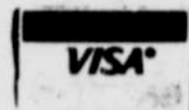
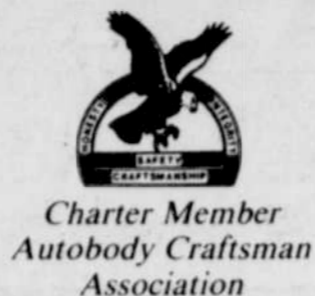


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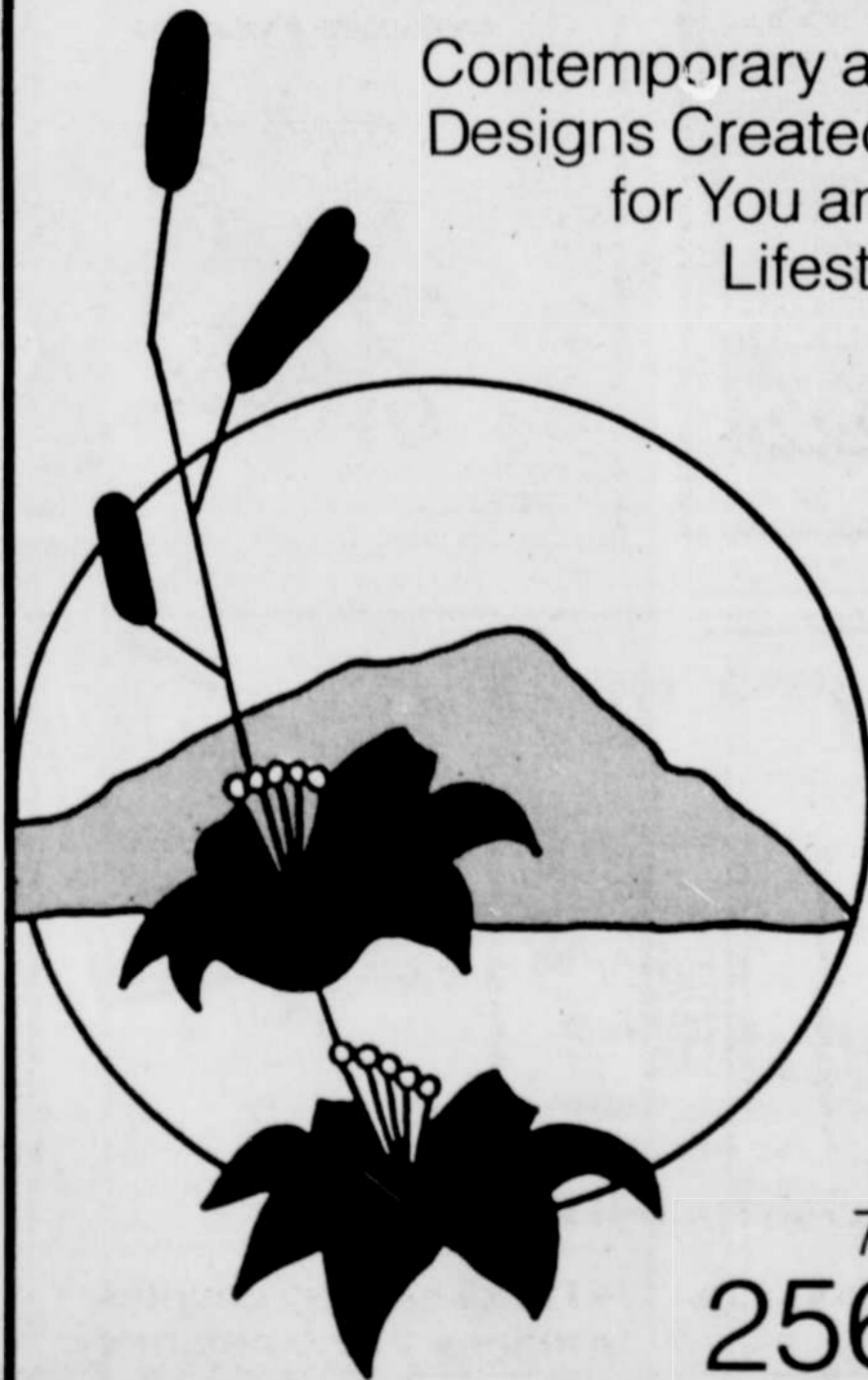
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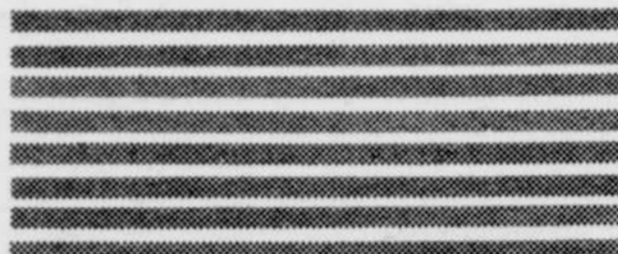
Between the Lines

*Couch Park killer strikes again? Alcohol and AIDS.
SouthPark Square.*

BY JACK RILEY

A killer may be stalking you tonight

Homicide detectives Thomas Nelson and Mike Hefley of the Portland Bureau of Police could use some cooperation from the gay community in tracking down the Couch Park killer. To refresh your memory: in February, a young man who frequented local gay bars was killed by an unknown assailant who first



... **Between the Lines** ...



strangled him and then slit his throat near a playground structure in a Northwest neighborhood park. The victim's photo was tacked up in every gay establishment in the area, but police had few leads.

Rumors have it that someone among us knows what the killer may look like and is afraid to go to the police with information. According to word on the street, the killer may have attempted a similar attack in the same park within recent weeks. The intended victim supposedly escaped unharmed with a fairly vivid description of his attacker.

If that is true, we hope that he will step forward and give police the information they need before the killer strikes again.

Alcohol increases AIDS susceptibility

Alcohol consumption — as little as four beers — may alter immunity in healthy cells and make them more susceptible to the AIDS virus, warned researchers at a recent meeting of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology in Las Vegas.

A team found that the immune cells from six healthy volunteers lost some of their resistance to HIV infection after the volunteers drank an average of four beers.

In the test, cells from the volunteers were infected with HIV and compared before and 13 to 17 hours after the volunteers drank beer. Test results showed that cells produced more HIV after exposure to alcohol than before alcohol was consumed.

The results may be related to alcohol's ability to depress the immune system. Moreover, the study indicates alcohol may promote an environment for growth and spread of the AIDS virus in people who are already infected, bringing on disease symptoms faster.

Similar triggering of AIDS symptoms has also been blamed on abuse of speed, cocaine and marijuana.

AIDS used as deadly weapon in Tacoma robberies

Police in Tacoma, Washington, are looking for a latter-day robber who uses a syringe supposedly filled with AIDS-infected blood as his weapon of choice.

Three store clerks so far have handed over their money to a bandit who threatened to stick them with his needle if they didn't cooperate.

Police say they suspect that the same man is involved in several other robberies where

needles have been used as weapons. AIDS can be contracted via a contaminated needle, but police say they do not know if the robber is actually infected with the disease.

Firms scramble for AIDS data

It appears that corporations in the United States have avoided the issue of how to handle AIDS-infected workers for as long as possible and now are having to cope with the medical and legal issues these employees are raising.

Managerial ignorance of employee rights could prove dangerous and costly where company-sponsored medical insurance policies are involved. Margaret Magnus, editor of *Personnel Journal*, reports: "From what we've been hearing, bosses panic when a worker announces that he has the disease, fearing that the employee's disease may be contagious."

"Some companies have made the severe mistake of dismissing workers for having AIDS. Dismissal on these grounds is illegal in many states and grounds for suing the company."

Personnel Journal publishes a 35-page resource manual entitled "AIDS in the Workplace." Apparently some companies need that information. In one dramatic instance, an unnamed Fortune corporation responded to the research question, "Does your company's employee medical plan cover AIDS-related expenses?" with the caustic reply, "Just enough to cover the cost of the bullet."

Locally, senior managers and business executives participated in a national video teleconference at Good Samaritan Hospital on May 24. The topic, "AIDS: A Matter of Corporate Policy," addressed some of the serious cost complications for employers, along with staff morale, lost productivity and staff replacement.

The conference was aimed at helping local companies design effective AIDS programs.



SouthPark Square: middle-income housing for the rich

The second major "middle-income" housing project in downtown Portland, SouthPark Square, is looking for a few good tenants with upper-income housing budgets.

This \$16 million, 13-story complex, with its own athletic club, rooftop pool and racquetball court, was touted as being affordable to those who earn between 80 and 150 percent of the area's median income, which in 1987 was \$23,040 for an individual and \$26,300 for a couple.

SouthPark's office reports a 54 percent occupancy rate so far, with only two studios remaining at \$430 and \$440 a month. (At such a bargain they're probably already gone.) Monthly rents start at \$345 for a studio and range upward to a modest \$1,575 for a three-bedroom townhouse.

Denver-based Simpson Housing Corp. developed SouthPark, taking advantage of incentives including low-interest loans, tax-exempt revenue bonds and a limited property-tax abatement program offered by the Portland Development Commission.

Anyone out there get the feeling that "middle income" is slightly above your head?