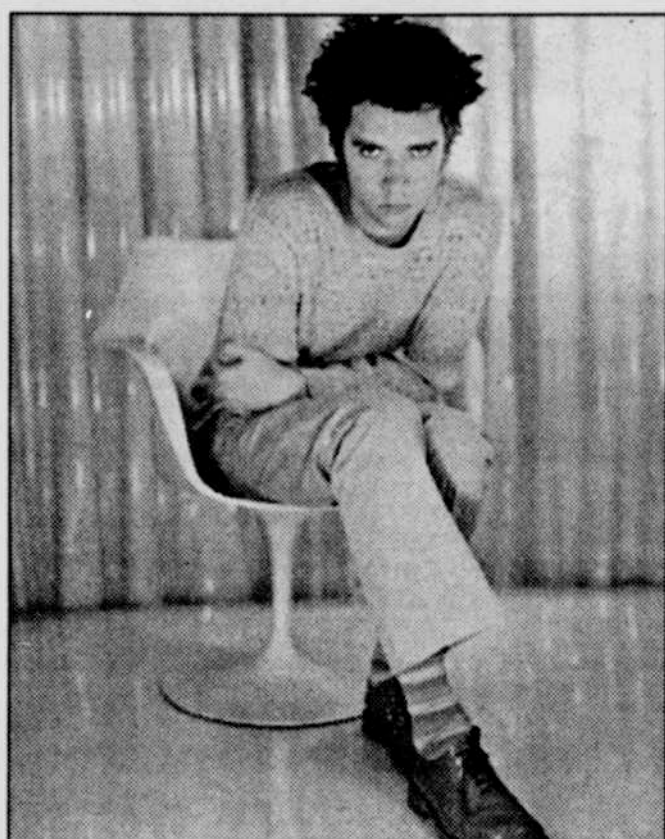


DIVERSIONS



Rufus Wainwright

Torch song trilogy

Queer crooner Rufus Wainwright, whose self-titled 1998 debut melted hearts everywhere, will return to Portland for a gig 8 p.m. May 4 at Roseland Grill, 10 N.W. Sixth Ave. The pop/torch singer, whose breakout hit was "April Fools," is dry and wry but hardly shy. He is refreshingly open about his sexuality; the last time he was in town, he even admitted to cruising in Washington Park! His latest recording, *Poses*, comes out April 17. Tickets are \$18 through Fastixx, 503-224-TIXX.

Don't fear the *Queer*

Sensory Perceptions, the organizers behind Portland's annual queer film festival, have come up with a novel fund-raiser that benefits everyone involved. You get to see the uncut, uncensored original British version of *Queer as Folk*—far superior to the U.S. version on Showtime—and they get a chunk of change from every purchase. All you have to do is use this Internet link: www.c1tv.com/sensoryperceptions.

—Jim Radosta



Tony Soprano is gay?

Well, not quite, but in *The Mexican* we get the next best thing. James Gandolfini of *The Sopranos* plays Leroy, a tough hit man who has taken hostage Julia Roberts' character, Samantha. In a plot twist halfway through the movie, we find out he is gay. It plays out great in a hilarious scene between Leroy and Samantha when he fesses up to his preference for men, and it keeps rolling from there. Gandolfini and Roberts have fabulous on-screen chemistry, and their gay guy/straight girl relationship is as fun to watch as her other gay buddy flick, *My Best Friend's Wedding* with homolicious Rupert Everett. If not for Roberts' smile, if not for Brad Pitt's looks, check out this flick for Gandolfini's terrific take on a gay mobster. —Michael Wayne Keck

She has her hands in many pies

Lesbo legend Tret Fure sings songs old and new in concert at the tiny Backgate Stage behind Artichoke Music, 3130 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd. Only 50 folkies will fit, so claim your spot early April 14; doors open at 7 p.m., and the show begins at 8. Fure seems to have moved on with a real zeal after her split from Cris Williamson. She's released her first solo record in 10 years, *Back Home*. Fure also knows her way around the pots and pans and has just published her own recipes in *Tret's Kitchen*. As if that wasn't enough to occupy her creative mind, she's marketing her own line of clothing called Tomboy Girl. Whew! Tickets for her gig are \$7 at the door.

It's your day

What's not to like about Goddess Day, "a day devoted to honoring the Goddess in every woman"? The event, staged by Common Ground Wellness Center, begins at 10 a.m. April 7 with a series of lectures on topics ranging from "Sacred Feminine Anatomy" to "Who Is Raising Our Daughters?" The talks take place at Pacific Crest Community School, 116 N.E. 29th Ave., just a few blocks from the center, which is located at 2927 N.E. Everett St. At 3 p.m. the fun shifts to the center with ceremonies, rebirthing, music, belly dancing, poetry readings and more. Plus you can enjoy the hot tubs and sauna. Reserve a spot at 503-238-1065.

Help is out there

College-level students are encouraged to apply for the Audria M. Edwards Scholarship. Applications are available at Embers

Avenue, 110 N.W. Broadway; Klub Z, 333 S.W. Park Ave.; NorthBank Tavern, 106 E. Sixth St., Vancouver, Wash.; and www.peacockinthepark.com. They are due May 1, and recipients will be announced June 24 at Peacock in the Park. To be eligible, a candidate must be—or have a parent who is—gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered and meet several other requirements. To learn more call 503-281-2811.

Put on your dancing shoes

So, did you skip your prom 'cuz it wasn't queer-friendly? Did you do like I did and go with a gay guy just so you could see what all the fuss was about? Wish you coulda danced with your real honey? Here's your chance to satisfy the longings of your inner teen queen. Everyone is invited to the fourth annual Queer Prom, put on with great style by Portland State University Queers and Allies. Even the campus newspaper, *The Vanguard*, calls it "the party of the year." It all gets rolling at 7 p.m. April 28 on the first floor of Smith Memorial Center, 1825 S.W. Broadway. This year's theme is "Queer Millennia, Dancing Through the Decades," so throw on a frock from your fave era and go party. Expect great tunes from DJ Lauren, a drag king and queen show, a raffle, munchies and surprises. Tickets are \$8 at the door or \$6 in advance from 503-725-5681 or queersandallies@mail.pdx.edu. Those older than 21 with identification can partake of a no-host bar.

Batter up

Love to fraternize with the jockettes but don't play ball yourself? How about helping out with the annual Lesbian Community Project Softball Tournament? Volunteers are needed to help organize and run the event. Those interested should attend a meeting 7 p.m. April 10 at Old Wives' Tales, 1300 E. Burnside St. Or give the LCP office a jingle at 503-233-3913 and make 'em an offer.

Same group, different name

FAD, now short for Fun and Diversity, used to call itself Fags and Dykes. In either case, it's an e-group for the sexual minorities community on the northern Oregon coast. When you visit the Internet site groups.yahoo.com/group/fun-and-diversity you'll find it's easy to read or post messages and photos about events in that area. You'll also find a spot to sign up for e-mails about goings-on. This is a



Harmony Hammond

wonderful resource for rural folks who can easily feel isolated from kindred spirits.

This is our life

Another way we can feel connected is by watching the fine national program *In the Life*, which airs this month at 11 p.m. April 10 on Oregon Public Broadcasting. On this episode, pioneering lesbian artist Harmony Hammond is profiled. She's the author of *Lesbian Art in America: A Contemporary History*, the first book of its kind. Three other artists featured in the book are also interviewed for their take on just what constitutes lesbian art. Other segments cover a youth empowerment camp, domestic violence in our community and military discharges. The spotlight also shines on John Dugdale, a gay photographer who's found ways to keep making art despite a series of physical disabilities.

A class act

Mother Kali's Books in Eugene is offering a four-session writing course on women and class issues beginning April 22. "Un-Classy Writing for Women" is designed for women who consider writing an important expression in their lives and would like to explore aspects of class in their writing, including how class affects gender, race, sexual identity, disabilities and more. The sliding-scale fee ranges from free up to \$100. The class will be taught by Tova Stabin, a co-manager of the bookstore and an experienced lecturer and writer on the subject. To find out more, call 541-343-4864 or write to tova@cyberis.net. 

Compiled by ORIANA GREEN

Hollywood happenings

According to gossipster Liz Smith, actress Jodie Foster is working on Baby No. 2, and as always she won't comment on where she got the sperm. The 38-year-old actress expects to deliver in November and tells Smith, "My sisters and I are all Scorpios, so we have a soft spot for the birth date." As a former Scorpio child, I can verify that she'll have her hands full. Foster also told Smith: "I enjoyed being pregnant with Charlie, and I look forward to this experience again. I am into all the health foods, yoga and the rest of it."



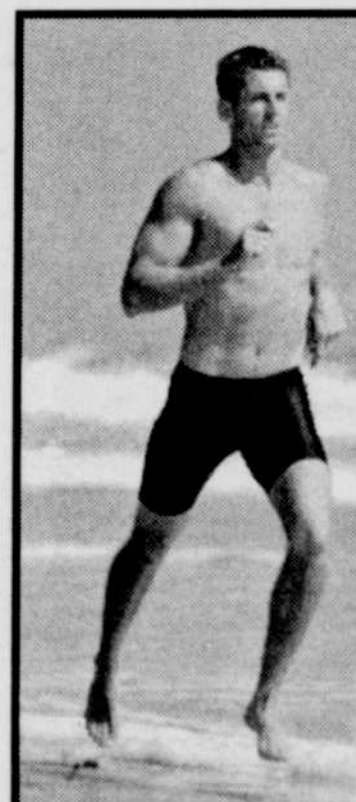
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