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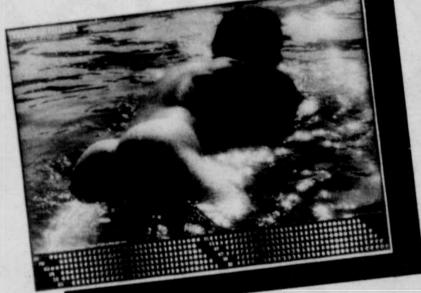
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just news

Celebrating the body erotic

A seminar for pioneering gay, and bisexual men

he AIDS epidemic has led many people to fear sex. Most Americans, having learned to be sex negative from the culture in which we live, feel justified in their negativism by the onslaught of an epidemic that is sexually transmitted. Many gay men have also adopted this sexual negativism. Happily, there are still a few hardy souls who, in this day and age, continue to say yes to sex and who continue to sing an ode to the joys of Eros.

Joseph Kramer is such a soul. Once a constricted narrow-minded Midwest farm boy, Kramer got where he is through sex and breathing. In 1984 Kramer, who holds a degree in sexuality and spirituality from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California, founded the Body Electric School of Massage and Rebirthing in Oakland, a school dedicated to creating a homophobic-free environment for bodywork training.

Celebrating the Body Erotic is dedicated to helping gay and bisexual men develop pleasurable, healthy, loving ways of connecting with themselves and others. Step out of the dark ages, open your heart and begin to develop new ways to celebrate the Dear Love of Comrades, say Kramer and co-facilitator Matthew Simmons.

Participants in the Celebrating the Body Erotic weekend will experiment with sacred sex rituals based on Tantric, Taoist, and native American traditions. They will learn the pleasure of giving and receiving a complete Taoist erotic massage and "will relearn sex as sacred, playful, non-addictive, non-compulsive, and nonstop," says Simmons. Unlike Western-style sex, which focuses on discharging energy (as in



ejaculation), Taoist sex seeks to preserve and circulate erotic energy throughout the body. This involves enhancing and prolonging the orgasmic state in order to eventually achieve what Kramer calls "the Pandick State" -- named after Pan, one of the Greek gods of eroticism. Due to its very nature, this "hands-on" seminar is done in the nude.

Since January, Joseph Kramer and Matthew Simmons have taken the Body Erotic seminar on the road to various cities in the United States and (this fall) to Europe and (next spring) New Zealand and Australia. Celebrating the Body Erotic will be coming to Portland, Jan. 26 and 27. For more information or free brochure, call Body Electric in San Francisco at (415) 653-1594 or Bill Crane in Portland at 284-5489.

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