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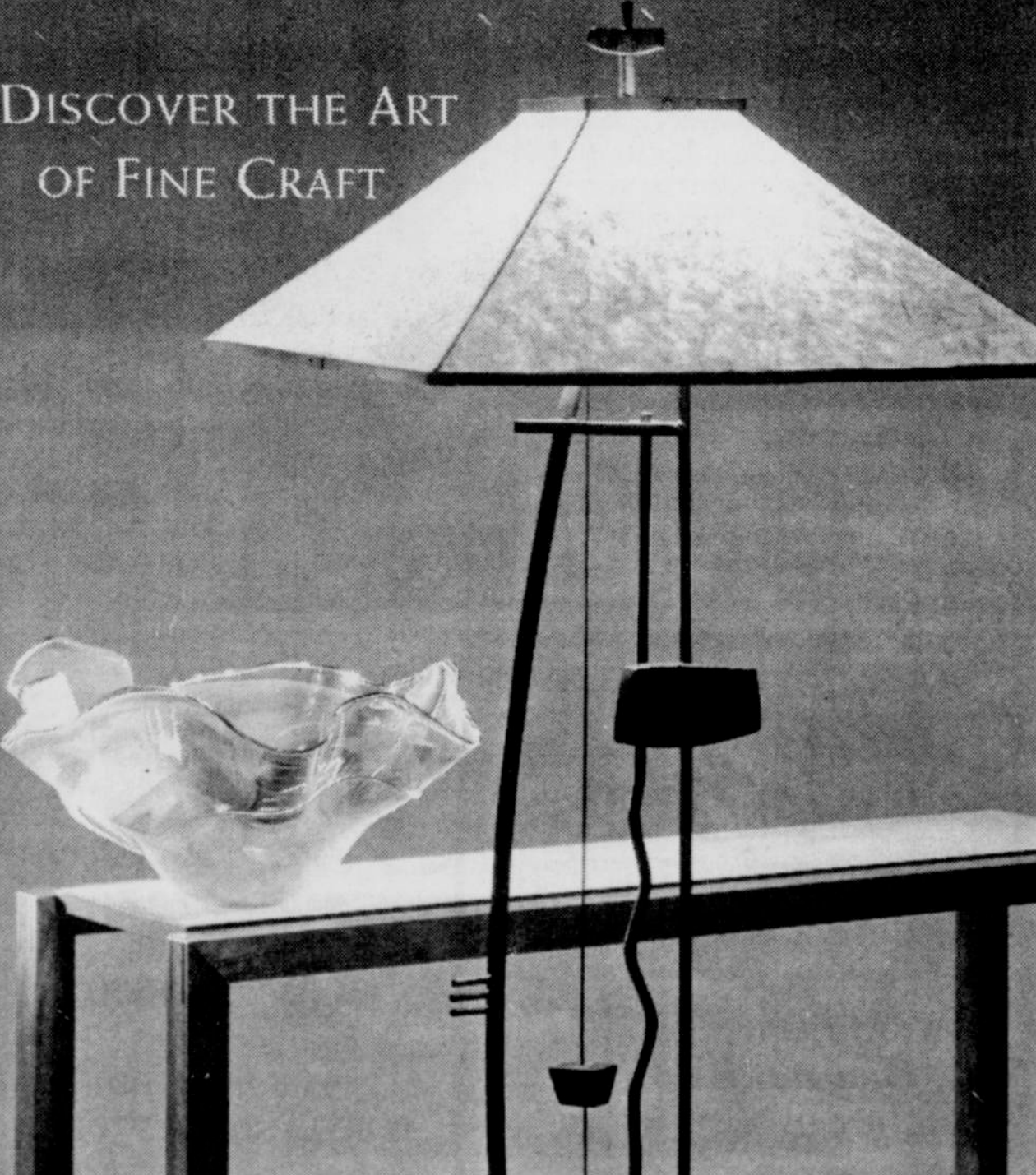
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LOCAL news

Mo' MONEY

Up and down the I-5 corridor, gay biz is bustling

A riddle: What do you get if you take a plastic Jesus night light, paint it gloriously garishly yellow and then glue macaroni about the head and body?

The answer: Macaroni and Cheesus.

Those of you who just winced at the above might do well to avoid the work of Eugene artist Linda Becraft. Her booth space at the Eugene Saturday Market is adorned with signs warning

THE QUEER PROFIT
by
Marty Davis

The signs continue: "I truly don't intend to offend anyone and my intent is to make you smile. If you aren't amused, please don't be mean to me and don't bother to tell me that I'm blasphemous.... I already know."

Becraft's other works include Jesus and Mary night lights adorned in a variety of less-than-tasteful designs. Her creations include Fairy Mary, Our Lady of Lesbian Sex Toys, and Drag Queen Jesus. Also not to be overlooked is McMary, a charming Virgin Mary night light featuring a plastic hamburger and french fried potato.

In addition to the night lights, shoppers can take home switchplates adorned with pop culture figures such as Frank Sinatra, Boy George, Ricky Martin and that all-American favorite the Taco Bell Dog. By way of atonement perhaps, or in order to appease the financial gods, this lesbian entrepreneur also markets a line of tastefully decorated switchplates for children's rooms.

Becraft has been a regular fixture at the Eugene Saturday Market for the past five years. She also appears at pride events around the Northwest and is planning on attending Pink Weekend in Ashland in October. A sampling of her designs are available for sale at It's My Pleasure in Portland.

If you're looking for an unusual gift item you may have just found it. Support your local lesbian artist. Visit her Internet site at www.Loonda.thegroove.net.

In June, the Portland Area Business Association held annual elections for officers and board of directors positions.

PABA's new president is Mark Miller, president of Advanced Impressions. A former Phoenix Rising Foundation board member, Miller is enthusiastically taking on the task of bringing new energy and leadership to the faltering group.

Joining him in the task of rejuvenation will be: Vice President Linda Duchek and Secretary Larry Foltz. Nancy Williams signed on to take over the responsibilities as treasurer. Rounding out the board of directors are Louis Santiago, Matthew Ellis, Barry Dowsett, Richard Matthews, Eric Brown and Elizabeth Adels.

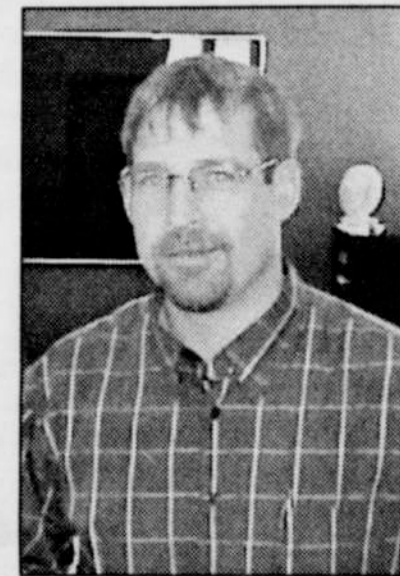
Deborah Betron at Bridgetown Realty reports several new hirings for

her Portland and West Linn offices. Joining her staff at Lloyd Center are Greg Brook-English, Timm McBride, Holly McCollum, Mike McLaughlin, Lonnie Reents and Scott Rice. Mark Hardy joins the West Linn branch as an associate broker.

The first issue of *Northwest Native* recently hit the stands. Publisher and editor Dennis Climaldi describes it as a "the publication for men and by men—from the male point of view."

Northwest Native is scheduled for publication on the second Friday of each month and will be available at multiple distribution points throughout Portland and Oregon.

Portland Creative Design & Marketing has been named agency of record for Food Front Grocery Cooperative of Portland. Michael Mickow and his staff are designing an ad campaign that will begin in August. In addition to print ads, the campaign will feature spots running on local radio and television stations.



Mark Miller

So what's up with two grown men dressed as giant chocolate kisses? Is this the newest chapter in the *Queer Dressed for Success* handbook?

Well, for Floyd Sklaver and Marc Acito, owners of Tigard FASTSIGNS, it's just one more way to acknowledge the growing success of their franchise—which they also bill as Tigard's only gay-owned business. They've been so successful with their unique approach to customer

service that their store was recently recognized for outstanding achievement in marketing by the parent company, American FASTSIGNS.

With 425 locations worldwide competing for the award, the designation is definitely a proud moment for the gooey business partners.

Oh yeah, the chocolate thing...all customers and visitors to the store are treated to free chocolate kisses—just one part of taking care of business.

■ If it's queer, business-related and new, contact MARTY DAVIS at the Just Out office.



Floyd Sklaver (left) and Marc Acito