

## Choices

Was September Queer Month in Portland, or what? The Portland Gay Men's Chorus and *Intimate Friends* at the Portland Center for the Performing Arts played to sellout crowds. Both theaters will be blessed with fall-out of fairy dust for years to come.

In mid-month gays and lesbians even had a choice on a Friday night. Tom Ammiano and Alix Dobkin and Phranc all played on the same night. Both concerts drew excellent crowds. The opening ceremonies of the AIDS Vigil on the same night was also well attended.

Speaking of choices on a Friday night, picketing Kristine Gebbie at the AIDS Vigil may have been the wrong choice. According to an informed source, Gebbie has been fair to gays and PWAs and on occasion gone farther for them in some areas than gay and PWA advocates were willing to go. But regardless of the alleged intransigence of a bureaucrat, picketing an AIDS Vigil at a Metropolitan Community Church is tacky.

## Tacky acts, part two

Another tacky act occurred two nights later on the same corner. The Rev. Gary Wilson, Pastor of Metropolitan Community Church of Portland, told us: "People who were part of a religious ceremony at our church were harassed by people who were probably employees of Prestige Limousine. The harassment consisted of anti-gay/lesbian comments and jokes about the disease, AIDS."

On Monday, September 14, 1987, I called Prestige to ask that they look into the matter and to speak to any offending employees. A man who identified himself as the manager and said his name is Merv was very rude, hanging up on me four times, refusing to tell me how or when I could contact the owner (until the fifth call I placed) and informing me that homosexuals are an abomination before God. Only grudgingly did Merv take my name and telephone num-



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bers, saying that the owner wouldn't return my call.

At 9:00 p.m. that night Gregory Casteel, owner of Prestige, contacted me at home, saying he had had to go to his Catholic priest to find out if he should talk to me. He then went on to say he did not support homosexuals or homosexual rights. I asked for an apology from Merv and an investigation into the Sunday matter and was told nothing further would be done.

Thursday, September 17, 1987, I called Neighborhood Mediation and asked for intervention. Today, Mr. Emmanuel Paris of Neighborhood Mediation called to say that Prestige had said they would not be involved in mediation.

At press time, the Rev. Wilson had received neither acknowledgement nor apology from Prestige Limousine. Prestige Limousine is located at 1716 NE 24th.

## The Fourth Reich?

Sex partner contact tracing has begun in Indiana. The Indiana State Board of Health is now notifying the known sex partners of people suspected of having AIDS, according to the *New Works News*.

Those notified by the Indiana State Board of Health will not, however, be told the names of the contacts identifying them as sex partners. A spokeswoman told the *New Works News* that there may be times when those who test positive don't want to personally tell their partners for one reason or another. "We'll do that for them and it will be strictly confidential."

This seemingly provincial matter has major national importance; Dr. Woodrow Myers, Director of the Indiana State Board of Health, is a member of Reagan's AIDS Commission.

## Cruising parks still dangerous

People will persist in cruising parks late at night. Late night park cruising was never safe, even in the best of times. Among our correspondence this month was an anonymous letter relating an incident in Laurelhurst Park on September 18.

The writer was accosted by a young man who threatened him and demanded money from him — "He was grabbing and pushing me and calling me faggot and demanding that I hand over my money."

"I called the police when I got home. They wanted me to give my phone number and name. I didn't because

1. It happened so fast, I don't remember what the kid looks like.
2. I have a hunch the police would have asked me, "What were you doing in the park at 3:00 a.m.?" To that, I wouldn't have a justifiable response."

Please, if you are cruising Laurelhurst Park late at night, use the utmost caution. I consider myself lucky that I didn't get stabbed or killed. I will never, however, wander through Laurelhurst Park alone after dark."

## VISA/US Olympic Committee

The response to Sasha Alyson's call for action against VISA has been amazing. Alyson says, "Clearly, I'm not the only one who absolutely loathes the U.S. Olympic Committee for their vicious and homophobic treatment of Dr. Tom Waddell and the Gay Games."

Alyson says we can also make an impact on other corporations who think Olympic sponsorship is a "good, non-controversial way to improve their PR."

The VISA sponsorship of the Olympic Committee will extend through September 1988, so remember that when using a VISA card a percentage of the money spent will go to the US Olympic Committee.

Alyson is making a scrapbook of half cards and press clippings about this action. Sasha Alyson can be contacted at Alyson Publications, 40 Plympton St., Boston, MA 02118.

## Business in AIDS time

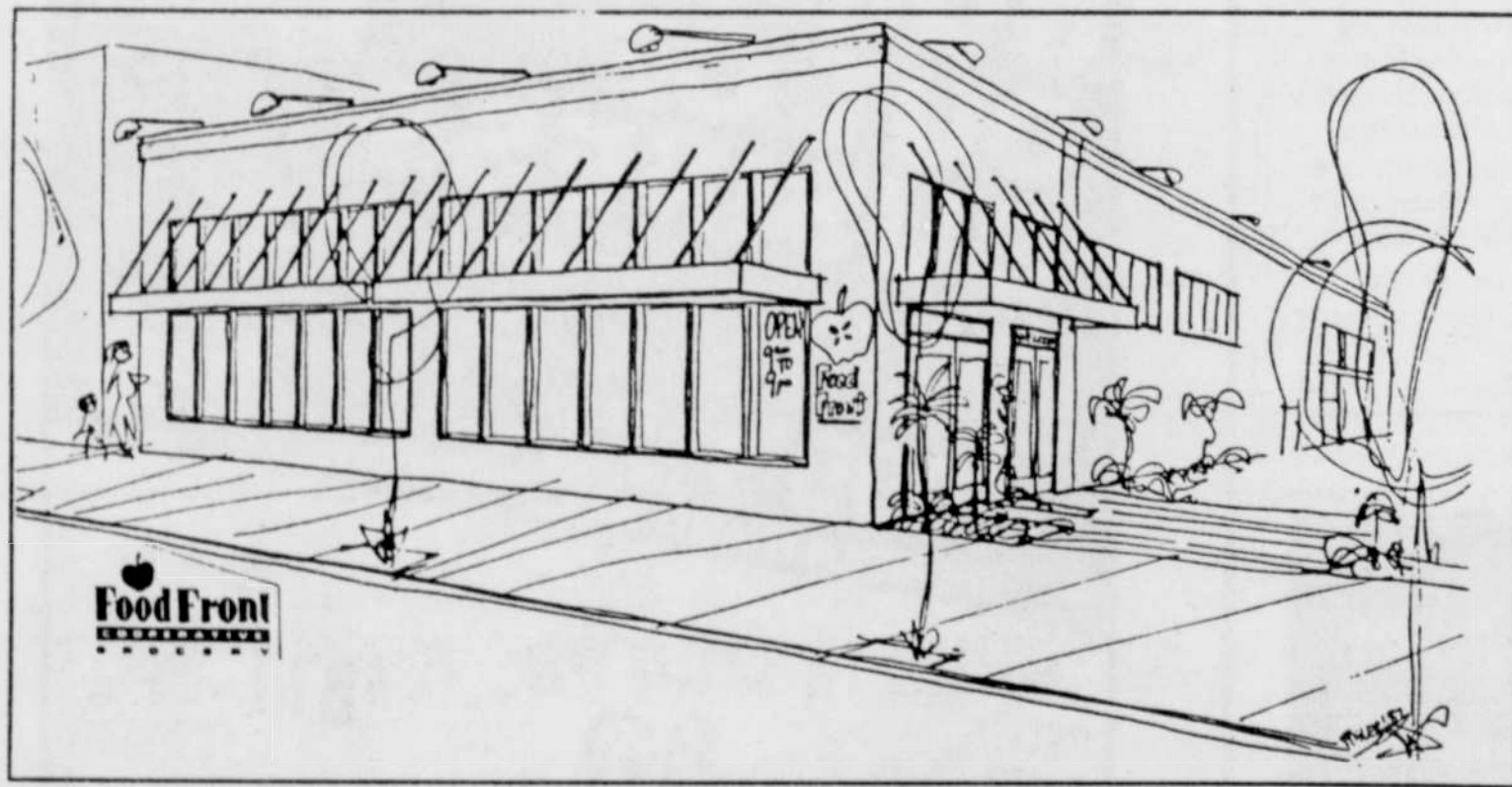
Management of a downtown gay bar has recently terminated the employment of at least two persons with AIDS. In one case, the bar owners have set attorneys brandishing release forms on the PWA.

We wonder how much more of this kind of thing is going on — and not only in gay businesses. We were particularly shocked, though, to hear about a gay-owned business acting so shabbily.

## A last word

Nothing in the Constitution points to a right to privacy," Archibald Cox said recently in an interview on *All Things Considered*. Cox was the special prosecutor fired by Robert Bork on orders from then President Richard Nixon in October 1974.

Just one more bit of evidence that gay/lesbian civil rights advocates still have a difficult road ahead.



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