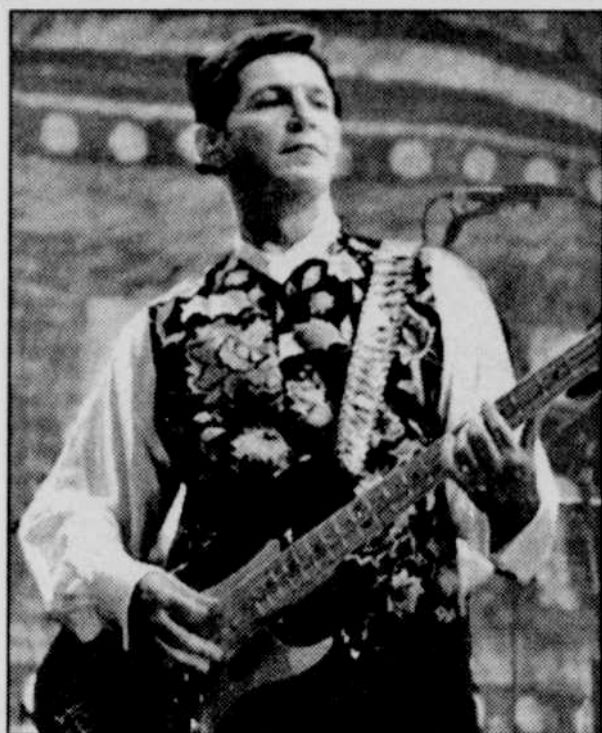


DIVERSIONS



Thank you very much-o, Mr. Panozzo

A gay butt rocker?

Former Styx bassist Chuck Panozzo came out of the closet during the Human Rights Campaign's annual Chicago dinner July 28. "Coming out has touched my life in so many positive ways and really has set me free," he says. "I'm in a better place than I've ever been in my life, and it's all because I acknowledged who I am and said, 'I want to live my life as an openly gay man.'" Panozzo tested positive for HIV in 1991 and was diagnosed with advanced AIDS in 1999. Two years of aggressive therapy and the passing of his longtime friend from AIDS helped convince him to go public with his disease. The remaining members of Styx will perform during the Clark County Fair at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 9 in Vancouver, Wash. —Jim Radosta

Midsummer night's fun

For a starry summer night delight, hop aboard the Portland Spirit on Aug. 11 with 499 new queer friends for the seventh annual

Mid-Summer Cruise, this year benefiting Vancouver's Pride celebration, Saturday in the Park. But first enjoy a Pre-Cruise Party starting 8 p.m. at nearby McCall's Waterfront Restaurant, 1020 S.W. Naito Parkway. Sit out on the patio and watch day turn into night. Boarding begins 10:30 p.m., and the ship pulls away a half-hour later. Cruise until 2 a.m. and enjoy a buffet, no-host bar, dance music and door prizes. Alas, you must be 21 or older; identification is required. Tickets are \$25 at the door (but don't count on there being any!) or \$20 in advance from A Gentle Strength, It's My Pleasure, Gai-Pied and Rainbows. Get details at 360-992-1032.

Fun with wooden balls

Those wacky gals of the Portland Lesbian Garden Club gather Aug. 19 for their ninth annual Vita Sackville-West Croquet and Garden Party. This is no tame bunch of players, either—some of them happily will rocket your ball to the north 40 without remorse. Still, this is a thoroughly delightful event, which will be hosted again this year by Kathy Oliver, who will be defending her croquet title. Feel free to wear a long white dress with a wide-brimmed hat or whatever gets you through the wicket. Bring snacks to share when the festivities begin at 2 p.m. Call Kathy at 503-284-0888 for directions.

More gardening fun

Circle Aug. 12 on your calendar for the Friends of People with AIDS Foundation annual Garden Party at the lovely Bella Madrona estate in Sherwood. Mingle, eat, drink and enjoy live music and an auction. Preparty for patrons begins 12:30 p.m., and the main

event runs from 2 until 5 p.m. at 24050 S.W. Baker Road. Tickets are \$75 for patrons or \$25 regular admission. Learn more at 503-283-8535.

Another good cause

Hand 2 Mouth Theatre Company presents *The Posture Queen*, the true life story of a sailor, drag queen, junkie, commune leader and, finally, Zen Buddhist master, at Rose City Ballroom. The opening night of this new, poetic dance theater performance is a benefit for Cascade AIDS Project. Be there 8:30 p.m. Aug. 9 at 700 N.E. Dekum St. Tickets are \$8 to \$10; contact 503-283-3311 or coachcoach73@yahoo.com for reservations.

Morning people, set your VCRs

It's already time for another installment of *In the Life* 11 p.m. Aug. 7 on PBS. This time around the show features a profile of cartoonist Alison Bechdel, who has been drawing *Dykes to Watch Out For* for an amazing 17 years. Also look for a segment on homosexuals in the Holocaust and the openly gay president of Walt Disney Animation and the Buena Vista Theatrical Group. (Gee, do you s'pose Mickey is now bi-curious?)

If you can get past the name...

Then attend the triangle productions! presentation of *Stupid Kids*, which follows the lives of four almost normal teens overcoming the obstacles of stereotypes, hate and alienation. The play, part of the Sexual Minority Youth Internship Program, runs through Aug. 18 at Theater! Theatre!, 3430 S.E. Belmont St. Tickets are \$5 to \$12 from Fastixx or the box office, 503-239-5919.



These kids just act *Stupid*

Speaking of kids...

The Sexual Minority Youth Recreation Center will be the beneficiary of a golf tournament scheduled for Sept. 23 at Colwood National Golf Course, 7313 N.E. Columbia Blvd. However, you need to register by Aug. 31, so start hitting the driving range now. The format is four-person scramble, and tee time is 11:30 a.m. Expect fabulous door prizes and awards for longest drive, closest to pin and lowest team score. Send

your questions to Antoinette at 503-528-2800 or alafferriere@rjfs.com.

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