

DIVERSIONS

Wanted: A few good leathermen and leatherwomen

Blackout Leather Productions of Oregon, the state's only all-volunteer non-profit leather organization, is looking for community input and interested people to attend its 2002 public board meeting. Spots are open for new board members as well as other chances to help within the leather, sadism, masochism and fetish communities.

Blackout's main focus is the production of **Leather Pride Week** each August, as well as the Oregon State Mr./Ms. Leather Contests. The titleholders sponsor fund-raisers for charities throughout the year.

The meeting will start 3:30 p.m. Jan. 13 in the back bar at Embers, 110 N.W. Broadway. Questions can be directed to Blackout president Don Hood at PoohBoots@aol.com.

—Andy Mangels

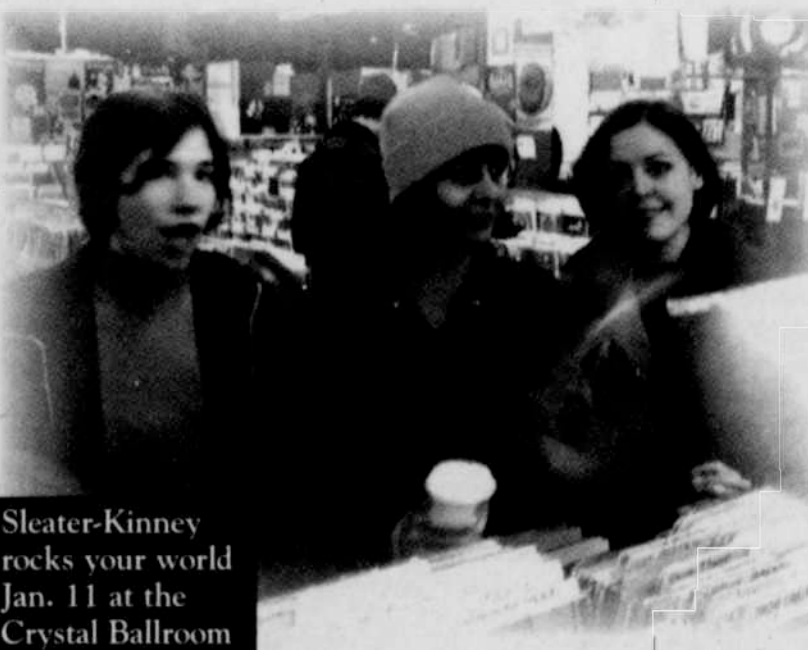
LCP offers queer ASL classes

The Lesbian Community Project will again sponsor **American Sign Language** classes this winter and spring as part of the organization's outreach to the deaf community. Portland has a large queer deaf culture, including some active members in the Northwest Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf.

The LCP's Kristan Aspen notes that one of her goals is to "provide services and programming of interest to deaf and hearing women, so they will come together and learn about and from each other."

The McKenzie River Gathering Foundation issued a grant to the group last year for the ASL classes and for a **Deaf Culture Night**, presented by deaf people for hearing people. The successful evening was "an opportunity to learn about folks we may have seen but not known over the years," Aspen says.

Winter Level 1 ASL classes begin Jan. 7, and Level 2 begins Jan. 8. The cost is \$40-\$65 on a sliding scale. Call 503-235-0840 or e-mail queerasl@yahoo.com to register. You also can register now for the spring sessions.



Sleater-Kinney rocks your world Jan. 11 at the Crystal Ballroom

Sleater-Kinney babes play Crystal

It was a good 2001 for those enduring and endearing queer rock grrrls, Sleater-Kinney, who play the Crystal Ballroom on Jan. 11 with Tracy + the Plastics. (See Page 26 for details.) No new album, but the Olympia, Wash., trio wasn't resting on its laurels by any means.



PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS

Blackout Leather Productions wants you to help plan Leather Pride

Last spring marked the arrival of a new little rocker by the name of Marshall Tucker Bangs, son of bi band member **Corin Tucker** and her spouse, Portland-based video director Lance Bangs. The kid arrived a bit sooner than expected, Tucker says, "because he is a rock 'n' roll cowboy and came out early so he could steal the show." However, baby gained weight quickly and is doing fine.

Meanwhile, lesbian lead guitarist **Carrie Brownstein** was working on stealing her own show, landing a major role in the new movie *Group*. Shot on digital video, the film follows the lives of eight women who meet each other in therapy. Many of the characters will be on the screen at the same time in their own little video square. The indie flick, which is seeking a distributor, also does nothing to hide the camera equipment in shots, thereby



revealing and incorporating the art of filmmaking into

the story.

Brownstein, who has little acting experience (save a heck of a lot of stage carousing, and let's face it, that's no act), auditioned for the movie in response to a public casting call. Tim Jenson of Olympia media studio Wovie says he believes the film directors didn't know who she was.

"She was a bit nervous," he recalls, "but that seemed to work to her advantage.... She did an incredible job; they were captivated by her." Yeah, we know what they mean.

As for our favorite straight girl **Janet Weiss**, she went ahead and released *Sword of God* with her other band, Quasi, the duo's fifth album. Rave reviews followed along with a popular tour, including a crowd-pleasing show in October at the Crystal Ballroom. The drummer also collaborated with queerific Northwest singer **Sarah Dougher** on her latest release, *The Bluff*. (Tucker lent guest vocals, too.)

What more can we say? Oh, the punkers were nominated by the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation for Outstanding Album of 2000 (*All Hands on the Bad One*) and named Best Rock Band by *Time* magazine, a glorious achievement by mainstream standards. (Reportedly, the group finds the distinction swell, if somewhat amusing.)

Golden Globes acting a little queer

David Lynch's freaky lesbo thriller *Mulholland Drive* pulled in an impressive (and surprising) four major Golden Globe Award

nominations, which were announced Dec. 20. The movie is up for Best Motion Picture Drama, Best Director, Best Screenplay and Best Original Score. Not bad for a guy largely ignored by award ceremonies directing an art house film, which are largely ignored by award ceremonies with a plot that is...well, you know.

The prize for Most Deserved Nomination goes to actor/director **John Cameron Mitchell** for his portrayal of the title character in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*. It is with a sigh of relief to queer audiences nationwide that this somewhat surreal film turned out as brilliantly as it did, pushing multiple transsexual issues (not to mention wigs) to the forefront of pop culture. Considering the other nominees for Best Musical or Comedy Actor—Hugh Jackman for *Kate & Leopold*, Ewan McGregor for *Moulin Rouge*, Gene Hackman for *The Royal Tenenbaums* (please) and Billy Bob Thornton for *Bandits* (maybe)—Mitchell should be a shoo-in. But will the angry inch be an inch too much for Globe voters?

The luminescent **Tilda Swinton** garnered a Best Drama Actress nomination for her role as the protective mom of a closeted young man in *The Deep End*. The Scotswoman is no stranger to queer roles, playing a lesbian in the biopic of artist Francis Bacon, *Love Is the Devil*; a bisexual in *Female Perversions*; and the title character in the fabulous gender-bending *Orlando*.

Hayden Christensen, who played Kevin Kline's teen hustler son in *Life as a House*, was nominated for Best Supporting Actor. NBC will broadcast the 59th annual



1. Weirdo David Lynch gets the golden nod
2. Will a Golden Globe pacify Hedwig's anger?
3. Queer film goddess Tilda Swinton



Golden Globe Awards

live from the Beverly Hills Hotel at 8 p.m. Jan. 20. Pull out those Hedwig foam wigs, and keep your fingers crossed.

And the Raspberry Award goes to...

The makers of the biopic *A Beautiful Mind*, who chose to delete any reference to the main character's bisexuality, which is an element in the book from which it was adapted. The film was nominated for six Golden Globe Awards, including Best Motion Picture Drama, Best Director and a Best Drama Actor nomination for Russell Crowe.

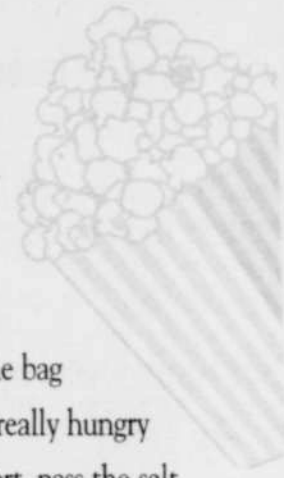
An anonymous source from the production crew was quoted on Gay.com as remarking: "American audiences don't care to see Russell Crowe getting it on with a man! It would just kill us at the box office." Guess it depends on which American audience you ask.

Reportedly, Crowe is unhappy that bisexual references were not adapted to the film. In any case, those of you who do care to see him get it on with a man should go out and rent 1994's *The Sum of Us*, in which he plays a gay Australian rugby player on the prowl. [F]

Compiled by LISA BRADSHAW

What's Poppin'?

What's popped and what's flopped, in a theater near you.



dud, bottom of the bag

only if you're really hungry

good effort, pass the salt

mmmm, tasty!

get the big tub o' corn

A BEAUTIFUL MIND

Russell Crowe gives another Oscar-worthy performance as a brilliant mathematician who overcomes schizophrenia to win the Nobel Prize. Ed Harris plays a government official who needs to borrow this tortured cranium to crack Commie codes, and Jennifer Connelly is stunning as the supportive wife. Director Ron Howard uses clever techniques to help us understand the couple's suffering.

—Jim Radosta

THE BUSINESS OF STRANGERS

Stockard Channing and Julia Stiles play, respectively, a middle-aged corporate she-warrior and her mysterious protégé. The two become embroiled in a dubious revenge scheme that opens the door to sparring, solidarity and palpable sexual tension between them. Imagine the misanthropy and mistrust of a David Mamet or a Neil LaBute applied to a more directly feminist theme, and you'll get an idea of what writer/director Patrick Stettner is up to here.

—Christopher McQuain

GO TIGERS!

This documentary about the town of Massillon, Ohio, and its obsession with high school football could entertain some and frighten others, depending on your adolescent experiences. Fortunately, director Kenneth A. Carlson also talks with outcasts who hate the beloved team. And one can't help but notice the homoerotic undertones as the sweaty boys bond.

—JR

THE ROYAL TENENBAUMS

Director Wes Anderson (*Rushmore*) twirls Gene Hackman, Anjelica Huston, Gwyneth Paltrow and Ben Stiller through a lighthearted drama regarding an absentee father's attempt to reconcile with his offspring, who are spending their adult lives recovering from childhood genius. The actors are given unusual, affectionately written characters to work with. But Anderson's attention to detail is the real star; his is a style both precise and unpretentious. As an added bonus, Paltrow is allowed a quick lesbian kiss before the credits roll.

—CM