

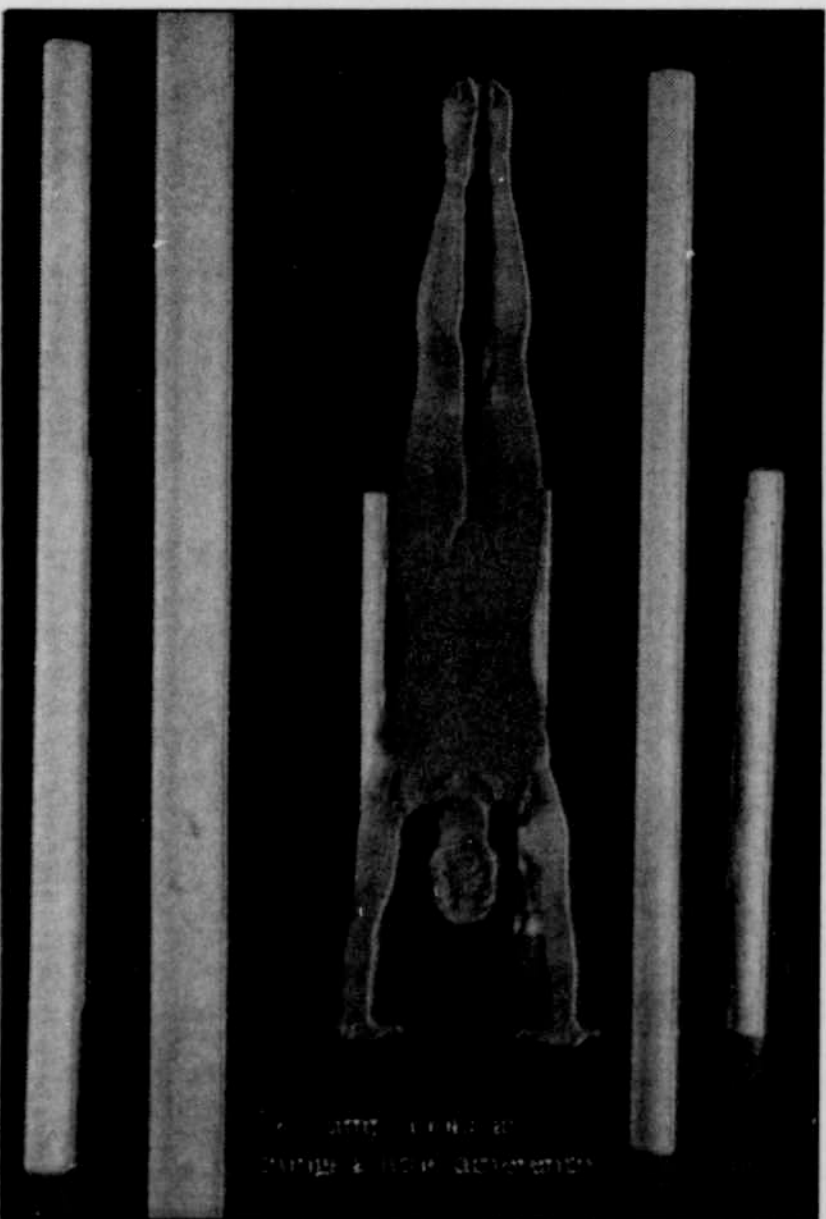
## DIVERSIONS

### Safety first

**S**excapades: A Safer Sex Resource Fair and Dance Party is being put on March 29 by YouthNet, a program of Love Makes a Family, along with the Sexual Minority Youth Recreation Center and Portland State University Queers and Allies. Planned as an opportunity to educate youth in a fun environment, the free evening features performances by drag kings and queens, including Abby, Rosebud XXIV, plus a speaker from Cascade AIDS Project. Also look for free lube, dams and condoms as well as free HIV testing on site. Expect great door prizes, including gift certificates to Blackhole Piercing, Envy Hair Design, In Other Words Women's Books and Resources and Urbaca Day Spa and Salon. DJ Amber will keep the tunes spinning all night. The event, which will take over the Multicultural Center in the basement of PSU's Smith Memorial Center, runs from 8 p.m. until midnight.

### Spanning genders

**B**ridges Vocal Ensemble is a unique, professional-caliber choral group formed in 1990 when members of the Portland Gay Men's Chorus and the Portland Lesbian Choir joined forces. Today, it has evolved into a fine singing group that strives to foster good relationships among all facets of the community. Members perform a wide range of styles, including jazz, folk, spirituals, sacred tunes, love songs and freedom songs and work from contemporary musical theater. Another commitment they have is to sing at a broad spectrum of spiritual gatherings: Buddhist, Christian, Unitarian and New Thought churches among them. They are even available for commitment ceremonies and memorials. And that's not all—they also do corporate gigs, fund-raisers and, of course, queer events. You'll have several good opportunities to hear them soon during their concerts 8 p.m. March 16 and 17 at the Community Music Center, 3350 S.E. Francis St. The show is called *The Way We Think We Were...Favorites from Our First Decade*, and tickets are \$15 at the door or \$12 in advance from 503-242-1675. Then they'll perform at a March 25 benefit for Swan House, a new AIDS hospice. Don't miss a chance to support these fine musicians who represent our community so well.



### It's their first time

**T**he folks at White Bird continue to amaze us with their unerring taste in dance. On April 3 they bring to the Schnitz the Portland premiere of the electrifying Brazilian dance company Grupo Corpo. This 20-member troupe is gathering rave reviews wherever they perform, and this promises to be an unforgettable evening of dance. One critic described them as "so flexible they seem practically boneless." The company, which was founded in 1975, is known for its remarkable fusion of dance styles and, of course, Latin flavor. Catch this dynamic group at 7:30 p.m.; tickets are \$18-\$39 from Fastixx (now relocated inside Safeway stores) or [www.whitebird.org](http://www.whitebird.org).



### A walk on the wild side

**T**he Portland Leather Alliance plays host to the third annual pan-sexual conference Kink-Fest 2001 from March 30 to April 1 at the Ace of Hearts. Celebrate B/D/S/M and fetish diversity at a private function featuring workshops, vendors, lunches and evening play parties. You must be 18 or older to participate, and you are required to mail in an application postmarked no later than March 16. Forms can be downloaded at [www.pdxleatheralliance.org/KF2001](http://www.pdxleatheralliance.org/KF2001).



### Catch this if you can

**D**o Jump! Extremely Physical Theatre presents its repertory show *Up in the Air* four nights only—March 16, 17, 23 and 24—at Echo Theatre. Featured are "What You Make of It," which has the cast playing make-believe with a forest of PVC pipes, plus three stellar aerial pieces. Two of those are performed to the brilliant choral sounds of Joan Szymko's group, Viriditas. Also included is a fun romp called "Laughing and Crying," which proves laughter is indeed infectious. It all starts 7:30 p.m. at 1515 S.E. 37th Ave. Tickets are \$13-18 from 503-231-1232 and are now only available for the last weekend.

### She loves to make trouble

**I**n Other Words welcomes Elana Dykewomon, author of the Jewish lesbian historical novel *Beyond the Pale*, a Lambda Award winner, 7:30 p.m. March 23. An activist since the '70s, she also wrote *Riverfinger Women* and *Nothing Will Be as Sweet as the Taste: Selected Poems*. In addition, she served for nine years as the editor of *Sinister Wisdom*, a feminist jour-

nal of arts and politics. You'll find the bookstore at 3734 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd. To learn more, call 503-232-6003.

### A Rosie is a Rosie is a dyke

**N**ew York magazine devoted most of its March 5 issue to multiple stories on "Gay Life Now," which included an in-depth poll tracking the state of gays in New York today. The results were tallied in the article "They're Here, They're Queer, We're Used to It," which featured such nuggets as: 71 percent of gays and lesbians polled are out to their families, while only 58 percent are out to their co-workers; 68 percent of straight New Yorkers say they would vote for an openly gay presidential candidate. But the article getting the most buzz, "Inside Out," tackles the question of media collusion in keeping the closet door shut on gay celebs. In particular they dwell on the case of Rosie O'Donnell, a well-known career homosexual. They carp that although she's been outed routinely in the tabloids, the mainstream press maintains a discreet distance, which allows her the freedom to flaunt her girlfriends in public with-

out fear they'll be written about.

As the author of 1997's *Rosie O'Donnell: Her True Story*, the first published biography of the star, I can attest to the truth of that. I discussed at length the complex web of silence that surrounds the Queen of Nice as well as the teasing games she plays with her television audience. It's almost as if she wants to come out but still has one foot caught in a vacuum cleaner hose in her closet. In a famous example, she and Ellen DeGeneres did a whole riff on her show in which they joked about being "Lebanese."

When asked to comment on the story in *New York* magazine, O'Donnell's PR flack didn't deny she's queer but did offer this mind-boggling comment: "Rosie's sexuality has never been very important to her." My extensive research reveals that's not the case. I suspect what she really meant was: What other people think about her sexuality is not very important to Rosie. In any case, this does represent a step forward for an influential member of the gay community who has the potential to do a lot of good. Now if someone just will wrench her foot from that vacuum cleaner....

Compiled by ORIANA GREEN



### Hollywood happenings

**W**ill & Grace continues to add to its impressive hardware collection with several new trophies. At the recent TV Guide Awards, Sean Hayes won Favorite Supporting Actor in a Comedy for his jumpin' Jack work. And the whole gang won for Best Comedy Ensemble at the prestigious Screen Actors Guild Awards on March 11. All four stars were present to accept the statue and genuinely seemed to enjoy their close collaboration. Also honored was Vanessa Redgrave, who won for Best Actress in a TV Movie or Miniseries for her poignant portrayal of an elderly lesbian dealing with the death of her partner in *If These Walls Could Talk 2*. If you missed it on the tube, it's worth a rent just for her performance.

