

College's Kaul Auditorium. (8 pm. 3203 SE Woodstock Blvd. \$8-\$12 from www.rcgfb.org.)

HBO debuts **Life Support**, a moving and candid look at the African-American community's HIV crisis through the eyes of a survivor who is a mother, a former addict and an AIDS activist. (8 pm.)

Portland Metro Club (PPAA) presents **DJ Crystal's Gay & Lesbian Club Dance** featuring a large non-smoking dance floor, cool warehouse district location and drink prices that won't break your piggy bank! (8 pm-1 am. 618 SE Alder St. \$5.)

Dante's presents the **Blasphemy Ball**, a big FUCK YOU to zealotry, bigotry and oppression featuring Pure Cirkus' fire spinning; dark dance beats by DJs Horrid and Sine Qua Non; tarot and palm readings; and a confessional with the delectable Domina Betka Schpitz dishing out some pleasurable (or painful) penance. Dress yourself in perversion of faith! (9 pm. 1 SW Third Ave. \$8 with costume, \$10 without.)

Come to the Eagle for some ass-slapping fun during the monthly kink night **Queer Fetish**. (9 pm-2:30 am. 1300 W Burnside St. \$3.)

SUN • MARCH 11

Tandemnation, **Massive Meat Split** and **The Revenants** perform at Mississippi Pizza Pub. Proceeds benefit the Rock 'n' Roll Camp for Girls. (4 pm. 3552 N Mississippi Ave. \$5 donation.)

DJs Harmony, Beyonda and Saffronica lay down the hottest world, Latin, house and old-school beats during **Tart**, a monthly party for queer girls at Holocene. (4 pm. 1001 SE Morrison St. \$5.)

Queer Knitting meets every other Sunday at Mabel's Cafe and Knittery for crafting, conversation and camaraderie. All genders, sexualities and knitting/crocheting experience levels welcome. (4-7 pm. 3041 SE Division St. starstealinggirl@gmail.com.)

Reigning titleholder Martini Monroe crowns her successor during the **LaFemme Magnifique Plus Pageant** at Darcelle XV Showplace. This year's theme is "LaFemme Goes Back to Its Roots... The Return of the Disco." (8 pm. 208 NW Third Ave. \$10.)

MON • MARCH 12

Olin, a collective aimed at fighting white supremacy and linking the anti-capitalist struggles of Latin America to our own struggles here at home, meets every second Monday at In Other Words. (6-8 pm. 8 NE Killingsworth St.)

TUE • MARCH 13

Bettie Ford Lounge hosts **Salon Q**, a monthly mixer for men and women to socialize in a smoke-free environment. (7 pm. 1135 SW Washington St.)

All Hail the Queen

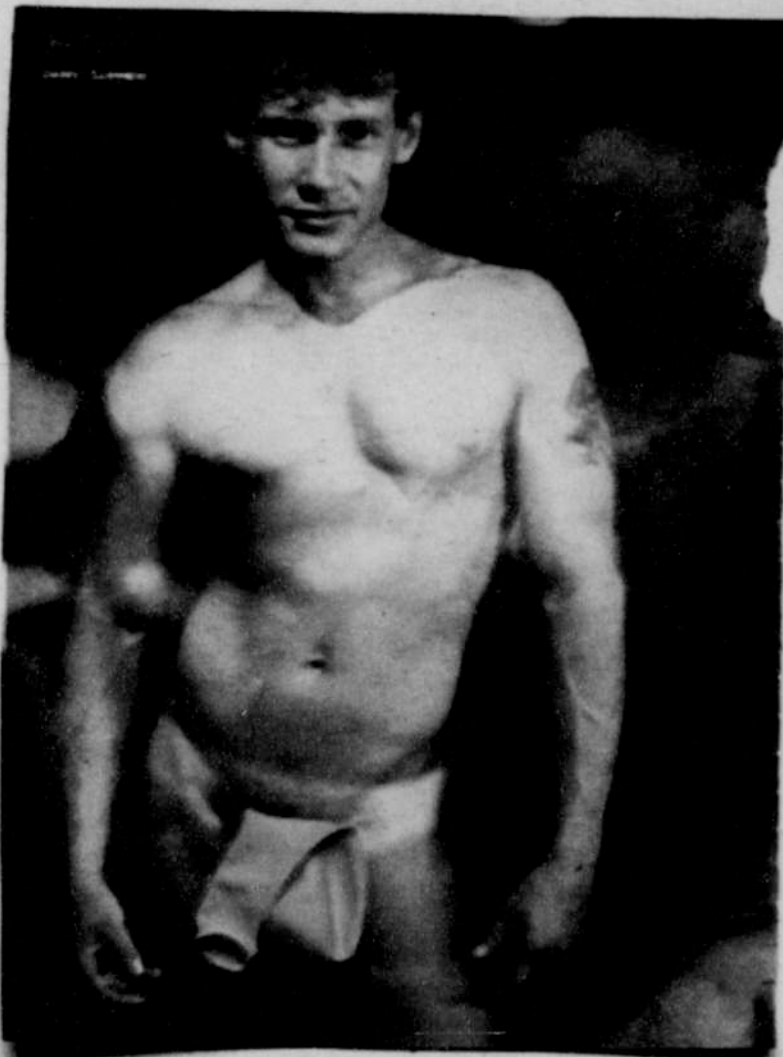
Since HIV first appeared in the early 1980s, the black community, led by homophobic churches, has been accused of ignoring, denying or dismissing it (most disturbingly as simply "the gay disease").

Life Support, an HBO feature film set in contemporary Brooklyn and based on a real character, aims to remedy the problem. Co-produced by **Jamie Foxx** and **Queen Latifah**, this low-key, intermittently effective drama stars Latifah as Ana, a reformed crack addict living with HIV. Her husband, Slick (**Wendell Pierce**), also has the virus. Completing their household is 9-year-old daughter Kim (**Rayelle Parker**), and Anna's daughter by a previous marriage, Kelly, a teenager who lives with Anna's mother, Lucille.

The film opens with a group of black women talking casually, and sometimes comically, about living with HIV. Ana's problems seem to be both medical and familial; she has bad feet and a daughter who can't forgive her mother for past transgressions. Complicating matters, Kelly's best friend, Amare, is a drugged-out, sickly, poz gay youth who vanishes. Ana, who works for an AIDS education awareness group, hopes to repair her relationship with Kelly by finding Amare, a journey that could also help her find herself.

Life Support gets points for good intentions, but the educational impulse driving it sometimes distracts from the drama. Ana attends a women's support group that sparkles with gritty, gallows humor, as when one woman's boyfriend reacts to her status with "I don't think I can have sex with you, but I can eat your pussy, right?" Interspersed with these witty touches are numerous, unsubtle "AIDS tips" about dental dams, female condoms, etc. that give the film the feel of a classroom discussion.

What ultimately makes **Life Support** work are the performances. Latifah's



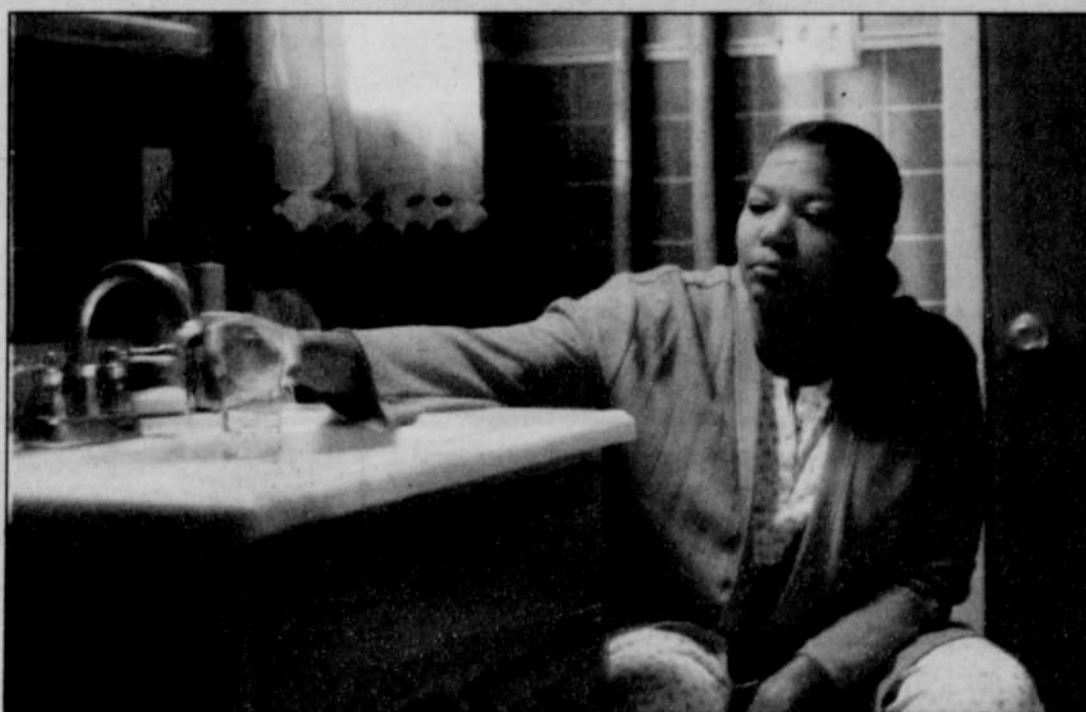
Queer artist Philip Losca's modified gay porn is on display as part of the group show **Paper Chase** through March 31 at Guestroom Gallery.

Powell's presents **Jennifer Baumgardner** reading from **Look Both Ways**, a compelling study in bisexual lives lived secretly and openly, and an exploration of the lessons learned by writers, artists and activists who have refused the either/or paradigm defended by both gay and straight communities. (7:30 pm. 1005 W Burnside St.)

The Camellia Lounge at The TeaZone screens John Waters' camp classic **Hairspray**. (7:30 pm. 510 NW 11th Ave.)

Q-LAND and LoveTribes present the **Men's Meditation Group** every second and fourth Tuesday. Relieve stress, feel calmer and more focused, and be more creative and connected to your natural flow. (7:30-9:30 pm. RSVP to 503-223-8822 or www.lovetribe.org/menspirit.)

Crystal Ballroom presents **Bloc Party** performing music from its eagerly anticipated sophomore album, **A Weekend in the City**, which builds on the band's gritty, angular brand of pop-punk while incorporating slightly more polished production values. **Final Fantasy** and **Smoosh** open. (9 pm. 1332 W Burnside St. \$25 from box office or Ticketmaster.)



Queen Latifah stars as a reformed crack addict living with HIV in **Life Support**, premiering March 10 on HBO.

warm, charismatic presence and stubborn pride bring this character to life. **Rachel Nicks** excels as the righteously embittered Kelly, while **Anna Deavere Smith** registers strongly as the grandmother, whose fierce reaction to her daughter's troubled past might capsize her relationship with Kelly, too. Even the smaller roles are beautifully handled. Diana Ross fans might notice two of the diva's children here: **Evan Ross** as the lost boy and daughter **Tracee Ellis Ross** in a brief, memorable bit as Amare's sister, who's hit her limit with her brother's problems and with Ana.

—Gary Morris



Newspace Center for Photography unveils Scott Jackson's **Important Developments** March 2.

WED • MARCH 14

The **Portland Area Business Association** holds its monthly meeting at MacTarnahan's Taproom with a presentation by drag legend Darcelle XV! (11:30 am-1 pm. 2730 NW 31st Ave. \$7-\$20 from www.paba.com.)

Show your stuff during **Elder Resource Alliance Bowling Day** at AMF Pro 300 Lanes. Beginners and all skill levels welcome! (2-4 pm. 3031 SE Powell Blvd. \$6 includes two games and shoes. RSVP to Rachel at 503-224-2640.)

Alissa Lukara reads from **Riding Grace: A Triumph of the Soul**, her evocative memoir bringing voice to the silent survivors of child abuse and their life's journey, at In Other Words. (6:30 pm. 8 NE Killingsworth St.)

THU • MARCH 15

The Men's Wellness Center presents an informational meeting about **Celebrating the Body Erotic**, which helps men connect with their deepest centers of pleasure in a setting that is playful, safe and honoring of each participant's curiosity and desire for erotic fulfillment. (7-8 pm. 928 SW Stark St.)

Q-LAND and LoveTribes present the **Men's Dating Lab**, a support group for finding practical strategies to strengthen emotional and physical intimacy. (7-9:30 pm. RSVP to 503-223-8822 or www.lovetribe.org/menspirit.)

FRI • MARCH 16

Hey, all you classy martini-swillin', mellow-music-listenin', good-conversatin', lady-appreciatin', hard-workin' queer women! Here's a new reason to say, "Thank God it's Friday." Come enjoy a good drink with good friends in a quiet, relaxing, nonsmoking environment during



Girls on Gay is throwing its first **White Party** on March 18 at Aura.

Everyone Dressed in White

Theme parties are wonderful things. If you haven't done it in white, now's your chance to get in on the action. From 5 to 10 p.m. March 18, the ladies will be at Aura, 1022 W. Burnside St., for the first **Girls on Gay White Party**.

"The largest [White Party] that I know of in the lesbian community happens during Dinah Shore every year in Palm Springs. It's a part of their weeklong festivities, and it brings out amazing women all dressed in white and having a great time," says **Rochelle Sprunk** of Girls on Gay, a promotional company that hosts social events for the queer community. Bringing the fun to Portland, the white party theme will be played out to the tune of a white balloon drop, white cotton candy and professional go-go dancers dressed in white.

Girls on Gay will be giving out gift certificates for dinners and goodies from It's My Pleasure and other businesses. Bud Light, which has contributed to the event, will also be throwing in some giveaways. A table of delicious fondue will be on hand for refueling as you dance the night away to the tunes spun by DJ Saffronica.

"We are hoping that all different types and ages and styles will come out for the party," says Sprunk. "I love the variety of the ones I have been to in the past, and I hope we see a lot of that this time as well."

Party people are encouraged to honor the theme and dress in white. According to Sprunk, attendees will witness women in white three-piece suits and white lingerie.

Tickets are \$23 at the door or \$18 in advance from www.girlsongay.com.

—Malka Geffen