and apathy from queers. Is this a doomed effort, or can it be salvaged? Respond at [www.justout.com](http://www.justout.com). (Don't forget to include your name, city and daytime telephone number.)

feel the best answer is this: If you don't like what you see, turn your head. There are a lot of things that bother me, too! Like organized religion. So I don't give them a dime (which is probably the part that bothers them most).

JACK LONG  
Eagle Point

...

First Baptist Church's complaint cited two concerns—one being the concern regarding the topless women, the second regarding parking and departure after the service. Another option would be that because they are being inconvenienced by the parade, why not change the time of their service this one Sunday out of the year? This way, they would not see any portion of the parade nor would they experience any problems traveling to or from the church.

Any church that is at all aligned with Christianity or the teachings of the Bible should understand the importance of diversity and kindness and the celebration of tradition. First Baptist Church's Web site promotes reaching out to others, education, diversity and cultivating vital relationships.

## Vision of love

TO THE EDITOR:

I'm writing on behalf of the Hambleton Project, a direct services support group for lesbians with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses. It is the brainchild of Sharon Hambleton, a woman who for most of her adult life participated in women's fast- and slow-pitch softball.

In the '60s she starred in the outfield for the Portland Erv Lind Florists AAA fast-pitch team. She then went on to play slow-pitch for many years in Portland Metro Softball Association leagues.

I noted on your "Out & About" calendar page that the North American Amateur Gay Athletic Alliance World Series is taking place Aug. 19 to 25 here in the Rose City. Sharon would have loved taking part in these games had she not lost her life to cancer in 1998.

As her longtime friend and former teammate on the Erv Lind Florists, I watched Sharon battle her illness for more than four years. Even as her health declined, she remained upbeat and an inspiration to the people in her life.

After Sharon's death, her friends and a host of other volunteers went on to fulfill her vision of forming a unique nonprofit support organization for women battling life-threatening illnesses. Hambleton Project volunteers perform yardwork, cooking and housecleaning, among other chores, for women who are too ill to manage.

Sharon's vision is being realized. The Hambleton Project continues to grow, and more and

more women are being served.

To honor Sharon and to further the work of the support group she inspired, I believe it would be a most fitting tribute if a portion of proceeds from the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance World Series could be earmarked for the Hambleton Project.

CHRIS MAZZUCA  
Portland

## Honest to God

TO THE EDITOR:

In justifying Metropolitan Community Church of Portland's banning of animal rights advocate Roger Troen, Rich Kibbons states: "I attend church to hear God's word.... Everyone is welcome—unless, of course, you don't want to!" ["The Last Word," Aug. 2]

Unless we are to believe God does not care about His/Her/Its creations in the animal kingdom, it sounds like it is Kibbons and the MCC decision makers who do not want to hear the word of God.

I did not witness how Troen acted at the church. But if he was disrespectful, I stand with him. I would not be able to respect a congregation that believes in a deity that is unconcerned with whether its sentient animal children are pointlessly tortured and killed.

TOM SOPPE  
Portland

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PARKING IN BACK!

## NORTHWEST newsbriefs

Continued from Page 7

enforcement agencies and grassroots community groups to develop strategies that work.

"The HIV prevention program focused more on community outreach than clinic-based services," Shirley said. "We have integrated HIV, STD and hepatitis C prevention efforts through contracts with community providers, interventions on the street through needle-exchange programs and at drug treatment centers, offering testing at community events and testing, education and support groups at correctional facilities."

In 2000 Portland reported nine AIDS cases per 100,000 people. This rate is far below the Healthy People goal of 43 and the national average of 15.4.

manufacturers; and consulting firms. In contrast, unfriendly market sectors were: engineering and construction; food, beverage and grocery enterprises; and retail and consumer products.

Six companies received a rating of 14 percent because HRC was unable to find any evidence that they had overtly resisted equal treatment for their sexual minority employees but neither had they taken any affirmative steps. These employers are: Domino's, FedEx, MeadWestvaco, Meijer, Shaw Industries and Wal-Mart.

### CHANGING LANES

Gay, lesbian, bi and trans voters will have a chance to talk policy and bowl a few frames with the man who is likely to be the



Nike employees march through downtown June 16 during Portland Pride 2002

### NIKE EARNS PERFECT SCORE

Beaverton-based Nike was one of 13 major U.S. corporations that earned 100 percent on the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's first Corporate Equality Index, released Aug. 13.

The rating system grades large corporations on policies that affect their sexual minority employees, consumers and investors. The other companies that scored 100 percent are Aetna, American Airlines, Apple Computer, Avaya, Eastman Kodak, Intel, J.P. Morgan Chase, Lucent Technologies, NCR, Replacements, Worldspan and Xerox.

"While many of these companies have had a long commitment to gay and lesbian employees, most achieved a perfect score after adding gender identity to their nondiscrimination policies," said Kim I. Mills, HRC education director. "Eighty of the companies rated, or 25 percent, met every criterion of the index except for having a gender identity nondiscrimination policy. Those companies received scores of 86 percent."

At the other end of the scale, three companies scored zero: Cracker Barrel, Emerson Electric and Lockheed Martin. They have no policies aimed at treating their queer employees fairly, and all have resisted shareholder resolutions urging them to include sexual orientation in their nondiscrimination policies.

HRC rated 319 companies on seven factors, including whether they have a written nondiscrimination policy covering sexual orientation; have a written nondiscrimination policy covering gender identity and/or expression; offer health insurance coverage to their employees' same-sex domestic partners; and decline to engage in any activities that would undermine the goal of equal rights for gay, lesbian, bi and trans people.

The median score for all companies was 57 percent. Companies in several industries consistently scored on the higher end of the scale: banking and financial services; high-tech equipment

state's next governor Aug. 16.

Basic Rights Oregon is sponsoring Queer Bowl 2002 with Democratic candidate Ted Kulongoski from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at AMF Pro 300 Lanes, 3031 S.E. Powell Blvd. Organizers say this will be a good time for the sexual minorities community to discuss the state's future and get to know the avid bowler in an informal setting.

For more information call 503-222-6151.

### CELEBRATE FREEDOM

The Freedom Socialists will hold a "Garden Party Victory Celebration for Voters' Rights & Free Expression" 6:30 p.m. Aug. 17 at the Bread & Roses Center, 819 N. Killingsworth St. The Oregon Appeals Court upheld the party's right to use its name when running candidates June 12.

Jordana Sardo, a lesbian who plans to run for state representative in 2004, will speak at the party along with Steve Goldberg, the attorney who won the landmark case, and Robert Williams, a labor activist and leader in the African American community. The event also will feature music, poetry, skits and toasts.

A Northwest summer buffet will be served for \$8; sliding-scale rates and work exchange are available. Proceeds go to the Freedom Socialist Party Ballot Access Case Defense Fund.

For rides, child care or information call 503-240-4462.

### CULTURE CLUB

Youth for Understanding International Exchange is seeking loving host families in Oregon for high schoolers from countries such



# NORTHWEST newsbriefs

## MAN SENTENCED FOR CHURCH THREATS

A man plead guilty Aug. 7 to charges of threatening to bomb Vancouver's Metropolitan Community Church of the Gentle Shepherd and to kill its pastor in May.

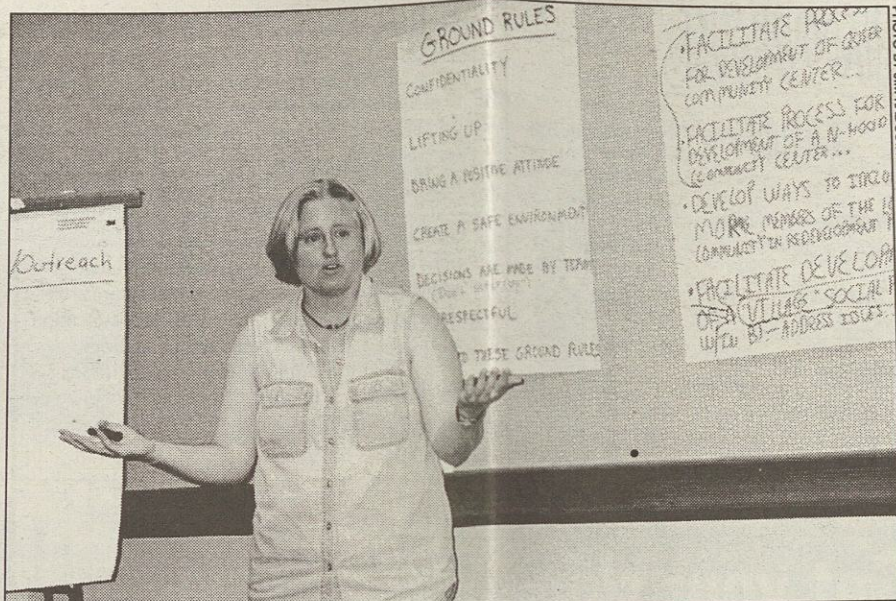
Washington State Superior Court Judge Roger Bennett asked Casey Gene Piersol about the telephone calls, saying that the Rev. Dianne Shaw's deposition "claims you knowingly threatened to bomb the church" and that "you threatened to injure Dianne Shaw" and "put her in fear." He admitted the calls had been made from his home but insisted he didn't remember making any of them because he was entertaining friends and was drunk.

"I don't even know this person," Piersol said. "I'd been drinking. I don't remember anything."

Prosecutor Kurt M. Rylander reminded the court that the arresting officer had stated, "Casey admitted he made the threat but claimed to be drunk and is disabled because he has a bullet in his brain." The attorney brought up several instances of the defendant's previous interactions with the justice system, including threats similar to those made against the church and Shaw.

Piersol was sentenced to 150 days' incarceration, of which 77 had been served; was ordered to serve two years on probation; and was fined \$500 to benefit the Crime Victims' Fund as well \$110 for court costs. He will be released from jail by Sept. 24.

"It was hard to rehear [the transcript of the tapes] and it was very disturbing to hear him deny that he did it," Shaw said. "I don't believe he got the message at all. I don't believe he



Melinda Marie Jette, Burnside Triangle Advisory Group co-chairwoman, brainstorms ideas Aug. 8

understood that when you do that, there are consequences."

The term "hate crime" never was used in court, but Shaw is clear Piersol's threat was motivated by hatred of sexual minorities. "You drop a hate crime like a pebble into the water," she said, "and it just keeps circling out and out and out forever."

Shaw added in a statement: "When we gather for worship and any other activities, we find ourselves looking out the windows when someone walks by. Before, we did not pay any attention to people going by outside our doors and windows.... Now all that has changed."

## THE PROTEST THAT WASN'T

A rumored uprising never materialized when the Burnside Triangle Advisory Group met Aug. 8. According to the *Portland Tribune*, "evangelical groups" and "Christian conservatives" were planning to protest the committee, which makes recommendations about the downtown gay district's redevelopment.

Although police officers and security guards remained on alert about the potential demonstration, no naysayers showed up. In fact, only seven people came altogether—media included.

Landlord Gary Nelson expressed shock that the business community isn't more involved in the advisory group. "It really does affect them to a great extent," he said.

The group decided to compile a survey assessing community needs before taking any further action. The next meeting will start 7 p.m. Aug. 22 in the Pettygrove Room at Portland City Hall, 1221 S.W. Fourth Ave.

## NATIONAL HEALTH REPORT RANKS PORTLAND NO. 1

A new report ranks Portland No. 1 among the nation's 100 largest cities in meeting key Healthy People 2000 goals. The Rose City tied with San Jose, Calif.

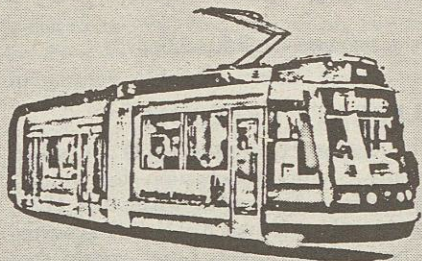
Portland or its suburbs met or exceeded six of the seven Healthy People goals examined: low birth weight, infant mortality, AIDS, syphilis, tuberculosis and homicide. The city's low birth weight rate, 5.4 percent, was the nation's lowest in 1999.

"This achievement is not just about health care; it is a reflection of the lifestyle of our entire community," said Lillian Shirley, Multnomah County Health Department director. "It includes issues of housing, urban planning and alternative transportation along with more conventional awareness of healthy diet, exercise and preventative care."

According to Shirley, her agency has a history of developing successful and innovative programs by emphasizing prevention and promoting healthy behavior. A communitywide effort to reduce the rates of HIV and sexually transmitted diseases sought the involvement of law

Continued on Page 8

## THE PEARL



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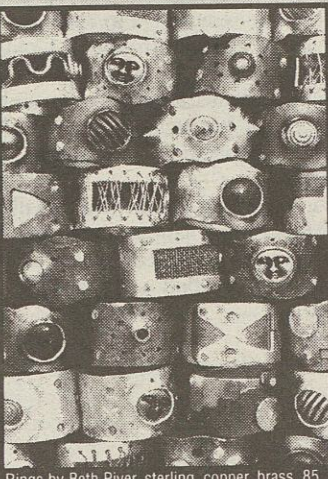
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# speak out

## just asking The Burnside Triangle Advisory Group seems to be facing nothing but hostility from conservatives and apathy from queers. Is this a doomed effort, or can it be salvaged?

Maybe a majority of Portland residents do not want an official Burnside Triangle. You can say it, but not everyone wants to say it.

The only thing that really makes it official no matter what anyone says or does not say is you say, "It's official." If "they" can say it's official, "they" also can say it's unofficial. If you look in Portland's Gay & Lesbian Community Yellow Pages, you'll see gay-owned businesses are all over the city and beyond.

You probably never asked anyone to "officiate" you being gay or lesbian or whatever. I understand the area is well known for gay entertainment, but that is not all being gay is about.

I hardly have spent any time in the Triangle, but I've spent time at gay places all over town. If I were heterosexual I think it would be a bit silly to have a heterosexual "square." I think the more we are integrated into society, as in "Gay people are basically everywhere," not thought of as just in some "triangle," the world will be a better place.

LEE SERENETHOS  
Beaverton

Has Just Out taken the time to really find out what the Burnside Triangle project is all about? Has anyone from Just Out come to one of our meetings to see what we are doing as a body? It seems that Just Out is making some major assumptions here without researching what it is writing about.

How can a project that is only a few months old be doomed? Who said we are facing apathy from the queer community? And the only hostility we have faced so far came from a conservative group that failed to materialize.

Doomed? I think not! I also think it would be wise for Just Out, our community newspaper, to research the facts before making public comments like this.

NORMAN NEVERS  
Portland

Eugene Weekly published a half-page opinion piece April 11 promoting the idea that "HIV doesn't cause AIDS." My reply, published April 25, questioned its ethics in publishing advice that might lead to somebody's death without at least providing a link to "The Evidence That HIV Causes AIDS" ([www.niaid.nih.gov/factsheets/evindhiv.htm](http://www.niaid.nih.gov/factsheets/evindhiv.htm)) by the National Institutes of Health.

An outreach director for the Eugene HIV Alliance provided the only other rebuttal. All of the many other letters accused the "AIDS establishment" of conspiring to suppress scientific dissent.

Peter Duesberg is a leading scientist who claims nothing proves HIV causes AIDS, but he needed no proof for his personal decision to avoid infection. He refuses to infect himself with HIV to prove his theory that HIV is harmless because he is worried that an undiscovered co-contaminant might cause AIDS, according to the carefully documented interview notes in Edward Hooper's book, *The River*, which linked African HIV infections to 1950s oral polio vaccines. Despite this, many people are volunteering to become HIV-infected human lab rats in an unethical experiment to prove his theory right!

On a recent visit to Borders, I found 90 percent of the books in the AIDS section deny the link between HIV and AIDS. Many easy-to-find Web sites supplement these books, which

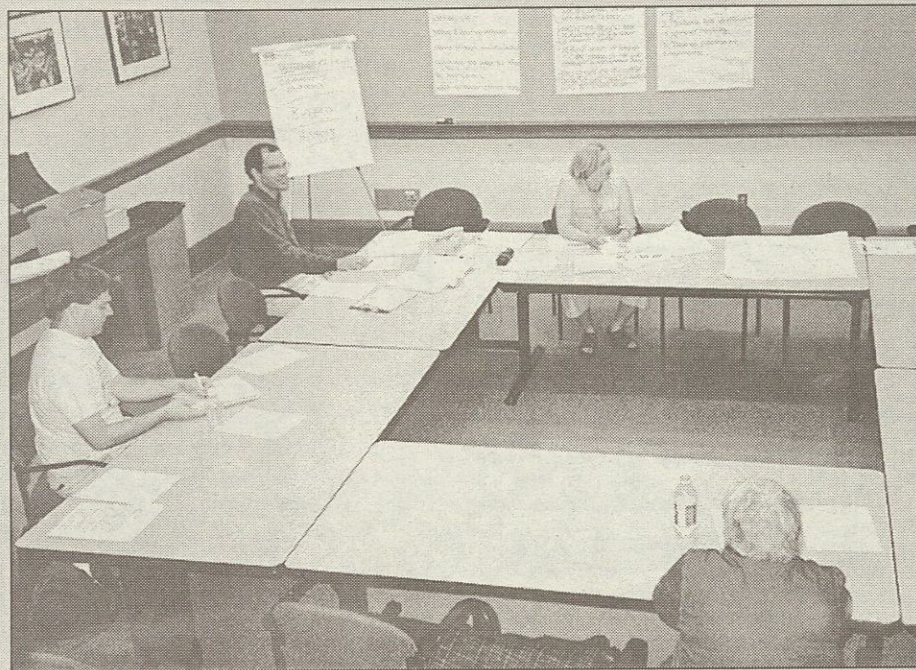


PHOTO BY JIM RADOSIA

As a member of the Burnside Triangle Advisory Group from the beginning, I found the task quite daunting. To turn a portion of the downtown with a reputation as a gathering place for homosexual men into a place for folks to meander on a Sunday afternoon under shade trees to eat an ice cream cone seemed improbable but not quite impossible.

But not many other people seemed to see it that way. Apathy in the gay community abounds. Gays are accepted in many neighborhoods in Portland, and they do not need to congregate in this area downtown.

As a historic place, as a monument as what used to be in the past, the Burnside Triangle should be preserved. Markers should be placed showing the public what fascinating events happened years past at places in the blocks in the

area. The streets should be made attractive. But for attitudes of the people to change will take time and lots of effort.

We cannot abandon the place to gentrification. We must involve the businesses and developers to help preserve the past along with opening the future for a clean and lively piece of downtown Portland.

KATHY BAMBECK  
Portland

**next issue** Will you be participating in Cascade AIDS Project's AIDS Walk 02? Why or why not? Respond at [www.justout.com](http://www.justout.com). (Don't forget to include your name, city and daytime telephone number.)

have influenced the South African government to deny AIDS treatment to its citizens. These conspiracy theories further were fueled when U.S. AIDS officials refused to sign the Durban Declaration affirming, "HIV is the cause of AIDS," which more than 5,000 world-class scientists have signed to refute South Africa's decision.

The problem of AIDS denial needs to be addressed, but our government's HIV programs appear unwilling to confront it. I no longer can remain silent about this.

THOMAS KRAEMER  
Corvallis

### Smoke screen

TO THE EDITOR:

A special thing happened Aug. 15 at the Egyptian Club. People got to come together and feel good about themselves.

We were treated to free drinks, free smokes and a table of beautiful food, complete with a lovely human centerpiece. After being expertly decorated with body jewelry and henna tattoos, groups of friends got to pose for professional pictures in a luxurious tent right out of 1001 Arabian Nights. It was like drifting into a genie bottle.

There was even a gorgeous belly dancer behind a Moroccan screen. So why did we get

treated to such a dreamy celebration of sensuality? This fantasy evening was brought to us by Camel's 7 Pleasures of the Exotic.

Why would this big cigarette company create such an elaborate party just for the patrons of the Egyptian Club? Perhaps they want sexual minorities to feel good about their community and to treat them to something special.

Or maybe corporate America finally has recognized the benefits of marketing to gay men and lesbians. While it's wonderful to be recognized by the suits in the boardroom, is it really so great that those suits are being worn by big tobacco?

Tobacco kills four times as many people as AIDS, suicide, homicide and car crashes combined. And this number might be even higher for sexual minorities, because approximately 50 percent of gay men and lesbians smoke compared to less than 30 percent of straights. HIV-positive smokers develop full-blown AIDS faster than nonsmokers, while lesbians who smoke have five times the risk for breast cancer.

Smoking and bar culture are a big part of coming out, and tobacco advertising is designed to teach us that smoking is an easy way to be tough, cool, sophisticated and sexually desirable. It's pushed as a way to fit in and deal with stress.

Continued on Page 7

## BACK TO SCHOOL LOW PRICES!

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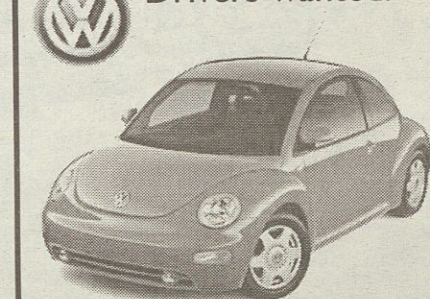
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ALAN PERRY/SPECIAL TO THE OREGONIAN

**District of diversity:** An advisory committee for the Burnside Triangle, area of downtown Portland is surveying residents, businesses and visitors through Dec. 15 about their ideas for the area bounded by West Burnside Street and Southwest Alder Street, 14th Avenue and Broadway. The survey is trying to determine whether there is interest in making the triangle a gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender-identified district. Copies of the survey may be obtained through the Office of Neighborhood Involvement or online at [www.snabulus.com/survgen/btagsurvey.html](http://www.snabulus.com/survgen/btagsurvey.html). This view is from Southwest 13th Avenue and Stark Street toward Broadway.

## Planners to lay out options for downtown along rivers

The Portland Development Commission will hold a meeting Thursday on options to revitalize downtown just west of Tom McCall Waterfront Park and Naito Parkway. It will be from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Portland Building auditorium, 1120 S.W. Fifth Ave.

The area under study is from the parkway to Second Avenue and from Northwest Everett Street to Southwest Market Street. Some say this section, developed early, has not reached its potential, with many properties underused and a lack of openness and connection with the park and river.

A consultant team will explain redevelopment options. The team includes Emmons Architects, Shiels Oblatz Johnsen, Lango Hansen, E.D. Hovee, Dean Macris, Urban Design Associates, Mark Friel, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Heritage Property Services.

Dec. 15 is the deadline to register for a space on the updated **Oregon No Call List**. The list prevents most telemarketing callers from reaching residential phones. Cell phones are included.

The 1999 No Call Law blocks residential and cell phone customers from telemarketers' lists. Companies that call numbers on the No Call List are subject to fines up to \$25,000. To date, 120 companies have been fined more than \$450,000.

Subscribing to the No Call List costs \$6.50 for the first year and \$3 each year thereafter. Oregon phone customers may subscribe by calling 1-877-700-6622 or visiting the web at [www.ornocal.com](http://www.ornocal.com).

**Carole Ann Best**, a Southeast Portland resident who helps children and their families in need, received the 12th annual **Lowenstein Trust Award** on Wednesday in Portland City Council chambers.

The annual \$7,500 award goes to a person who makes extraordinary efforts to help vulnerable



TRIBUNE *Vancouver, Wash.* 8/13/02  
**Proposed gay district  
is a flawed idea**

I just happened to pick up a Portland Tribune that was left on the bus and read the column "City's gay history belongs to us all" (On urban issues, Aug. 6). Although it had some good points, it was, like many of the gay issues, illogical.

First off, why should the Burnside Triangle be labeled as a gay district? You stated that physician and lesbian Marie Equi lived there and provided medical services to the poor. Give her credit for what she did and not for her sexual preference. Just because she lived there doesn't make the location prime for the gay district.

You mentioned the lack of protest when Chinatown was redeveloped. That is a culture issue dealing with customs and race, not sexual preference. Do we have a heterosexual square? What about a square for threesomes?

You said, "We came together, gays, whites, blacks et al." — again, dealing

with apples and oranges.

Let's have a park dedicated to those with blond hair. There were many in history with blond hair who helped others. George Washington should be noted for his white wig because he led the troops fighting for freedom.

If your article was to promote tolerance, columnist Promise King lost focus in trying to promote the gay contribution to society. People in history didn't make their contributions because they were gay; they made them because they were people. Granted, some individuals have received unfair judgments because society can be narrow-minded.

I don't agree with the City Council's decision to dedicate a part of downtown to the preservation of gay history and culture. Can't we dedicate a part of downtown to those who lived their lives in service to others or made a positive contribution to society, rather than refer to their sexual preference?

Did Mr. King mention that he was heterosexual because he didn't want people to think he was gay? Who is judging whom?

With articles like this, I am not missing much by not reading the Portland Tribune.

**Kim Bahr**  
Beaverton

**Thanks for open mind  
on issue of gay district**

I want to thank columnist Promise King for his piece regarding homosexuals and the recent decision to preserve the historic gay district in our fair city.

I'm a gay 20-year-old, and Portland has always been my home. I feel so fortunate to have grown up in this state, mostly untouched by discrimination and always valued. I have the blessing of living my life free without harsh speculation, hatred, isolation or exclusion. This is a feat no other major city seems to completely attain.

It is such an amazing feeling to be accepted, where our fate as human beings is embraced in a sense of good regard and affection.

Journalism such as this perpetu-

ates acceptance and embraces our differences. To know that support is extended from even the smallest portion of evangelists or heterosexuals is comforting, and sends the notion that somehow, America works.

By sending a positive message to those who do not understand or "accept" us, we truly are shaping the minds of Oregon, and it's so rewarding to watch this unfold.

**Mark-Ryan Pavlicek**  
Tigard

**Portland is right to build  
more mass transit**

Kudos to Tri-Met and Fred Hansen for coming forward with their Transit Investment Plan (*City transit is on the right track*, My View, July 26). It is important that we not lose momentum in growing our transit system to keep pace with population growth in the region. As Glenn Pascall, regional economist at the University of Washington, says, "Transportation is not an end in itself. It is the means to mobility and access. These are 'rights' —



JUST OUT

## NORTHWEST newsbriefs

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## NORTHWEST newsbriefs

ing among the worst. The remainder have mixed or unclear records.

In the six states where courts have heard custody or visitation disputes involving trans parents, two states, Colorado and Montana, revealed a good record while two other states, Nevada and Oregon, had bad records. Both Ohio and Missouri had mixed or unclear records.

"The trend is going in the right direction," Bennett said. "But that is a small consolation for parents and children who in some states continue to be torn apart by the heartlessness of prejudice. We still have a long way to go to achieve the justice all our families deserve."

### TRIANGLE GROUP ANNOUNCES PUBLIC HISTORY TOURS

The Burnside Triangle Advisory Group will play host to two public tours highlighting more than 100 years of gay and lesbian history in the neighborhood from 1 to 3 p.m. Sept. 28 and 29.

Interested parties are asked to gather just prior to the start time outside Ringlers Pub at the corner of Southwest 14th Avenue and West Burnside. The tours are free, open to the public and wheelchair accessible.

The advisory group, organized by the Metropolitan Human Rights Center, will advise the city on redevelopment plans for Portland's historic gay district. It is a citizen-led effort to share ideas and concerns in the West End redevelopment efforts specific to the Burnside Triangle. The group is seeking improvements such as more trees and foliage to give the area more of a daytime walkway feel and an atmosphere that eventually might lead to closing Southwest Stark Street on weekends for festivals and pedestrian-only use.

For more information call Melinda Marie Jetté at 503-653-8893 or Brian Hoop at 503-823-3075.

mittee Nov. 25. The 23-member team consists of leaders from throughout the state of Oregon, with people from Bend, Corvallis, Newport, Echo, Umatilla, Baker City, Roseburg, Medford, Salem and the Portland metropolitan area.

"I've always reached out to the best people available regardless of their political beliefs," Kulongoski said. "The people of Oregon expect the best, and this transition team helps me set the table to grow the economy and create good jobs."

Kulongoski will rely on this group to advise him on the creation of his administration, and he said he will use them on a regular basis throughout his term in office. "Government must be restructured; we must do things differently, and this group will help me make the smart choices necessary to accomplish this."

Among the team members is Cascade AIDS Project executive director Thomas Bruner, a nationally recognized nonprofit leader with 17 years of experience in health and human services and 15 years of successful nonprofit management expertise. From 1988 to 1998 he served as the founding executive director of AIDS Outreach Center in Fort Worth, Texas.

### ADVISORY GROUP ANNOUNCES PUBLIC SURVEY

The Burnside Triangle Advisory Group is conducting a public survey regarding future plans for Portland's historic queer district through Dec. 15. Residents, visitors, property owners, members of the sexual minorities community and other interested parties are invited to voice their views and concerns about this important issue.

Copies of the survey may be obtained from many local businesses and from the Office of Neighborhood Involvement at Portland City Hall. A survey team also will be canvassing in the Triangle during the coming weeks.

The advisory group was authorized by the Portland City Council as part of the downtown West End Plan approved in January. It is a citizen-led effort to investigate and share ideas and concerns with officials in their redevelopment efforts specific to the Burnside Triangle.

Anyone may complete the survey online at [www.snabulus.com/surveys/btagsurvey.html](http://www.snabulus.com/surveys/btagsurvey.html).



## Going down in history

TO THE EDITOR:

The Burnside Triangle occupies a central place in the history of gay men and lesbians in the Portland metro area.

The life of prominent lesbian doctor and social activist Marie Equi is one extraordinary example of this rich history. During the early decades of the 20 century, the Burnside Triangle was home to Equi, her partner, Harriet Speckhart, and Equi's adopted daughter, Mary.

When Equi, a pacifist, openly opposed U.S. entry into World War I, the federal government tried her on treason charges. The prosecutor attempted to use her lesbianism against her at trial. Equi ultimately was convicted under a new espionage act and served time at San Quentin Prison in California.

Before gay liberation, lesbian feminism and the sexual revolution of the late 1960s and early 1970s, homosexual men and women lived in a society that offered no civil rights protections in employment, housing or public accommodations and no visible community advocacy programs. In such a world, the bars and clubs in the Burnside Triangle were some of the primary social gathering places for gay men and lesbians in Portland.

Because the neighborhood was known as a place frequented by homosexual men and "unsexed women," it was also a place targeted by police and city officials in their efforts to monitor and control the activities of gay men and lesbians. In 1912 police officials and City Hall mounted a same-sex vice investigation that ruined the careers of several prominent closeted homosexual/bisexual men and led to the suicide of one man's wife. In the late 1940s the Portland Vice Squad reported on the activities of male and female impersonators at the old Music Hall on Southwest 10th Avenue and on the cruising prospects for "confirmed lesbians" at the former Buick Café on Southwest Washington Street.

During the 1970s the Portland Town Council, a gay business association firmly rooted in the Burnside Triangle, played a leading role in contravening the efforts of city officials and police to dismantle the "homosexual presence" in Portland. The work of these leaders, together with those of social activists, succeeded in bringing about a significant change in attitudes toward the queer community.

The Burnside Triangle continues to be a destination of choice for many gay, lesbian, bi and trans residents of and visitors to the metropolitan region. As a social and entertainment neighborhood with a rich history, it is one important area in the larger queer geography of Portland.

To publicly recognize and commemorate the Burnside Triangle as a historically gay district affirms the struggle of gay, lesbian, bi and trans people to achieve full citizenship in Portland and honors the contributions they have made to the city throughout its history. The citizens of Portland have demonstrated the value of such public memorials in adding to the city's social fabric: Witness the Japanese American park on the waterfront, a revitalized Chinatown and the experiences of African Americans to be recognized at stations along the Interstate MAX line.

JACOB BROSTOFF AND MELINDA MARIE JETTE  
Burnside Triangle Advisory Group Co-Chairs



JUST OUT 12/6/02

# NORTHWESTnews

## GIVE PEACE A CHANCE

Lesbian pacifist was accused of sedition more than 80 years ago for Portland protest by Pat Young

**D**uring the Burnside Triangle public history tours in September, the story of one outspoken woman contained provocative parallels to the U.S. government's current crackdown on anti-war agitators.

Who was Marie Equi? A doctor, feminist, pacifist, agitator, lesbian?

"She was always in the newspapers surrounded by controversy," community historian Tom Cook says. "She was totally into other women. She didn't have any interest in men at all."

And that was just for starters. Equi was born April 7, 1872, in Massachusetts. She attended Wellesley College, where she met her good friend Bess Holcomb.

When Holcomb accepted a teaching position in The Dalles, Equi moved out West with her. The town seemed to accept the two women and thought nothing of their Boston marriage.

However, in July 1893, they created quite a stir when Equi threatened to horsewhip the Rev. O.D. Taylor, president of the school's board, concerning a dispute in Holcomb's salary. She almost had her way, but he escaped her wrath, and she was arrested for her efforts.

A few years later, the pair moved to San Francisco, where Holcomb found another teaching job. Their relationship did not last. It's unclear why they broke up, but Holcomb married and remained in California. Equi entered college and later moved to Oregon, where in 1903 she became one of the first women to graduate from University of Oregon Medical School.

In Portland, Equi set up a health clinic in the Lafayette Building located at the corner of Southwest Sixth Avenue and Washington Street. The majority of her patients were women, and most were poor. In addition to regular care, she was one of the few doctors in Portland who performed abortions.

Equi hired Harriet Speckart to be her medical assistant in 1906. They ended up as lovers and remained together for almost 20 years, during which time they adopted a daughter. They lived in several places on the west side of Portland, including Hotel Oregon at Southwest Broadway and Stark Street.

"While she was with Harriet, she was having affairs, too," Cook notes. Planned Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger "made a comment that every time a political woman came to Portland, Marie Equi was there to capture her attention."

Cook points to when she was on trial for her opposition to World War I. The FBI's source was a woman who lived in the hotel room next to Equi's. "She was telling the FBI the things that she was hearing through the walls, and these were the nights when Harriet was not in Portland," Cook says with a laugh. "But you have to take that with a grain of salt."

In addition to her work as a doctor, Equi was an advocate for the working class and immigrants. She supported the Industrial Workers of the World and women's suffrage and assisted Sanger when she came to Portland.

Equi was often on the streets protesting one cause or another. But it was her opposition to World War I that ultimately landed her in prison.

According to Nancy Krieger's 1983 article "Queen of the Bolsheviks," Equi joined the American Union Against Militarism, an organization that believed the real reason the United States wanted to enter the war was for economic profit. She gave emotionally charged speeches at several gatherings.



Marie Equi was one of the few doctors in Portland who performed abortions

Meanwhile, rallies were held across the nation in support of the war. On June 14, 1916, about 20,000 people flocked downtown for Portland's Preparedness Day Parade.

Krieger notes, "Equi outdid herself by carrying her anti-imperialist politics" when she walked into the crowd and held up a banner reading: "Prepare to Die, Workingmen. J.P. Morgan & Co. Want Preparedness for Profit. Thou Shall Not Kill."

Needless to say, she almost started a riot as people tore the banner apart and police arrested her. But a few days later, she was at it again. Only this time, she climbed a telephone pole and waved another banner—"Down with the Imperialist War." Police needed the assistance of the fire department to get her down from the telephone pole.

As soon as the United States entered the war, the government passed the Espionage Act, which clamped down on anti-war activities. When the Sedition Law was added in 1918, it became illegal to criticize the government, constitution, military or flag. "It was this new law which finally snared Equi," Krieger writes.

Equi was arrested in June 1918 for a speech she gave in Portland. The Justice Department hired an informant to keep tabs on her until her trial, which didn't start until Nov. 12, 1918, a day after the war ended. The government lined up an assortment of people to speak against Equi. And she responded with just as many supporters.

Krieger describes a confrontation between Equi and the prosecutor as the highlight of the trial. Newspapers reported there seldom had been such a courtroom battle of wits between a man and a woman.

Equi was found guilty and sentenced to three years in jail. She appealed the case but eventually was ordered to San Quentin Prison on Oct. 19, 1920. Her sentence later was commuted to a year and a half.

After prison, Equi lived a quieter life because of the calmer political climate and her failing health. She died July 13, 1952, in Portland. **■**

PAT YOUNG is a Portland free-lance writer and gay and lesbian historian.

# NORTHWESTnews

## OUT OF THIS WORLD

Gay globetrotter goes on an international adventure by Tom Stevenson

**B**efore you read this story, take a breath—a deep, deep breath. Because after you learn about Brian Westbrook, it's almost a guarantee you will be exhausted.

This 25-year-old gay Portlander is, in all respects, a man on the go. If you need a cliché to judge him by, think of the Energizer Bunny, double the action, and you might come close.

Westbrook has spent the past year roaring through queer festivals worldwide. He has celebrated in the midst of tens of thousands of gay men and lesbians at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla.; served as a key party man at Portland's own Pride event; checked out the newest, hottest and best clubs in Washington, D.C.; and whooped it up with the throngs in London, Paris and Italy.

It all started in May with his trip to Orlando for Gay Days 2002. He describes the event as a "fun-filled weekend of circuit parties, Disney magic and plenty of hot shirtless gay boys.... I think I was the only one not on drugs, which made it even more fun."

Westbrook says Portland Pride 2002 in June gave him a chance to see the other side of the celebrations. He volunteered his time by running errands, coordinating various aspects of the event and dealing with the media.

"I enjoyed Portland's Pride because it was local and because it's a great chance to hang with all my friends here in town," he says. "I most enjoyed the festival and working with all the volunteers. I worked long, exhausting days, but it was a great sense of pride when it was all done."

Less than a week later, Westbrook was off to Washington, D.C., to celebrate his father's retirement after 30 years in the Air Force. He transformed it into yet another special adventure. "It was Dad's retirement turned Brian's weekend out in D.C.," he says with a chuckle.

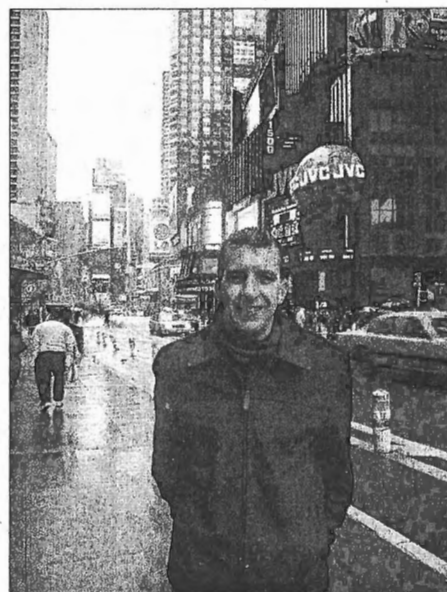
After another long flight home, he left just three days later for Paris and London. He is no stranger to Europe and has friends in both cities.

Westbrook arrived in Paris on a Saturday, celebrated Pride, then fulfilled a longtime dream by traveling via the Eurostar high-speed train to London. He arrived in time to "do some clubbing" and to enjoy that city's gay Mardi Gras festival.

Since then he's taken trips to San Francisco for September's Folsom Street Fair; Anaheim, Calif., for October's Gay Days 2 at Disneyland; St. Louis to visit friends; and New York City on business. He also just spent Thanksgiving in Italy, and he'll be ringing in the new year in Europe.

Westbrook, who says he is single but accepting applications, has made his home for the past year in the West Hills of Portland. He grew up in Vancouver and Kent, Wash., as well as Southern California.

He has been out to himself since age 18 or 19 but came out to his parents, friends and co-workers two years ago. "Now I take a very laid-



Brian Westbrook in Times Square

back, 'those who need to know, know' approach," he says.

Westbrook works as the Internet developer for the Portland Trail Blazers and its affiliates: the Portland Fire, the Rose Quarter, Jammin 95.5 FM, NewsRadio 750 KXL and some cable networks. He also has done on-the-air work for the radio stations, reporting on "mostly tech-type stories." He enjoys both facets of his job.

"I am responsible for 18 Web sites," he says. "It's challenging and rewarding, but most of all it's a lot of fun. I'm fortunate to work for a supportive company, and I really enjoy the people I work with. I'm out to most of my co-workers, and nobody really seems to be bothered by it.... Working in radio has proven to be a dynamic industry...lots of changes and plenty of interesting people to work with."

On top of all his travels, Westbrook served as co-host of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show Party" in October at Boxxes. He and Portland drag queen Misha Rockefeller put on the wild event, which featured water guns, a costume contest and "lots of lingerie."

Considering his vast experience exploring the "gayborhoods" of so many cities, Westbrook has been able to formulate a few observations about how Portland stacks up. He says some queer districts are obvious, with rainbow flags and same-sex couples holding hands; in other places, people have to know where they're going.

His advice for the Rose City? "Portland's gayborhood" needs an identity," he says. "There's no recognition, and even those in the community itself don't even know what that means. I know there's an initiative to officially recognize the neighborhood...but a true 'gayborhood' like the Castro in San Francisco or the Dupont area of D.C. are more defined, where people live and play...not just where a few bars and clubs happen to be located together." **■**

TOM STEVENSON is a Portland free-lance writer who can be reached at [tomstevenson@yahoo.com](mailto:tomstevenson@yahoo.com).

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# BURNSIDE TRIANGLE ADV. GROU

## PSU student brings invisible history to light

OREGONIAN 9/27/02

*Melinda Maria Jetté will lead tours of the gay district in the Burnside Triangle*

By JOE FITZGIBBON  
SPECIAL TO THE OREGONIAN

Melinda Maria Jetté likes to call the Burnside Triangle the city's invisible historic district.

As a doctoral candidate with a passion for urban history, Jetté has compiled a century of gay and lesbian news stories focusing on the rarely told accounts of life in a 12-block area of hotels, cafes and nightclubs in Southwest Portland.

Standing before the Medical Building on Southwest Alder Street near Park Avenue, Jetté pointed to a fifth-floor window.

"That's where a young man who was about to be arrested for sodomy ... jumped out to the rooftop of the theater next door," she said.

This weekend, the Portland State University student will lead a two-hour walking tour of the area from Ringler's Pub on Southwest 14th Avenue and West Burnside Street to the Hotel Oregon on Southwest Broadway and Stark Street.

Along the way, participants will learn about the same-sex vice scandal of 1912, the lesbian physician who treated indigents and popular gay night spots.

"Some people might be a little squeamish when it comes to hearing about the scandals and sordid encounters with the police and the pain that many of the gays and lesbians suffered," she said. "But it's an important part of our city's history, and I don't think we

should back away from it just because it makes a few people uncomfortable."

Jetté also is a member of the Burnside Triangle Advisory Committee, formed in January after the City Council approved the West End Development Plan which guides development for the area.

The plan calls for redeveloping and landscaping a 60-block chunk of downtown, including the Burnside Triangle and the 12-block area between Northwest Couch and Southwest Washington streets and Interstate 405 to Northwest Ninth Avenue.

A key provision of the plan is the designation of the compact enclave of clubs, hotels and shops within the triangle as a central city entertainment district, which makes community celebrations easier to hold. It specifies the area for "its continuation as a Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Transgender friendly environment."

City planner Barbara Sack said zoning modifications for the area are designed to encourage the redevelopment of vacant lots without affecting gay-oriented shops, clubs and affordable housing units.

"We're trying to preserve what makes this area unique, especially the important number of housing and independent businesses in the area," Sack said. "We've liberalized zoning on surface parking lots as a way to encourage commercial development on some of the underused land."

Last spring, the advisory group collected 350 surveys from residents and business owners throughout the city and is seeking suggestions on redevelopment efforts from those within the Burnside Triangle.

### BURNSIDE TRIANGLE HISTORY TOUR

**When:** Saturday and Sunday from 1-3 p.m.

**Where:** Meet outside Ringler's Pub, corner of Southwest 14th Avenue and West Burnside Street

**Highlights:** 100 years of gay and lesbian history, including bars, cafes, hotels, music halls, nightclubs and gay-friendly businesses. Guides will discuss scandals, discrimination, personalities and vice squads as well as social and attitude changes in the past century.

**Cost:** Free; wheelchair accessible

**Information:** Melinda Marie Jetté, tour guide at 503-653-8893 or Brian Hoop at the Office of Neighborhood Involvement, 503-823-3075

great rapport with the gay businesses in the area, but I'm disappointed and disturbed that they are moving ahead with this process without involving all the stakeholders," Nathan said.

Committee members said they were behind schedule but expected to meet with the neighborhood association and other business leaders in the next few months. The committee, which meets every other Thursday, meets next at 6:30 p.m., Oct. 3, at City Hall.

Brostoff said his group's greatest challenge is to find ways to celebrate the rich history and funky character of the neighborhood without becoming the next victim of gentrification. While some survey respondents want to maintain a focus on gay nightlife, others including Brostoff want less traffic, a mix of straights and gays working and living side-by-side, and a safe environment for sexual minorities.

The greatest fear of residents and club owners, he said, is that they will be absorbed by massive developments similar to the near-by Brewery Blocks.

"If the kind of commercial developers we've seen in the Pearl District move in, land prices will skyrocket, and what we love most about the area will change," he said.

Jetté is eager to help keep the area's character alive by sharing her stories this weekend.

"For decades, there's been a cloak of invisibility or denial that there's a same-sex history in Portland," she said. "But the reality is that it's significant and included professionals, artists and working-class people, much of it right here in the heart of the city. That's what I'd like people to know."

"We know that there are some who want to see more landscaping along the streets and sidewalks, others who want places where they can bring their families, and many, like myself, who'd like to see Stark Street closed off from time to time for festivals and celebrations," said Jacob Brostoff, chairman of the group. "But, there are also those who worry that we're going to create a gay ghetto."

A few business owners and residents are unhappy with the process. Alix Nathan, owner of the Mark Spencer Hotel and former president of the Downtown Community Association, said he was upset that the advisory group had not involved him or other businesses in their discussions.

"I've always felt that we had



## PromiseKing



ON URBAN ISSUES

# City's gay history belongs to us all

TRIBUNE  
8/6/02

It is official.

The future redevelopment of the city's downtown West End district will include the preservation of gay history and culture. This is the verdict of the Portland City Council.

In a unanimous vote, the council adopted the recommendation for action to establish the Burnside Triangle Advisory Group, which will recommend how to preserve the historic gay district. A community center is one project the group will discuss this Thursday when it meets at City Hall to flesh out redevelopment plans for the area on West Burnside Street between Northwest Couch and Southwest Washington streets.

I have been told that some evangelical groups and others who describe themselves as Christian conservatives will protest the Thursday meeting with the intent of disrupting it. I have conflicting thoughts about such protests.

First, I hope that all protests remain civil and courteous. We must eschew hate-filled, reckless rhetoric that exposes others to harmful ways. We still share the responsibility to assure all people the precious rights of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

However, I also think that those who disagree with the city's decision to designate a gay district should be allowed to express their dissent. My advice to the advisory

group is that a healthy policy debate cannot be held if participants or protesters are indiscriminately tarred with the broad brush of homophobia, xenophobia and bigotry.

I agree with the council's decision to expend public resources to preserve the historical interests of the gay community. It's a tangled and checkered history, sifted through conflicting memories and varying agendas. Given that, such a district seems justifiable.

None of us protested when the city redeveloped Chinatown and the Albina Community Plan as commitments to preserving the culture and history of our racial minorities. I believe the same respectful commitment should be extended to the history of gays' contributions to our city.

In every field, but especially in the sphere of philanthropy and service to humankind, gays have left an indelible mark in the annals of our city's history.

For instance, the Burnside Triangle was home to lesbian physician and activist Marie Equi during the 1920s. While she provided medical services to the poor and immigrant classes, she also was charged with sedition during World War I and imprisoned.

Lawyer Edward S.J. McAllister was convicted in 1913 of sodomy because of his relationship with another man and was consequently disbarred. His law license was posthumously restated in June 2000 by the Multnomah Bar Association.

For all the nasty division among us, our disposition to coalition building within our communities has proved substantial over the years. Most recently, we came together — gays, whites, blacks, et al. — to denounce the murderous rage of terrorists on Sept. 11.

My hope is that our different points of view will help us build a broader consensus around the city's central redevelopment plan for the West End.

Sen. Mark Hatfield once noted that if we pray to the biblical God of justice, we fall under God's judgment for not only calling upon his name but failing to obey his command. The commandment in this case: justice for all, hatred for none.

I follow this commandment even though I am evangelical and heterosexual. Do you?

Contact Promise King at  
[pkings@portlandtribune.com](mailto:pkings@portlandtribune.com).



JUST OUT

## NORTHWESTnewsbriefs

12/6/02

JUST OUT  
9/6/2002

## NORTHWESTnewsbriefs

ing among the worst. The remainder have mixed or unclear records.

In the six states where courts have heard custody or visitation disputes involving trans parents, two states, Colorado and Montana, revealed a good record while two other states, Nevada and Oregon, had bad records. Both Ohio and Missouri had mixed or unclear records.

"The trend is going in the right direction," Bennett said. "But that is a small consolation for parents and children who in some states continue to be torn apart by the heartlessness of prejudice. We still have a long way to go to achieve the justice all our families deserve."

### TRIANGLE GROUP ANNOUNCES PUBLIC HISTORY TOURS

The Burnside Triangle Advisory Group will play host to two public tours highlighting more than 100 years of gay and lesbian history in the neighborhood from 1 to 3 p.m. Sept. 28 and 29.

Interested parties are asked to gather just prior to the start time outside Ringlers Pub at the corner of Southwest 14th Avenue and West Burnside. The tours are free, open to the public and wheelchair accessible.

The advisory group, organized by the Metropolitan Human Rights Center, will advise the city on redevelopment plans for Portland's historic gay district. It is a citizen-led effort to share ideas and concerns in the West End redevelopment efforts specific to the Burnside Triangle. The group is seeking improvements such as more trees and foliage to give the area more of a daytime walkway feel and an atmosphere that eventually might lead to closing Southwest Stark Street on weekends for festivals and pedestrian-only use.

For more information call Melinda Marie Jetté at 503-653-8893 or Brian Hoop at 503-823-3075.

mittee Nov. 25. The 23-member team consists of leaders from throughout the state of Oregon, with people from Bend, Corvallis, Newport, Echo, Umatilla, Baker City, Roseburg, Medford, Salem and the Portland metropolitan area.

"I've always reached out to the best people available regardless of their political beliefs," Kulongoski said. "The people of Oregon expect the best, and this transition team helps me set the table to grow the economy and create good jobs."

Kulongoski will rely on this group to advise him on the creation of his administration, and he said he will use them on a regular basis throughout his term in office. "Government must be restructured; we must do things differently, and this group will help me make the smart choices necessary to accomplish this."

Among the team members is Cascade AIDS Project executive director Thomas Bruner, a nationally recognized nonprofit leader with 17 years of experience in health and human services and 15 years of successful nonprofit management expertise. From 1988 to 1998 he served as the founding executive director of AIDS Outreach Center in Fort Worth, Texas.

### ADVISORY GROUP ANNOUNCES PUBLIC SURVEY

The Burnside Triangle Advisory Group is conducting a public survey regarding future plans for Portland's historic queer district through Dec. 15. Residents, visitors, property owners, members of the sexual minorities community and other interested parties are invited to voice their views and concerns about this important issue.

Copies of the survey may be obtained from many local businesses and from the Office of Neighborhood Involvement at Portland City Hall. A survey team also will be canvassing in the Triangle during the coming weeks.

The advisory group was authorized by the Portland City Council as part of the downtown West End Plan approved in January. It is a citizen-led effort to investigate and share ideas and concerns with officials in their redevelopment efforts specific to the Burnside Triangle.

Anyone may complete the survey online at [www.snabulus.com/survgen/btagsurvey.html](http://www.snabulus.com/survgen/btagsurvey.html).



# Study, survey to outline strategy for Midtown

BY AIMEE L. CURL  
Daily Journal of Commerce

A study and a survey focused on the Midtown area of Portland's Central Business District both hope to create a vision that will spur future economic development while retaining the area's unique and historic character.

The first, a development feasibility study bolstered with \$75,000 from the Portland Development Commission, is looking at the area between West Burnside and Southwest Salmon street that's bordered on the east and west by Southwest Broadway and 10th avenues.

This area, called Midtown (formerly named Crossroads), has been examined on several occasions.

PDC Development Director Abe Farkas said the current exercise isn't just another study.

"What we're looking at here is an implementation strategy, geared toward doing things rather than studying them," he said. "We're figuring out how to work with the private sector and others to foster change in the area."

The goal is to revitalize a portion of downtown that's been languishing.

"There's a number of vacant upstairs floors and woefully underutilized buildings in the area," Farkas said.

He said past discussions have unearthed various groups with different agendas for the neighborhood, from an emphasis on open space and an extension of the park blocks to saving and revitalizing historic buildings. He said PDC is talking to all stakeholders as part of the study.

DAILY JOURNAL OF COMMERCE

1/7/03

Page 12 THE DAILY JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, Tuesday, January 7, 2003

## Midtown: Burnside Triangle is subject of community survey

Continued from page 1

"There's many complex threads that need to be put together before (the neighborhood) can form an urban fabric. It's a delicate mix and a delicate balance," he said.

Farkas said although there's no silver bullet that's guaranteed to get the area back on its feet, certain components like transportation, parking and mixed-use development will be key to making the strategy successful.

He said development in Midtown has lagged due to both public and private inattention.

"The area has been disinvested by the private sector and the public sector has also been interested in

other areas like Pioneer Square, the Pearl (District) and the Waterfront area," Farkas said.

Located partially inside the Midtown blocks between West Burnside and Southwest Alder streets and Southwest Broadway to 14th avenues, the Burnside Triangle neighborhood is the subject of a community survey.

The Burnside Triangle Advisory Group, with help from the city, is asking property owners, members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community and other interested parties to share ideas and concerns and to rate the top five improvements they'd like to see in the Burnside Triangle.

Jacob Brostoff, BTAG's co-chair-

man, said small, locally-owned businesses have always been the driving force behind the neighborhood's health and vibrancy.

"Some of the businesses have been there for more than 20 years, but they have a tenuous hold on real estate. Most rent on short-term leases. It's unclear if the smaller or older buildings come down, whether they would still have a space," he said.

Brostoff said vacancy and low rents have encouraged small businesses to be a staple of the neighborhood.

"There's a lot of available space for retail and small configurations of Class C office space that's available and affordable. There's a lot of

pedestrian traffic," he said.

The survey's first question asks whether respondents would like to see the neighborhood identified as a gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender district.

"We don't want to pump the neighborhood full of formaldehyde so it never changes," Brostoff said. "But the reality is, I'm a gay man and I'm concerned that my community's businesses have a place to thrive and be viable."

He said the gay community should be considered like any other minority community when the city makes planning decisions that effect their neighborhood.

Farkas said his team will take a look at the Burnside Triangle survey

results before completing work on the Midtown blocks study.

He said he hopes to have the implementation strategy for the Midtown area to the commission by March.

Brostoff said BTAG has already surpassed its goal of collecting 500 completed responses to the survey.

Surveys for the Burnside Triangle neighborhood can be found at <http://www.snabulus.com/survgen/btagsurvey.html> and must be completed by tomorrow to be counted.

Aimee L. Curl covers commercial real estate and development for the Daily Journal of Commerce. She can be reached by e-mail at [aimeec@djc-or.com](mailto:aimeec@djc-or.com) or by phone at 503-221-3314.



## Going down in history

TO THE EDITOR:

The Burnside Triangle occupies a central place in the history of gay men and lesbians in the Portland metro area.

The life of prominent lesbian doctor and social activist Marie Equi is one extraordinary example of this rich history. During the early decades of the 20 century, the Burnside Triangle was home to Equi, her partner, Harriet Speekhart, and Equi's adopted daughter, Mary.

When Equi, a pacifist, openly opposed U.S. entry into World War I, the federal government tried her on treason charges. The prosecutor attempted to use her lesbianism against her at trial. Equi ultimately was convicted under a new espionage act and served time at San Quentin Prison in California.

Before gay liberation, lesbian feminism and the sexual revolution of the late 1960s and early 1970s, homosexual men and women lived in a society that offered no civil rights protections in employment, housing or public accommodations and no visible community advocacy programs. In such a world, the bars and clubs in the Burnside Triangle were some of the primary social gathering places for gay men and lesbians in Portland.

Because the neighborhood was known as a place frequented by homosexual men and "unsexed women," it was also a place targeted by police and city officials in their efforts to monitor and control the activities of gay men and lesbians. In 1912 police officials and City Hall mounted a same-sex vice investigation that ruined the careers of several prominent closeted homosexual/bisexual men and led to the suicide of one man's wife. In the late 1940s the Portland Vice Squad reported on the activities of male and female impersonators at the old Music Hall on Southwest 10th Avenue and on the cruising prospects for "confirmed lesbians" at the former Buick Café on Southwest Washington Street.

During the 1970s the Portland Town Council, a gay business association firmly rooted in the Burnside Triangle, played a leading role in contravening the efforts of city officials and police to dismantle the "homosexual presence" in Portland. The work of these leaders, together with those of social activists, succeeded in bringing about a significant change in attitudes toward the queer community.

The Burnside Triangle continues to be a destination of choice for many gay, lesbian, bi and trans residents of and visitors to the metropolitan region. As a social and entertainment neighborhood with a rich history, it is one important area in the larger queer geography of Portland.

To publicly recognize and commemorate the Burnside Triangle as a historically gay district affirms the struggle of gay, lesbian, bi and trans people to achieve full citizenship in Portland and honors the contributions they have made to the city throughout its history. The citizens of Portland have demonstrated the value of such public memorials in adding to the city's social fabric: Witness the Japanese American park on the waterfront, a revitalized Chinatown and the experiences of African Americans to be recognized at stations along the Interstate MAX line.

JACOB BROSTOFF AND MELINDA MARIE JETTE  
Burnside Triangle Advisory Group Co-Chairs



## PromiseKing



ON URBAN ISSUES

# City's gay history belongs to us all

TRIBUNE

8/6/02

It is official.

The future redevelopment of the city's downtown West End district will include the preservation of gay history and culture. This is the verdict of the Portland City Council.

In a unanimous vote, the council adopted the recommendation for action to establish the Burnside Triangle Advisory Group, which will recommend how to preserve the historic gay district. A community center is one project the group will discuss this Thursday when it meets at City Hall to flesh out redevelopment plans for the area on West Burnside Street between Northwest Couch and Southwest Washington streets.

I have been told that some evangelical groups and others who describe themselves as Christian conservatives will protest the Thursday meeting with the intent of disrupting it. I have conflicting thoughts about such protests.

First, I hope that all protests remain civil and courteous. We must eschew hate-filled, reckless rhetoric that exposes others to harmful ways. We still share the responsibility to assure all people the precious rights of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

However, I also think that those who disagree with the city's decision to designate a gay district should be allowed to express their dissent. My advice to the advisory

group is that a healthy policy debate cannot be held if participants or protesters are indiscriminately tarred with the broad brush of homophobia, xenophobia and bigotry.

I agree with the council's decision to expend public resources to preserve the historical interests of the gay community. It's a tangled and checkered history, sifted through conflicting memories and varying agendas. Given that, such a district seems justifiable.

None of us protested when the city redeveloped Chinatown and the Albina Community Plan as commitments to preserving the culture and history of our racial minorities. I believe the same respectful commitment should be extended to the history of gays' contributions to our city.

In every field, but especially in the sphere of philanthropy and service to humankind, gays have left an indelible mark in the annals of our city's history.

For instance, the Burnside Triangle was home to lesbian physician and activist Marie Equi during the 1920s. While she provided medical services to the poor and immigrant classes, she also was charged with sedition during World War I and imprisoned.

Lawyer Edward S.J. McAllister was convicted in 1913 of sodomy because of his relationship with another man and was consequently disbarred. His law license was posthumously reinstated in June 2000 by the Multnomah Bar Association.

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My hope is that our different points of view will help us build a broader consensus around the city's central redevelopment plan for the West End.

Sen. Mark Hatfield once noted that if we pray to the biblical God of justice, we fall under God's judgment for not only calling upon his name but failing to obey his command. The commandment in this case: justice for all, hatred for none.

I follow this commandment even though I am evangelical and heterosexual. Do you?

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***For Immediate Release***

**Contacts:**

Melinda Marie Jetté, BTAG Co-Chair, 503-653-8893  
Brian Hoop, Office of Neighborhood Involvement, 503-823-3075

August 15, 2002

### **Burnside Triangle Advisory Group announces public history tours**

**City Council appointed group will host public history tours on Sept. 28 & 29, 2002**

**Portland, Oregon.** The Burnside Triangle Advisory Group (BTAG) announces that it will host two public tours highlighting over 100 years of gay and lesbian history in the Burnside Triangle on Saturday, September 28 and Sunday, 29, 2002. Each tour will last two hours, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. Individuals are asked to gather at the corner of 14<sup>th</sup> and West Burnside, outside Ringlers Pub just prior to the 1:00 PM start time. The tours are free and open to the public, and are wheelchair accessible.

The advisory group, organized by the Metropolitan Human Rights Center, within the City of Portland's Office of Neighborhood Involvement, will advise the city on redevelopment plans for Portland's historic gay district. The advisory group is a citizen led effort to investigate, share ideas and concerns with the City in its West End redevelopment efforts specific to the Burnside Triangle only – SW Stark St. and surrounding areas. The group is seeking improvements in the area such as more trees and foliage to give the area more of a daytime walkway feel and an atmosphere that may eventually lead to closing Stark Street on weekends for festivals and pedestrian-only use.

For more information on the history tours, contact Melinda Marie Jetté, Co-Chair at 503-653-8893 or Brian Hoop at the Office of Neighborhood Involvement, 503-823-3075.

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## Hoop, Brian

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**From:** Thomas Soppe [tomsoppe@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 15, 2002 4:46 PM  
**To:** letters@portlandtribune.com  
**Subject:** letter to the editor

4206 SW Alfred St.  
Portland, OR 97219  
Home phone: (503) 977-1711  
I will be available at (641) 472-6925 between Aug. 16  
and September 2

To the editor:

Kim Bahr's August 13 letter spoke against the potential gay historic district in Portland's Burnside Triangle. She claims establishing a historic district focusing on a group that is defined from the majority by culture or ethnicity is legitimate, but that establishing one about a group defined as different due to their sexual orientation is not. She never gives a reason for this claim.

The questions to be asked concerning whether to dedicate such a district should not deal with whether a group's difference stems from ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other particular characteristic. Such a discussion should however ask the following:

- A. Has this group been systematically oppressed and marginalized?
- B. Is there a geographical area that has been the historical center for that group's struggle against oppression and for the community solidarity that has come about due to the oppression?

The answers to these questions in regards to the gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgendered community in Portland are A. Yes. B. Yes, the Burnside Triangle.

Tom Soppe  
Secretary, Burnside Triangle Advisory Group  
Masters in Urban and Regional Planning student,  
Portland State University

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Jacob Brostoff, BTAG Co-Chair, 503-260-1025

Brian Hoop, Office of Neighborhood Involvement, 503-823-3075

July 22, 2002

### **Burnside Triangle Advisory Group moving forward**

#### **City Council appointed group advises on redevelopment plans for Portland's historic gay district**

**Portland, Oregon.** The Burnside Triangle Advisory Group (BTAG) announces its biweekly meetings for public input. The advisory group, organized by the Metropolitan Human Rights Center, within the City of Portland's Office of Neighborhood Involvement, will advise the city on redevelopment plans for Portland's historic gay district. Interested parties are encouraged to attend BTAG meetings, which take place every other Thursday evening in the Pettygrove room at City Hall, 1221 SW 4<sup>th</sup>, Portland, from 7:00-9:00 pm.

The advisory group is a citizen led effort to investigate, share ideas and concerns with the City in its West End redevelopment efforts specific to the Burnside Triangle – SW Stark St. and surrounding areas. The group is seeking improvements in the area such as more trees and foliage to give the area more of a daytime walkway feel and an atmosphere that may eventually lead to closing Stark Street on weekends for festivals and pedestrian-only use. A GLBTS Community Center in the area is also an initial idea. The group seeks wider public input.

The remaining summer meetings are scheduled for July 25 and August 8 and 22. For more information contact Jacob Brostoff at 503-497-1000 or Brian Hoop at the Office of Neighborhood Involvement, 503-823-3075. Meetings are wheelchair accessible and located on the downtown bus mall.

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