

DIVERSIONS

Basically bucolic

Circle July 28 on your calendar for the oh-so-chic Garden Party benefiting Basic Rights Oregon. This annual event offers an opportunity to mingle with fair-minded elected officials, concerned activists and BRO supporters in picturesque, lush gardens. Generously donating "Bella Madrona" for the day, Drs. Geof Beasley and Jim Sampson have created a breathtaking scenic wonderland spread over six acres. This summertime soiree is worth every penny, and the proceeds benefit an important cause. The fun happens from 2 until 5 p.m. in Sherwood. Tickets are \$35 and \$50 from 503-222-6151.

Blues on the green

The seventh annual Saturday in the Park Pride celebration gets going July 14 at Esther Short Park in Vancouver, Wash. The theme "Stronger, Louder, Prouder" was chosen to highlight the new location, which should provide more visibility. Expect beer and food, information and retail booths, activities for kids plus live entertainment from Jody Crocker, Third Estate and the Rose City Swing Band. Headliners Swamp Mama Johnson will put out a smooth groove of blues and R & B. Also Peacock in the Park Productions will mount an hourlong drag show. Show up between noon and 8 p.m. at Sixth Avenue and Columbia Street. Your questions will be answered at saturdayinthepark@aol.com.

To begin Gay Pride Week in southwest Washington, First Congregational United Church of Christ is holding an Interfaith Pride Service at 4 p.m. July 8. Congregants will "celebrate the joy in who we are, all God's people of all sexual orientations and genders." A reception presented by five other area churches will follow the service. The host church is located at 1220 N.E. 68th St. in Hazel Dell. For information call 360-693-1476 or e-mail vanucc@aol.com.



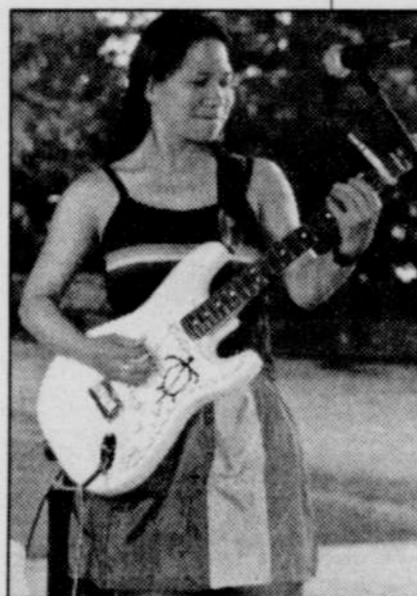
The Rose City Swing Band entertains last year at Saturday in the Park

Networking floats the boat

Hop aboard the Portland Spirit on July 9 for an enjoyable evening of food, entertainment and networking with the Portland Area Business Association on its annual Willamette River Cruise. "It's a great opportunity to find out what's new and interesting, a way to meet potential new clients and friends," board president Mark Miller says. "It just gets better every year." PABA's purpose is to help its members build business and create community through networking events, including monthly luncheons, social gatherings and volunteer opportunities. Boarding begins at 6:30 p.m., and tickets are \$30 at the dock or \$25 in advance from 503-241-2222. Learn more at www.paba.com.

Songs in the key of Q

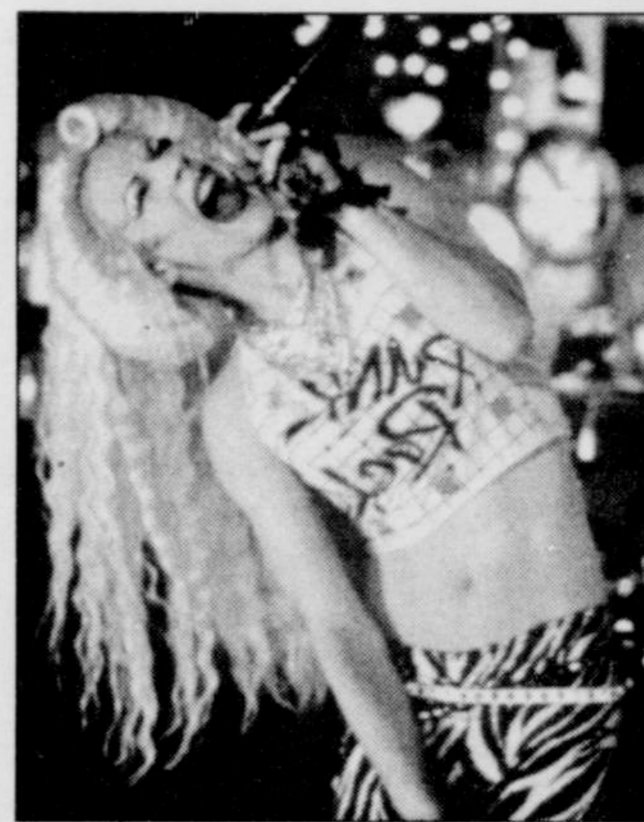
The Eugene queer community held its 10th annual Pride celebration June 30 at Washington-Jefferson Park. The warm, dry weather brought out about 600 people to enjoy the various activities. Performers included Rainbow Wranglers square dancers, the Imperial Sovereign Court of the Willamette Empire, the boisterous sounds of Soul Funktion and Soromundi, the lesbian chorus of Eugene. The showstopper was 13-year-old phenom Jordan Blumberg-Enge, who wowed the crowd with her powerful singing. She was a tough act to follow, but Leila Chieko and Amy Picard held their own. The day was topped off at Neighbors Bar and Bistro, which was jammed and jamming with a post-Pride party and barbecue.



Leila Chieko

You'd be angry, too!

Sensory Perceptions (those cool folks who toil long and hard to bring you a queer film fest every year) throw themselves a benefit July 18. They will screen the highly anticipated film *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* at 7 p.m. at the Clinton Street Theater, 2522 S.E. Clinton St. Tickets are \$7 at the box office the day of show. Adapted from the critically acclaimed off-Broadway rock theater hit, *Hedwig* tells the story of an "internationally ignored" rock singer, Hedwig, and her search for stardom and love. Born a boy named Hansel whose life's dream is to find his other half, Hedwig reluctantly submits to a sex-change operation in



Hedwig rages about her shortcomings

order to marry an American G.I. and get over the Berlin Wall to freedom. The operation is botched, leaving her with the "angry inch." For more, measure up at sensoryperceptions.org/v2/events/hedwig.

It's been a queer year

Club Z, Portland's all-ages gay club, will celebrate its first anniversary with a party promising celebrity guests and performer Danny Diess' tribute to the Pet Shop Boys. Admission costs \$10. Doors open 10 p.m. July 7, and the show starts 12:30 a.m. at 333 S.W. Park Ave. Call 503-241-1153 for more information.

Lions and tigers and queers, oh my!

This year's Summer Concert Series at the Oregon Zoo features plenty of "family" acts. First up is the newly out singer Janis Ian, performing with folk legend Judy Collins on July 8. Then on July 19 look for the Indigo Girls and their opening act, Rose Polenzani, who records for Amy Ray's Daemon label. Finally, Thomas Lauderdale and Portland's own eclectic virtuosos Pink Martini entertain for a sure sellout Aug. 16. All shows start at 7 p.m.; be smart and MAX it for a no-hassle evening. Get your tickets at the zoo or from Fastixx.

Hard looks at tough subjects

Cable television continues to offer gay-themed programming you won't find anywhere else. First up on HBO July 9 is the

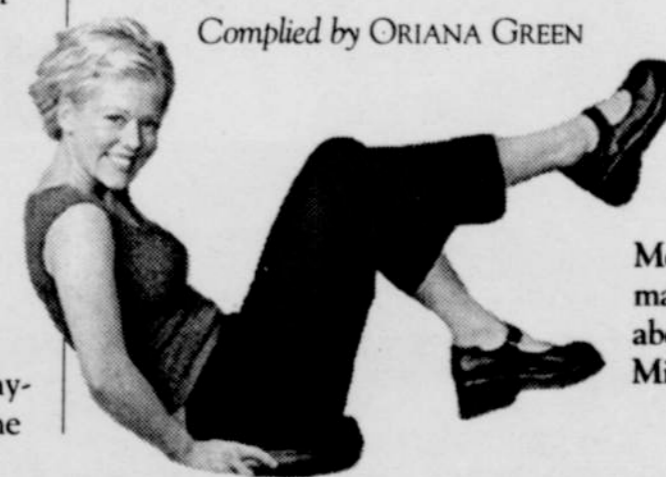
award-winning documentary *Paragraph 175*, which reveals the previously untold story behind the Nazi persecution of homosexuals. Narrated by Rupert Everett, the film explores the personal stories of people who experienced this firsthand.

Over on A&E July 16 catch *Investigative Reports: AIDS in America, the Crisis Continues*. The program studies the complacency some people are feeling toward the disease and the illusions drug companies are fostering. Also examined are the increasing infection rates in urban areas.

Hollywood happenings

According to Advocate.com lesbian icon Melissa Etheridge already has rebounded, just nine months after the breakup of her 12-year union with Julie Cypher. The lucky (!) gal is Tammy Lynn Michaels, who played the nasty Nicole Julian on the WB series *Popular*. Etheridge told *People* magazine her new girlfriend made her "want to jump up and go 'Woo-woo.'" Newly 40, the rocker's dip into the younger end of the dating pool isn't all that surprising. It's also great revenge for the singer who definitely paints herself as a woman wronged by Cypher's wandering ways. The former couple, however, maintain a cordial relationship over the back fence to co-parent their two children. [M]

Compiled by ORIANA GREEN



Melissa's mad about Michaels

Out with the old, in with the new

Portland nighttime institution Panorama is calling it quits. The club, which opened in October 1993, quickly became a cool hangout, first for queers, then for hipsters of all persuasions. Famous for its high-energy music mix and light show, Panorama has reached the end of its life span. At 9 a.m. July 15 the doors will close forever.

In the birth-and-death cycle of clubs, it won't be long before a new one opens. In fact, just five days. Restaurant Services—the company that owns Panorama, Boxxes, Brig, the Red Cap Garage and the Fish Grotto—is remodeling the space above Ozone Records to become a dance club. At 11:45 p.m. July 20 Fez Nightclub, located at 316 S.W. 11th Ave., will open its doors.

On one floor you'll find a lounge serving Moroccan food, and above that the former Fez Ballroom is being transformed into the dance space. Bar manager Michael Ackerman says they'll feature the same kind of music spun at Panorama—"upbeat house, circuit, anthem and underground dance music." He also expects the new club to attract a mixed clientele, "probably 70/30 percent gay/straight," he says, peering into his crystal ball.

Party on, Portland!



PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS