

BOOKS

Let's talk about sex

Erotic writers descend on Portland for a wild night of confession

BY DARKLADY

The new king-size bed arrives tomorrow. It has to.

I'm going to have five other sex writers and educators in my house—all at once. They have to sleep somewhere; they can't all sleep with me. Even my own king-size bed, snugly in front of the living room fireplace, can't accommodate everyone.

But enough about me. What's really important is that five of my dearest and most eccentric San Francisco friends are escaping the gravitational pull of their city to join me in introducing Portland to some of the hippest, hottest, smartest and sexiest writing around.



Darklady leads the pack of Portland sex writers

These sex education/erotica luminaries are Black Books publisher Bill Brent; sex educators Carol Queen and her partner, Robert Lawrence; erotica master M. Christian; and cross-dressing expert Charles Anders. Because sex writing skill doesn't exist only in San Francisco, Eugene writer Margaret Weller and I will represent the Oregon contingent.

The gaggle of us will read some of our latest works Feb. 8 at Powell's Books. Bi writer and publisher Brent will read from the anthology *Tough Guys*, which is all about raunchy, hot and sweaty goings-on between men. Christian will promote *The Burning Pen*, his latest editorial effort focusing on the motivations of erotica writers in their craft.

Queen, Weller and I likely will read our

contributions to *Best Bisexual Erotica 2*. (I'm probably too shy to read my very personal essay from *Guilty Pleasures* in front of a local audience—although I might be persuaded.)

Anders will entertain and inform by reading from his soon-to-be-released Greenery Press book, *The Lazy Cross-Dresser*. Keep an eye open for his upcoming appearance on *AM Northwest*.

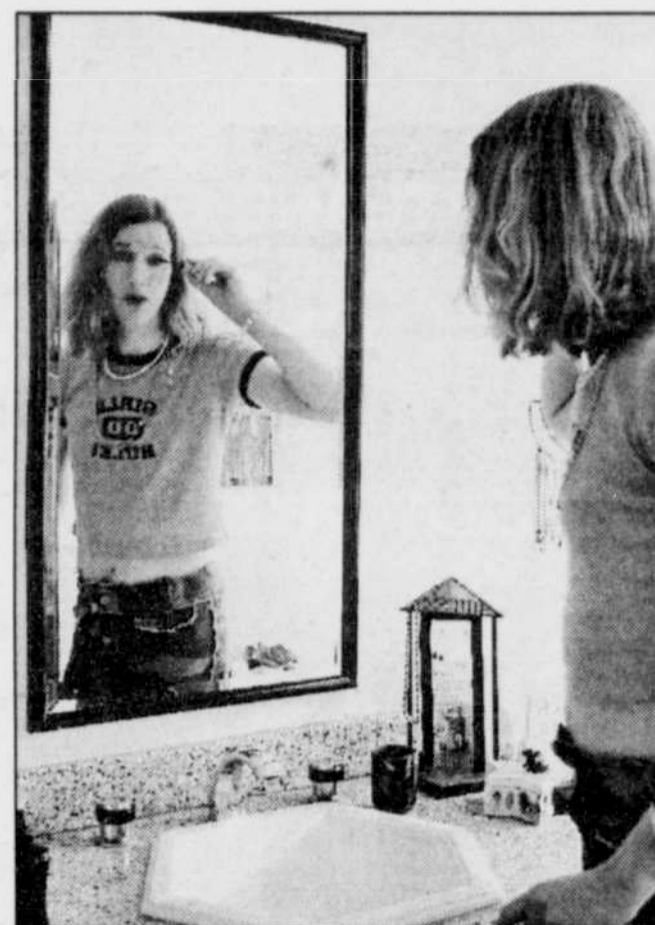
Sex writers do not live on readings alone, so the next day we all will pile into the Darklady mobile and head over to Crimson Phoenix Bookstore to participate in a Sex

Writers Q & A Panel. With luck, people will bring some really interesting questions for us to puzzle over and discuss—perhaps allowing us to look profound while answering.

Anders also will take some time to discuss his book because cross-dressing is pretty absorbing, frankly, and he's easy on both the eyes and the ears. He'll walk the audience through the process of deciding what their various looks should be and how to go about achieving them.

Because, much like the Bedouin, a sex writer's life is always intense, we'll relax from our evening of reading and afternoon of good-natured pontificating with a Saturday night Darklady "Meet the Sex Writers" Parlor Party. Those seeking a sexy and affordable alternative to the Fetish Masquerade Ball can mingle with their favorite scribes in a pansexual and kink-friendly potluck environment.

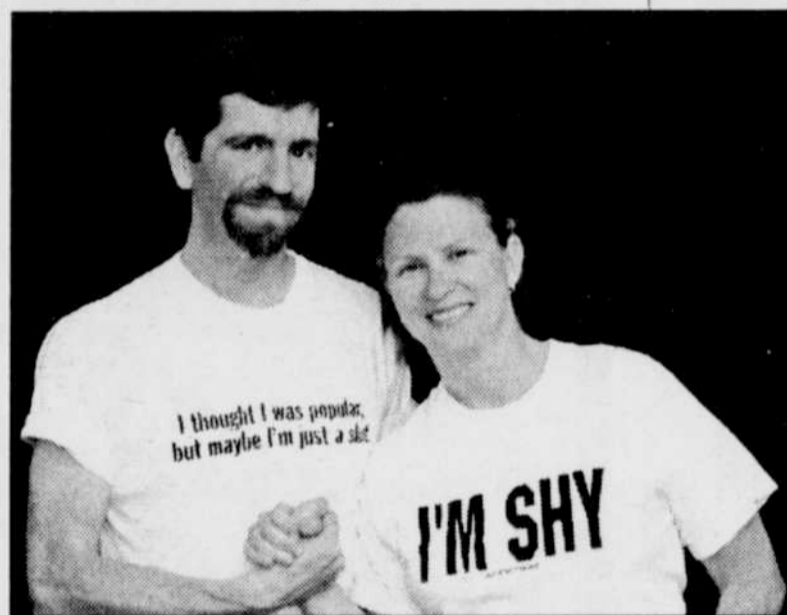
More daring women even might want to check out the remote-controlled Thrill Hammer Orgazmatron visiting from Seattle. Let's just say this creative little sex toy requires its user to recline comfortably in a large padded chair while it does all of the hard work—with the voyeuristic assistance of one's lover. Come prepared for just about



Let Charles Anders help you get ready

anything, because that's usually what happens. Meanwhile, I await the arrival of my new king-size bed with barely restrained excitement. Oh, the stories that inanimate object could tell. ■

EROTICA readings featuring Darklady and her friends start 7:30 p.m. Feb. 8 at Powell's Books, 1005 W. Burnside St. Some of the subject matter might not be suitable for people younger than 18. The SEX WRITERS Q & A PANEL is 2 p.m. Feb. 9 at Crimson Phoenix Bookstore, 3514 N.E. 57th Ave. For details call 503-228-0129. DARKLADY'S PARLOR PARTY runs from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. Feb. 9. E-mail darklady@darklady.com for location and further information.



Writers Bill Brent and Carol Queen are not shy

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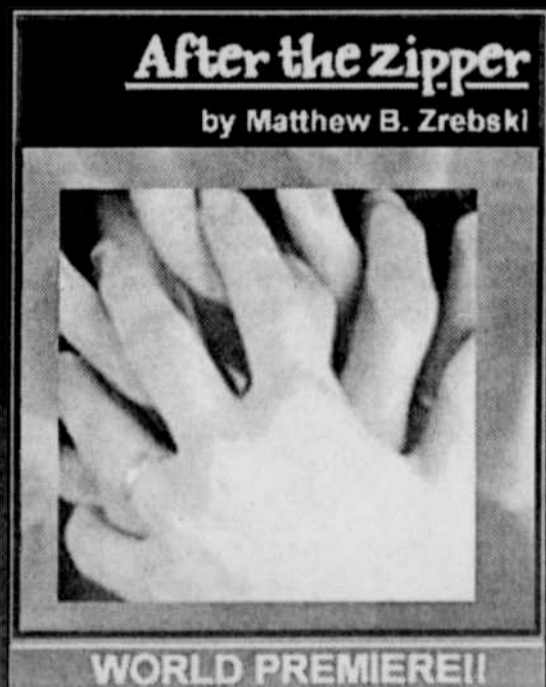
Dorothy A. Hirsch's WHERE'S TOTO? February 9 & 16

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