

DIVERSIONS

Thank the lord they hired a professional

Vancouver, Wash., gay theater great Rick Lewis has been hired by the Portland Spirit dinner boat company as entertainment director.

Lewis is the creator of the critically acclaimed off-Broadway musical *The Taffetas*. His subsequent hits include *The Cardigans*, *A Cardigan Christmas*, *Have a Nice Day!* and *A Taffeta Christmas*.

"We are thrilled to have Rick join us," says Dan Yates, president of American Waterways, which owns and operates the Portland Spirit. "With his musical talent and experience, our onboard entertainment will be taken to the next level."

Anyone who has been witness to the boat's entertainment knows this will be a heck of a welcome change.



Clockwise from left, Rose Empress XLIV Poison Waters, Rose Empress XV Darcelle, Laurel Hurst and Rose Emperor XX Babalou received the Oregon Bears' Presidents Award

Bear hugs for drag queens (and king)

The Oregon Bears presented its Presidents Award to four Portlanders on May 18.

The annual honor for outstanding community contributors went to Rose Empress XLIV Poison Marie Waters, Rose Empress XV Darcelle, Rose Emperor XX Babalou and Laurel Hurst. All four received special recognition for their work on the Teddy Bear Drive last November, the proceeds of which went to the Friends of People with AIDS Foundation. It was the highest single-night fund-raiser in the Oregon Bears' seven-year history.

"These four individuals not only keep the sparkle in Portland," club president Doug Watson says, "but their ongoing and consistent contributions to the GLBT community have shown what tremendous dedication and heart they have for helping others."

Other honors of the evening included Board Service and Founders Awards. All previous volunteer board members were acknowledged for the work that has made the Oregon Bears one of the state's largest gay organizations. Bears Steve Leaming and Patrick Spike received Founders Awards for their continuous involvement and long-standing contributions.

"What a great group of guys," exclaims Poison Waters. "All having fun and doing great things in our community."

Rub shoulders with Spanbauer

Tom Spanbauer, famed gay author of *The Man Who Fell in Love with the Moon* and *In the City of Shy Hunters*, will be one of the instructors at Portland State University's 33rd annual Haystack Summer Program in the Arts July 12 to Aug. 9 in Cannon Beach.

Weeklong and weekend classes include writing, visual arts and music workshops. There's also a children's book conference, readings, concerts, lectures and other special events. University credit is available for most of the classes.

Haystack is known for its rich and varied writing program. Other instructors this year include Karen Joy Fowler, Ursula LeGuin, Molly Gloss, Sandra Scofield and Sallie Tisdale.

"I'm excited to be working with such a strong collection of talented instructors," program coordinator Elizabeth Snyder says. "This group is the cream of the crop."

For more information or to register, contact Snyder at 503-725-4186 or snydere@pdx.edu. Visit the Internet site at www.haystack.pdx.edu.

Queer kids need to camp, too

Seattle's Camp Ten Trees, the first and only overnight camp for gay, lesbian, bi, trans and questioning youth, is preparing for its second year Aug. 18 to 31 at Lake Wenatchee in central Washington. The first week is for

children 8 to 15 of queer families; the second week is for queer or questioning teen-agers 13 to 18.

Participants can expect the usual summer camp fare (you know, like in *Meatballs*): swimming, boating, archery, arts and crafts, drama (mostly for the boys), sports (mostly for the girls), hikes and camp songs. There's also a scavenger hunt planned as well as a dance party and a large bonfire.

However, also included is the kind of support you won't find at other camps. Facilitated age-appropriate discussions are planned on diversity, homophobia, trans issues, forming school support groups and other topics.

In 2001 the camp pulled in 34 kids from around the Northwest, but this year organizers expect that to double based on current registrations, which are coming from as far away as New York. Earlier this year, the Greater Seattle Business Association awarded its prestigious Nonprofit of the Year Award to Camp Ten Trees.

For more information or to register, call 206-568-6638 or visit www.camptentrees.org.

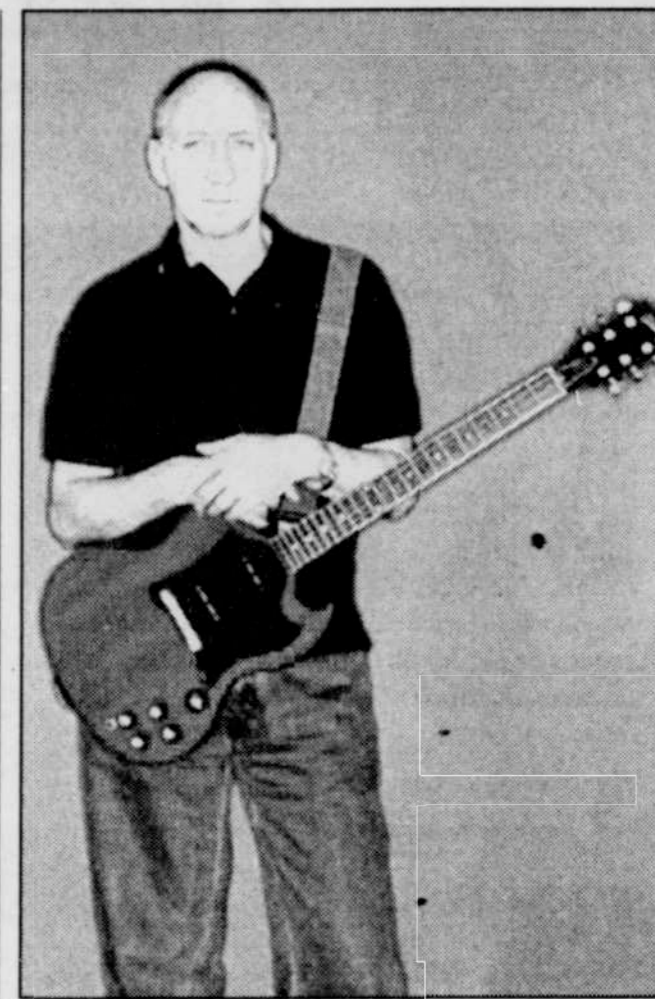
Be a recliner potato for Pride

Vancouver's Pride celebration, Saturday in the Park, has come up with a novel way to raise money for its July 13 event.

You buy a \$20 raffle ticket for an RCA 52-inch projection TV that comes with a leather recliner and ottoman. Sounds steep, right? Here's the good news: They're only selling 250 tickets.

They make \$5,000 with minimal effort; you have a 1 in 250 chance of winning something ultracool. (You also donate to a worthy organization, which you would have done anyway.)

Call Mike Audette at 360-936-1523 to




Bi rock god Pete Townshend is in the Gorge on July 6

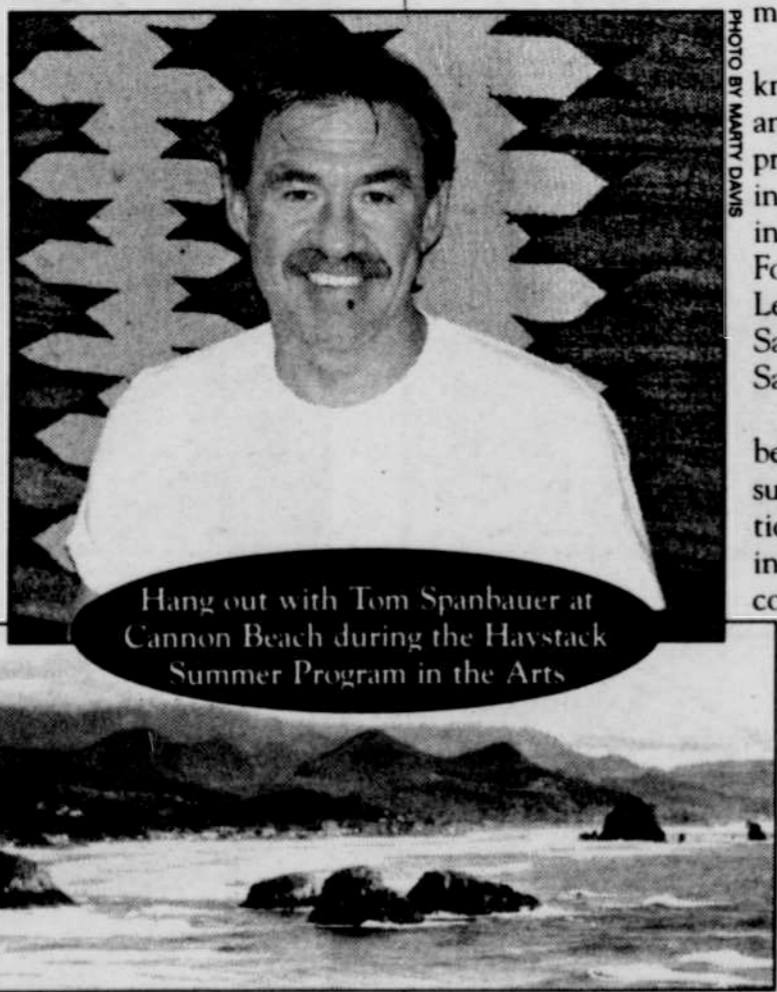
purchase tickets, or just send your \$20 to 8718 N.E. 77th Way, Vancouver, WA 98662, and the good folks of Saturday in the Park will keep your ticket stub on file.

Pete Townshend, that's who

The Who brings its 2002 tour to the Gorge Amphitheatre 7:30 p.m. July 6. Counting Crows open for the rock icons, who may ironically sing "My Generation" for a whole new generation.

Tickets, on sale now, are \$61.45 to \$108.70 (to match their ages, har har) from all Ticketmaster outlets, from 206-628-0888 or at www.hob.com/gorge. 

Compiled by LISA BRADSHAW



Hang out with Tom Spanbauer at Cannon Beach during the Haystack Summer Program in the Arts

PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS

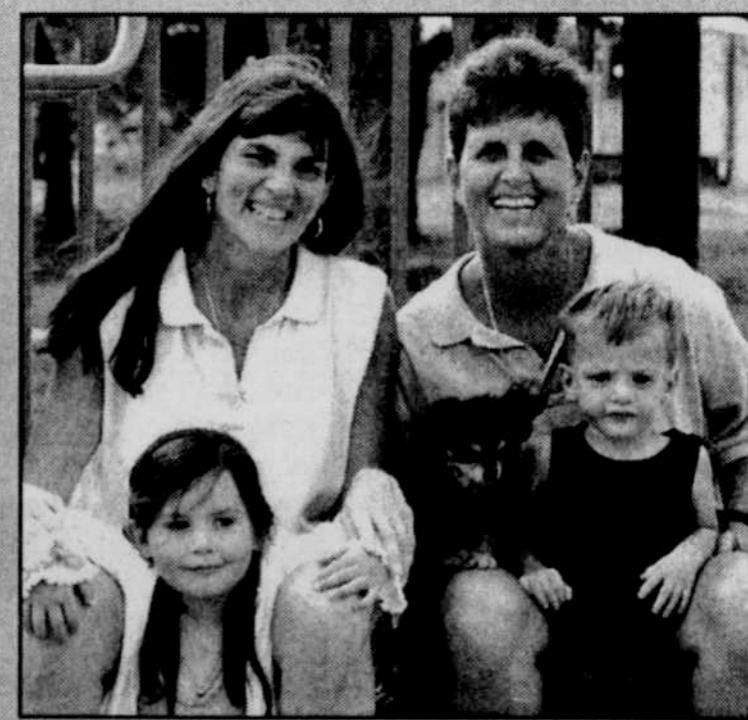
On the air

In a precursor to the much-ballyhooed gay television channel, Showtime has created a "gay programming block" for its Sho Too channel, which, according to the Viacom company, "is part of the Showtime Unlimited® package." (Who would have thought it would be this complicated to see queers on TV?)

Dubbed *Night Out on Sho Too*, the four-hour block of programming will be hosted by several gay personalities, including New York performance artist Tammy Faye Starlite and the theater company Five Lesbian Brothers. "Gay cinema" will kick off each week followed by *Queer Duck* and *Queer as Folk*. Question: Is this different from what we get now?

The queer newsmagazine *In the Life* celebrates its 10th anniversary with a special edition airing 11 p.m. June 10 on PBS. In a retrospective, the award-winning show looks at its own progress in developing the only nationally televised series that documents the culture and concerns of the gay, lesbian, bi and trans community.

Other episode highlights: interviews with



In the Life talks to couples fighting Florida's ban on gay adoption

couples who are fighting Florida's ban against gay adoption now that Rosie O'Donnell is leading the fight to dismantle this 25-year-old law; a conversation with legendary Broadway lyricist and composer Jerry Herman, who created *Mame*, *Hello, Dolly!* and *La Cage Aux Folles*; an inside look at *Vibe*, the urban culture and hip-hop music magazine; and a few quick comments from Tony Award winner Harvey Fierstein about whether "heterosexuals are really obsolete, after all."

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