



Making furry friends

Too many dads to mention

In my commentary in the July 6 issue calling for more community involvement, I randomly suggested the Oregon Bears might collect Toys for Tots at Christmas. (I was thinking of teddy bears, natch.) Well, unbeknownst to me, the group already had a great idea in the works. Thanks to members' contributions the fellas have adopted a real live bear at the Oregon Zoo. Through the ZooParent Program, they are now the proud adoptive dads of a grizzly bear. The group will be honored in the zoo's newsletter, plus they get passes and a photo and other neat stuff. They're also planning a field trip, so all the Bears can get to know one another. Way to go, guys!

Speak out Louise!

The popular Last Word women's open mike is back at In Other Words. Starting 7 p.m. July 31, the event will take place on the last Tuesday of every month at the bookstore, 3734 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd. Women of all ages are invited to bring their own poetry, short fiction, journal musings, personal essays and other written and spoken words to read for five to seven minutes. This is the perfect forum for young writers, performance poets and scribes of all backgrounds and experience levels. In the past the work has run the gamut of humorous, political, sexy,



King of drag DeLarverie

somber, lovelorn, lovestruck, angry, quiet, personal, loud and sassy. Learn more at 503-232-6003 or www.inotherwords.org.

Ride the rails to this one

How about a party so big they close a street for it? From noon until 7 p.m. July 21 Stark Street will be blocked off from 10th to 11th avenues for a grand party celebrating the start of the new westside streetcar serving that area. This free event will feature lots of live

music, including Toca, Dizzy Elmer and The Dragonflies.

A call to activism

The Basic Rights Oregon Trans Workgroup, which advises on issues related to gender identity and expression, needs new members to help shape the direction of trans-related activism. The nonprofit organization actively is seeking transsexual, transgender, genderqueer and cross-dressing people of all sexes/genders, as well as drag performers, but folks of any sexual orientation also are welcome. Join them for a brainstorming and planning session 5:30 p.m. July 30 at BRO, 3430 S.E. Belmont St. Call executive director Roey Thorpe at 503-222-6151 for more information or future meeting dates.

Our very own 60 minutes

"Movers and Shakers," this month's episode of *In the Life*, profiles people who've made a difference in the realms of finance, health, military and the arts. Meet Walter Schubert, Gay Financial Network founder and CEO; John Cameron Mitchell, star, writer and director of the upcoming film *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*; and famed male impersonator Stormé DeLarverie. Now 80, the jazz singer was the only woman to perform in the famous Jewel Box Revue. You'll find this fine television program on PBS at 11 p.m. July 31. And hey, it doesn't hurt to let OPB know you're watching.

Plenty to tickle your fancy

Leather Pride Week kicks off 8 p.m. Aug. 3 with the annual Fetish Ball: Leather, Feathers and Fur at the Adrianna Hill Grand Ballroom, 918 S.W. Yamhill St. San Francisco's Dark Carnival will perform knife-throwing, bullwhip tricks, glass walking, bed of nails tricks and more. No outfit is too wild for this bunch, and the costume contest is sure to be hotly contested for a grand prize of two days at the Gypsy Arms Bed & Breakfast in Seattle. DJ Lauren will spin the tunes, and Rose Court Prince Scotty Devore Foxx and Princess Dawna Creation will serve as hosts of the event. Tickets are \$15 at the door or \$10 in advance from Portland Leather Alliance board members or by mail. Send check or money order to P.O. Box 5161, Portland, OR 97208. Proceeds from the ball will go to the Dove Lewis Animal Hospital.

Other Leather Pride events include a Kinky Auction at C.C. Slaughters and the Uniform Buzz Cuts Party at the Eagle and Club XES, both Aug. 4. Don't miss Leather Tastings, a chance to see demonstrations by local S/M experts, Aug. 5 at the Eagle. Or how about a Hot Dog Social on Aug. 8 at a private home—contact KATSpdx@aol.com for location and directions. The big finale is the Mr./Ms. Oregon State Leather Contest on Aug. 11. For info on all events, call 503-727-3148 or click on www.pdxleatheralliance.org.

So you need a good excuse...

To finally spring for HBO? How about this one: The premium channel will air a live concert from Madonna's Drowned World Tour at 9 p.m. Aug. 26. This is the Material Mom's first tour in eight years, which sold out around the world in record time; the show will air from the Palace of Auburn Hills in her hometown of Detroit. Watch *Just Out* for an eyewitness account of her Las Vegas appearance in September.



They're ready to party

Hollywood happenings

Don't-wanna-be-the-lesbian-poster-girl Ellen DeGeneres will be the host of the primetime Emmy Awards on Sept. 16. She'll undoubtedly be promoting her new sitcom, set to debut this fall on CBS. Up for repeat statues this year are *Will & Grace* and all four of the show's actors. Also getting *beaucoup* nods is *Life with Judy Garland: Me and My Shadows*. Most bitter-sweet must be DeGeneres' nomination for her HBO special, which was filmed partly at her live performance in Portland last year. Hovering in the wings was her soon-to-be-ex-honey Anne Heche, who directed the special. What DeGeneres apparently couldn't see was Heche cozying up to one of the cameramen on the film, a fellow who she now is engaged to marry, according to gossipers. Perhaps Ellen missed the memo about dating straight women. [M]

Complied by ORIANA GREEN



Yep, she's straight

ILLUSTRATION BY KEVIN MOORE

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