



BB2

"Fun Gifts
for fun
people"

503.228.9166
2047 East Burnside
PDX. 97214



just out

NOW OPEN
24 HRS

Visit our Web site at
www.justout.com

- Write a Just Friends Voice Personal ad
- Send in classified ads
- Letters to the editor
- Transitions and notables
- Order a subscription
- E-mail Just Out staff
- Locate our distribution points

Coventry Cycle Works



Professional Service
Comfortable Bikes
Recumbents a Specialty!
(COME SEE WHY!)

Open Tuesday-Sunday
230-7723
2025 SE Hawthorne



Oregon Camera
Everything Photographic

We have a knowledgeable,
friendly staff helping you find
the right camera, binoculars,
or photographic accessories.

A 'family' owned and operated
business since 1997.

582 SW Adams Avenue
Corvallis, OR 97333

(541) 753-2653
www.oregoncamera.com

DIVERSIONS



Suzy La Follette (left), Andrea Gibson (center) and Excuse Me Sir are making noise to support In Other Words Women's Books and Resources, America's only nonprofit feminist bookstore

Siren's Iris makes Rose City debut

Take two queer/radical/feminist performance artists/poets and combine their energy, and you just might be blown over from their force.

Andrea Gibson and Suzy La Follette, both champion slam poets, have combined their prose and their politics and are heading out on the road to bring their firestorm free verse to Portland in support of *In Other Words*.

Gibson, a 29-year-old from Boulder, Colo., and La Follette, a 25-year-old from Austin, Texas, met at a poetry slam in Arizona and became fast fans of each other's work. They've teamed up and formed *Siren's Iris* as a way to collaborate on some pieces and take their combined messages on the road.

La Follette says audiences should expect an entertaining evening of hard-hitting poetry. But not too hard. "With the dual poetry pieces, our voices meld into a beautiful harmony," she says.

Although some of their poems are overtly political, Gibson assures they will not preach. "If you're preaching, people can't hear what you have to say."

While they may rant about all the stuff that's wrong in the world, they make sure to include a healthy dose of hope and, of course, love. "Love poems can save the world," Gibson says. "Our relationships with people are metaphors for our relationships with the world."

La Follette says performance art has the ability to change hearts and minds. "People have said I've changed them on stage. That's something this show can do."

Gibson says the difference between a *Siren's Iris* show and a traditional poetry reading is all in the delivery. "A lot of time when I'm connected with an audience, I feel they're speaking half for me. It's almost like they're pulling it out of me."

Portland performer Marie Fleischmann will kick off the free reading, which will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Feb. 3 at 3734 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd.

Come to help pull the poetry out. Come to support women's art. Come to see La Follette perform "Suzy Strap-on." Or, as Gibson says, come because "we both have really cool hair."

If poetry isn't your thing, you can still support the independent feminist bookstore by attending the *Rock and Read* benefit from 7 to 10 p.m. Jan. 28 at Hip Chicks Do Wine, 4510 S.E. 23rd Ave. *In Other Words* will share proceeds from the door and 10 percent of beverage sales with the *Rock 'n' Roll Camp for Girls*.

The night of fun and frivolity features rockers Excuse Me Sir, bluegrass band Cocks in the Henhouse and gypsy punks Myshkin's Ruby Warblers; a cash bar pouring wine,

sangria, soda and Pabst Blue Ribbon; free munchies; and tables selling merchandise from the bookstore and the camp. Tickets are \$5-\$50 sliding scale from *In Other Words*.

—Kathy Belge

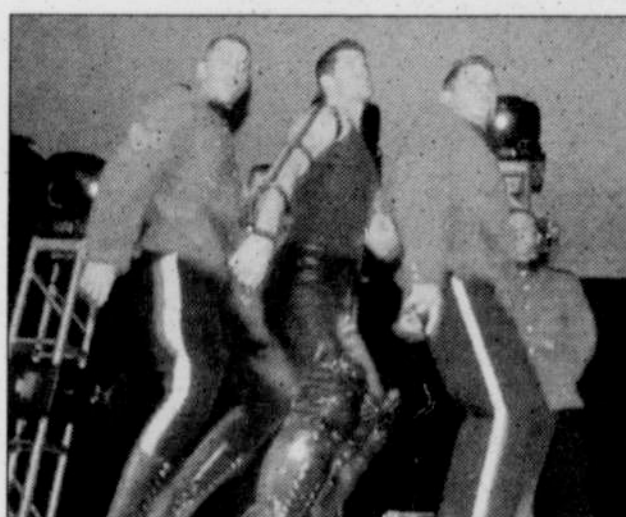
Out cold

Altitude, the largest international gay and lesbian ski and snowboard week, is right around the corner—and only seven hours away, if you're driving from Portland.

The 13th annual festival kicks off Jan. 29 in Vancouver, British Columbia, followed by outdoor adventure and indoor festivities from Jan. 30 to Feb. 7 in Whistler, one of North America's top ski destinations.

This year boasts an expanded lineup of popular features such as skiing and snowboarding, world-class dining, nonstop entertainment and special themed parties along with new stuff like fireside breakfasts and health and wellness options such as yoga and men's and women's wine and spa activities.

"Altitude 2005 is presenting 40 events this year compared to last year's 29, as we aim to meet a wide range of interests and continue to build this unique, world-class event," says Lee Bergeron, president of Out on the Slopes Productions. "The fact that Altitude...continues to grow in scope and profile pays tribute to the memory of the event's founder, the late Brent Benaschak."



Queer skiers party hard at the Altitude Snowball

Altitude gets warmed up Jan. 29 in Vancouver with the *Avalanche Party*, an action-packed event that brings out hundreds of local and international revelers to set the mood for the week. Festivities culminate Feb. 5 with *Snowball*, a legendary party that, we're told, is the apex of Altitude. Finally, the week wraps Feb. 6 with the *Recovery Party*.

For more information about the event, registration, accommodations, lift tickets, passes, travel and special air/hotel package deals, visit www.outontheslopes.com.

If you'd rather stick close to home, *Lesbians Enjoying Nature and Science* and the *Oregon Bears* are taking separate excursions to Mount Hood on Jan. 29. Will the LENS ladies cross paths with the furry creatures? You won't know unless you go. Details are on Page 25.

—Jim Radosta

Oh, Mary!

Wade McCollum, best known for *Drammy*-winning title performances in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* and *Bat Boy: The Musical*, returns this month to the Portland spotlight as a lesbian Victorian explorer in *Insight Out Theatre Collective's* comedy *On the Verge*.

But it's not about drag, he says.

It's about courage of three sister sojourners braving the unknown, crossing cultural boundaries without prejudice and, in so doing, fulfilling their deepest yearnings as they travel on a serendipitous safari across space and time to the 1950s. Along the way, they encounter slang, Cool Whip® and other curious pieces of cultural flotsam.

"The women in *On the Verge* defy many of the fundamental societal doctrines of their era," remarks McCollum. "They are well-educated, courageously exploring the unknown reaches of our world. They are intrepid souls who outgrow their era and have to move on. They machete through the constricting, corseted expectations of women in 1888, and in doing so travel through terra incognita to palaver with characters from the future."

Palaver? A discussion of differences between, say, three female Victorian anthropologists and a 1950s lounge lizard.

Director Tiffany Cole says: "These women experience this process in this totally outrageous way, and they embrace what they encounter with arms wide open. You never know—that different or unknown thing may be just the thing for you."

And, incidentally, how these three societal surveyors (McCollum and *Insight Out* co-founders Julianna Jaffe and Lindsay Lucas) measure themselves against the "natives" (played by chameleon Andy Lindburg) is the wit of yet another award-winning former Portlander, playwright Eric Overmyer.

As for that bit of cross-casting? Cole sees the choice as "more of an enlightenment into the character rather than a bit about a man dressing up as a woman. Mary is a really inspiring, modern human being, and a woman born at the wrong time. Overmyer liberated her to find a future where she can revel in her true nature."

On the Verge through Feb. 5 at West End Theater, 1220 S.W. Taylor St. Showtime is 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, along with