



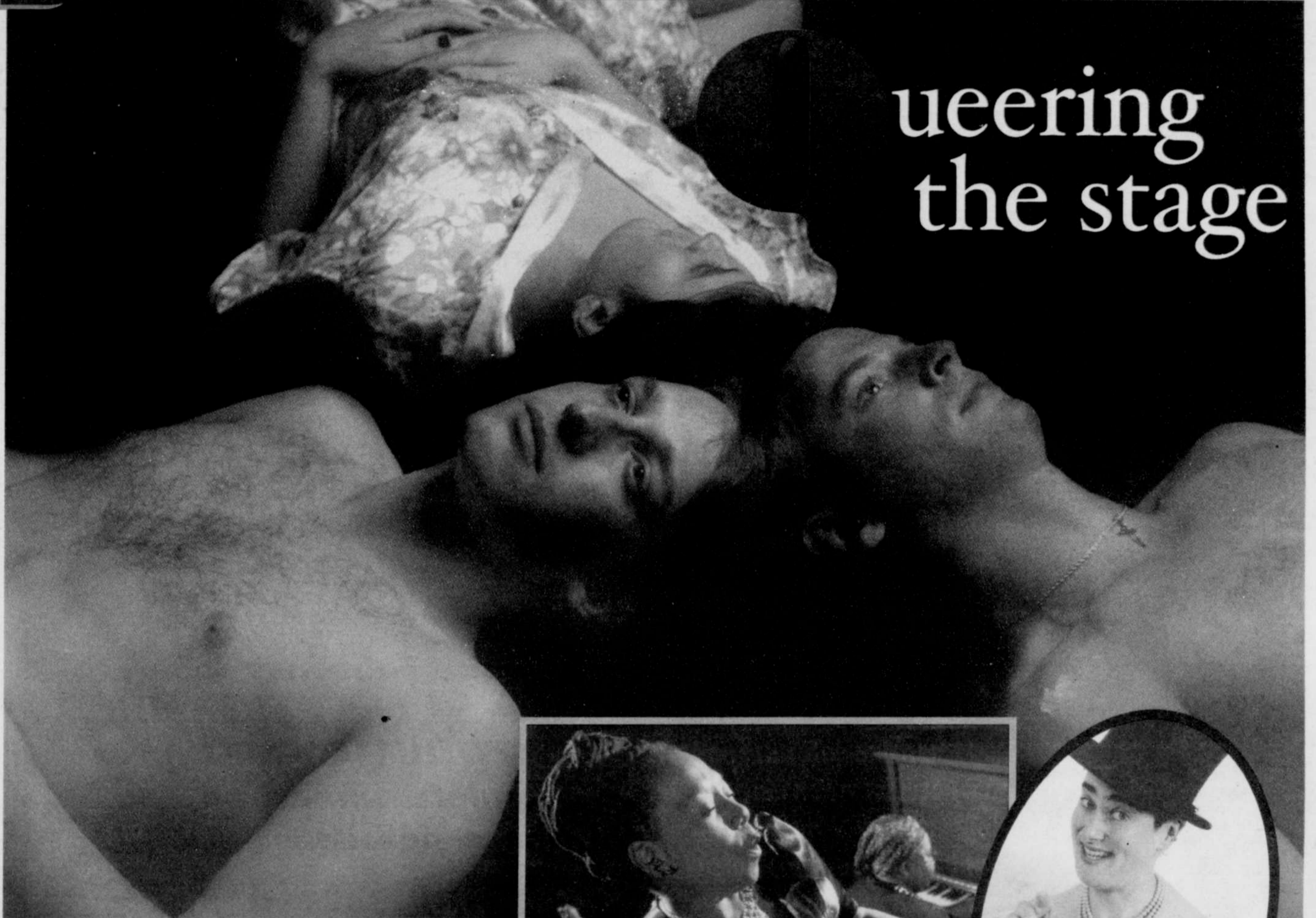
Yuks for Bucks

My Yuks join great recipients for awards gala

Page 16

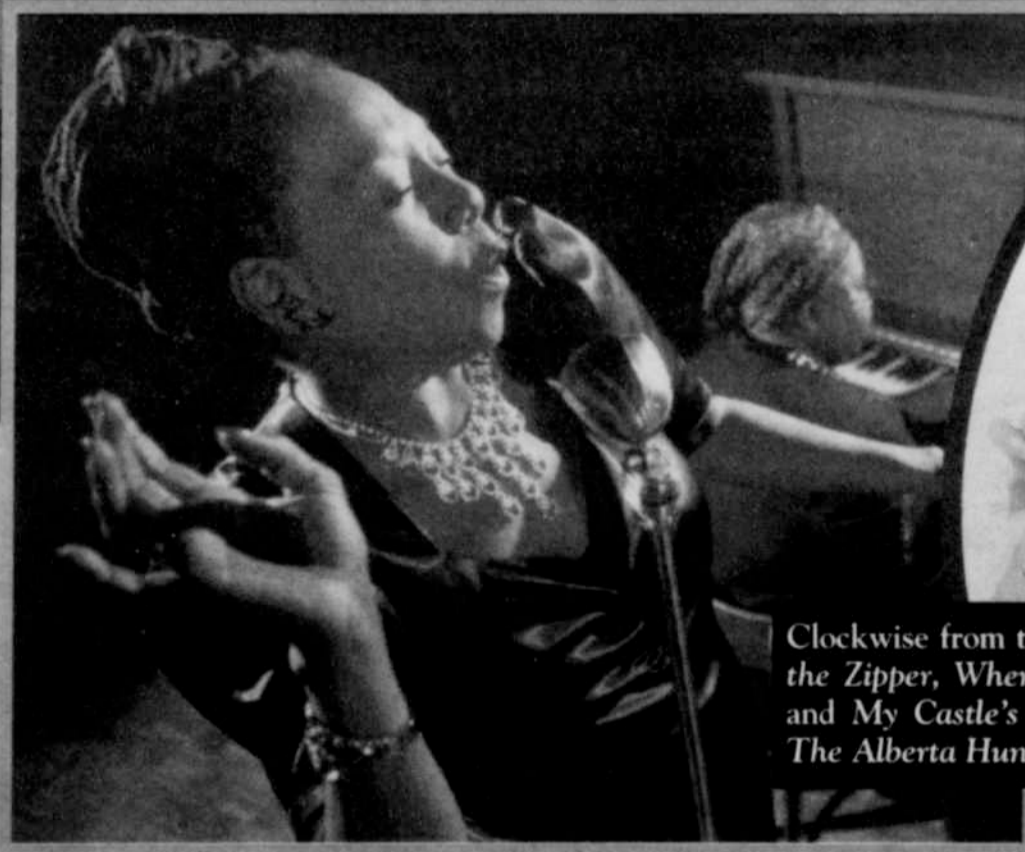
Portland, Oregon **FREE**

queering the stage



The state of queer theater has never been better. From sober explorations of identity and polyamory to lesbians belting out the blues, Portland gets in on the act.

Page 26



Clockwise from top: *After the Zipper*, *Where's Toto?* and *My Castle's Rockin'*: *The Alberta Hunter Story*

inside

SUBURBAN SUPPORT



Two gay men join Beaverton Human Rights Advisory Commission

Page 19

Pitching a tent

Dignity Village provides for the "houseless"

BY SARAH LEIMERT AND JIM RADOSTA

Dignity Village has been a hot topic of conversation during the past year. In publications ranging from local to national, its endless battle with the city of Portland has captured the attention of many.

The Villagers are struggling to attain a permanent campsite that meets baseline requirements for comfort and safety. With no decisions made yet, they recently received another short-term extension from the city.

Bean Dolton and Chris Arno became Dignity Village's most famous residents late last year when the *New York Times Magazine* quoted them in the Dec. 2 issue. The young couple moved there when it relocated to

Northeast Sanderson Street near Portland International Airport.

Dolton, 26, has lived on the streets periodically since she was a teenager. She was asked to leave home because her mother was not comfortable with her sexual orientation.

Although this was a hard situation to face, she feels it made her stronger and more self-reliant. "I love my mom," she says, "and that was a really smart choice, and I applaud her for that."

Arno, who kept her relationship with Dolton a secret for months, left home voluntarily after her parents found out and did not respond well. The 21-year-old decided on her own to leave rather than live in a place where her girlfriend was unwelcome.

"I left with Bean because I wanted to show [my parents] that I can do stuff on my own instead of having them do everything for me," Arno says. "I've never done anything for myself. I don't know how to cook."

Continued on Page 15