



Pro Lab N.W. Inc.
133 SE Madison
Portland, OR 97214

503-231-1599

FULL SERVICE
CUSTOM PHOTO LAB

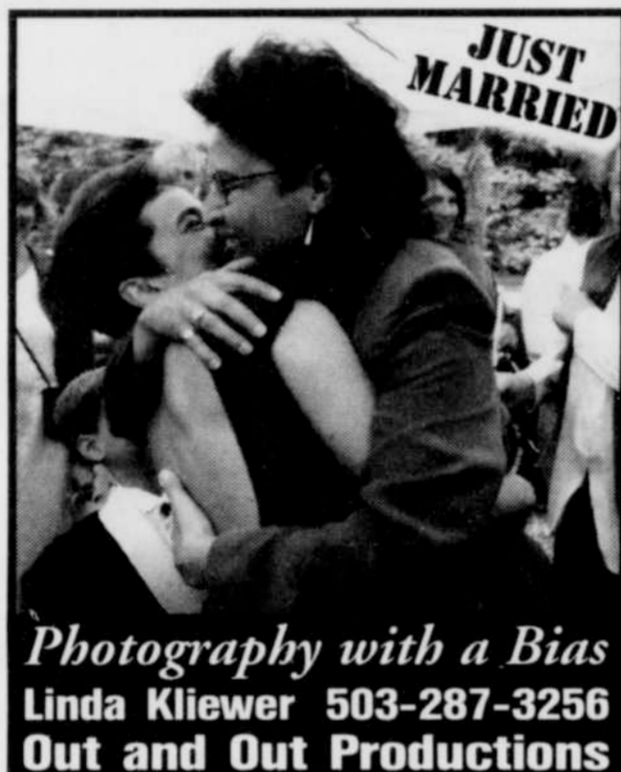
**NO LATEX
NO LAY!!**

World Accents
Travel Arrangements
Tailored to Your Needs!

Competitive prices
to all popular
Gay Destinations.

Locally gay owned.

Ask for Clint
(503) 292-0675 Fax (503) 292-9386



Photography with a Bias
Linda Kliever 503-287-3256
Out and Out Productions

LOCAL news

COLOR BIND

Community organizer Adam Kahn challenges the queer movement to tackle racism in the discussion series Hey, White Boy! by Patrick Collins

When Adam Kahn arrived in Portland a year ago to attend Reed College, he didn't notice at first how overwhelmingly white the city is.

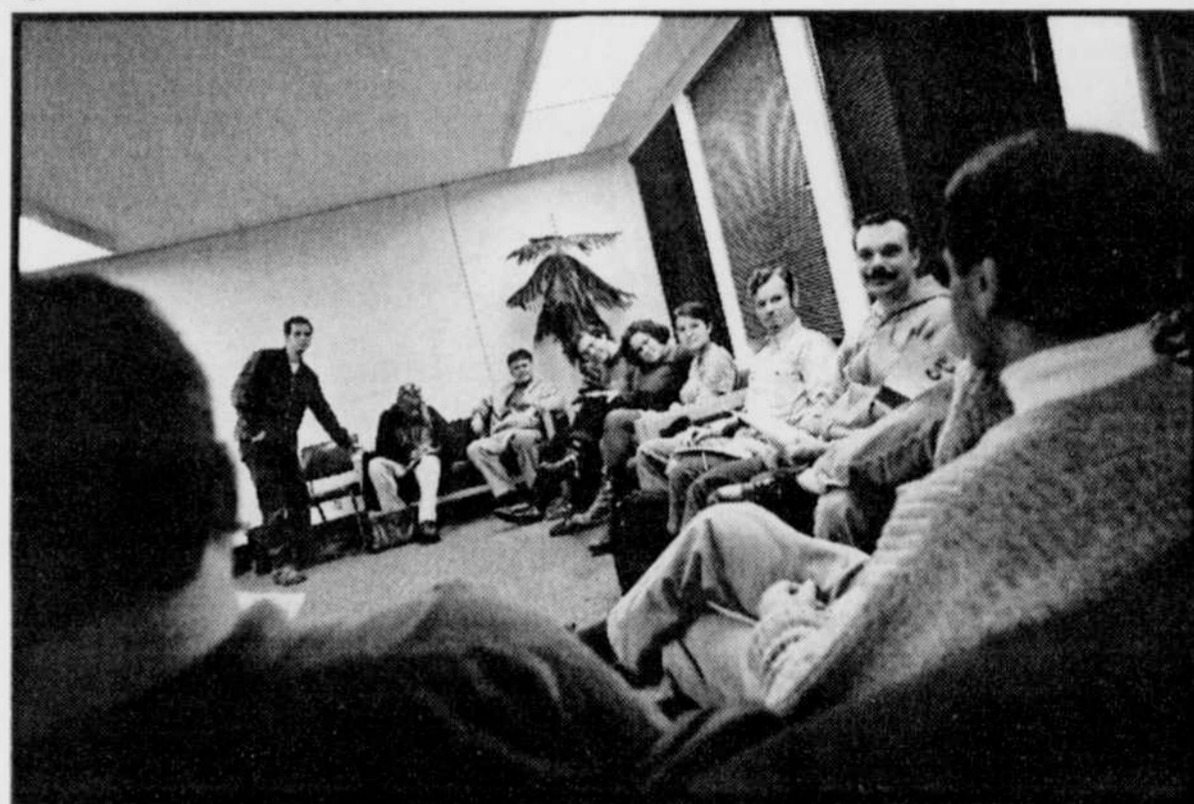
"Friends came to visit from out of town and they pointed out how white it is here," he says. "Plus, I started getting to know people of color who told me what it was like to live here."

Rather than sitting back in the confines of a notoriously racially imbalanced liberal arts college, Kahn got busy attending workshops and asking community activists questions about the

to change the system," he says, adding that he considers it hypocritical that many organizations in the queer movement do not directly attack issues important to other oppressed groups.

"Political agendas seem to focus on acculturation rather than on changing the whole system," Kahn says. "Queer movements seem to ignore the issues concerning people of color, and I'm not comfortable with that. Separate platforms only serve to divide people who could be working together."

A 30-year-old female-to-male transsexual,



Concerned queers confront racism in the Hey, White Boy! discussion group

availability of training focused on racial issues.

Finding little to that effect, he signed up for the Peer Leadership Program administered by Cascade AIDS Project. The program brings together queer youth from an array of backgrounds and trains them to organize in Portland's gay and bisexual community. It also provides a small stipend for participants to run their projects.

The result of Kahn's participation in the program is an eight-week discussion series called Hey, White Boy! The group convenes on a biweekly basis at Portland State University; meeting formats range from video screenings to discussions of pertinent literature and sharing personal experiences.

While Kahn is pleased the discussion is underway, he feels a progressive and inclusive queer movement is long way off.

"This is hard work," he says, speaking not only of the discussion group, but also of the white experience in a broader sense. "There's a feeling of denial around the race issue among white people. It's very easy for me to go and have this conversation every other week, and then go back to my small liberal arts college that's totally lacking a diverse student body. It's very easy for me to slip back into not noticing my whiteness, and without that recognition you're only contributing to the problem."

As Kahn sees it, the problem, or a very large part of it, is what he refers to as white privilege.

"It's very easy for us, as white people, to deny the whole racism issue," he says. "People want to start talking about it, but they're hesitant. It's an uncomfortable place to be, acknowledging lots of messy issues."

Acknowledging and discussing racial issues, Kahn says, is merely a beginning.

"Gay white men have to realize that they have access to the money and the power it takes

who asked not to be identified by name for this article, attended a meeting of Hey, White Boy! after learning that a discussion of transsexual politics was on the agenda.

"I appreciated that the conversation was happening at all," he says.

He describes himself as "mid-op": he's had some surgery, is on hormone therapy and hopes to go further. Most people, he says, perceive him as a straight white male.

"As queers, I think we're all into gender-bending," he says. "But when you're actually a transsexual there are lots of medical issues—surgery, hormone therapies, good doctors. Going to this group gave me a chance to express some of my views."

His views, not surprisingly, include looking at the world through the eyes of a heterosexual white male.

"I have a responsibility as a white male that I didn't feel as a white female," he says. "It's my responsibility to tackle issues that my privilege allows me to tackle rather than sitting back and enjoying the benefits. White men have more access to jobs, higher pay, more safety in the world. The world has become a safer place for me, and I feel it's my job to make it a safer place for everyone."

Without considering this project a success or a failure, Kahn says he isn't sure if he wants to facilitate another discussion group in the future. If he does, he plans to alter the format.

"It's become very obvious to me that to have a good discussion about racial issues you need to have more people of color included," he explains. "People in this group are fairly comfortable, and I think we need to be challenged."

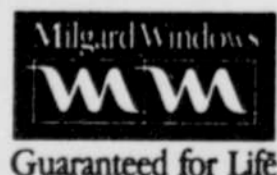
■ **HEY, WHITE BOY!** runs through May 7. It is free and operates on a drop-in basis. For more information, call CAP at 223-5907.

MILGARD REPLACEMENT WINDOWS

Now it's easy to change your old windows to high energy vinyl windows from Milgard. They'll make your home quieter, more secure and their energy efficient design with low E2 glass will save you money on heating and cooling bills.

Milgard Windows are manufactured locally and guaranteed for as long as you own your home.

All installation is done by our own experienced installers.



Guaranteed for Life

SPRING SPECIAL

Save 10% on five or more windows installed

283-9481

INSULATED WINDOW CORPORATION



Garland Horner
Owner

CCB#19095

8124 N. Denver