

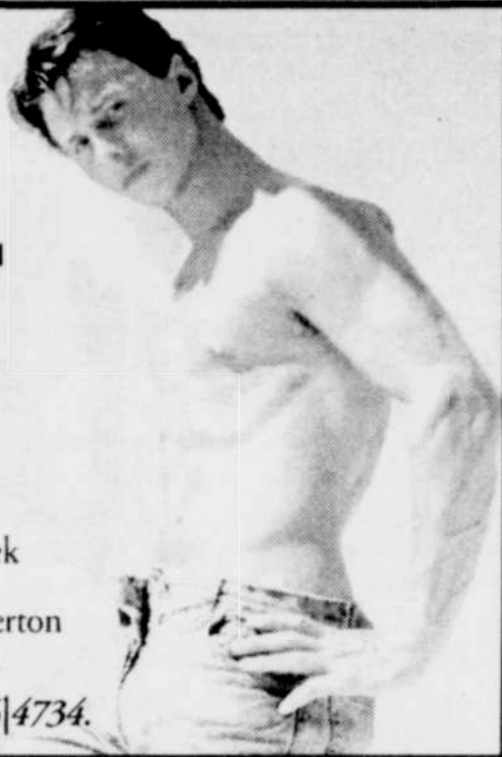
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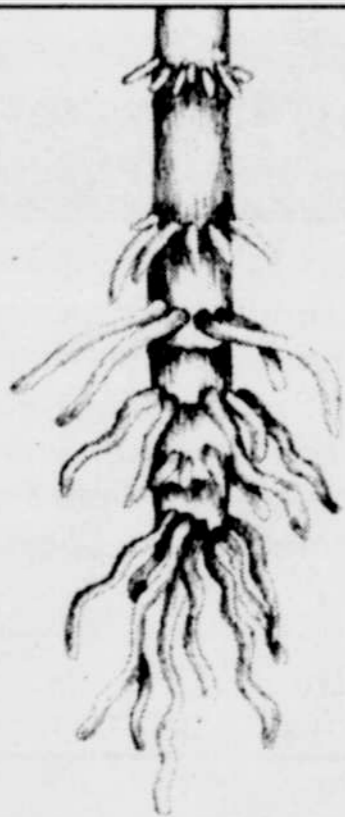
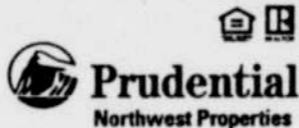
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NORTHWEST newsbriefs



Empress XLV Chloe Stone and Emperor XXIX Josef A. Foxx reign supreme June 15 at Portland Pride 2003

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PETITION TO DETHRONE COURT QUEEN RULED OUT OF ORDER

In a brief special meeting June 12 at Commodore Grill, directors of the Imperial Sovereign Rose Court voted unanimously to reject a petition seeking to strip Chloe Stone of her title as reigning Rose Empress XLV.

Bearing 78 signatures, the petition surfaced at a regular board meeting three days prior. The document alleged misconduct at an early May court event in Vancouver, Wash., stating that Stone "embarrassed and brought shame to this wonderful and giving city of ours, with words, derogatory slurs and inappropriate actions." Observers say the altercation grew out of personal conflict among Stone, Empress XLIV Poison Waters and Ricky Foxx. Animosity reportedly escalated from a spurned-lover cat fight to harassment, taunting and alleged racial slurs, culminating in a physical scuffle.

Some 50 ISRC members—including Stone, but neither Waters nor Foxx—attended the special meeting, in which president Gary Benoit announced that board members had met earlier that day with Portland attorney Lake Perriguy.

Perriguy advised that the petition was deficient because signatures and residency requirements couldn't be verified. It also requested Stone's resignation rather than action by the board. Perriguy said the board was not compelled to consider the question of removal by the document it received but may move to con-

sider such action. With little discussion, it voted unanimously not to accept the petition.

Benoit then addressed an unresolved issue of a public apology from Stone. The board previously had requested that she and Foxx offer apologies at a June 9 court meeting, but only Foxx appeared.

Benoit clarified that Stone had notified the board that she was sick and offered a physician's note and written apology. He also noted the attorney's advice that the organization could discipline only within the powers of the board (i.e., removal for good cause, including failure to fulfill responsibilities or behavior seriously damaging the ISRC) and not compel any monarch to apologize.

However, to put her statement on the record, Stone read her apology aloud: "I would like you to know that I have issued an apology to the court of Vancouver, on my behalf, for the events that can only be described as unfortunate. To you, my court, I offer the same. I am hoping that we can now put to rest any further discussion or gossip on the matter and focus on healing and the charity that this organization is so very capable of doing."

Following applause from about half the audience, one member asked to address the board. Benoit, however, rejected further discussion and adjourned the meeting, stating that without further agenda items, he wouldn't allow a "he said, she said" battle.

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