

speak out

just asking Now that Portland bars are offering a queer night almost every day of the week, tell us which one is your favorite. Why do you feel that way?

I wanted to give recognition to Holocene as my favorite club in Portland. My friends and I appreciate the idea that you can hang out at Holocene and not go home smelling like an ash-tray. Holocene is SMOKE FREE and is very supportive to many queer events such as Tart, Diva and DK PDX. Holocene also hosts Atlas featuring DJs Anjali and the Incredible Kid. This dynamic duo play the latest in fierce Bhangra and Bollywood beats that have a substantial following in the queer community.

MARYANNE "JOHNNY MOZZARELLA" CASSERA
Portland

next issue What do you think about the new parade route for Portland Pride 2004? Is it a necessary change to improve traffic flow, or will you feel ghettoized because we won't be marching through the middle of the city? (Please see related item on Page 9.) Respond at www.justout.com. (Don't forget to include your name, city and daytime telephone number.)

sexual" or "homoerotic" aspects of these photos with disgust, as have many of our elected leaders.

They are avoiding or simply do not recognize the true purpose of the treatment of prisoners in this way. These photos are pornographic. They are sexually humiliating and degrading.

In fumbling around trying to elucidate the "reason" that prisoners have been treated this way (we don't treat men this way, do we?) our newscasters and leaders have labeled the abuse "homosexual." It is not. It is sexual humiliation. Period.

FLORA M. RAMEY
Portland

Terms of endearment

TO THE EDITOR:

I feel praise is in order for the Eric Plemons article "Transitional Terms: What the T Has to Do with GLB" [May 7]. There is much cultural capacity building that needs to be done around trans/gender issues, and your article is a positive contribution to this effort. As a member of Basic Rights Oregon's Trans Advocacy Group, and a trans activist in general, I greatly appreciate the respect given to our group and the sensitivity with which individuals' concepts and identities were treated.

Much of the work that needs to be done is within our own queer communities, and Eric's article helps introduce some of the issues at hand. In addition to a lack of sensitivity within many queer social circles, there is a great deal of resistance from certain organizations (like, sadly, the Human Rights Campaign, which doesn't yet see us as human beings deserving of rights), and I feel education and visibility are key in effecting change and building alliances.

As trans people, we share much of the same history, stigma, pride and struggle as gays, lesbian,

bisexuals and others (and, of course, many trans folk are queer-identified). In addition to the suffering caused by heterosexism and violence motivated by the perception of "nontraditional" gender expressions, one major commonality has been the impact of the AIDS pandemic. The trans/gender communities are one of the most underserved in the areas of HIV/STI education and prevention and can face many unique health issues (lack of knowledge about the dangers of sharing hormone needles, higher risk of HIV/STI contraction from continual tucking, identity and acceptance issues that lead to high-risk sexual behavior, a lack of trans-sensitive/"T-friendly" primary care).

This is one reason why it is also important for me to let you and your readers know that Outside In has just opened a Trans Resource Centre at 1030 S.W. 13th Ave. Outside In hired me, with an impressive team of staff and community support, to develop this center as a resource for addressing some of the unique health and social issues that trans people face.

The center houses the ID Project (which facilitates name change and sex designation on state identifications), free needle exchange for trans folk using injection hormones, Internet resources, peer support and referrals to competent therapists and endocrinologists. Walk-in hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday. (See community listings in *Just Out* for more details.)

I anticipate that Plemons' article will set a precedent for more coverage of the trans/gender movement and increase the active role the media can serve for education, visibility and community exchange.

Thank you for printing this important article and for serving as an ally to the trans/gender communities. I look forward to our future.

LLEWYN MAIRE MCCOBB
Outside In



WHETHER YOU'RE STARTING A FAMILY OR CREATING ONE AS YOU GO.



We invite your family to join ours. From now until December 31, 2004 when you buy or lease any new Volvo, we will donate \$500 to HRC.* To learn more about this special offer call 1-800-852-7782. It's our way of letting you know, we care for the people you care about.

*All donations must be accompanied by an official HRC/Volvo coupon and lease or purchase agreement. ©2003 Volvo Cars of North America, LLC. volvocars.com

VOLVO
for life

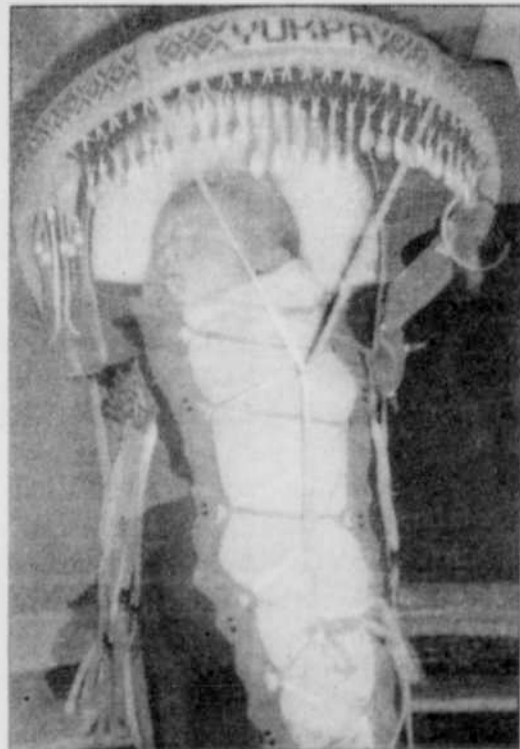
JIM FISHER VOLVO

21st & W. Burnside, Portland
503.295.5571
www.jimfishervolvo.com

HERZOG-MEIER VOLVO

139th & Canyon Rd., Beaverton
503.644.9121
www.herzogmeier.com

notables



Yukpa Sophie Mae Wright was born to parents Amanda Wright and Becky Yarnall-Wright at 5:53 a.m. April 16. She weighed 8 pounds, 7.2 ounces and was 21 inches long. The couple would like to thank their family, friends and midwives Laura, Kelli and Sarah for all of their love and support.

