

Basic black Oregon's leather community celebrates with heart and education BY ANDY MANGELS

You've had more than a month to recover from Gay Pride activities, but another segment of the community has been preparing for its own weeklong celebration.

The fifth annual Leather Pride Week is sponsored by a coterie of leather and fetish organizations in the Portland metro area. The clubs have put together a wide range of activities centering on three agendas: education, fund raising and fun.

Although often marginalized by the queer community at large—and vilified by the religious right wing—the leather community is a thriving part of the local scene. Those who are members of the community are not always easy to categorize.

Some wear leather as a fashion statement or because it looks good. Some enjoy the dynamics of power exchange or role-playing in their relationships, whether long-term or more fleeting. Some engage in bondage/domination/

sadism/masochism practices, always staying mindful of the community motto: "Safe, Sane and Consensual." Some in the leather community don't wear much leather at all, opting instead for other fetish clothing such as uniforms, latex or lace.

Leather Pride Week has grown from a few events five years ago to more than a dozen in 2001. Some activities are geared toward men or women; others are pansexual, allowing people of all sexual orientations to interact and participate together.

"This week will allow members of alternative sexual communities a safe place to exchange ideas, educate each other and socialize," says Don Hood, president of the nonprofit Blackout Leather Productions, sponsor of several of the events. "We'll also be raising a lot of money for good causes. The leather community is a tribe of unique individuals, and Leather



The reigning Ms. Oregon State Leather, Cyd Athens, and Mr. Oregon State Leather, Charlie Salt

Pride Week gives us a chance to share and explore that individuality." **jm**

ANDY MANGELS is a longtime member of the leather, uniform and bear communities. You can write him at amangelssu@aol.com or visit his Internet site www.andymangels.com.

Leather Pride Week 2001

• **Leather Social and Red Hanky Social:** A social gathering of leathersmen and those into red hanky-style activities. No cover. (9-11 p.m. Aug. 3. *Dirty Duck Tavern*, 439 N.W. Third Ave.)

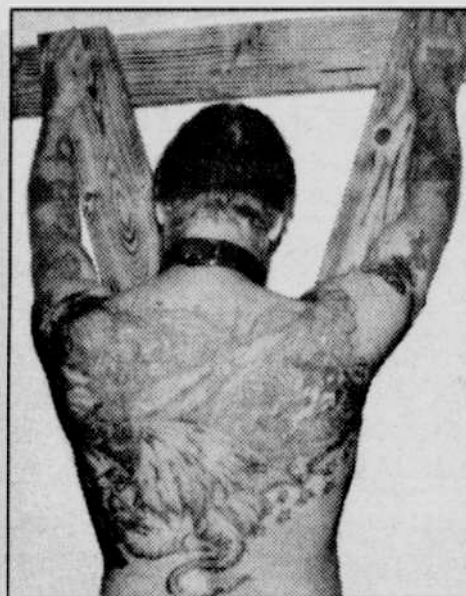
• **Fetish Ball: Leather, Feathers and Fur:** Sponsored by Portland Leather Alliance and featuring a no-host buffet and bar, a costume con-

test and dancing. Also expect performances by San Francisco's Dark Carnival group including knife throwing, bullwhip tricks, glass walking and more. Tickets, \$15 at the door, benefit Dove Lewis Animal Hospital. (8 p.m. Aug. 3. *Adrianna Hill Grand Ballroom*, 918 S.W. Yamhill St.)

• **Kinky Auction:** Auctioneers Krystal Belle Rose and Marlene will sell a variety of cool and kinky gear. (6:30 p.m. Aug. 4. *C.C. Slaughters*, 219 N.W. Davis St.)

• **Uniform and Buzz Cuts Party:** Sponsored by InUniform.net, this party will be full of cops, jocks, soldiers and firefighters. The \$4 cover at the Eagle benefits the Leather Archives and Museum, with flat-tops and buzz cuts in the back room by Seattle's infamous Patrick Bear! Plus, men in uniform get in for half-price at Club XES all evening! (9 p.m. Aug. 4. *The Eagle and Club XES*, 1300 W. Burnside St.)

• **Leather Tastings:** A chance to see some of the local community's finest, demonstrating safe and sane B/D/S/M techniques. PLA members \$3, nonmembers \$5. (1-4 p.m. Aug. 5. *The Eagle*, 1300 W. Burnside St.)



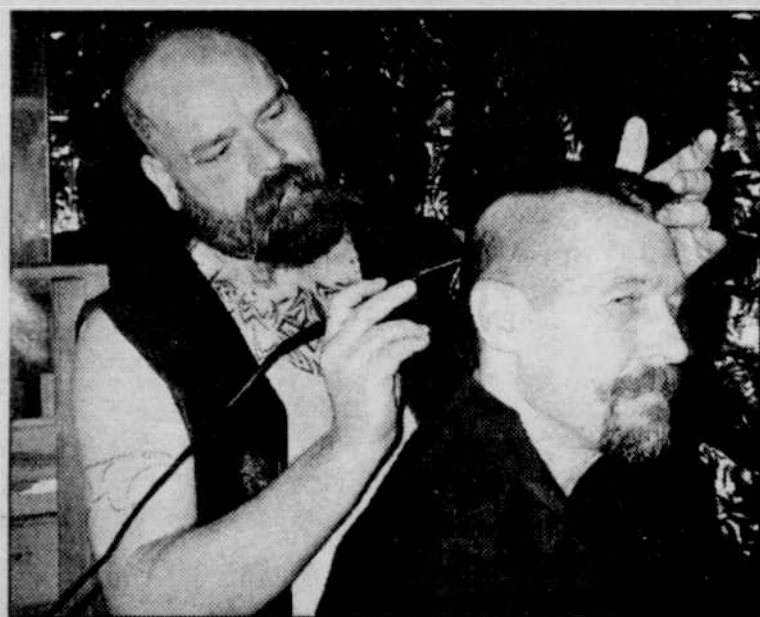
He knows what he's wearing to the Fetish Ball

adults who like to do consensual role-playing age-play. A \$5 donation for the Leather Archives and Museum is requested. (6:30 p.m. Aug. 8. E-mail katspdx@aol.com for location.)

• **Leather and Lace Show:** The Imperial Sovereign Rose Court presents a fabulous drag show for guys and dolls. Free. (7 p.m. Aug. 9. *Embers Avenue*, 110 N.W. Broadway.)

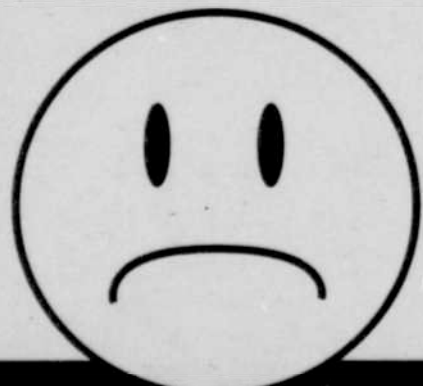
• **Erotica Show:** This production will include many local artists, including a fire dancer, belly dancers, erotic performers, singers, musicians, dancers and more. \$5 cover. (7-9 p.m. Aug. 10. *Embers Avenue*, 110 N.W. Broadway.)

• **Mr./Ms. Oregon State Leather Contest:** The fifth annual contest sponsored by Blackout Leather Productions will see the crowning of Oregon's two new leather titleholders, who will



Patrick Bear gives a clip job

Tired of eating alone?



Find someone for intimate dining adventures...
Just Friends Voice Personal Ads
in every issue of *Just Out*

Raized Printing

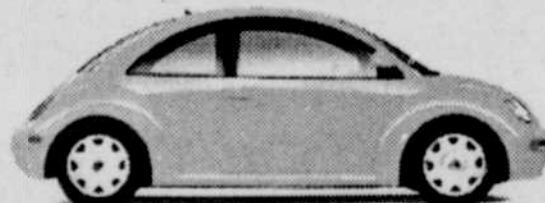
We specialize in **business cards** using thermography, die cutting, embossing, and foil stamping.

Call us at: 503.239.6694 or visit our website at: www.raizedprinting.com



Bring in this ad for a 10% discount on your first order

Drive with Pride



Schedule your appointment today with:

Lisa Costello
503-256-3700

REY REECE DEALERSHIPS
ISUZU-VOLKSWAGEN-USED

122nd & East Burnside
www.reyreece.com
vdublisac@hotmail.com

DIGNIFIED PET SERVICES

Cremation & Memorials For Your Companion

*If there's a pet in your life,
You need to know about us!*

8976 SW Tualatin Sherwood Road
Tualatin OR 97062
Phone (503) 885-2211
www.DignifiedPetServices.com
(A Division of Cascade Funeral Directors, Inc.)