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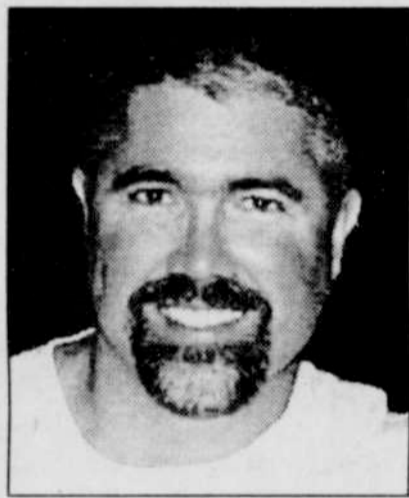
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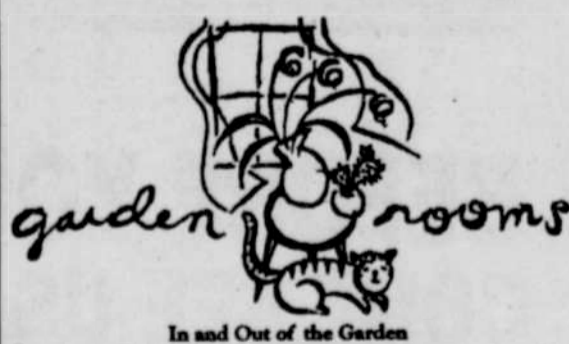
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NORTHWEST news

WILD BOYS

Hop into your fast Cadillac and check out these gay-owned businesses

This "Queer Profit" column is brought to you today by Tigard Fastsigns, owned by gay boys extraordinaire Marc Acito and Floyd Sklaver. They always are winning awards and accolades and trips to exotic places, all because of their diligence in running the best damn Fastsigns franchise on this and several other planets.

THE QUEER PROFIT

by
Marty Davis

And if you gazed with wonder and awe at the brilliant purple magnetic shiny signs on the *Just Out* car in the Pride Parade, well, hey, Marc and Floyd will make you your very own signs. Honest, they will. Then you, too, can be all ready in case a parade suddenly pops up near you.

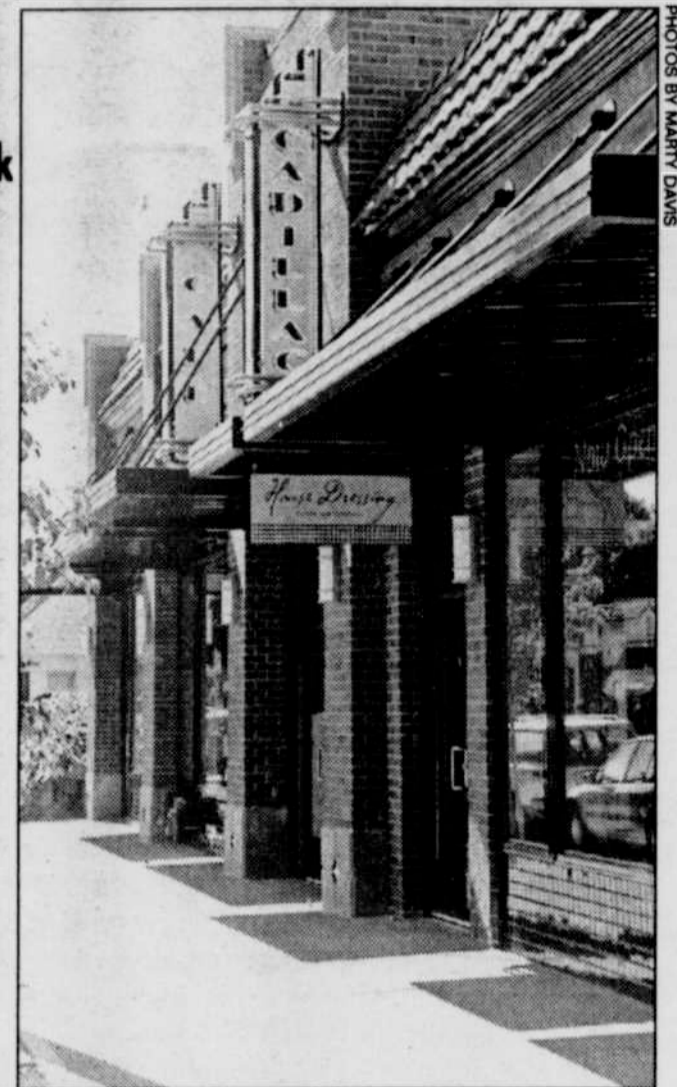
Seekers of truth and beauty in omelets and burgers need not panic when they arrive at the Cadillac Cafe only to discover it is missing. It's all going to be OK. The venerable purveyor of gourmand fare has moved up Broadway and is reopening June 25 in its brand new location at 1801 N.E. Broadway. More space, same great food, same swell owners.

Now if some hot patio action is what's calling your name, you need to head on over to Southeast Belmont Street and check out the Wild Abandon Restaurant & the Red Velvet Lounge. Michael Cox has redecorated his charming space and now offers something for everyone and every taste.

Sun lovers get to enjoy the petite patio, while those desiring cool, dark and sensual confines can treat themselves to the lush interior of the intimate cafe. When Cox first dreamed up the Red Velvet Lounge concept he envisioned a curtain in the middle of the cafe, meant to divide off the back portion of the room as the lounge. He soon realized, however, that "in reality the Red Velvet Lounge is not a space in the physical universe, it is a state of mind." As such, the curtain stays furred, and the room remains open and inviting.

The menu has been changed and now offers a selection of more casual fare. In addition to old favorites, now there's something for those who have to pass through more quickly. So whatever your time constraints, visit Wild Abandon soon.

Keeping with the "wild" theme, I'd like to invite you to stop by the only retail store in



New location, same food

town that makes me want to buy stuff. Wild Life, on upper Hawthorne, has the most appealing selection of gifts and unique merchandise that I've seen in a long time.

I am not a shopper. If I could get my pets to exist on delivery pizza I probably never would go to a store again—except bookstores and Wild Life.

Wild Life has plates and bowls and dinnerware and furniture that absolutely make me long for a home cleaning service. I want my home to look like their store.

Wild Life has furniture including beautiful custom-upholstered chairs and sofas—and it's not even a large store at 1,300 square feet. The pieces they sell are simply there, comfortably and beautifully a part of the decor. The decor that I want.

Owners Steve Pickering and Larry Whitacre, real-life partners, have combined all the skills, knowledge and experience of their years in retail, marketing and art design and brought forth a dream of a concept in retailing mastery. Open now for eight months and enjoying its first summer in business, Wild Life is the place to go for summer entertaining delights. Gardeners also will find competitively priced decorative and functional items for outdoor and indoor use.

Wild Life is open seven days a week. Head on over, and prepare to be delighted. [J]

Business news with a queer bent should be reported to MARTY DAVIS at marty@justout.com.



Larry Whitacre (left) and Steve Pickering show off their funky merchandise (the bowls in the foreground are made by African women with HIV/AIDS)

PHOTOS BY MARTY DAVIS