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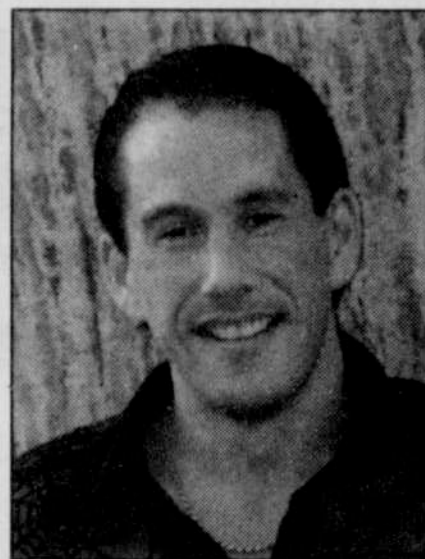
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DIVERSIONS



From left, Mark Hollywood, Don Hood and Alycia Day are vying for titles on the Imperial Sovereign Rose Court.

Courting votes

Two gay Portlanders are running for Imperial Sovereign Rose Court Emperor XXXII.

Mark Hollywood has been involved with the court system since 1988 and has helped raise thousands of dollars that have been given back to the community by ISRC. He held the titles of Mr. Gay Portland in 1995 and Mr. Gay Oregon in 1998 and once produced a cable access show. He also sits on the board of directors for Sweethearts of Portland, a nonprofit devoted to raising funds for other charitable organizations.

He is running on a platform seeking "unity within all the charities and organizations. We can all work together for the same cause, work with the youth, nurture and teach them."

Don Hood, who served in the U.S. Army for a decade, has lived in Portland for eight years and has been involved with ISRC for five years, serving on the board for a year. He was named Mr. Oregon State Leather in 1998, raising thousands of dollars for AIDS charities. He later served on the board of Blackout Leather Productions. A talented tailor, he makes custom leather, bear and Gay Pride shirts, clothing and leather accouterment.

His goal is "to bring together the three elements of our community: the drag, bear and leather communities. I would serve the community in whatever way that the community would have me to do."

Alycia Day is running unopposed for Rose Empress XLVII.

Voting takes place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 16 at Darcelle's, 208 N.W. Third Ave. All residents of Multnomah, Clackamas, Washington and Columbia counties who are 21 and older are eligible to cast ballots.

The new titleholders will be crowned 6 p.m. Oct. 22 during **Coronation 2005: Carnival from Rio to New Orleans** at Crystal Ballroom, 1332 W. Burnside St. Tickets are \$40.

For a complete list of related events, visit www.rosecourt.us.

—Jim Radosta

She talks to angels

As a child, **Kermie Wohlenhaus** had an angel collection, but she first observed an angel while in graduate school. When asked by a friend for help, Wohlenhaus prayed for guidance, looked up and saw an angel hovering over the friend.

Wohlenhaus already had a master's in divinity and was pursuing a Ph.D. in religion/metaphysics, writing her dissertation on angels. She took the experience as a sign, leading to her current work in angelology. She



Kermie Wohlenhaus

is also ordained with the Metropolitan Community Church and New Awareness Ministries.

After that first encounter, Wohlenhaus saw angels "everywhere, walking down the street, in malls...everywhere." Psychically gifted from childhood, she took a series of classes to become a certified clairvoyant. In this program, she learned techniques to manage her gift and to contain her vulnerability to psychic experiences.

She regularly does angel readings—putting people in touch with their angels—at Healing Waters & Sacred Spaces. The shop is next door to MCC Portland, where her spouse, the Rev. **Glenna Shepherd**, presides as senior pastor.

Because Wohlenhaus is a sensitive, she has learned to ground herself daily with a series of meditative exercises learned from the clairvoyance training. Clairsensient people are highly vulnerable to the emotions of those around them. Some drink or take tranquilizing drugs to lessen their vulnerability. Wohlenhaus extols the value of meditation and practices it regularly.

"I begin the cleansing process with my shower," she says, "and put my protection on, like a shield, from my clairvoyance. When I do angel readings, I pray for opening so the angels can speak to me about the client."

When she is finished with a day of angel readings, "If I go out to dinner, I sit with my back against the wall." She sees clairvoyance as a gift that must only be employed "to be of the highest or best service."

Wohlenhaus will discuss her cable access program, **Kermie & the Angels**, 7 p.m. Oct. 7 at MCC Portland, 2400 N.E. Broadway. Co-producer **Kimber Phillippo** and recent guests will greet attendees, present excerpts from the show and answer questions.

—Patricia L. MacAodha

Savage lovers

Never one to pretend the personal is separate from the political, **Dan Savage**, nationally syndicated "Savage Love" columnist and author of *The Kid and Skipping Towards Gomorrah*, chronicles the highways and byways, literally and metaphorically, of gay marriage in his latest memoir, *The Commitment: Love, Sex, Marriage and My Family*.

Savage is not too crazy about getting married, nor is Terry, his blond, blessed-buttocks, spendthrift housewife. Savage thinks marriage will jinx the relationship. Terry thinks marriage is "too straight."

To make matters worse, their usually adorable yet musically challenged adoptive son, D.J., is against the marriage as well. Confused by the mixed messages his peers and his peers' parents give him about love, sex, divorce, marriage and death, D.J. says he will not come if his dads get married. This may suit the likes of conservative columnist Kathleen Parker, televangelist Jerry Falwell and hard-right immoralist Gary Bauer, but it does not sit too well with

some people close to Savage, especially his very cool "mad clipping" mother, Judy.

"It seems crazy to me that your [stepfather] and I could have our relationship blessed legally and by the church and you guys can't. You're being robbed of something by the dummies who voted for George W. Bush," Judy says in *The Commitment*.

Judy, of course, is right. As Savage repeatedly and rationally cites, all the arguments against same-sex marriage are hypocritical and erroneous. Read *The Commitment* and you will be armed against the next homophobe you meet. (Not that homophobes are too keen on rationality in the first place.)

Rather than cave in to pressure of various sorts, Savage and his partner plan a huge 10th anniversary party to celebrate their love in front of friends and family. (Terry's family is conspicuously absent from the narrative.) They see this is a more amicable alternative to marriage or getting those "Property of..." tattoos Terry wants. But is it enough? For anyone up on "Savage Love," the conclusion of *The Commitment* will not be a surprise.

A thoughtful and incisive book (which could have used one more editorial read-through) by one of America's most influential columnists, *The Commitment* may not blow you out of the room, but its engaging chronicle of one family's plight against intolerance in the so-called "land of the free" should keep you in your chair reading.

Savage will read 7:30 p.m. Oct. 9 at Powell's, 1005 W. Burnside St.

—John Esther



Nationally syndicated columnist Dan Savage reads Oct. 9 at Powell's.

Fresh production keeps Hair from going gray

With lyrics that celebrate the joys of sodomy, fellatio and cunnilingus, what's not to like about the classic anti-war musical *Hair*?

Written by **Gerome Ragni** and **James Rado**, this hippie outcry against the Vietnam War was a phenomenal success on Broadway in the late '60s, later making it to the big screen courtesy of director **Milos Forman**. Now, Portland performing arts company Live on Stage presents a rendition that incorporates a live band, high school and adult performers, and video and still projections.

John Oules, the gay founder of Live on Stage, helms the production. "Mainly we want it to be an evening of fun," he says. "The messages of acceptance, responsibility and hope are important, but we're not going to hit you over the head with them. We want to give it a fresh feel. We don't have to treat it like a dinosaur we're resurrecting."

Oules names "Aquarius" and "Easy to Be