

music

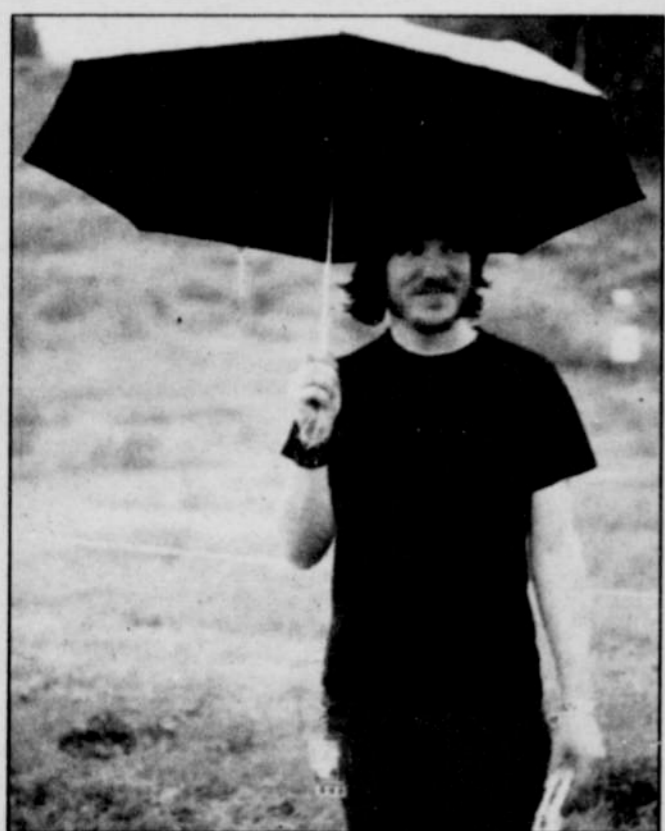
Sweet Charity

New releases benefit Portland homeless youth agencies

Melancholy melodist Elliott Smith lived the dream of many of his peers: to speak for a generation.

Smith's work encapsulates a time and place. He lends a voice to a youth movement discontent with mainstream ideals, affected by substances and defined by wit and creativity.

Because of a memorial fund set up in his name, Smith will continue to empower many of those who connect with his work.



Unreleased material from the late Elliott Smith is generating financial support for Outside In.

With the release of *New Moon* (Kill Rock Stars) comes a large donation, up to \$100,000, to the Portland-based nonprofit organization Outside In.

Smith's family has issued statements explaining why he would have wanted his music to benefit the social service agency serving homeless youth, of which approximately 40 percent identify as queer.

Smith had agreed to play a benefit show for Outside In's needle exchange program, which he was not able to carry through on before his death in 2003.

He attended Lincoln High School, which is situated near the agency, and reputedly made a habit of handing out \$20 bills to street kids.

"The family really tried to look at where he would have wanted his money to go," said Kelly Anderson, development and communications director at Outside In.

The family, with the help of Smith fans worldwide, has donated \$37,810 in Smith's name to Outside In since June 2006.

While some will reinterpret Smith's body of work as a foreshadow to his demise, *New Moon* contains 24 mostly unreleased songs that shed light on his humor, perception and sensitivity to human frailty.

The double-disc album contains songs recorded from an inspired period of Smith's life, from 1994 to 1997, when he also recorded his self-titled album and *Either/Or*. Three of the songs were recorded in Portland's own Jackpot Recording Studio, according to the album's extensive liner notes.

"This collection is not some patched-together product of the studio in 2006," wrote Larry Crane,

an archivist for the Smith estate who mixed the final version of the album. "It is a collection of songs, many of which could have easily been included on his second and third albums, some which made it out of compilations, three tracks that showcase his stripped-down and engaging live performance material and several songs illustrating where he was heading in 1997."

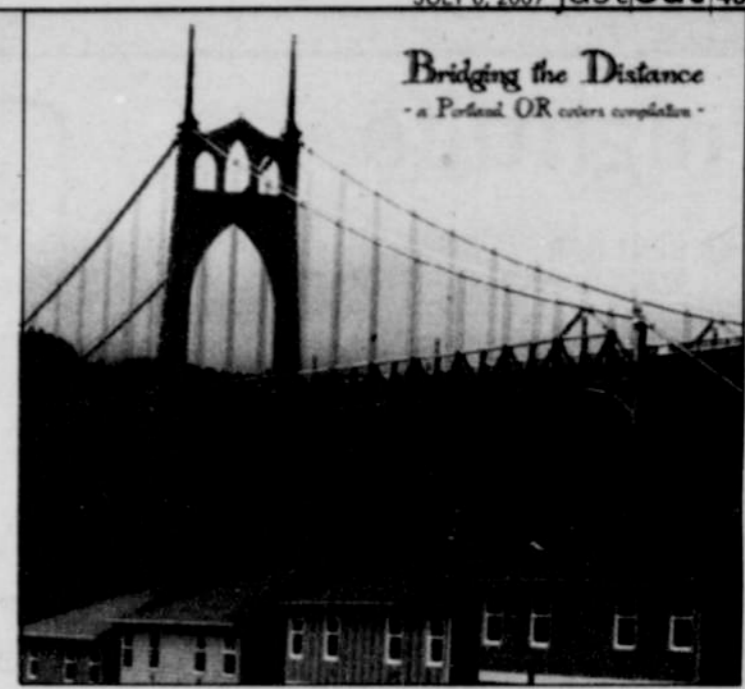
To make a donation, send checks to Outside In, 1132 S.W. 13th Ave., Portland, OR 97210, and write "Elliott Smith Memorial Fund" in the memo field.

—Jaymee R. Cuti

Bridging the Distance "is a unique and innovative response to a perennial problem in our community," says p:ear executive director Beth Burns.

The nonprofit organization builds positive relationships with youth exiting street life through education, art and recreation programs. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, an estimated 42 percent of the 1.6 million homeless youth in this country are queer-identified, and according to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, 26 percent are kicked out of their homes.

Greg Glover—founder of Arena Rock, the label that fully funded the CD project—says he wanted to unite Portland bands for a good cause. "I had printed out what seemed like a 100-page list of local nonprofits, but in the end I chose to visit p:ear in person. Afterwards, I knew where I wanted my



The p:ear benefit CD *Bridging the Distance* features cover songs donated by 19 local bands and musicians.

time, efforts and focus for this compilation to be."

The covers compilation features 19 donated tracks by local bands and musicians, including The Decemberists, Death Cab for Cutie's Chris Walla, The Thermals, Viva Voce and The Dandy Warhols. When asked what her favorite track on the album is, Burns unequivocally picked Viva Voce's version of the Alan Parsons Project's 1982 hit "Eye in the Sky, calling it "a kick-ass song."

According to Burns, proceeds from the album will be used to continue strengthening p:ear's programs. *Bridging the Distance* is available for purchase online at www.pearmentor.org and at First Thursday art openings at the p:ear gallery, 809 S.W. Alder St.

The CD will also be available at the 94.7 Alternative Gala from 6 to 9 p.m. Aug. 2 and Sept. 6 at Urbaca Salon, 120 N.W. Ninth Ave. #101. All of the proceeds from these events—featuring local artists, beer donated from Widmer Brothers Brewing and food from Urban Fondue—will benefit p:ear.

—Malka Geffen 10

STEAM PORTLAND



WHERE MEN LOVE MEN!

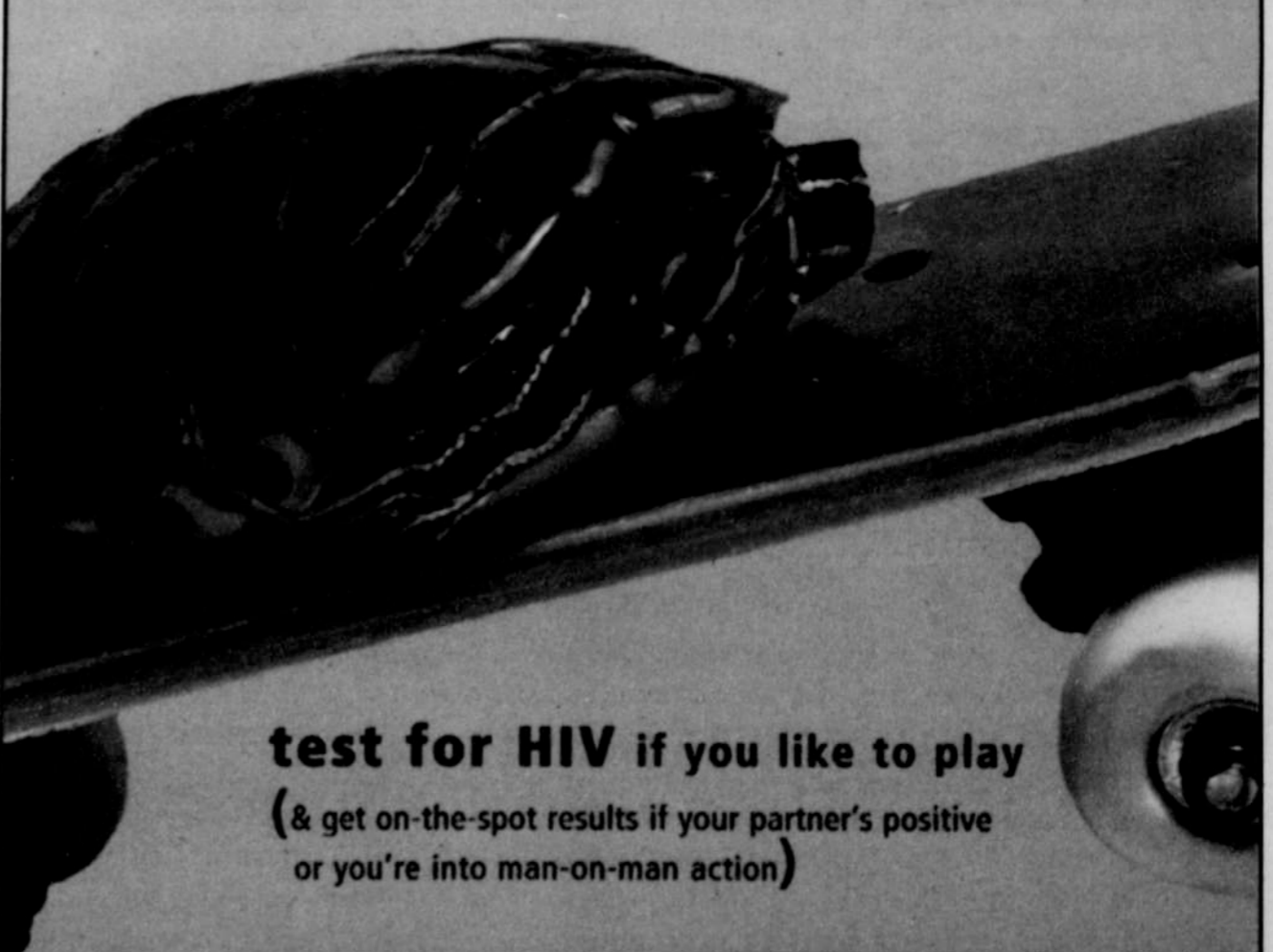
open 24 hours
FREE condoms

steam room
whirlpool
video lounges
sundeck
weekly specials
toys
lubes
aromas

STEAMPORLAND.COM
IT'S HOT HERE

1000 ne sandy blvd
portland, or 97232

prefer life in the fast lane?



test for HIV if you like to play
(& get on-the-spot results if your partner's positive or you're into man-on-man action)

info: www.man2manpdx.us
503.988.3775 Portland • FREE, confidential test with this ad
CHOOSE WHAT WORKS FOR YOU: learn • protect • test • treat
[condoms help prevent STDs but do not prevent HIV]