

**Soon we'll be making another run**

The Southwest Washington Gay and Lesbian Socialites are preparing to set sail with their fourth annual cruise on the Portland Spirit. With a boatload of shipshape queer revelers, the Portland Spirit will set sail at 11 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 5, from its downtown Salmon Street Springs dock. The ship will return at 2 a.m.

Admission is \$20 and includes no host bar, hors d'oeuvres, dancing and door prizes. Voyagers must be 21 or older. Tickets are available from It's My Pleasure and Gai-Pied in Portland, and A Gentle Strength in Vancouver, Wash. For more information, call (360) 735-1901.

**Idiot box is wising up?**

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation issued a statement Aug. 19 giving moderate praise to the 1998 fall television lineup, saying it "marks a significant year for unique and diverse images of lesbian and gay Americans."

GLAAD is particularly pleased with the new NBC show *Will & Grace*, starring Eric McCormack as gay character Will Truman. GLAAD is also pleased that this season will present more queer characters of color, which they describe as previously having been "virtually nonexistent on television." By GLAAD's count, of the 19 lesbian and gay characters appearing this season, nearly one quarter are people of color.

Says Joan M. Garry, GLAAD executive director: "No longer are lesbian and gay characters strictly peripheral on network television, and GLAAD hopes to see these portrayals continue to grow—reflecting the realities of diversity, family and faith."

**Let there be light**

Members of the touring cast of *Rent* lend their talents to charity Monday, Aug. 24, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Radiance, a new candle shop owned by Portlander Wally Schmidt and his partner Mark Tynan, stage manager for *Rent*.

Cast members will be signing a mural, the *Rent* Wall of Fame, which will be auctioned off to benefit Friends of People with AIDS Foundation, Janus Youth Program and Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. There will also be a raffle to win *Rent* tickets and prizes donated by local merchants.

Radiance is located at 1902 N.E. Broadway. For more information, call 281-2438.

the sliding scale admission. Admission is waived for all women who attended the original Womansource gathering at Dead Indian Memorial Soda Springs Camp in 1974. For more information, call (541) 482-7416.

**Art in the Pearl**

Portland's Pearl District will transform during Labor Day weekend from blocks of sleepy warehouses and scattered galleries to a bustling arts festival featuring more than 120 artists, hours of scheduled entertainment, a beer garden and other vendors.

The community stage is new this year. Entertainment starts at 11:15 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 5, with the Donna Morris Ballet Company, and will include music, theater, poetry and more. The Portland Gay Men's Chorus is scheduled to perform around 2:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 7. The stage will be located in the Northwest Park Blocks, between Northwest Flanders and Glisan streets.

**6,000 queers know the way to San Jose**

The Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses has announced plans to mark the new millennium with Festival 2000, the largest lesbian and gay performing arts event in history.

If all goes according to plan, San Jose, Calif., will be the site for the July 2000 festival, which will showcase 125 choruses—equaling about 6,000 singers—from five continents. Planners expect the festival to draw an audience of roughly 55,000.

**Fascinating films**

Marlon Riggs' classic, poetic documentary of the African American gay male experience, *Tongues Untied*, returns to the big screen at the Northwest Film Center. *Tongues Untied*, made in 1990, remains unequalled in its examination of an often underrepresented and oppressed community. Riggs, who died in 1994, is largely remembered for this masterpiece.



From *The Match that Started My Fire*

Three short films by women filmmakers playing at the center may also be of interest. While the shorts aren't queer specific, their exploration of female sexuality and gender roles is fascinating. A *Spy in the House that Ruth Built* follows filmmaker Vanalyne Green's interpretation of the symbolism of baseball, uncovering female metaphors. Cathy Cook's *The Match that Started My Fire* presents a montage of women's stories about their first discovery of their sexuality. Elizabeth Subrin's *Swallow* chronicles one girl's anorexia.

*Tongues Untied* shows at 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 27. The shorts begin at 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Aug. 28 and 29. The Northwest Film Center is located at 1219 S.W. Park Ave. For more information, call 221-1156.

**Twenty-five years of herstory**

Womansource, an Ashland-based group dedicated to promoting women's culture and spirituality, has reached the quarter century mark, which will be celebrated Sept. 11 to 13 at the 25th annual Womansource Gathering. The gathering will be held at Camp Low Echo on the east shore of Lake of the Woods in Winema National Forest.

The weekend includes workshops on topics ranging from drumming to tribal dancing, an auction, entertainment and more. Organizers expect the gathering to attract nearly 225 celebrating women.

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