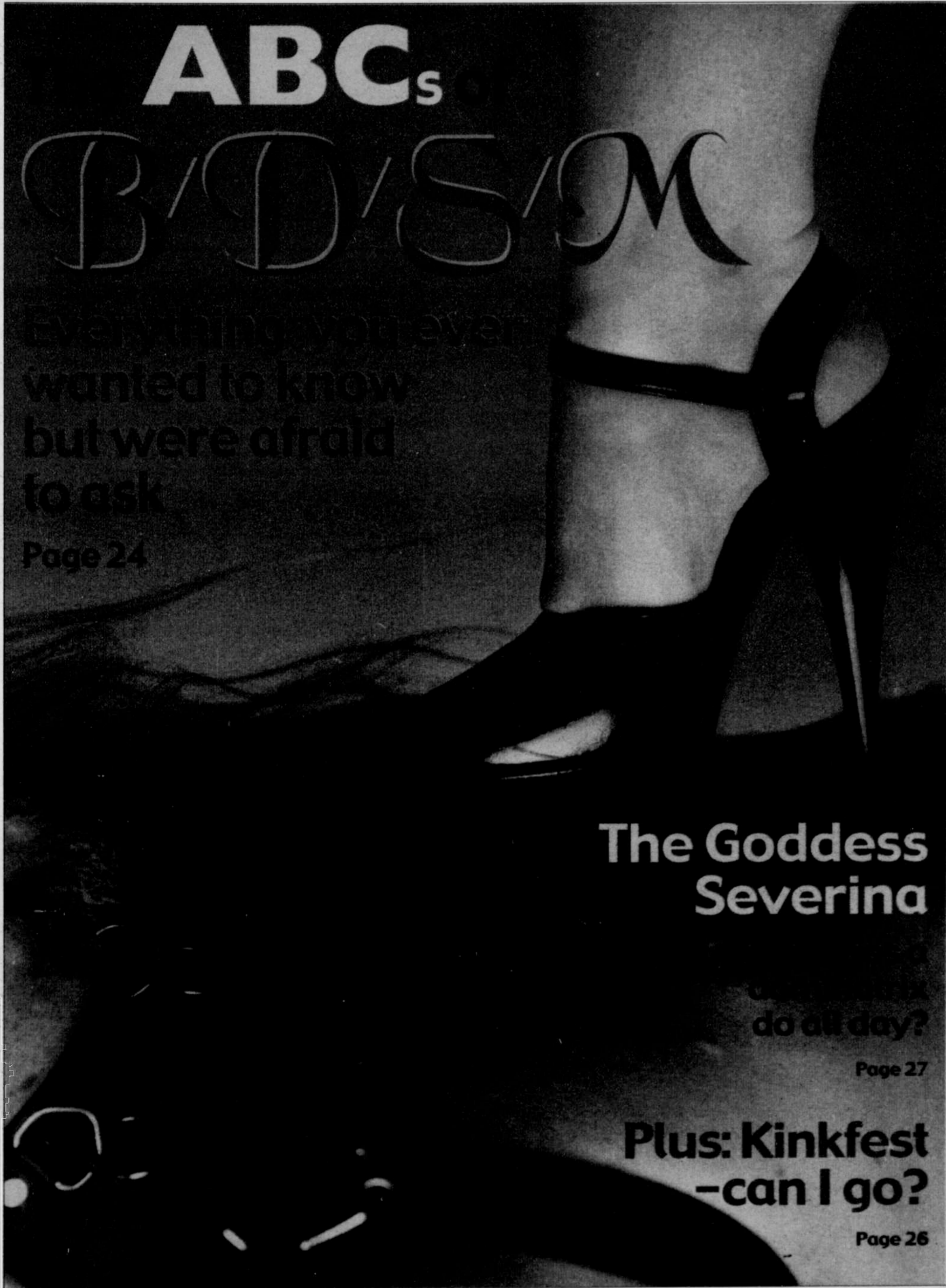




Pretty pictures
Loads of pretty (queer) boys
and girls at a theater near you
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Portland, Oregon **FREE**



ABCs

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Everything you've
wanted to know
but were afraid
to ask

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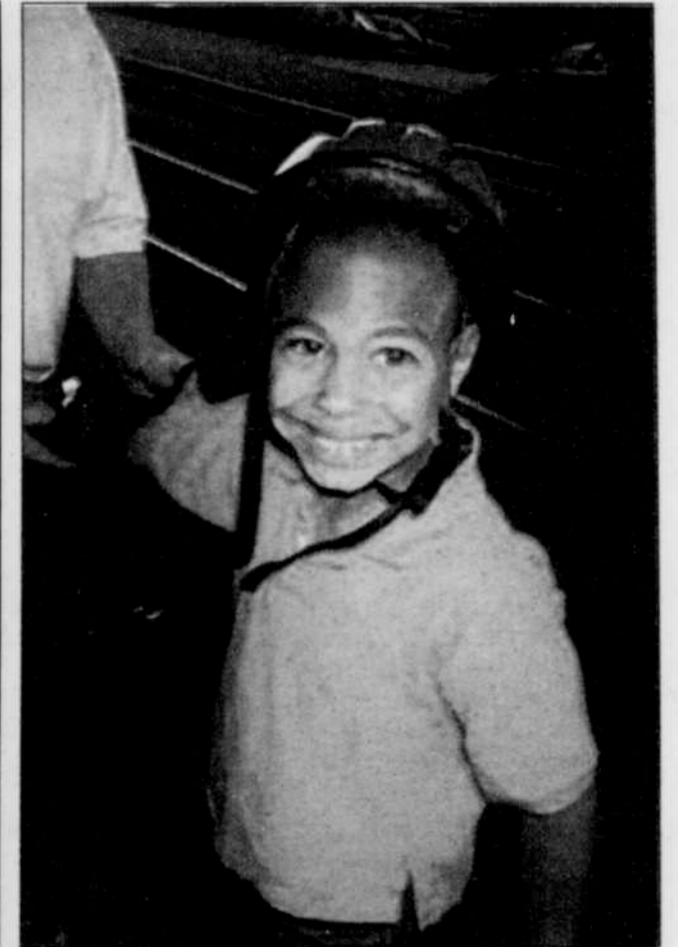
The Goddess Severina

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Bert

Family ties

Portlanders inspire
Rosie O'Donnell
to come out of the closet

BY JIM RADOSTA

There are two men who have had a kid for 10 years. They are a couple, they won Foster Parents of the Year in Florida, and the child that they have raised since he was 8 days old is about to be taken from their family by the state of Florida."

With that simple statement, talk show host Rosie O'Donnell kicked off an education campaign March 11 to overturn Florida's ban on gay adoption. She also came out as a lesbian during a March 14 interview with Diane Sawyer, explaining how the law prevented her from adopting a foster daughter.

The men who inspired her final step out of the closet are Portlanders Steve Lofton and Roger Croteau, one of three families represented by the American Civil Liberties Union in a landmark case that will test the ban's constitutionality. "There are over 3,000 kids today waiting to be adopted [in Florida, but the state] is considering taking away this boy from a family he already has," O'Donnell told her viewers.

Lofton, whose family also was interviewed by Sawyer, told *Just Out* the end result will be extremely positive. He thinks the lawsuit, regardless of its outcome, will promote the plight of gay adoption to people who otherwise wouldn't give the issue any thought.

"It's long overdue," he says. "A lot of people—this whole Rosie audience in middle America—hasn't got a clue of what the laws are."

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