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NEWS AND CALENDAR RELEASE

1 1

For Immediate Release

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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 14th 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.

Information & ReferralCrime PreventionNeighborhood MediationMetropolitan HumanCenterCenterCenterRights Center503-823-4000503-823-4519503-823-3152503-823-5136

In Human Civi Center I-5136 50

Civic Involvement Center 503-823-4519 sex union overseas will not need to er in the United Kingdom to be recogd. There will be a formal, court-based rocess for dissolution of a civil partnership.

ASIA/PACIFIC

Report: China Has Its First Open Gay

China Daily reported Nov. 11 that Zheng Yuantao from Guangdong "is thought to be the first gay man in China to broadcast his sexual orientation."

"I am a gay man," he said. "I announced my homosexuality to the public on [the] last World AIDS Day on a local television program."

Zheng told the paper he is lucky to have grown up in Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong, where society is heavily influenced by the province's "more tolerant" neighbor, Hong Kong. He has a degree in English literature from Guangdong University and is translating gay-themed Western literature into Chinese, he said.

Man Who Didn't Reveal HIV Status Cleared

A New Zealand man who did not tell his sex partner he was HIV-positive has been cleared of wrongdoing by the Wellington District Court, the Australian AIDS publication *Positive Living* reported.

Judge Susan Thomas said the man took reasonable precautions to protect his partner by using condoms during intercourse and not ejaculating during oral sex.

The New Zealand AIDS Foundation applauded the ruling. "Relying on HIV-positive people to tell you, and assuming that unprotected intercourse is safe if HIV is not mentioned, is a much riskier strategy [than] the consistent and proper use of condoms," said executive director Rachael Le Mesurier.

Fiji Bans Anti-Gay March

Authorities in Fiji have banned a march by anti-gay Methodists, local media reported Nov. 10.

The Fiji Methodist Church had planned to turn out 3,000 people Nov. 19 to protest against a recent court ruling that consensual adult gay sex in private is protected by the constitution. But Central Division Regional Development Commissioner Inoke Devo, who is responsible for issuing parade permits, said the proposed march would be discriminatory toward the gay community and refused to issue the document.

Singapore Bans Gay Web Site, Fines Another One

Singapore's Media Development Authority banned one gay Web site and fined another one, local media reported Oct. 28.

The banned site FluffBoy com is hosted outside



The rugged good looks of one of the main characters in the Brazilian soap opera *América* keeps the fans coming back despite (or because of?) gay kissing.

than lesbians are tying the knot, the reports said. The details were not available on the Statistics New Zealand Web site at press time.

Gay activists think there will be more civil union ceremonies as summer weather arrives in the Southern Hemisphere.

AMERICAS Brazilian Gays Stage Kiss-In

Hundreds of gays staged a kiss-in Nov. 8 outside Brazil's Congress after a television network censored a widely anticipated kiss between two male characters on the popular series *América*.

Brazilian media said that the kiss was filmed but that the Globo network axed it in the final edit. It would have been the first same-sex kiss in Brazilian television history.

Tens of millions of additional viewers watched the series' season finale after advance media coverage of the kiss between rancher's son Júnior and farmhand Zeca reached fever pitch. A Globo spokesperson said the kiss was cut because the program airs at 8 p.m.

Gay Logo Channel Launches in Latin America

Pay-per-view programming from the U.S. gay cable channel Logo is being launched in Mexico and Brazil. Six-hour programming blocks, which will change weekly, began airing Nov. 4 on Sky Mexico and will start Nov. 19 on Sky Brazil.

"We're really proud and excited to be the first MTVN operation outside the U.S. to launch such an innovative service as Logo TV," said Pierluigi Gazzolo, MTV Networks Latin America managing director. "This is an incredible opportunity to serve an audience that is currently underserved."

MIDEAST/AFRICA Saudi Police Raid Drag Pageant

Saudi police raided a drag pageant Nov. 3 at a hotel in

the city of Al Qatif, *ADN Kronos International* reported. Five men were arrested and many others rushed away, "leaving behind shoes and head scarves," the report said. Police also found evaluation sheets, beau-



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CityGuys want you to DP WP

Singapore but offers substantial Singaporean content. The authority said the site recruits underage boys for sex, promotes homosexual promiscuity and contains nude photos.

The local site SGBoy.com was fined \$2,950 for displaying "offensive content" and ordered to remove it.

The authority said both sites were in violation of the nation's Internet Code of Practice, which prohibits depictions of "nudity or genitalia in a manner calculated to titillate" as well as promotion of homosexuality or pedophilia.

Singapore has a list of 100 banned Web sites—98 of which offer porn and two of which promote religious extremism, the reports said.

N.Z. Gays Not Rushing to Altar

Only 205 civil unions have taken place in the six months since New Zealand began offering them, local media reported. And some of the unions were between opposite-sex partners.

More than 5,000 heterosexual weddings took place during the same period. New Zealand has a population of 4.1 million.

Provisional figures indicate slightly more gay men

ty products, makeup, lingerie and sex toys, ADN noted.

Israeli Couple Demand Recognition of Their Marriage

A gay couple who married in Canada filed a petition with Israel's High Court of Justice demanding that the Population Registry recognize their marriage, the *Haaretz* newspaper reported Nov. 1.

Attorney Jonathan Herland, a 29-year-old Canadian, and Ayal Wallrauch, a 26-year-old Israeli, have lived together in Israel for two years. They got married in July in Toronto.

"By refusing to register the petitioners as a married couple, the Population Registry deviates from its authority, behaving with unlawful discrimination against the petitioners and same-sex couples in general," the couple wrote in their petition.

Canada is one of four nations where same-sex couples can marry.

Compiled by REX WOCKNER, who has reported for the gay press since 1985. He has a bachelor's degree in journalism from Drake University and started his career as a radio reporter.

free rapid HIV testing & free STD screening for men tuesday nights from 5:30-8:00 starting november 8.

City 620 SW Fifth Ave, Suite 300 UVS cityguys@cascadeaids.org Cascade AIDS Project



- - Handle, Alley) 30. Waldorf Hotel (Ritz Disco, Flight 181)



swisny stuff r Dorothy Micc

Traipsing the Triangle Walking into the past, discovering the present

by Dave Kohl

ortland's gayest five acres lie in a wedge between Broadway on the east, Burnside on the north and Washington to the south. Within this triangle have been more historic and current gay bars, eateries and crash pads than any other section of Rose City geography. The core of gay-friendly business owners, bartenders and restaurant owners has been the site of at least 36 years of gay community history.

Interviews with owners of gay businesses in the Burnside Triangle today reveal several trends. The area has gone through five major shifts in activity during the past 30 years, beginning as a straight, blue-collar, inner-city, quiet neighborhood. Gay bars began locating here in the early 1970s. Existing businesses simply expanded their services. The arrival of the Club Baths initiated another change, with a lot of late-night activity between the bars and the baths. The 1000 block on Southwest Stark Street often resembled an outdoor block party.

Things quieted down considerably during the revelation of the AIDS crisis and some instances of gay-bashing. Action picked up with the remodeling of the Brig, the Red Cap Garage and Silverado and diminished when C.C. Slaughters first relocated. Major social and dating patterns have changed in the past five years because of computer dating and cell phones, and bars and baths continue to try new ways of attracting customers. The Mark Spencer Hotel and Jake's Famous Crawfish continue to add a touch of class to the area, and Glen Dugger's commitment to invest heavily in a clean, fresh, revitalized bar should guarantee that the "gay" triangle will not be losing its unique identity anytime soon.

ougn Le sully city" and brought an end to "Act," a troupe of female impersonators featured for months at Music Hall.



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On the beaten track

For a classy beginning, start your walking tour in the lobby of the Benson Hotel at 309 S.W. Broadway, built in 1912 by lumber baron and drinking fountain benefactor Simon Benson. Not only has the hotel provided elegant accommodation and restaurants, its London Grill was one of the first lounges to sell liquor by the glass in 1954. Upstairs, nearly every gay organization in town has had a banquet, fund-raiser or party in the Picadilly or Mayfair rooms. And one can't beat the relaxation of sipping afternoon coffee while enjoying the live piano music in the classic high-ceilinged lobby. The mezzanine-level men's room was the first in town to post framed copies of the front page and sports page above the urinals.

Exit through the weather-tight revolving doors and walk right to El Gaucho. This half of the building was the site of the grand Hotel Oregon, which preceded the Benson in 1910. In 1920, it was the home of Marie Equi, a lesbian doctor who provided abortions and early medical care for women in "desperate situations." She was a good Samaritan, but her radical political beliefs got her jail time in 1927.

Take a look across Broadway to the south at the one-time Imperial Hotel. Now called Hotel Vintage Plaza, it was built of red brick in the Richardsonian Romanesque style in 1894. The "modern" addition, now Hotel Lucia, was built with tan brick in 1922. Somewhere inside was a men's room on the lobby level with a street entrance that was very popular with men seeking an "afternoon delight" from like-minded strangers. After a few years, the hotel nipped that practice in the bud by charging a dime entrance fee to use the toilets. All activity stopped.

Turn left in front of the Benson and notice the black salon across Southwest Oak Street (225 S.W. Broadway). This was the location of the second Hamburger Mary's and later the Dakota Cafe, a popular restaurant owned by Bill Dickey. A bit further north on Broadway was the North Dakota, now Silver Dollar II, which became a popular gay bar in the mid-1990s

Walk towards Powell's Books to 820 S.W. Oak St. One of Portland's longest-running gay bars existed here from 1957 until 1986. The Family Zoo was one of the wildest of places, with loud late parties, lots of special events, Sunday afternoon movies and pool tables that had many other uses. The structure was built in 1907 as a station on the Linnton Trolley. GIs were dropped off there when

they mustered out during the Vietnam era. Lonely horny men often found their first release at what was first called Vince's, then the Tel & Tel. Derek Akerson bought it in 1963, renaming it Derek's Tavern. Police noted that its customers were "gavs of the higher class"; it also was visited by Johnny Mathis and Rudolph Nureyev. It was renamed again in 1965 as the Annex. When Bobby Hoblitt bought the tavern in 1971, it became the Family Zoo. And it was a zoo! It's been owned by the Salvation Army since 1986.

At the corner of Southwest Park Avenue, walk left. At 333 is the Escape, an all-ages club that is a younger sibling to the City Nightclub, originally located on 13th and run by longtime community member Lanny Swerdlow.

Walking past the Escape to Southwest Stark Street, go right and up the slope to view a parking lot behind a chain-link fence. This uninviting spot is the site of the first gay bar on Stark. For years it had been the Bali Hai Supper Club, then reopened as the Riptide Restaurant. It was purchased in 1965 by John Honnegar, whose Harbor Club had been closed by the police for catering to homosexuals on Southwest First Street. He tried to make the Riptide a classy joint, denying entrance to women wearing long pants or leather. He was unsuccessful and made no one happy and was even picketed by gay activists. Roman Wydra bought the place in 1971. As Roman's Riptide, it became the first popular gay bar on Stark and the site of much early gay social and political activity.

Look across Southwest 10th Avenue to a nondescript building south of the dry cleaners. This is the site of the Music Hall, an infamous bar and upstairs dinner club from 1938 to 1950. Some called it Paul's Supper Club. Dorothy McCullough Lee, Portland's ax-wielding first female mayor, had the place investigated and shut down in 1950 when she learned that transvestites and drag queens were performing vaudeville acts there on stage, to howling laughter. Double-entendre and risqué innuendo made the acts wildly popular with the underground gay community. On the street level was another tavern, the Back Stage Bar.

As you finish the first leg of your tour, stop for a cup of coffee at the Black Rooster Café, on the east side of 10th. Larry Copeland has run the cafe for about a year, and it attracts a diverse clientele. Copeland, who was part of the Second Foundation in 1971, is an excellent source for local gay history.

Continued on Page 26





The staff at Roman's Riptide in the early '70s.



The Family Zoo kept the party going from 1957 to 1986.





The boys share drinks at the Rhondee Lounge, the original location of C.C. Slaughters.

The Imperial Hotel restroom was very popular with men seeking an "afternoon delight" from like-minded strangers.

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Club Glory's unassuming entrance.

Continued from Page 25

Up Stark Street

Cross 10th. At 314 is Panorama, a one-time popular mixed-crowd dance bar. Financial issues and problem behavior by underage customers eventually brought the place down, and it sits empty, inviting its next reincarnation. On the south side of Stark is a plain, unmarked door at 1014. Once the hottest gay country western bar on the West Coast, this was **C.C. Slaughters**. It was opened in 1981 by John Adams, a well-known bartender from the **Fish Grotto**. His reputation matched that of Tom Cruise in *Cocktail* for theatrical bartending. People came just to watch him mix and shake. Slaughters had a small dance floor, a large fish tank, changing exhibits of work by local gay artists and a narrow stairway up to the multipurpose restrooms. Slaughters sponsored multitudes of fund-raisers and events, especially after the advent of AIDS.

Before Adams bought it, the place was popular as the **Rhondee Lounge**. Earlier, it was the first location of the **Virginia Cafe**, which later moved to Park Avenue.

Cruising Stark Street in the 1980s meant meandering back and forth to many other bars. Across from Slaughters was the **Brig**, with a steamy recessed dance

floor surrounded by a mirrored gallery and a bar on one side. To get inside, one traversed a long, dark hallway, next to what is now the **Red Cap Garage**, which at one time was an actual auto repair garage. The Red Cap, the Brig and **Boxxes** are all contiguous, but in the 1980s, the only link was a narrow passage behind the Fish Grotto. The Grotto has been one of Portland's finest fish houses since the 1960s, well known to tourists and locals alike for fresh fare. Behind the Grotto was a popular piano lounge called the **Outrigger** and a bar known as the **Quarterdeck**, which became Boxxes.

Crossing Stark from the Red Cap are two more popular spots. On the corner at 1038 is **Scandals**, in the neighborhood since 1985. Previously, it was the **Rainbow Art Gallery**. Remarkable for the time, the owner left the windows unblocked, establishing Portland's first bar with picture windows.

The change in atmosphere inside set a new standard for bars. Connected next door is the Other Side Lounge, a quieter alternative to the cacophony of Scandals. This space was at one time Exspress It, a coffee and dessert spot with a small art gallery. It was, unfortunately, too quiet and classy, ahead of its time for providing a quiet ambiance. But enjoy these places quickly, as they will relocate at

the end of November to a new location up Stark at the former **Three**

new European restaurant, and the Clyde Hotel (once the Ben Stark) will be upgraded to become the Ace Hotel.

Walk north on 11th past Boxxes and notice the Red Light, a vintage clothing store. This was once Django's, a radical music shop. The doorway at 319 was the site of **Somebody's Place** from 1981 until 1985. Noteworthy was its full-length balcony overlooking the bar and an intimate dance floor in the back. Somebody's pioneered the concept of the Sunday afternoon movie in a gay bar, showing such classics as *What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?* and *Psycho*. Somebody's had moved to this spot from its original 1979 location on Ninth in the former **Focal Point**.

The Heart

Later, 319 became Roxy's Leopard Lounge, but it never reached the success of Somebody's.

At the southeast corner of Burnside and 11th is a used clothing store, Buffalo Exchange. Before it opened five years ago, it was the longtime location of **Helens Pacific Costumers**, where nearly everyone needing outfits for drag could count on finding just what they needed, tasteful or otherwise.

Backtrack south on 11th and notice the entrance to the **Hotel Joyce**, at one time a by-the-hour establishment, conveniently located near four gay bars. Check out the nautical exterior on Boxxes, more appropriate for the Fish Grotto, and the former Outrigger and Quarterdeck. Close by is the entrance to the recently opened Fez Ballroom, open for special events.

At 11th and Stark is the **Mark Spencer Hotel**, built as the **Nortonia** about 1907 and also known for a few years as **Bower's Hotel**. Equi lived there with longtime companion Harriet Speckhart from at least 1909 to 1911. It was a premier hotel in its day, in the same class as the **Multnomah** (now Embassy Suites) and **Hotel Oregon** (now part of the Benson). Ahead of its time, it was the only hotel that would allow Louis Armstrong to stay in 1940. Peter Nathan purchased the building in 1977, renovating and redecorating the place, and it is still owned by his family. The hotel caters to all clientele, offering special packages to groups like the Imperial Sovereign Rose Court for Coronation Weekend.

Return to Stark Street, turning right to the Roxy at 1121, one of the few 24-hour eateries downtown. Quiet during daylight hours, it's jammed most weekend nights, with a peak of activity about 3 a.m. Spike-headed guys mix with tie-dye-adorned girls and middle-aged couples at breakfast time, but no sleeping allowed. Located between the various bars on Stark, its offerings of food and nonalcoholic drinks are popular with underage kids and adults alike. The Roxy has been owned for 11 years by Rose Empress XLIII The Lovely Suzanne; customers respect her expectations of proper behavior, friendly advice and percentage tipping. It had been sadly empty and derelict for eight years, before which it was **Roxy Heart's Memorial Diner**. Operated by Lenny Borer, it was *the* gay restaurant in the triangle, especially popular after hours.

Next door at 1125 is the space operated for nearly 40 years as **Three Sisters Tavern** (fondly known as "Six Tits" to some). Georgia's three daughters kept the place going after inheriting it from their mom. The tavern dated back to when Stark Street was a blue-collar neighborhood, with many single women and men renting rooms- in the Kent, Majestic and Fairfield hotels. Never a mecca like Boxxes, Slaughters or Silverado, it did attract a small gay crowd. Boy go-go dancers did not stimulate business, and it was open irregularly in its final years. Since September, activity in the old space has been intense and inspired as workmen eviscerated the Sisters to make way for a totally redesigned Scandals. High ceilings, exposed brick walls, curved bars and dance floor and large windows will make the new Scandals a destination bar when it opens at the end of November. (See *Just Out*'s Dec. 16 issue for a full report.)

Continue your gay hike west on Stark. At the corner, you'll notice the large onetime **Majestic Hotel**, dating from 1910. Known for years as the **Majestic Baths**, the building was redesigned inside as the **Continental Club Baths** in 1987, when



The original corner of the Fish Grotto sported neon.



The bartenders of Somebody's Place, with Scandals owner Glen Dugger on the far left.

Sisters Tavern. The it was purchased by Dick Lawson. He had owned the Workout Baths from 1967 to 1977 and the first Continental Baths under the Cornelius Hotel from 1977



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Community Voices: Making History

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Tuesday December 6 6-8:30pm Urban Grind Coffeehouse 2214 NE Oregon •Panel featuring historymaking Portlanders, including the legendary Darcelle and Roxy and community members of all ages, sharing their stories

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COMMUNITY VOICES: MAKING HISTORY is the second in a series of three activities hosted by Portland's new LGBTQ community center, **Q Center**. Each event has a specific theme with the goal to engage the community in fun activities while inviting additional input on permanent **Q Center** programming.

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The Roxy, owned by Rose Empress XLIII The Lovely Suzanne, is open 24 hours a day except Mondays.

until they closed in 1987. From 1997 to 1999, one lower-level space was designated as Zippers Down, a designated sex club that competed with the nearby Club XES. Both are now gone. The Majestic contains 80 rooms, a few larger "suites" and a room set aside for Cascade AIDS Project, which does STD testing and counseling there, usually on Fridays, for interested clients.

The Club Baths are the sole survivor of more than 20 baths that operated at one time or another on the west side prior to the advent of AIDS in the early 1980s. Gone are the Old and New Olympic, the Workout, the Aero Vapors, the Continental, Franklin, McMahons, Japanese, Finnish and Russian baths. Even the steam room at the Princeton is history. One oft-repeated story about the Majestic in the early '80s involves an elderly patron who collapsed of a heart attack one evening (from exertion?). When ambulance and police arrived, most of the scantily clad patrons hid in a back room until the officials left with the body, then they resumed their proclivities.

The next stop is 1217 S.W. Stark St., probably the gay address with the most incarnations in the Rose City. Silverado's popularity can be attributed to its choice of music and gyrating male torsos in various stages of undress. Sunday afternoons seem especially popular, although there's lots going on most nights. Before its purchase by two owners, it was the domain of Flossie, who always advertised her \$4.95 steak special on the outer Burnside wall. In 1982 the bar was known as Stark Street Station; before that it was Bushes. Prior to that, it was Riddles, and before that, Pied Piper. Long-term Portlanders once knew the place as Kuchina Lounge, but if you were of age in 1959, you would have called it the Desert Room, operated by Nate Zussman and reputed to be part of Portland's very own Mafia connection.

A few of the "cufflink" crowd might shuffle across Stark at this point to Jake's, truly famous for its crawfish and other seafood delights. Portland's second-oldest continuously open restaurant, Jake's bar still displays the only remaining piss trough at a bar in town, although men today are discouraged from testing the plumbing.

A walk on past Jake's brings the adventurous traveler to the Eagle PDX, opened in 1983 by the same John Adams who owned C.C. Slaughters. It was previously known as the Curtain Call and the Maus Haus. Visitors are flushed to find an antique urinal running with fresh water near the entrance. Dark lighting, a prisonlike atmosphere, an upper deck overlooking the bar and lots of iron created the most harsh environment of any existing bar in town, reminiscent to many of JR's Cell of the 1980s, up on 10th. The Eagle recently changed ownership, sold by John Adams Jr.

Just up 13th you'll see the steel door with a small emblem painted in the middle, marking the site of Club Glory and former playroom known as Club XES, where you could do everything you could do at the baths, but without the bother of water or steam.

In the same building as the Eagle, a small unnumbered doorway on Stark once led to a plain gourmet restaurant called Le Crusnier-pricey but worth it. Next is the Crystal Ballroom, restored by the McMenamin brothers and the site of many a gay community party and fund-raiser. The upstairs space was once Ringler's Dance Academy, but the street level was a garage and later the Auto Row Cafe. Walking past this building, go left and up the slope and around the corner under the glass marquee to the Hotel Ramapo, now the Taft Home. Occupying the main level is Cassidy's, quietly serving good meals to the gay community since 1979.

To complete the triangular hike, walk east down Washington-Street. Look south at 13th. The corner building was once the Franklin Hotel, one of the typical hotels that had public baths located in the lower level, now the DePaul Center.

In the next block on Washington, the Drake Hotel stands on the north side of the street, and at number 1239 was the popular Buick Cafe, a noted gathering place for independent ladies from 1949 into the 1960s. Police reports on the Buick noted that it was a hangout for a group of lesbians who congregated at the Music Hall on 10th. If the women didn't find a pickup there, they would retire to the Buick and look for other prospects.

At 1127 S.W. Washington St. stood the Washington Hotel and a gay bar that operated under the name of the Timber Topper between 1970 and 1974. It became the Axe Handle and then the Alley. The architect, Lionel Deane, was one of 13 men arrested in 1912 as part of a vice clique scandal involving a supposed sex ring of men and young boys.

The final stop is a few steps east, at 1116, built in 1907 as the Waldorf Hotel, now a vacant lot. Another of the men arrested in 1912 as part of the sex scandal was Harry Work, a 19-year old desk clerk at this hotel. He testified to his passive role in oral sex encounters, which he implied were typical at hotels. The hotel changed to the Ritz, and two popular gay hangouts were here in the mid-1970s: The Ritz Disco catered to the followers of John Travolta, followed by another club, Flight 181.

DAVE KOHL is preparing a bistory of Metropolitan Community Church of Portland, to be published this winter in anticipation of its 30th

anniversary in January 2006. Research for this walking tour included works by Tom Cook and Peter Boag and the efforts of the Gay and Lesbian Archives of the Pacific Northwest, housed at the Oregon Historical Society.



After 40 years in business, Three Sisters closed last month to make way for Scandals' new location.



The Mark Spencer Hotel-originally the Nortonia, then Hotel Bowers—is home to many Coronation memories.



The original Ringler's Dancing Academy, now the Crystal Ballroom, housed a McCracken Motor Company Garage on the first floor.



Appendix II – Historical Highlights Burnside Triangle Walking Tour^{*} September 2002

Buick Café, 1239 SW Washington

- Lesbian meeting place from at least the 1940s. The 1940s witnessed a growth in urban lesbian communities as a result of the World War II. The war brought women to West Coast cities, as both military personnel and war industries workers.
- A city police report from the period noted that "these women are reported to attempt their pick-up at the Music Hall [#19] and in case of failure before the Hall closes, they then retire to the Buick and look for other prospects."
- The report also noted that "these women were recently ousted from San Francisco for their actions and are apparently confirmed lesbians."

Rich's Cigar Store, 724 SW Alder

- One of only two stores in town that would sell the homophile publication, *The Mattachine Review*, beginning in the 1950s. "Homophile" refers to support for homosexual civil rights prior to the emergence of gay liberation and lesbian feminism in the late 1960s.
- The Mattachine Review was the newsletter of The Mattachine Society (1951-1961), the first major organization to work for gay and lesbian civil rights in the United States.
- Co-founder Henry Hays derived "Mattachine" from an secret all-male society that originated in France, Italy, and Spain in the 15th century (Mattassins, Mattaccini, and Mattachinos).
- The Mattachine Review, which was often passed from friend to friend, afforded homosexual men in Portland access to information about the activities of Mattachine Society groups around the country during a conservative period in American history the height of the Cold War and the McCarthy trials in the U.S. Congress.
- In the United States during this period in addition to facing criminal trials and harassment by
 police gay and lesbian citizens could be fired from their jobs, forced out of their
 homes/apartments, and in the worse-case scenario, be forcibly committed to mental institutions if
 it were discovered that they were homosexual. Thus most, lived closeted, double lives.
- During the fifties, several landmark cases in the U.S. Supreme Court loosened the mailing of "obscene" material. This led to an increase in erotic pulp fiction and magazines in the U.S. Mayor Terry Shrunk, former Multnomah County Sheriff, organized a para-governmental commission to pressure Portland magazine stores to store carrying so-called "filth" (i.e., *The Mattachine Review*). Rich's Cigar store was one of only two stores that declined to support Shrunk's "Decency in Literature" campaign.

Medical Building, NE corner of Park and Alder

- In Nov. 1912, Dr. Harry A. Start was arrested for sodomy after a young man, Andrew Borland, jumped out of Start's fifth floor office to a roof connecting the building with the adjoining Pantages Theatre.
- Following the 1912 same-sex vice scandal, physician Harry Start, attorney Edward McAllister and store clerk Edwin E. Wedemeyer were convicted of sodomy. Their convictions were later overturned by the Oregon Supreme Court on technical grounds. Without a grandfather clause, the new sodomy stature of 1913 was not legally binding for charges from 1912.
- However, this Supreme Court ruling did little to mitigate the social stigma of the scandal.
- William H. Allen attempted suicide, but recovered. He was never brought to trial.
- Edward J. S. McAllister attempted to continue working as an attorney. However, as a result of social ostracism no one would practice law with him. McAllister then moved to Myrtle Creek in Douglas County and became a farmer. The *Myrtle Creek Mail* noted in McAllister's obituary that he "had known tragedy, persecution, and disappointment." (d. 1926).

^{*} Prepared by Allen Bare, Melinda Marie Jetté, and Tom Soppe.

- Having concluded that McAllister had been stripped of his membership simply because he was homosexual, the Multhomah Bar Association posthumously voted to reinstate him on June 17, 2000. He was the first member to be reinstated in the association's 94-year history.
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Hotel Oregon, SW Broadway & Stark

- Home to lesbian physician and activist Marie Equi during the 1920s
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Tel & Tel, 820 SW Oak

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• Former office of Portland and Oregon's GLBT biweekly newspaper established in the 1980s (now located on the eastside near the Burnside Bridge).

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- Opened in 1937 by Russian Jewish emigrant Paul Schneiderman, the hall originally showcased vaudeville acts.
- Around 1947, Paul's son Leonard booked a San Francisco female impersonator troupe. It quickly became one of the city's most popular gay and lesbian nightclubs featuring both male and female drag performances and musical acts.
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Conclusion

- The Burnside Triangle has been a place were gay, lesbian, bi, and trans folks have lived, worked, and socialized for at least 100 years.
- Over the course of the 20th century, we have witnessed historical realities and social changes affecting the GLBT community in Portland.
- Prior to World War II, homosexual men and women created communities and geographies in spite of the great odds against them. The lives of long-time couple Marie Equi and Harriet Speckart and the many men caught up in the 1912 same-sex vice sandal are testaments to this earlier time.
- World War II was a watershed for gay and lesbian communities across North America. The migration of people to the cities afforded gays and lesbians the opportunity to create more visible - though still highly marginalized - cultures and spaces.
- The 1950s and early 1960s was a transitional period, with the small-scale homophile movement (the gay Mattachine Society and the lesbian Daughters of Bilitis) laying the foundational for the later, larger-scale Gay Liberation and Lesbian Feminist Movements of the late 1960s and 1970s.
- In Portland as in other major cities, the bars, nightclubs, restaurants, and cafés have long played a major role in the history of the queer community. They have provided spaces for gays, lesbian, bisexuals and trans folks to socialize. Their presence has challenged public perceptions. And the bar owners and managers were some of the first gay leaders to publicly challenge restrictive city laws, and the coercive practices of police and city officials.

References – Portland

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Burnside Triangle History Tour

Burnside Triangle History Tour September 2002

Meet outside Ringlers pub, 1332 W. Burnside

Introduction

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- Introduce Burnside Triangle Advisory Group (BTAG)
- Introduce tour guides
- Route of the history tour geographical, not chronological
- · Historical terms for gay, lesbian, bi, trans history
- Historical context Portland at the turn of 20th century (1900)
- Historical topics we will explore: GLBT community and culture in Portland, Issues of identity and sexuality, attitudes and actions of police and City officials, queer geography, and social change.
- 1) Eagle, 1300 W. Burnside
 - A gay leather bar for over ten years
- 2) Xes, 415 SW 13th
 - Sex club for gay men opened in the late 1990s
 - Note distinctions between bathhouse, sex club, public sex
 - Side note: Ace, the sex club for heterosexual/bisexual swingers is located at 39th and SE Powell.

3) Buick Café, 1239 SW Washington

- Lesbian meeting place from at least the 1940s. The 1940s witnessed a growth in urban lesbian communities as a result of the World War II. The war brought women to West Coast cities, as both military personnel and war industries workers.
- A city police report from the period noted that "these women are reported to attempt their pick-up at the Music Hall [#19] and in case of failure before the Hall closes, they then retire to the Buick and look for other prospects."
- The report also noted that "these women were recently ousted from San Francisco for their actions and are apparently confirmed lesbians."

4) ABC Restaurant, SW Washington between 12th & 13 [Rosenbaum Plaza]

- Delicatessen likely frequented by homosexual men in 1910s
- At that time the block was mainly small hotels, arts galleries and shops

5) Washington Hotel, 1135 SW Washington [Washington Plaza]

- Built by architect Lionel Deane (1911), who was arrested in the same-sex vice scandal of 1912
- The 1912 same-sex vice (with related scandals in Eugene, Medford, Coos Bay and Salem), was
 a sensationalist event marked by extensive newspaper coverage and an intense reform crusade
 to root out the homosexual "perversion" in Portland.
- It was closely tied with Progressive Era politics and the class conflict of the time. Historian Peter Boag has written that the scandal became "a tool for elements of the lower middle class, notably the populist mouthpiece the *Portland Daily News*, in its protracted battle against the local elites."
- The scandal ultimately ruined the political and professional careers of several prominent Portlanders, and had a devastating effect on the personal lives of the men and their families.
- Lionel Deane left the city for good after his name was publicized in the scandal, moving to New York City.
- The hotel tavern was a gay watering hole during the 1970s under various names: the Timber Topper (1970-74), The Axe Handle (1974), and The Alley.
- The gay-friendly 12th Avenue Grill operated here during the 1990s.

^{*} Prepared by Allen Bare, Melinda Marie Jetté, and Tom Soppe.

6) Hotel San Marco, 11th and SW Washington

- Desk clerk Harry Work was arrested here in the 1912 same-sex vice scandal.
- Harry Work was given immunity to testify against prominent attorney Edwards J.S. McAllister
- In his testimony, Work explained a distinction in early 20th century working-class culture between "queer," one who performs fellatio, and "trade," one who receives it.
- This gives us some indication about notions of male sexuality and sexual identity in the early 20th century. Here the emphasis is on sexual acts rather than on sexual attraction and/or some intrinsic sexual orientation.

7) Bohemian, 910 SW Washington

- Operated by Roman Wydra (1970-1971)
- During the 1920s this restaurant was a favorite spot of lesbian physician and activist Marie Equi, though it was apparently not a queer site at that time (we will mention about Equi later in the tour).

8) Zorba the Greek, 621 SW Park [Brasserie Monmartre]

Gay Club in the 1970s

9) Rich's Cigar Store, 724 SW Alder

- One of only two stores in town that would sell the homophile publication, *The Mattachine Review*, beginning in the 1950s. "Homophile" refers to support for homosexual civil rights prior to the emergence of gay liberation and lesbian feminism in the late 1960s.
- The Mattachine Review was the newsletter of The Mattachine Society (1951-1961), the first major
 organization to work for gay and lesbian civil rights in the United States.
- Co-founder Henry Hays derived "Mattachine" from an secret all-male society that originated in France, Italy, and Spain in the 15th century (Mattassins, Mattaccini, and Mattachinos).
- The Mattachine Review, which was often passed from friend to friend, afforded homosexual men in Portland access to information about the activities of Mattachine Society groups around the country during a conservative period in American history – the height of the Cold War and the McCarthy trials in the U.S. Congress.
- In the United States during this period in addition to facing criminal trials and harassment by
 police gay and lesbian citizens could be fired from their jobs, forced out of their
 homes/apartments, and in the worse-case scenario, be forcibly committed to mental institutions if
 it were discovered that they were homosexual. Thus most, lived closeted, double lives.
- During the fifties, several landmark cases in the U.S. Supreme Court loosened the mailing of "obscene" material. This led to an increase in erotic pulp fiction and magazines in the U.S. Mayor Terry Shrunk, former Multnomah County Sheriff, organized a para-governmental commission to pressure Portland magazine stores to store carrying so-called "filth" (i.e., *The Mattachine Review*). Rich's Cigar store was one of only two stores that declined to support Shrunk's "Decency in Literature" campaign.

10) Club Continental Baths, 531 SW Park

- 1978-85: opened in the mid 1970s and became popular due to backlight drawings on wall, an
 orgy room, Jacuzzi, private rooms, and its cleanliness.
- The décor and ambience of the Continental Baths were emblematic of the gay bath houses during the late 1970s and early 1980, before the rise of AIDS devastated gay male communities across North America.
- Owner later moved the bathhouse to a larger location, the Majestic Hotel and Bath, now Club Portland (#25)

11) Medical Building, NE corner of Park and Alder

 In Nov. 1912, Dr. Harry A. Start was arrested for sodomy after a young man, Andrew Borland, jumped out of Start's fifth floor office to a roof connecting the building with the adjoining Pantages Theatre. 1

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- Following the 1912 same-sex vice scandal, physician Harry Start, attorney Edward McAllister and store clerk Edwin E. Wedemeyer were convicted of sodomy. Their convictions were later overturned by the Oregon Supreme Court on technical grounds. Without a grandfather clause, the new sodomy stature of 1913 was not legally binding for charges from 1912.
- However, this Supreme Court ruling did little to mitigate the social stigma of the scandal.
- William H. Allen attempted suicide, but recovered. He was never brought to trial.
- Edward J. S. McAllister attempted to continue working as an attorney. However, as a result of
 social ostracism no one would practice law with him. McAllister then moved to Myrtle Creek in
 Douglas County and became a farmer. The *Myrtle Creek Mail* noted in McAllister's obituary that
 he "had known tragedy, persecution, and disappointment." (d. 1926).
- Having concluded that McAllister had been stripped of his membership simply because he was homosexual, the Multhomah Bar Association posthumously voted to reinstate him on June 17, 2000. He was the first member to be reinstated in the association's 94-year history.
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12) Imperial Hotel, NE Corner of Broadway & Washington [Hotel Vintage Plaza]

- First floor restrooms were cited in the 1912 same-sex vice scandal as a place where Edward McAllister reportedly cruised for male partners.
- Here we have documentation that public sex was a component of male homosexual culture from the early 20th century. This demonstrates a curious combination of a clandestine, marginalized group "operating" in public venues. It was likely a meeting place for working, middle, and upper class men.

13) Hotel Oregon, SW Broadway & Stark

- Home to lesbian physician and activist Marie Equi during the 1920s
- Equi doctored to poor, indigent, and immigrant classes in Portland, providing abortions and medical care to women in difficult circumstances. Given the poverty of her patients, she only charged them what they could afford. Her medial offices were located in the Lafayette Building, Sixth and Washington.
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- In March 1927 the Oregon Journal, recognized Equi as "One Good Samaritan."

14) Benson Hotel Bar, Broadway

The Picadilly Room was a favorite watering hole for the gay "cufflink" crowd (1960s ?)

15) Club Z, North of Stark

- The current underage club, this location replaced the City Nightclub.
- Has had several names since moving to this location, including Misfits and The Edge
- Lanny Swerdlow, a promoter of many of the areas underage clubs, operated clubs on this site before selling it to a new owner in the late 1990s.
- Swerdlow, a gay man operating underage clubs, was often the target of police investigations and surveillance. He was never charged or convicted of any offense.

- Swerdlow was a leading member of the Portland Town Council during the 1970s. The Portland Town Council consisted of several gay business owners and social activists who rallied together to contravene the efforts of city government and police to dismantle the "homosexual presence" in Portland. This was the beginning of Portland's gay liberation movement, which succeeded in bringing tolerance and protection to the gay community beginning in the late 1970s.
- In this sense, the work of both business owners and social activists from this period was a
 precursor to the struggle of the queer community to oppose the Oregon Citizens Alliance and its
 anti-gay rights agenda during the 1990s.

16) Tel & Tel, 820 SW Oak [Access and Assessment Center run by Janus Youth Services]

- Originally the Linton Trolley waiting room
- Opened in 1957, owned by Robert Saunders (1957-1962)
- Known as Derek's (1963-1965), then the Annex
- Robert Hoblit named it the Family Zoo in 1971
- The site has a long gay history, dating back to a least WW II when it was drop-off site for GI's.
- Popular with the upper classes during the 1960s. During this period Derek's attorney Jim Davis
 argued before City Council that a gay club was not a "disorderly/dirty premise" (the statute used
 to deny gay establishments liquor licenses), and that gays had a constitutional right to be served
 liquor
- During the 1970s it became known for drug use on the site, as cited in Edward White's States of Desire: Travels in Gay America.
- Today, it continues to be an important site in the local queer geography. It serves as a drop-in center for homeless youth, who are disproportionately gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered.

17) Just Out, 9th North of Stark

• Former office of Portland and Oregon's GLBT biweekly newspaper established in the 1980s (now located on the eastside near the Burnside Bridge).

18) Riptide, 949 SW Stark

- Opened by Johnny Honegger, in 1965 the Riptide was one of the first openly gay bars on SW Stark.
- Closed in 1969 due to city's refusal of food permit, required by OLCC
- Reopened by Roman Wydra in Nov. 1970, and managed by him until 1973.
- Wydra originally forbad women wearing pants at the Riptide. In response, the local Gay Liberation Front organized a picket-line protest over a busy weekend. Wydra met with the group and he soon changed the policy of excluding women dressed in pants (gay drama!)

19) The Music Hall, 413 SW 10th

- Opened in 1937 by Russian Jewish emigrant Paul Schneiderman, the hall originally showcased vaudeville acts.
- Around 1947, Paul's son Leonard booked a San Francisco female impersonator troupe. It quickly became one of the city's most popular gay and lesbian nightclubs featuring both male and female drag performances and musical acts.
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- "The Master of Ceremonies appeared to be a man; but later in the evening announced she was a women."
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4

20) Heaven, 421 SW 10th

- A late-night, gay-owned café featuring DJ's, internet access, and work by local artists.
- A 21st century version of the queer-friendly cafés and clubs that date from the early 20th century in downtown Portland and the Burnside Triangle.

21) Rhondee Lounge, 1014 SW Stark

- Gay history dates to mid 1970s and earlier as Julie's Supper Club
- Owner John Adams was known as the Fastest Bartender in the West during the 1970s. He generously supported gay causes.
- This was also the original site of C.C. Slaughter's until the club moved to Old Town in the late 1990s
- Here we see the evolution of the queer meeting places from semi-clandestine establishments operating on the edges of legality during the mid 20th century, to the 1970s, when openly gay clubs were able to operate legally.

22) Scandals, 1038 SW Stark

Popular gay bar since 1981

23) Nortonia Hotel, SW Corner of 11th and Stark [Mark Spencer Hotel]

Lesbian couple Marie Equi and Harriet Speckhart cohabitated at this address from 1909 to 1911.

24) Silverado, 1217 SW Stark

- Oldest continuing gay bar
- Operating since the late 1960s, under various names, including The Pied Piper, Riddles, Stark Street Station, and Flossies.
- It may have had a gay clientele much earlier because Robert Saunders, who owned the Tel & Tel Tavern, attempted to open a bar at the site under the name The Mocambo in 1960. This may suggest the site was attracting a gay clientele at that time.
- During the 1950s this was the site of a well-known club operated by organized criminals involved in various activities, such racketeering, extortion, prostitution, and the trafficking of illegal substances.
- During this period, the organized crime syndicates were affiliated with the Portland Police, paying both high-ranking officials and lower-ranking officers kickbacks in exchange for their cooperation.
- During the 1950s, one practice of the Portland vice-squad was to entrap and/or arrest citizens, most often men, for public sex offenses. The officers would then extort money from the individuals to have the charges dropped. This practice covered both homosexual and heterosexual public sex offenses.

25) Majestic Hotel and Bath, 303 SW 12th [Club Portland]

Oldest continuing gay bath house in Portland

26) Spartacus, 300 SW 12th

- Adult clothing and accessory store since 1980
- Manufacturer of BDSM leather
- An establishment frequented by both queer and straight folks

27) 3 Sisters, 1125 SW Stark

- Gay strip club
- Previously called Mama's
- Current strip shows began in the 1980s. It formerly had a large stage in the back tavern area

28) Roxy, next to 3 Sisters

• The Roxy has gone through several incarnations over the past 25 years. As the Roxy Heart in the 1970s, it was a popular gay nightspot.

- The current management team opened the Roxy in the early 1990s after the closing of Quality Pie (NW 23rd), which had been a hangout for youth, drag queens, and trans folks. Quality Pie was a diner, featured in Gus Van Sant's *My Own Private Idaho*.
- Perhaps the downtown area's only 24-hour restaurant.
- An important hangout spot for the gay bar crowd

29) Somebody's Place, on 11th North of Stark

• Popular early 1980s gay bar with a dance floor and mezzanine for cruisers

30) Fish Grotto Restaurant

- A longtime feature of Stark street and the local gay community
- The Fish Grotto is one of oldest gay establishments still in operation

31) Boxxes, Red Cap Garage (formerly Brig), Panorama - complex on SW Stark between 10th and 11th

- Boxxes, Red Cap/Brig have been gay bars since at least the 1990s
- Panorama came in during the mid 1990s It was originally intended as a harmoniously mixed club. It attracted queer, bisexual and straight crowds. Some straight folks were uncomfortable with and hostile toward gays, which had a negative impact on the atmosphere of the other bars. This appears to have been a gender issue, with the trouble developing between gay men and straightidentified men.
- It closed in 2001 and since has reopened.

End tour at Red Cap for comments and feedback from participants.

Conclusion

- The Burnside Triangle has been a place were gay, lesbian, bi, and trans folks have lived, worked, and socialized for at least 100 years.
- Over the course of the 20th century, we have witnessed historical realities and social changes affecting the GLBT community in Portland.
- Prior to World War II, homosexual men and women created communities and geographies in spite of the great odds against them. The lives of long-time couple Marie Equi and Harriet Speckart and the many men caught up in the 1912 same-sex vice sandal are testaments to this earlier time.
- World War II was a watershed for gay and lesbian communities across North America. The
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 though still highly marginalized cultures and spaces.
- The 1950s and early 1960s was a transitional period, with the small-scale homophile movement (the gay Mattachine Society and the lesbian Daughters of Bilitis) laying the foundational for the later, larger-scale Gay Liberation and Lesbian Feminist Movements of the late 1960s and 1970s.
- In Portland as in other major cities, the bars, nightclubs, restaurants, and cafés have long played a major role in the history of the queer community. They have provided spaces for gays, lesbian, bisexuals and trans folks to socialize. Their presence has challenged public perceptions. And the bar owners and managers were some of the first gay leaders to publicly challenge restrictive city laws, and the coercive practices of police and city officials.
- The Burnside Triangle Group (BTAG) was formed in the interest of giving the sexual minority community a voice in the development process with regard to the area. It remains to be seen how the community will envision the future given the richness of the past.

References – Portland

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Photocopies donated by The Westin Portland.





BURNSIDE TRIANGLE HISTORY TOURS

SEPTEMBER 28 & 29 1:00 - 3:00 PM*

EXPERIENCE 100 YEARS OF GAY, LESBIAN, BI, TRANS HISTORY IN THE BURNSIDE TRIANGLE

*Interested parties are asked to gather at the corner of 14th 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 Burnside Triangle Advisory Group (BTAG), sponsor of the tours, is a citizen-led group that will advise the City of Portland on future plans for one of the city's historic GLBT districts.

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





















BTAG History Tour July 11, 2002

*Meet at Ringlers pub, 1332 W. Burnside

1) Crystal Ballroom, 14th & Burnside

- 2) Eagle, 1300 W. Burnside
 - A gay leather bar for over ten years
 - A sex club was known to operate there some years back

3) Xes, 415 SW 13th

- Sex club for gay men opened in the late 1990s
- 4) Buick Café, 1239 SW Washington
 - Lesbian meeting place from at least the 1940s
 - Women met at the Music Hall on 10th and Stark and then moved to the café.
 - A city police report noted that "these women are reported to attempt their pick-up at the Music Hall and in case of failure before the Hall closes, they then retire to the Buick and look for other prospects."
 - The report also noted that "these women were recently ousted from San Francisco for their actions and are apparently confirmed lesbians."

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- Delicatessen frequented by gays (1912)
- At that time the block was mainly small hotels, arts galleries and shops

6) Washington Hotel, 1135 SW Washington [Washington Plaza]

- Built by architect Lionel Deane (1911), who was arrested in the same-sex vice scandal of 1912
- Lionel Deane left the city for good after his name was publicized in the scandal
- The hotel tavern was a gay watering hole during the 1970s under various names: the Timber Topper (1970-74), The Axe Handle (1974), and The Alley.

7) Hotel San Marco, 11th and SW Washington

- Desk clerk Harry Work was arrested here in the 1912 same-sex vice scandal.
- · He was given immunity to testify against prominent attorney Edwards J.S. McAllister
- In his testimony, Work explained a distinction in early 20th century working-class culture between "gueer," one who performs fellatio, and "trade," one who receives it.

8) Rainbows, Corner of 12th and Alder

• Gay-oriented gift shop

9) Bohemian, 910 SW Washington

- Operated by Roman Wydra (1970-1971)
- It the 1920s it was a favorite spot of lesbian physician and activist Marie Equi, though it was apparently not a queer site at that time

10) Zorba the Greek, Corner of 6th & SW Park

• Gay Club in the 1970s

11) Medical Building, NE corner of Park and Alder

- In Nov. 1912, Dr. Harry A. Start was arrested for sodomy after a young man jumped to the roof of the adjoining Pantages Theatre
- Start, along with Edward McAllister and a third man, were charged with sodomy and convicted. The ruling was overturned by the Oregon Supreme Court in a landmark ruling.
- Stark was subsequently unable to rent office space. He then had his license revoked and he later moved to China.

12) Rich's Cigar Store, 724 SW Alder

• The only store in town that would sell the homophile magazine, *The Mattachine Review*, beginning in the 1950s

13) Club Continental Baths, 531 SW Park

- 1978-85: opened in the mid 1970s and became popular due to backlight drawings on wall, an orgy room, Jacuzzi, private rooms, and its cleanliness
- Fear of AIDS and the human impact of the epidemic reduced business, forcing its closure in 1985

14) Imperial Hotel, NE Corner of Broadway & Washington [Hotel Vintage Plaza]

• First floor restrooms were cited in the 1912 same-sex vice scandal as a place where Edward McAllister cruised for male partners

15) Hotel Oregon, SW Broadway & Stark

- Home to lesbian physician and activist Marie Equi during the 1920s
- She doctored to the poor and immigrant classes. Her radical positions led to her conviction on charges of sedition during WWI, and she was imprisoned.
- Recipient of "One Good Samaritan" editorial in the Oregon Journal (1927)

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- 28) Pied Piper, 1217 SW Stark [Silverado]
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 - Operating since the late 1960s, under various names, by Robert Saunders.
 - It may have had a gay clientele much earlier

29) Nortonia Hotel, SW Corner of 11th and Stark

- Lesbian couple Marie Equi and Harriet Speckhart cohabitated at this address and others around the city in the early decades of the 20th century
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**End at Heaven internet café, 421 SW 10th

Hoop, Brian

To:

Subject:

Alarcon-Gaddie, Amalia Burnside Triangle Advisory Group announces public history tour

To monthly neighborhood and community publications

NEWS AND CALENDAR RELEASE

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 14th 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. Tri-met bus service is from the #20 bus.

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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BTAG history tour press releas...

Brian Hoop Community Organizer/Neighborhood Outreach City of Portland, Office of Neighborhood Involvement City Hall, 1221 SW 4th Ave., Room 110 Portland, OR 97204 (503) 823-3075 Fax: (503) 823-3050 TTY: (503) 823-6868 bhoop@ci.portland.or.us

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BTAG History Tour July 11, 2002

*Meet at Ringlers pub, 1332 W. Burnside

1) Crystal Ballroom, 14th & Burnside

- 2) Eagle, 1300 W. Burnside
 - A gay leather bar for over ten years
 - A sex club was known to operate there some years back
 - 3) Xes, 415 SW 13th

2

- Sex club for gay men opened in the late 1990s
- 4) Buick Café, 1239 SW Washington
 - Lesbian meeting place from at least the 1940s
 - Women met at the Music Hall on 10th and Stark and then moved to the café.
 - A city police report noted that "these women are reported to attempt their pick-up at the Music Hall and in case of failure before the Hall closes, they then retire to the Buick and look for other prospects."
 - The report also noted that "these women were recently ousted from San Francisco for their actions and are apparently confirmed lesbians."

5) ABC Restaurant, SW Washington between 12th & 13 [Rosenbaum Plaza]

- Delicatessen frequented by gays (1912)
- At that time the block was mainly small hotels, arts galleries and shops

6) Washington Hotel, 1135 SW Washington [Washington Plaza]

- Built by architect Lionel Deane (1911), who was arrested in the same-sex vice scandal of 1912
- Lionel Deane left the city for good after his name was publicized in the scandal
- The hotel tavern was a gay watering hole during the 1970s under various names: the Timber Topper (1970-74), The Axe Handle (1974), and The Alley.

7) Hotel San Marco, 11th and SW Washington

- Desk clerk Harry Work was arrested here in the 1912 same-sex vice scandal.
- He was given immunity to testify against prominent attorney Edwards J.S. McAllister
- In his testimony, Work explained a distinction in early 20th century working-class culture between "queer," one who performs fellatio, and "trade," one who receives it.

8) Rainbows, Corner of 12th and Alder

Gay-oriented gift shop

9) Bohemian, 910 SW Washington

- Operated by Roman Wydra (1970-1971)
- It the 1920s it was a favorite spot of lesbian physician and activist Marie Equi, though it
 was apparently not a queer site at that time
- 10) Zorba the Greek, Corner of 6th & SW Park
 - Gay Club in the 1970s



Restaurant iington & 10th Holford & itects 1936 ruzed in 1970s o neg.no.63150

- 11) Medical Building, NE corner of Park and Alder
 - In Nov. 1912, Dr. Harry A. Start was arrested for sodomy after a young man jumped to the roof of the adjoining Pantages Theatre
 - Start, along with Edward McAllister and a third man, were charged with sodomy and convicted. The ruling was overturned by the Oregon Supreme Court in a landmark ruling.
 - Start was subsequently unable to rent office space. He then had his license revoked and he later moved to China.

12) Rich's Cigar Store, 724 SW Alder

 The only store in town that would sell the homophile magazine, The Mattachine Review, beginning in the 1950s

13) Club Continental Baths, 531 SW Park

- 1978-85: opened in the mid 1970s and became popular due to backlight drawings on wall, an orgy room, Jacuzzi, private rooms, and its cleanliness
- Owner later moved the bathhouse to a larger location, the Majestic Hotel and Bath, now Club Portland (#27)

14) Imperial Hotel, NE Corner of Broadway & Washington [Hotel Vintage Plaza]

 First floor restrooms were cited in the 1912 same-sex vice scandal as a place where Edward McAllister cruised for male partners

15) Hotel Oregon, SW Broadway & Stark

- Home to lesbian physician and activist Marie Equi during the 1920s
- She doctored to the poor and immigrant classes. Her radical positions led to her conviction on charges of sedition during WWI, and she was imprisoned.
- Recipient of "One Good Samaritan" editorial in the Oregon Journal (1927)

16) Benson Hotel Bar, Broadway

• The Picadilly Room was a favorite watering hole for the gay "cufflink" crowd (1960s ?)

17) Club Z, North of Stark

- The current underage club, this location replaced the City Nightclub
- Has had several names since moving to this location, including Misfits and The Edge
- Lanny Swerdlow, a promoter of many of the areas underage clubs, was a leading member of the Portland Town Council during the 1970s
- The Portland Town Council consisted of several gay business owners and social activists who rallied together to contravene the efforts of city government and police to dismantle the "homosexual presence" in Portland. This was the beginning of Portland's gay liberation movement, which succeeded in bringing tolerance and protection to the gay community beginning in the late 1970s.

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AN ARCHITECT LOOKS AT DOWNTOWN PORTLAND, RICHARD E. RITZ, p. 42

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- Oldest continuing gay bar
- Operating since the late 1960s, under various names, including The Pied Piper, Riddles, Stark Street Station, and Flossies.
- It may have had a gay clientele much earlier because Robert Saunders, who owned the Tel & Tel Tavern, attempted to open a bar at the site under the name The Mocambo in 1960. This may suggest the site was attracting a gay clientele at that time.

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