

PHOTO BY MARY DAVIS

Steam Portland should be ready for action by next month

**FULL STEAM AHEAD**

Despite opposition from a few irate neighbors, a gay bathhouse is slated to open early in 2003 at Northeast 29th Avenue and Sandy Boulevard.

Steam Portland is positioning itself as a cleaner and classier alternative to the seedy scene found at many adult establishments. David Anderson, a co-partner in the venture, told *Just Out* that members will be provided with deluxe towels, a pair of pajama bottoms and flip-flops upon their arrival.

"What we're hoping to do is to create an upscale facility that really focuses on the membership aspect—that our customers are members, and they get treated specially," he said. "What

we're gonna try to do is to make it seem like a spa club and bring the whole event out of the closet."

Anderson, 49, hopes to bridge the generation gap that is keeping young gay men from checking out bathhouses.

"There was once six bathhouses in Portland," he said. "In the '80s, public health concerns really stifled the development of the concept of a bathhouse and also really limited the number of users. ... What we're trying to do is to completely update an old concept into something really new and fresh."

Like most bathhouses, Steam Portland will provide free condoms for members. Anderson also has assured the Multnomah County Health Department that his business will be professionally staffed with low turnover.

"We have two firm rules: No drugs and alcohol, no barebacking," he said. "Unsafe sex practices will not be tolerated by our staff."

However, not everybody is excited to have another adult business around. According to the *Hollywood Star*, one man gave Central Northeast Neighbors an earful during a recent board meeting.

"Once this goes in, the cancer spreads," Norm Stoll said. "San Francisco has become a sewer, but they outlawed places like this."

Anderson said those people are entitled to their opinions, however misguided.

"The only reason we ended up here was because of zoning. We had looked for almost a year for a building in a different part of the city," he said. "It's ironclad: You cannot regulate business in Oregon by content."

Besides, Anderson added, the increase in foot traffic only will benefit area businesses such as Wendy's.

"We anticipate bringing a significant number of people into the neighborhood in off hours," he said. "That alone is going to enhance the security of the neighborhood."

Anderson also promises outdoor monitoring to ensure security and to scare off vandals. "The health and safety of our customers, the positive impact on the neighborhood and a living wage for our staff are all responsibilities that we take very seriously."

For more information visit the Internet site [www.steamportland.com](http://www.steamportland.com).

**LIVELY RETURNS**

The former right-hand man to Oregon Citizens Alliance chairman Lon Mabon has reared his hateful head again.

Scott Lively, an attorney who now serves as

president of Abiding Faith Ministries in Sacramento, Calif., was in Ashland, Ky., last month to protest officials at Boyd County High for granting a seven-month-old request by students to start a Gay Straight Alliance. The school's teacher-parent council voted 3-2 Oct. 28 to let the club meet after rejecting its application several times.

In September, Boyd County High received a letter from the American Civil Liberties Union stating that barring the GSA violated the federal Equal Access Act. The law requires schools to treat all noncurricular clubs the same.

Ironically, the act was designed to ensure that religious student groups were not barred from campuses. However, it simultaneously requires schools to permit GSAs to meet as they would any other group.

More than 420 students—nearly half the student body—skipped classes Nov. 4 to express their objections to the club. As many as 100 of them, with the support of their parents, continued to stay home the next week. More than 1,000 people also attended a protest rally Nov. 10.

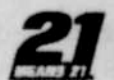
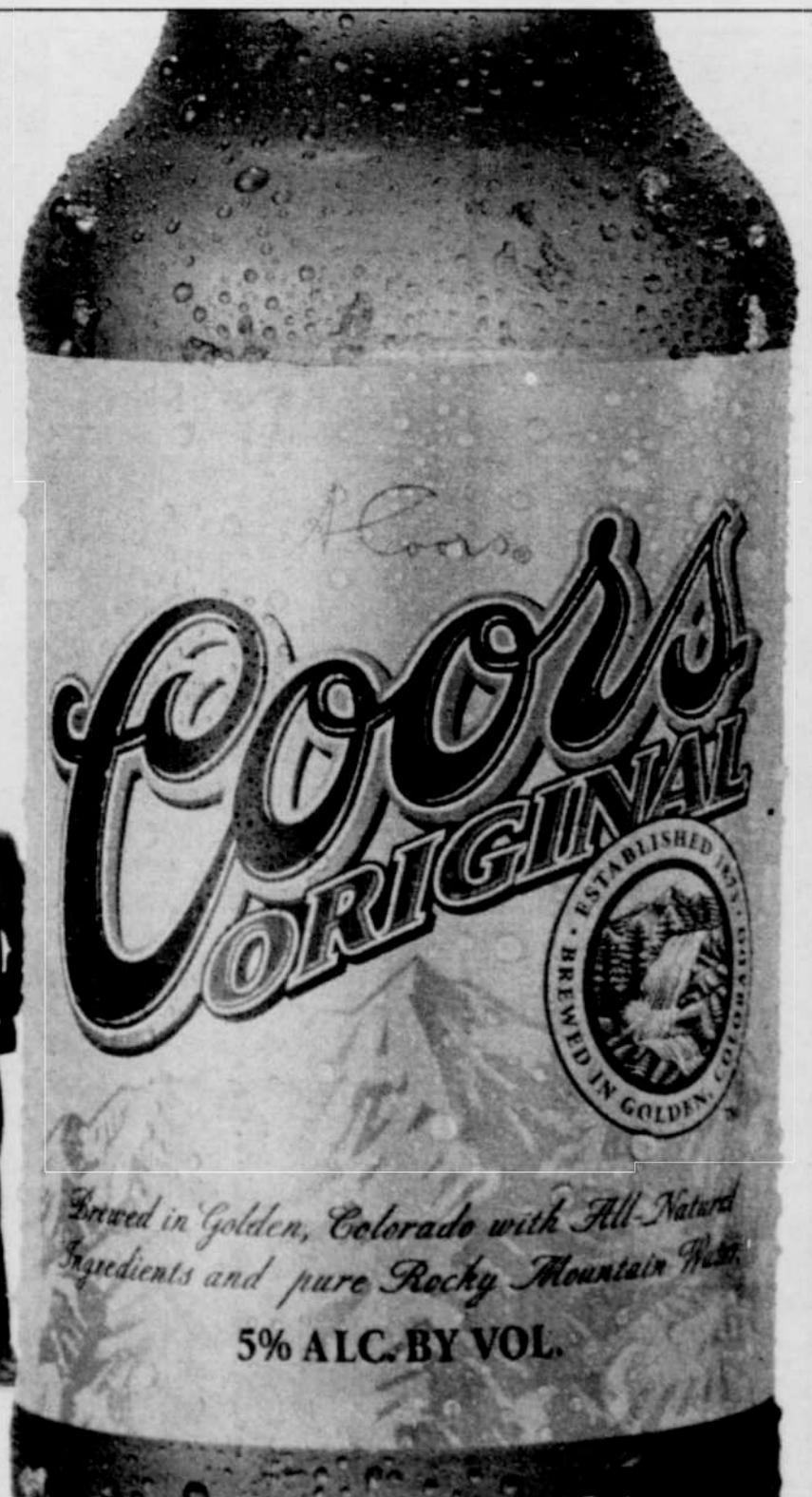
The demonstrations were spearheaded in part by Lively, who was brought in by the Boyd County Ministerial Association. According to the *Lexington Herald-Leader*, he hopes Boyd County will become a model for the rest of the nation by following his idea to develop a curriculum teaching tolerance for gay people while helping students "clearly understand why homosexuality and related alternative lifestyles are wrong and harmful."

"Most places where I fight this, the liberals are in charge," Lively said. "But I think they made a mistake by pushing this in this community."

Lively also wants to replace the GSA with Free Speech Clubs. He envisions students

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