

SHORTS



Sonia Rutstein

**The sound of Sonia**

Lesbian Über-musician Sonia Rutstein, formerly of Disappear Fear, will grace Portland's Snake & Weasel on Thursday, Jan. 14. Rutstein's current tour coincides with the release of her new solo album, *Almost Chocolate*. Adding to that feather in her cap, Rutstein won the Gay/Lesbian American Music Awards honors as 1998's Best Out Song-writer. Admission for the Jan. 14 show is \$10 in advance (Fastixx) or \$12 at the door. Snake & Weasel is located at 1720 S.E. 12th Ave. For more information, call 232-8338.

**Kudos widens horizons for queer comic**

Bill Bradley, who bills himself as "an ordinary, working-class, postmodern, perma-cultural, Oregonian eco-queer revolutionary feminist witch comic of not very dark color," is the proud winner of the 1998 Portland Stand-Up Comedy Competition. To the best of his knowledge, Bradley is the first out queer person to win the monthlong competition that—under a series of official monikers—has been waged in Portland comedy clubs for more than a decade. Bradley recalls that his bisexual orientation paired with his leftist sensibilities once left lots of venues out of reach. With this new

award under his belt he says, "The biggest change for me is that a lot of booking agents had really hesitated to send me to the most rural rooms, like Medford and Coos Bay.... I've been getting more work—lots more work."

Portland-area audiences will be able to catch Bradley performing his one-man show *Fixed and Confused: Social Work in Animal Shelters, or Dairy Farming in a Lactose Intolerant World* during its second run on Fridays and Saturdays, Jan. 23 through Feb. 20, at the Back Door Theater, 4321 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd. Tickets are available on a sliding scale from \$6-\$15. For more information about the performance or to purchase tickets, call 236-6948.

**Portland Lesbian Choir is Wing-ing it**

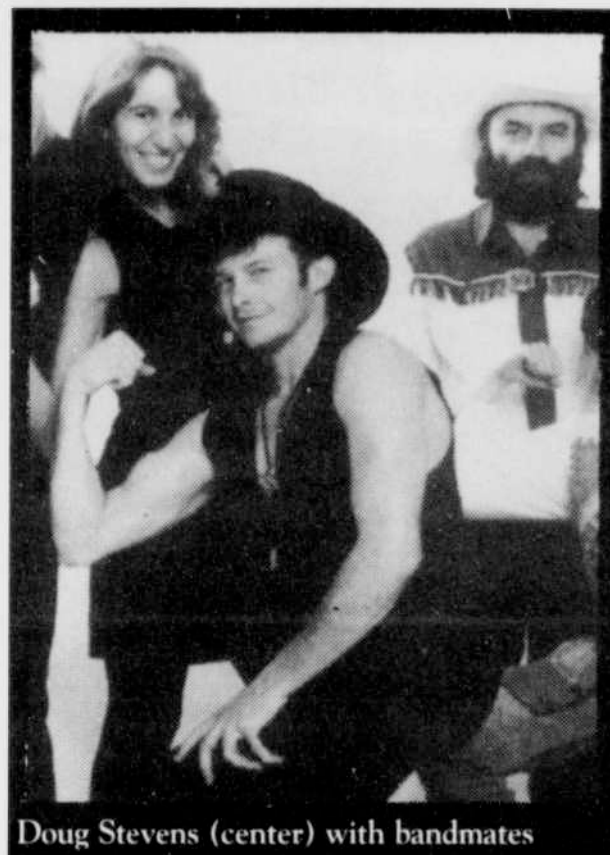
The Portland Lesbian Choir is set to fly through its 12th season with its kickoff concert *Taking Wing*. As well as presenting a series of songs chosen to "lift the spirit and celebrate life's triumphs," PLC will present Teri Beemer, who'll be moving into the role of PLC director. The concert is scheduled for 8 p.m. at Portland's Trinity United Methodist Church, 3915 S.E. Steele St. Admission is \$12. The site is wheelchair accessible, and free child care is available. The PLC will end the concert with a party and dance. For more information, call 241-8994 or visit the choir's Web site, [geocities.com/WestHollywood/5912](http://geocities.com/WestHollywood/5912).

**Can't hold a candle to Elton John's money**

Queer crooner Elton John brought home the bacon in 1998, the Associated Press reports. John was the top U.S. concert draw for 1998, racking up \$46.2 million in ticket sales. It was the first year John earned the distinction, which was attributed to his reworked version of "Candle in the Wind," which he sang at Princess Diana's funeral.

**Swing your partner**

Continuing efforts to illustrate that "we are everywhere," queer country music artists have banded together to form the Lesbian & Gay Country Music Association. Founding members include Jeff Miller, a k a the John Deere Diva; newcomer David Alan Mors; and



Doug Stevens (center) with bandmates

Doug Stevens of Doug Stevens & The Out-band.

"Country music is the most popular music in the U.S. It only makes sense that it is also the most popular music among gays and lesbians," says Stevens.

Jeff Miller adds: "It takes a lot of guts to be open and honest about who and what you

are in a traditionally redneck field like country music. It's easy to feel alone and ostracized. This organization is being formed to let artists know that they're not alone and that there are people out there that appreciate and enjoy their talents."

For more information about the LGCMA, call (415) 922-7936, or write to P.O. Box 14151, San Francisco, CA 94114.

**Pow! Crash! Boom!**

Step aside, Batman. Make way for Outlaw, Lucifer and the Fabulons. These new super heroes—the last lesbian on Earth, a radical gay avenger, and shape-shifting "she-males," respectively—made their official debut Jan. 1 with the launch of *Queer Nation: The Online Gay Comic*.

The action starts after Earth's near miss with a comet and the mysterious vanishing of all the planet's lesbians, except for Outlaw. She teams up with the other super heroes to battle the forces of right-wing U.S. President Pat.

The new comic is the product of former Marvel Comics editor Chris Cooper and John Dennis, a professional comic book artist. For mature themes, profanity, sex and violence—but no pornography, *Queer Nation's* creators insist—visit [www.queernation.com](http://www.queernation.com). The story is scheduled to be updated weekly.

Compiled by WILL O'BRYAN

