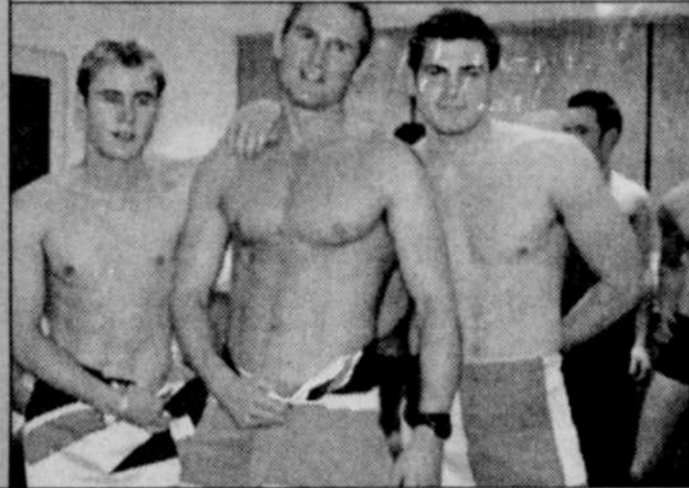


## TRIPPING OUT



### Ideas and inspiration for summer travel

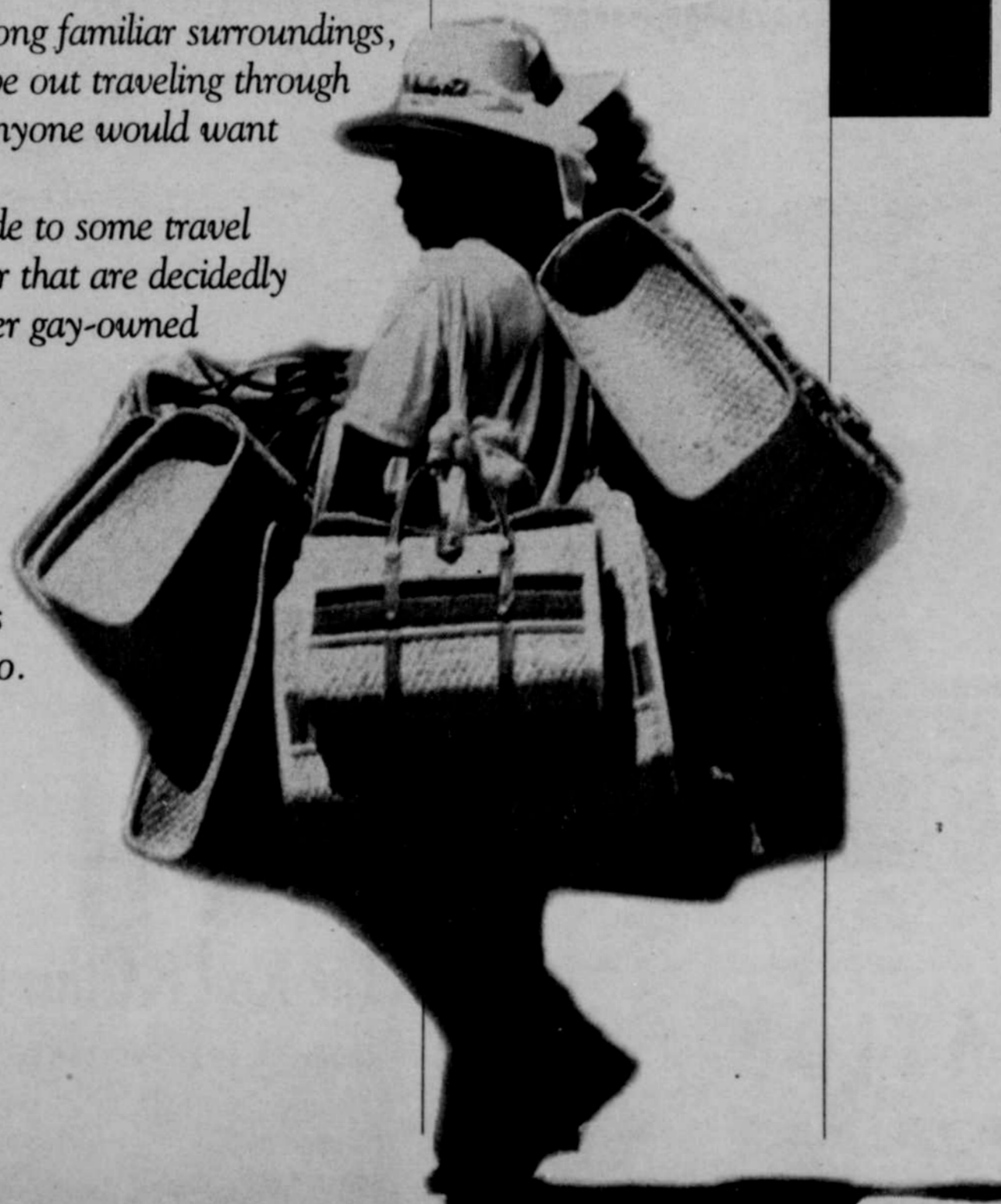
by Richard Bray

**I**t's one thing to be out among familiar surroundings, but it's something else to be out traveling through Topeka—although why anyone would want to go to Kansas is a mystery.

So Just Out offers this guide to some travel destinations both near and far that are decidedly queer-friendly. They are either gay-owned establishments or thoroughly homo-welcoming spots.

Of course, there are many more than we possibly could list here, but we also have recommended some resources to help you uncover those, too. Start packing!

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### Better late than never

Eugene woman is a  
late but prolific bloomer

BY HERON

**"**I want a woman I can help to make happy," Fanchon Blake tells me when we meet. "I want to court her. I want to love and be loved."

I am meeting Blake one day after her 80th birthday. She is sitting at my kitchen table, her posture military straight, wearing a crisp white shirt and red necktie. On her lapel is a badge that reads, "Kiss me, it's my birthday."

Blake came to our attention when she placed a *Just Out* Voice Personals Ad recently, and there seemed to be a story there.

Yes, indeed, Fanchon Blake has quite a story. She drove to my house in Portland from her place in Eugene to tell me about her life.



*"In those days, the military was not so worried that women were homosexual. Their big problem was that women might be prostitutes."*

—Fanchon Blake

Blake grew up in the Pehachape Mountains of California. She was a real tomboy, following her dad around fixing cars and smoking cigars. She wanted nothing to do with domesticity—she hated nylons, high heels and makeup.

"I was a wallflower," she begins, and "did not really feel attracted to any men. At the age of 21, I joined the Army."

That was in 1942, when the United States was fully engaged in World War II and women were just being allowed to serve. "In those days, the military was not so worried that women were homosexual. Their big problem was that women might be prostitutes," Blake tells me.

She spent the war years as company commander in charge of a barracks of female recruits. In 1947, she quit the Army to get married.

"My husband wanted me at home," she says. But the marriage didn't work out.

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