

PORTLAND GAY MEN'S CHORUS

presents

Classical Voices



Sunday, February 24, 2002 @ 2 p.m.

The Old Church (SW 11th Ave. and SW Clay)

Ticket Prices: \$15 General Admission

Including a post concert reception sponsored by 3 Doors Down.

and

Vintage Voices

World Premiere

An original work honoring the elders from our community. Featuring music, dance and style from the 20's, 30's and 40's.



Saturday, March 24, 2002 @ 8 p.m. and
Sunday, March 24, 2002 @ 2 p.m.

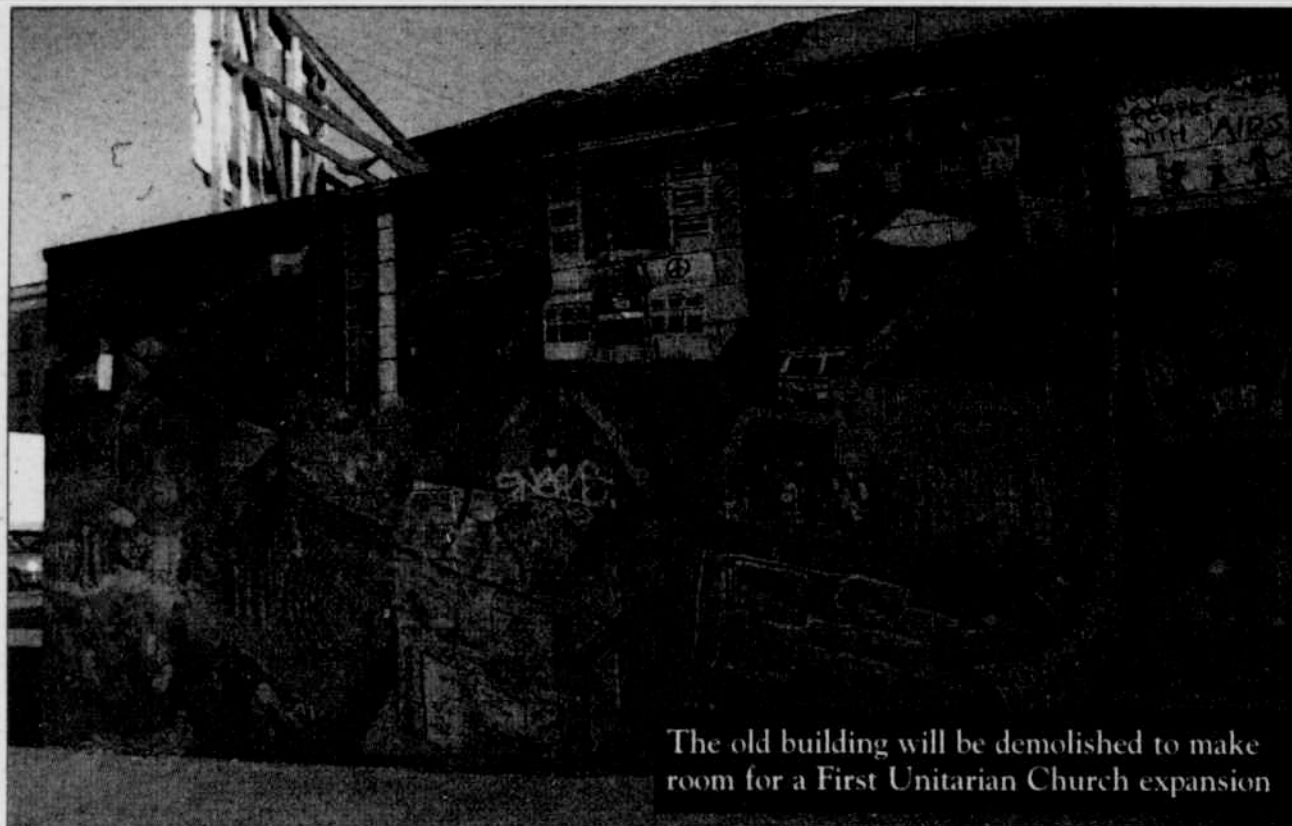
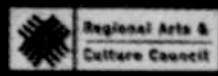
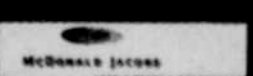
Kaul Auditorium, Reed College

Ticket Prices: \$20 \$15 \$12

To Purchase Tickets Contact:

PGMC @ 503-226-2588 or

Online @ www.pdxgmc.org



The old building will be demolished to make room for a First Unitarian Church expansion

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controversial when Oliver first started it in 1989, it now receives some of its funding from the city of Portland—not under a public health banner but rather with public safety funds, as a way to keep the sharps off the streets and out of the garbage.

Last year, Outside In exchanged 285,684 needles and disposed of almost 300,000. The program received 11,578 client visits, nearly three-quarters of whom were men. About 88 percent were white, and the largest portion (37 percent) were 21 to 30 years old.

The program, available to anyone 18 or older, is anonymous, confidential, free and without obligation or judgment. The exchange happens in a private room, one on one with a staff member, so individuals can receive counseling, safer-sex information and supplies, anonymous HIV testing and drug treatment referrals.

The most recent development is a syringe exchange for transsexuals who inject hormones. The organization also is exploring a program for mobile outreach that would operate in addition to its downtown and Northeast Portland sites.

Outside In believes peer education is one of the most effective ways of reaching adolescents and young adults, and the risk education department's most popular program, Gorilla Theater, is its proof. Last year, 84 kids (nearly half queer or questioning) played a role in the performances created by kids for other kids, addressing in a safe environment the issues of street life, such as drug use, alcohol abuse and prostitution.

Previously, presentations were scheduled at a church; now, Gorilla Theater can per-

form at a large performance hall in the new building's basement. The space will double as a conference room for the organization's board of directors, marking the first time the agency's leaders can meet on its premises.

Another youth-led outreach program is Streetwise, in which peers work with staff and adult volunteers on the streets of downtown Portland, primarily in the Burnside Triangle area. They provide education and survival supplies to other young people who might be at risk for HIV infection.

Of the 36 Streetwise kids who hit the pavement during 2000-2001, more than half identified as sexual minorities, including three who were trans. The program targets young people

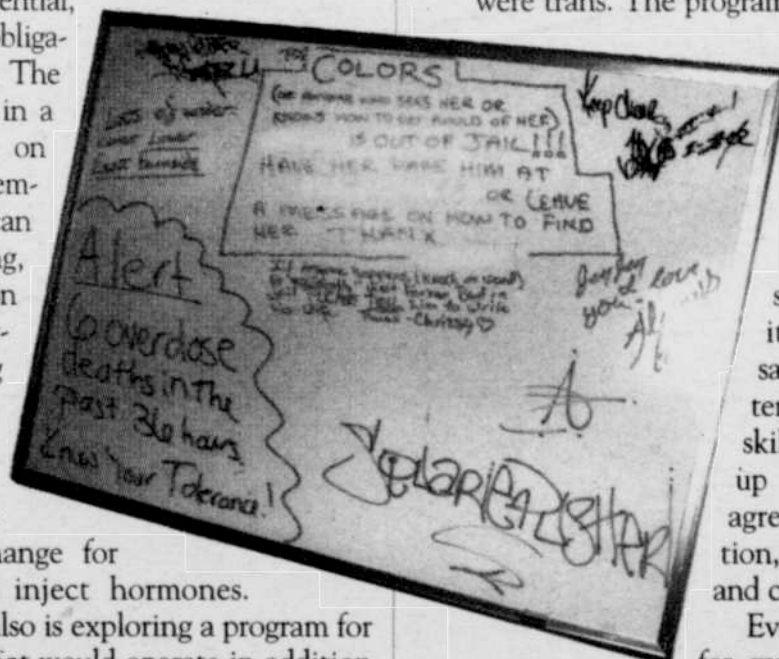
involved in the sex industry and those who are unlikely to hear AIDS prevention information in a traditional setting. Aside from its important message, Streetwise fosters basic vocational skills, such as showing up on time, keeping agreements, cooperation, anger management and conflict resolution.

Even more specifically for gay, lesbian, bi, trans and questioning youth, however, is VOICES, which stands for Voices of Individual and Community Empowerment from the Streets. More than 30 kids meet weekly to take part in activities providing mutual peer support and a sense of community through acceptance and creativity. For example, the group recently explored issues important to trans youth.

WHERE (and why) QUEER KIDS feel at home

Oliver has seen a lot of other changes during the 22 years she has been associated with Outside In. When it was founded in 1968, for instance, hippies figured high among clients. Not long ago, gang-related groups were common.

Although client demographics have varied through the years, Oliver notes the core causes of homelessness among Portland's youth have not



Outside In provides a safe environment for street youth