

"The Arts and Crafts movement was about quality craftsmanship, originality, simplicity in design, beautiful wood and affordability," she says. "These are the qualities I strive for in making my clocks."

Clocks by Val, which can be found at www.clocksbyval.com, offers the craftsman, the classic, the simplicity and the library clock—in oak or cherry.

"I am transitioning from furniture to clocks because recycled wood does not always come in the lengths needed for furniture," explains Johnson. "But for clocks I can Dumpster dive and find wood enough for several. If not, I can go to the Rebuilding Center or Goodwill and buy a stair banister railing and a tabletop and have plenty of wood for more than one clock."


Originally from the Northwest, Johnson graduated from Cleveland High School in 1971 before moving to Texas. She returned to Portland in 1996



Clocks by Val's owner Val Johnson contemplates the beauty of wood.

and says she will never leave again.

"I came out when I returned to Portland and divorced my husband of 24 years," says Johnson. "My partner and I met through Late Awakenings, and on New Year's Eve 2001 we danced at the [Lesbian Community Project] dance at Shenanigans and have been together ever since."

Johnson's shop is in their Gresham home, where she continues to make custom furniture. "I have just started specializing in the clocks and getting the Web site up and working, so this is just the beginning of this adventure." 

northwest



Police suspect homophobes are to blame for vandalism at Urge on North Lombard Street.

AIDSWalk Breaks Record

More than 11,000 walkers turned out for AIDSWalk '06, a fund-raiser in support of Cascade AIDS Project, Sept. 24. The event raised \$300,000 for CAP's HIV/AIDS services, public education, prevention, support and outreach efforts to youth and adults most at risk for contracting HIV.

This was the greatest number of walkers to turn out for AIDSWalk in its 20-year history.

"We were delighted with the turnout," said executive director Jean Ann Van Krevelen. "To see people from all walks of life demonstrating concern about HIV/AIDS and the issues that surround it was truly heartwarming."

Since its inception in 1986, AIDSWalk has raised more than \$2.5 million.

Hate Crime Investigated at Urge

Urge, a bar on North Lombard Street formerly

known as Porky's Pub, was vandalized Sept. 27 in what police are investigating as a hate crime.

Vandals broke the bar's marquee, which read, "Gay Marriage Is Good for Oregon."

Owner Pat Lanagan said he suspects his business is the subject of harassment. Last month, complaints about his bar were made to the fire department, health department and Oregon Liquor Control Commission.

"It leads me to think someone may be attempting to harass us," claimed Lanagan, who said he has complied with minor changes requested by the agencies.

He said the vandals have not stifled his message. "If someone was trying to kill the message, they didn't. We're going to have the sign fixed, and we're going to have another message of equal importance up there."

Continued on Page 10

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TUESDAY THE 17TH

AN EVENING WITH THE PORCELAIN TWINZ

The Porcelain Twinz will be celebrating the release of their autobiography, "the Porcelain Twinz Our Life in the Sex Industry," and their erotic art film, "The Masked Charade," with a special appearance and book signing at 8 p.m. Books and DVD's will be available for presale on October 1st.



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