

DIVERSIONS



Intimacy by Julia Waco

Chez moi

The eighth annual Dinner at My House for Our House benefit series is under way. One of the first opportunities will be a good old-fashioned summer barbecue Sept. 16 presented by Portland PFLAG co-founder Ann Shepherd, her daughter Susie and Katie Chase. Future hosts include: Chameleon owner and chef Pat Jeung; former Oregon Gov. Barbara Roberts with some help from her friend Terry Bean; Darcelle XV and Roxy; and popular pianist Michael Allen Harrison, who also will perform for his guests. Get a brochure listing all the dinners or make reservations at (503) 736-9276.

Time to hit the lanes, Lois

The Portland Community Bowling Association will begin its season Sept. 10 with team signups at Hollywood Lanes, and all skill levels are welcome to participate. Besides, you get to wear those nifty shirts! Tom Geil is the

guy who started the gay and lesbian league 23 years ago, and he's still making strikes. (For those more accustomed to softball lingo, in bowling that's a good thing.) Geil says that the league is more social than competitive and that scores average between 80 and 200 a game. He adds that the association boasts an equal number of men and women and keeps the season

short "so people don't have to overcommit themselves." Be there by 3:30 p.m. at 4030 N.E. Halsey. Call (503) 293-0438 or visit www.pdxbowling.com.

Let's get colorful

Rainbow Youth will present *The Revue: Reflections on a Colorful Past*, a talent show benefiting Basic Rights Oregon's effort to fight Ballot Measure 9. The show starts 7:30 p.m. Sept. 15 at the Metropolitan Community Church, 2400 N.E. Broadway. A \$5 to \$10 donation is suggested, but the event is free to those younger than 23. For more information call (503) 281-8868.

Or, let's get black and white

The Rogue Valley chapter of PFLAG invites you to the fourth annual Black and White Ball on Sept. 16 at the historic Ashland

Armory. It's an anything-goes dress code as you dance the night away to the sounds of Blue Lightning. Tickets are \$15 or \$25 a couple from the Abdill-Ellis Center or at the door. For the full scoop call (541) 779-2201.

Another kind of survivor

Make a date Sept. 6 to hear actress and *Saturday Night Live* alum Julia Sweeney ("Pat") talk about her personal journey as a cancer survivor. She will also perform excerpts from her book *God Said, 'Ha!'* as a benefit for All Women's Health Services. After a question-and-answer session, she'll sign copies of her book, which will be available for sale. The event starts 7:30 p.m. at the Portland State University Smith Memorial Ballroom, 1825 S.W. Broadway. Tickets are \$30 from Ticketmaster.



Julia Sweeney

find out about the next practice.

She paints in the color of life

Artist Julia Waco will present an unusual show this month at the First Avenue Gallery. Inspired by a friend's lament that he rarely sees images of gay men in popular culture, she spent a year interviewing gay men about their relationships and transforming their emotional stories into paintings. "The public focuses too much on the physical part of gay relations," Waco believes, "and ignores the qualities found in every human relationship, like falling in love, breaking up, attraction." Her show opens Sept. 7 at 205 S.W. First Ave.

But you're a cheerleader?

If you saw the Portland pride parade in recent years, you surely remember the flamboyant West Hollywood Cheerleaders and their raucous rallying cries. Well the diva herself, Miss Misha Rockefeller, is organizing our very own squad and encourages anyone so inclined to show up at a rehearsal. This is an all-inclusive group, she explains: "We already have queens, trans, gay boys and some lesbians." Tentatively called Rose City Cheer, the costumes are sure to be stunning, and Misha promises, "Of course, they'll be glitzy." Zip her off an e-mail at misha@themisha.com or call (503) 916-8036 to

I told you k.d.'s coming back

This just in: The line forms 8 a.m. Sept. 15 at all Fred Meyer Fastixx outlets for k.d. lang's concert Nov. 9 at the University of Portland Chiles Center. Her opening act is Shelby Lynne. It's sure to be one big lollapa-lesbo-looza—see ya there!



k.d. lang

Compiled by ORIANA GREEN

Richer Rich

By now, every headhunter on Borneo knows it was the "fat naked fag" (his words, not mine) who outwitted the other castaways to win the big bucks on *Survivor*.

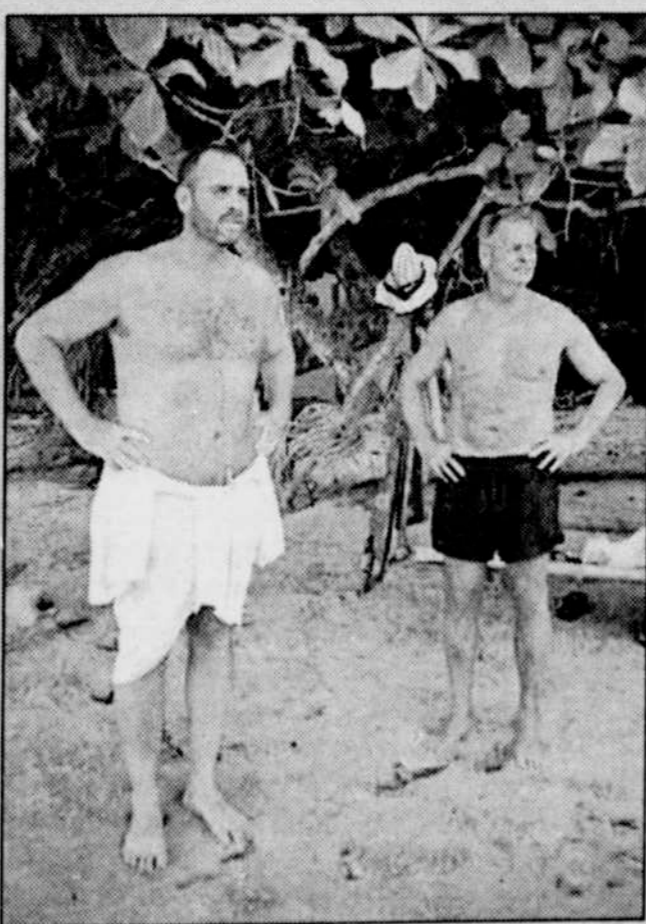
Despite his less-than-winning personality, Richard Hatch never lost sight of the fact he was playing a game, and he intended to win. I, for one, am glad he did.

I think it's obvious why he won: He's the only one who brought his own food source. While the rest of the tribe was lapsing into malnourished torpor, Rich's brain cells still were living off the fat of his belly and able to keep spinning out revised plots.

Granted, he wasn't the poster boy for the prototype, high-maintenance, gym-rat gay guys we all know and love, but he did clean up really well. And after a few surgical nips and tucks and his ongoing regimen of running six to nine miles a day, he looks better all the time.

One aspect of all this that fascinates me is how little homophobia seems to have figured into the actual process. Out of 16 contestants who appeared to represent quite a wide cross section of American life, the only confirmed homosexual among them is the one who prevails.

I find that revolutionary. Even crusty old



Rudy (right) stood by his man Rich

Rudy, who early on professed a strong dislike of "them queers," eventually bonded with Rich as part of the infamous alliance.

When it came time to vote for the ultimate winner, Rudy stood up and, like the Navy SEAL he used to be, stuck by his comrade and cast his vote for Rich. The alliance

held to the vitriolic end, each member acknowledging it was Rich who got them to the final four.

Even the media didn't make much of a fuss about the gay angle. I'm only one woman with one VCR, but I have monitored the national media since Rich won, and it really seems to be a nonissue. (On any show that thinking, sentient beings would watch—Howard Stern and his ilk don't count.)

Even Geraldo Rivera, who isn't known for his reticence, didn't feel the need to mention Rich is gay during the half-hour he devoted to the Big News. And late-adaptor David Letterman finally got with his own network's program the Night After with an entire *Survivor*-themed show—and still resisted the urge to crack a single gay joke. He only went there to spin off the phallic homage Rich made about knowing when to keep his hand on the pole—an allusion to the final immunity challenge.

As someone who got hooked on the show right away, I feel qualified to philosophize on the subject. What I don't get is all the fuss about Rich's scheming. (*SurvivorSucks.com* tagged him Machiavelly.)

So he had a strategy. Good for him!

Why is what he did any different from what coaches do when they diagram plays for their teams in an effort to trounce the other guys? Wasn't this a game show?

Why is everybody dumping on Rich—dra-

matic pause—or is that where the homophobia really lurks? Wouldn't be prudent to denounce the victor just cuz he's an FNE, but we can find other sanctioned excuses to spew our dislike of him?

Keep in mind, too, that the show's producers had to edit hundreds of hours of tape down to 14 hours of programs, which gave them lots of leeway to spin these characters in many different ways. They knew Rich was the winner when they decided to air his many plotting asides on almost every episode.

Perhaps his arrogance also could've been spun as confidence. Rich told his personal trainer, who helped him drop 100 pounds before filming began, that he was going to win. He told his family and he told the producers he was going to win.

He had a plan, and he followed it. I think it's really one of those old-fashioned, all-American values called Believing in Yourself!

I also admire Rich because he never wavered, never tried to hide his determination. Even at the last council, when he could have reminded the jury of his peers that he single-handedly had fed them all those weeks, he didn't play the food card.

I think he demonstrated the importance of being earnest. And Rich. And if he follows through on his plan to start a camp for troubled youth, the importance of being rich.

—OG