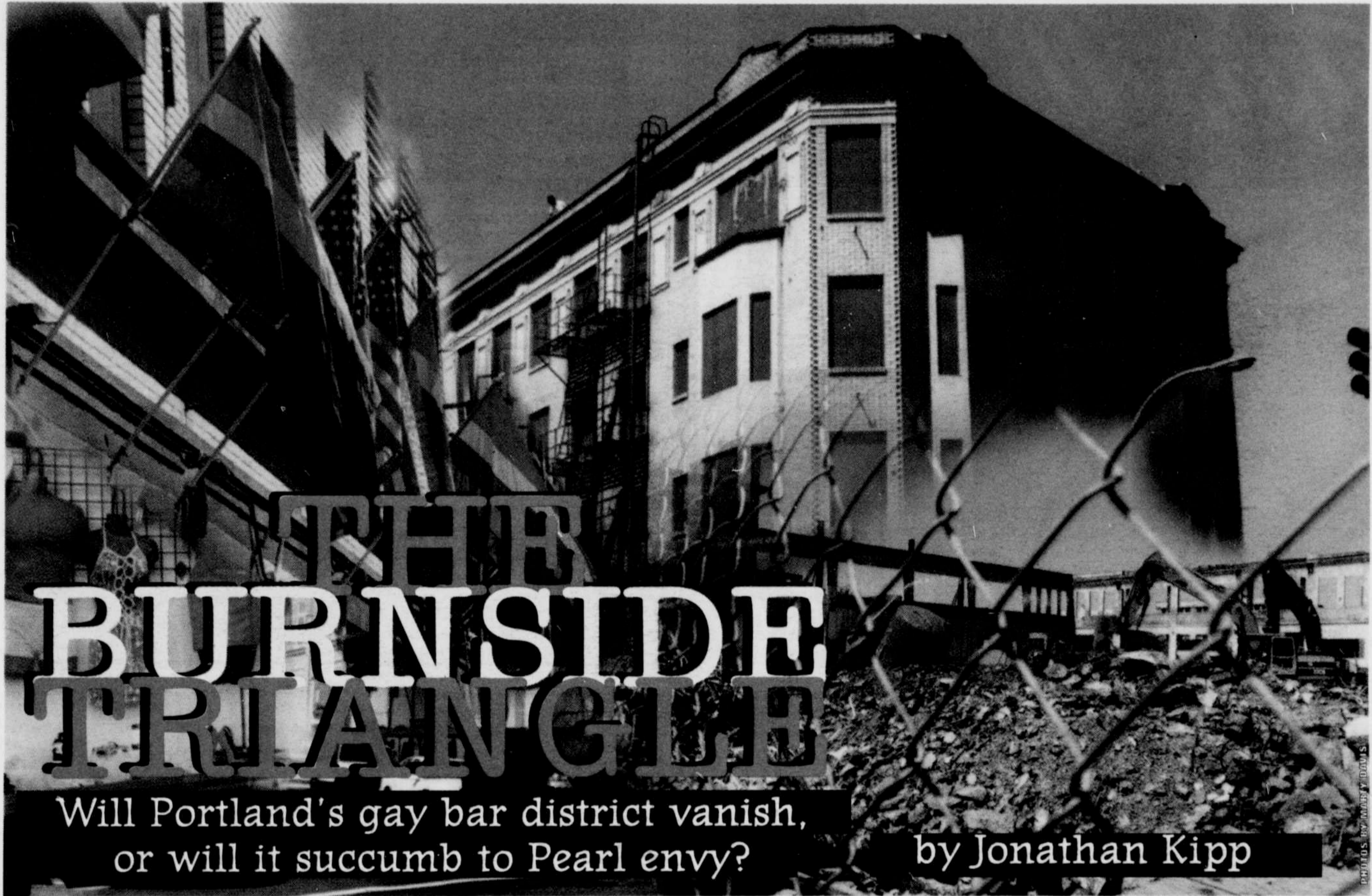


inside
Tennis, anyone?
Rose City Open,
Sept. 2-4
Page 35

Portland, Oregon FREE



THE BURNSIDE TRIANGLE

Will Portland's gay bar district vanish,
or will it succumb to Pearl envy?

by Jonathan Kipp

PHOTO BY JONATHAN KIPP

Preaching to the choirs

The Portland Gay Men's Chorus
sings home the message of tolerance

BY PAUL FINDLAY

Every four years, the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses gathers all of its members for a week of singing, sharing and celebrating.

The GALA Festival 2000 began July 22 in San Jose, Calif., with 5,500 singers and 140 choruses from around the world. We Portland Gay Men's Chorus members were especially excited to be there, because we brought our specially commissioned song-cycle about queer youth, "Millennium Mosaic."

At our first rehearsal in the 2,700-seat concert hall where we would be performing, our usually composed artistic director, Bob Mensel, seemed a bit frazzled. Even he was affected by the magnitude of the event.

We only had enough time to sing one song and get a sense of the acoustics—awful! It was like singing in a vacuum.

We couldn't hear ourselves sing. Instead of calming our nerves, we were now even more worried about our performance.

At our dress rehearsal, we ran through all of the songs, fixing the little problems. We sang every song better than the last. Worry gave way to excitement.

There was nothing we couldn't do! At the end, Mensel looked at the chorus, a huge grin across his face.



PHOTO BY LINDA KLEWER

Continued on Page 36 The Portland Gay Men's Chorus sings a colorful "Mosaic."

INSIDE

NO ON 9

■ House parties
raise money,
awareness

Page 8

■ Learn how
to get
involved

Page 8

■ A history
of hate

Page 9