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When Leather Is Bound Up in Art

Terry Moschella, 38, remembers returning to Portland from the Bay Area, where he attended California College of Arts and Crafts. "In the '90s, when AIDS hit Portland really hard, people took a step back. Now people are enjoying certain classifications again," Moschella said. "If Portland is following San Francisco and Seattle's trends, the leather community is going to continue to grow over the next few years."

After finding the leather community two years ago, Moschella realized he didn't care for the leather garments he'd been seeing. He made a harness for himself, friends liked what they saw, and his Boy-O Leather business has been booming ever since. His armbands, harnesses, collars and gauntlets are available at his online store, www.tarsusstudio.com, and at a little store inside the Eagle, 1300 W. Burnside St.

"Finding colored leather is easier these days than it used to be," said Moschella, who bases much of his leather work on the hanky code. "Most leather, since the '70s, has been pretty much black, but people have recently begun integrating color into their fetish garments, and I thought that was a fantastic way to go."

Moschella is a member of a new leather family in town called Bloodthorn. He says the group does a demonstration every Sunday evening at the Eagle to show the public certain safe techniques when using floggers and rope bondage, as well as demonstrating the relationship between a sir and submissive.

"We support different organizations throughout Portland," said Moschella. "We've been part of the [Imperial Sovereign] Rose Court for the last five years." He has also contributed his work to Oregon Leather Fraternity fund-raisers.

A painter and illustrator as well as leather artist, Moschella says he mostly lets his work speak for itself, but sees it as "another outlet for the community to see being gay is not a negative thing." Community is a big deal to Moschella, who also paints cityscapes. "They embody my idea of community. We have a strong foundation, which we can grow stronger."

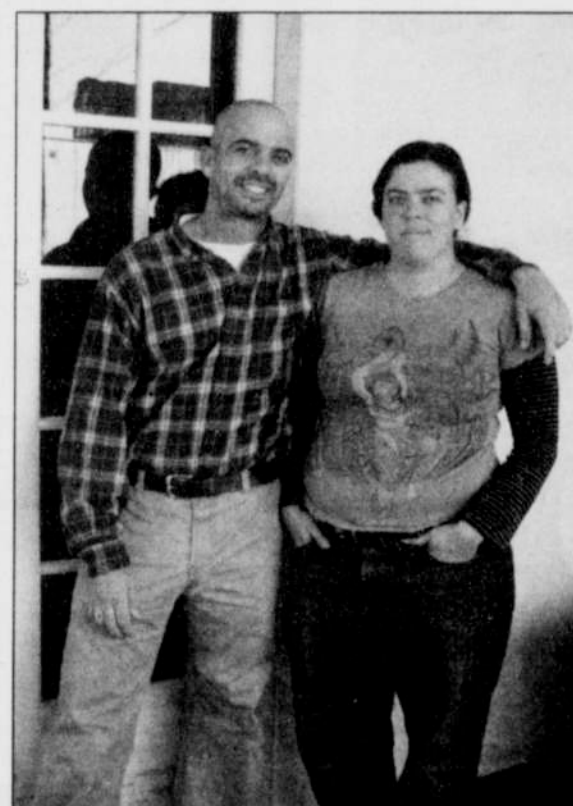
Acupuncture Supports Community

As the popularity of acupuncture has grown during the past decade, practitioners looked for ways to make the alternative health care more affordable. A solution was found in community-supported acupuncture, developed at Working

Class Acupuncture in Northeast Portland. Last month, two queer graduates of Southwest Acupuncture College started a new clinic based on this working-class model in Southeast Portland.

"This idea is not really a new one; it's how acupuncture has been practiced in Asian countries around the world for thousands of years," said Joseph Goldfedder of Brooklyn Community Acupuncture, 1212 S.E. Powell Blvd.

According to clinic co-founder Maria Perez, acupuncture treatments are given in a large room



Joseph Goldfedder and Maria Perez have opened Brooklyn Community Acupuncture.

filled with comfortable recliners where clients sit together in community. "The practitioner finds each person there shortly and, in a whisper, does a quick intake, takes the pulse and looks at the tongue. The needles are inserted, and the patient just lays back and relaxes for as long as they want," she said.

Goldfedder added, "In this model, the collective energy of the room of people in deep repose is as much part of the treatment as what we the practitioners provide." According to Perez, one-on-one acupuncture treatments usually cost upward of \$65 a session. "The community acupuncture model allows us to charge people on a sliding scale, \$15 to \$35 per session," she said.

Perez, who grew up in South America and lives in the Brooklyn neighborhood with her partner

and their 16-year-old daughter, recognizes the importance of a queer-owned and -operated health clinic. "I believe queers deal with similar health problems as do straight people. The difference is that queers don't always have a supportive, embracing health care provider to go to when they need some help with their health."

Goldfedder, who grew up in Philadelphia and has a background in art,



Terry Moschella draws up new looks in leather.