



North  
Portland

## Veterinary Hospital

Like any family member our pets need good healthcare. At North Portland Veterinary Hospital, we provide the very best medical care along with big doses of tenderness and compassion.

**285-0462**

2009 N.Killingsworth

**The just out pocket book**  
Free June 1996

**Pick it up—  
wherever  
you find  
just out**

## AUSTRALIA Take a Mate

**\$998**  
First Passenger

**\$499**  
Companion Fare

\*Plus tax out of Los Angeles

# Down Under

Travel **June 7** thru

Ticket by **July 5** **August 31**

subject to change - restrictions may apply

## \*Costa Rica

**\$1215** PPBO Travel Best Season  
RT air, **August 1** thru  
**October 31**

2 nights San Jose,  
3 nights Manuel Antonio,  
2 nights Arenal Area,  
4 wheel drive vehicle,  
hotel taxes and service charges

subject to change - restrictions may apply



Wayne Boulette



Michael Scott



David Tarver

All fares & rates subject to change • Some restrictions apply.

**MIKUNI**  
TRAVEL SERVICE

Pick up  
just out  
here!

PORTLAND 1996  
**PABA**  
MEMBER

International Gay Travel Association  
**IGTA**

**PARKING  
VALIDATED**



"always park smartly"

**One SW Columbia  
Suite 1010  
Portland,  
OR 97258**

**(503) 227-3639**

**FAX  
(503) 227-0602**

**1-800-248-0624**

## RITES ON DISPLAY

Acanthus Gallery invites you to a wedding or a debate  
at "Let Them Eat Cake"

by Inga Sorensen

**O**K, maybe U.S. Reps. Elizabeth Furse and Earl Blumenauer don't support legal marriages for same-sex couples, but Portland gallery owner Mark Woolley sure does.

And while there's not much he can do with respect to personally voting for federal nondiscrimination legislation, Woolley, who owns the Acanthus Gallery in Portland, is promoting equal rights by encouraging same-sex and opposite-

To lend to the air of sanctity, Woolley says painter Rosie Biskar is designing a series of stained-glass panels which will be displayed during the exhibit's run.

"We've never had a wedding in the space," he says. "I think it will be great."

Woolley did, however, orchestrate a wedding photo shoot at the gallery, which featured three real-life committed duos, two of whom are same-sex couples.

Pauline and Devioune Miriam-d'Aviau, who will be wed Aug. 18 during a ceremony at Portland's Metropolitan Community Church, were part of the shoot, which was a publicity project for "Let Them Eat Cake."

"When Devioune and I decided to marry, we had to think long and hard about same-sex marriage," says Pauline, 44. "For the two of us, this public consummation of our relationship validates our commitment to each other. We have lived together for over six years and although we are certainly recognized among our friends and families as a couple, we feel the need to affirm our faith and love for each other in a recognizable fashion."

She adds, "Being radical traditionalists, we choose to engage in a marriage rather than a holy union or commitment ceremony. While some

## Gallery

sex couples to use his space for wedding ceremonies.

"It comes down to a matter of basic justice," says the 44-year-old Woolley. "If two people want to, in good faith, commit to each other and marry, then they should have that right regardless of their gender."

As part of the American Civil Liberties Union's annual Uncensored Celebration, the citywide celebration of free expression held throughout September, the gallery will host "Let Them Eat Cake," an invitational show celebrat-

ing the cake and its related rituals. An estimated two dozen artists will present their interpretations of "cake."

"There is no food that speaks so strongly of ritual as the cake," says Woolley.

Indeed. Many religious festivals and private rites of passage—weddings among them—have their attendant cakes.

In addition to showing particular artwork, Woolley wants his gallery space to be used for cake walks and celebratory events—weddings, commitment ceremonies, vow renewals—as well as debates and other activities related to the theme.

With Congress and the president moving closer toward approving the Defense of Marriage Act, which defines marriage in federal law as a "legal union between one man and one woman," Woolley and others believe it may be even more imperative for same-sex couples to publicly celebrate their commitments.

"I'm using my gallery to welcome anyone wanting to commit themselves to each other. How can many of those screaming about 'family values' simultaneously demand personal commitment and responsibility throughout society and condemn same-sex couples for seeking it through legal marriage?" says Woolley, who continues "to find joy in a marriage of 20 years" with his wife, artist Angelina Phelan Woolley, whom he met while taking a sculpture class at Lewis & Clark College two-plus decades ago.

"Why should anyone be denied that opportunity with the person willing to embark on the same journey? With AIDS and so many children needing loving homes, we need to foster more commitment, legal commitment, to other people, not less," he says.



The happy couples

may argue that we are miming the patriarchy, we like to think of it as taking the best from a culture which invalidates us and empowering us by making it our own."

The male couple, Doug Neville and Kelly Farris, held their commitment ceremony in December 1995. They describe their union as "a

way of honoring the commitment we made to each other all along.... These days our community gets more opportunities to share in the mourning of a loss rather than a chance to be part of a joyous celebration."

Prior to opening his gallery two and a half years ago, Woolley taught social science for 15 years in small-town Oregon. He also worked as a law-related education specialist for the Classroom Law Project and the Constitution Project, nonprofit organizations dedicated to improving students' and educators' knowledge about the law and Constitution.

"As a teacher, I always viewed my classroom as a place for the exchange of ideas," he says. "Now my gallery has become the classroom for the exchange of ideas."

According to Woolley, the gallery has been the site of numerous benefits supporting organizations such as Cascade AIDS Project and Sisters of the Road Cafe.

"It's important to me that there be a way to connect the artist community with the broader community," he says. "I want this gallery to do that."

Those interested in holding a ceremony and/or reception at Acanthus Gallery should contact Woolley at 224-5475 as soon as possible to make arrangements. The gallery is located at 120 NW Ninth Ave., Suite 210.