

Memories of the Dahl and Penne

by Irving Lambert, AKA Irvina I

*Imperial Queen Grand Mama to the Ebony Promise
of the Imperial Sovereign Rose Court of Oregon*

Dahl & Penne is a place I could never forget. I had some good times there. Hell, I had some great times there! For some people Dahl & Penne was their home away from home. Known to all as D&P's it was the "in" place to be in the '70s and '80s. It was Portland's first gay living room and like any other foster home, there were foster parents. In this case it was Sami and Gene, a husband and wife that were more like Mother and Father than most parents were. In those days to be gay wasn't as "in" as it is today.

D&P's also was one of Portland's three drag show bars of the '70s and '80s. First there was the Magic Gardens. Second was Demas Tavern which is now Darcelle XV. Thank God for Darcelle who pushed a few tables together and we had a stage. Now Demas was THE REAL gay fun spot in Old Town, so uptown came number three stage—D&P's back room run by the one and only Vanessa. It was the stage that made some great stars. In those days I was on all three stages at one time or another. Some Friday nights I could do Demas' first show and do Vanessa's last show. I was in the first group of show girls. The name is Irvina. Some of the other girls of that time were Vanessa, Darcelle, Rochelle, Lillian Carter, and Leroa, but the star at Demas was Tina Sandel.

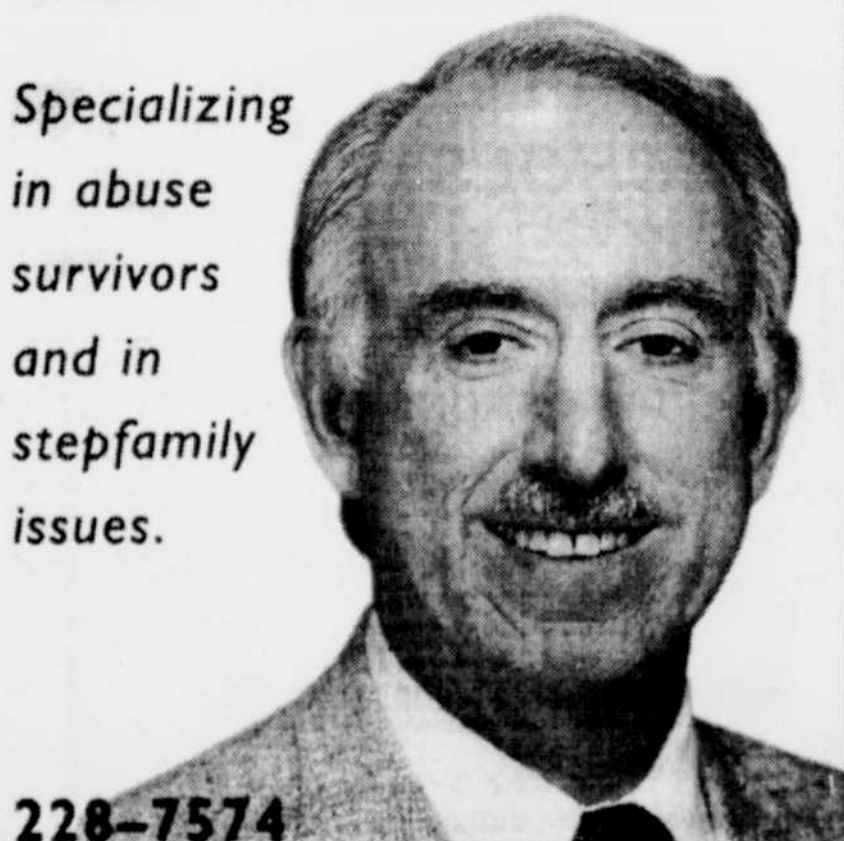
Sunday brunch at D&P's was the place to be. The food was good and the drinks were made with

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