

journey. Teaming up with Death Cab for Cutie's Chris Walla, Tegan & Sara have produced their most edgy, revealing album to date, turning on fans new and old, right here in P-town. Utilizing new studio equipment, recording techniques and the benefits fame has afforded them, the duo knew this was the place to capture what they were looking for.

Relocating to Stumptown to record in Walla's home studio, the duo found just the environment to reach new levels of emotional and musical depth. Having most of the album already written, it was in post-production that Tegan & Sara became all the wiser. They experimented with new technology. They worked at their own pace. Their time was well spent.

"This album is that time you look back and ask, 'What was I really writing about?'" says Tegan. "It reflects a lot of that late-night anxiety about not being sure about what you're doing. This is also really about dual personalities."

Tegan & Sara's work usually comes from home studios, creating a feel for their albums that is safe and inviting. With nine months to record this one, both were able to cozy up with different instruments. Tegan with piano. Sara with bass. When they emerged, *The Con* was born.

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"Recording in that environment, we could use our own equipment, and we grew really attached. We were able to do much more lush recordings first. We could also focus a lot on tech stuff, like spending a whole day on one piece of equipment," reflects Tegan.

This earthy, aged album is rich with tones of savage heartbreak, roots muddied in folksinger realizations. It is neither safe nor warm, but it is raw. The kind of raw that permeates the 20s. It speaks of "balancing the trajectory of life" with its pace, an important lesson to learn.

Tegan & Sara aren't teenagers anymore. Their complexities are showing. They have battle wounds now and stories to tell.

"We didn't even start looking for a producer until we had about 17 songs down. This means, really, that we had 90 percent of it done," says Tegan of the different recording pattern. "Rather than hiring a producer that would take our stuff and turn it to something else, we hired [Walla] because he wouldn't turn it into a Chris Walla record."

And now, it seems, Tegan & Sara are everywhere. They're on MTV. They're on the HBO series *The L Word*. They are touring the world. Their lives are more visible than ever before—a searing reminder of how far they've come.

"We're definitely doing more touring and recording, and with all that comes more responsibility. Now there's more people pushing us to do even more, and there are about 150 more opinions," Tegan remarks. "We're at a point where the wave is hitting its peak and we can do more. The core of us is really clear on what we want."

It's time for Tegan & Sara to blaze new trails like they have grown so accustomed to doing. The new album means a new tour, which blows down through the Columbia next month. Thanks to one huge release, these indie ladies are playing with the big boys—and holding their own just fine. **10**

TEGAN & SARA perform with Northern State 8 p.m. Dec. 4 at Crystal Ballroom, 1332 W. Burnside St. Tickets are \$25 from the box office or Ticketmaster.

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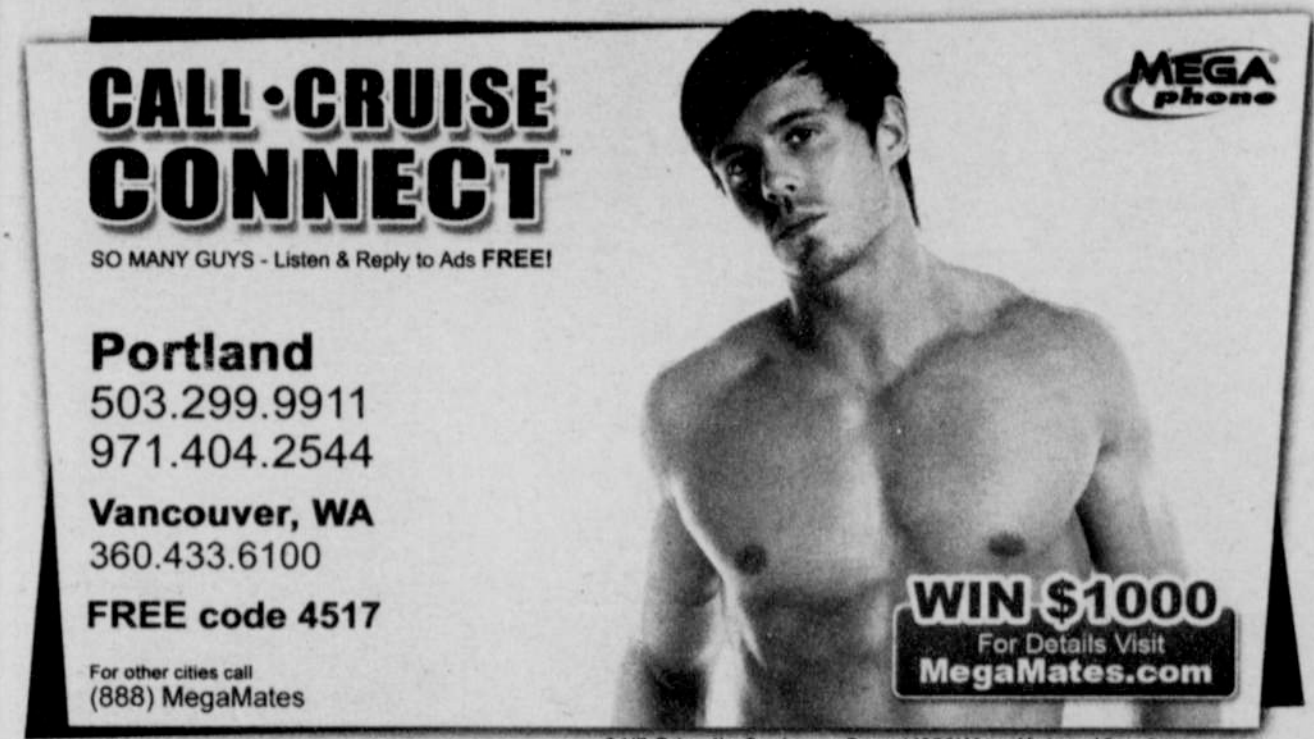
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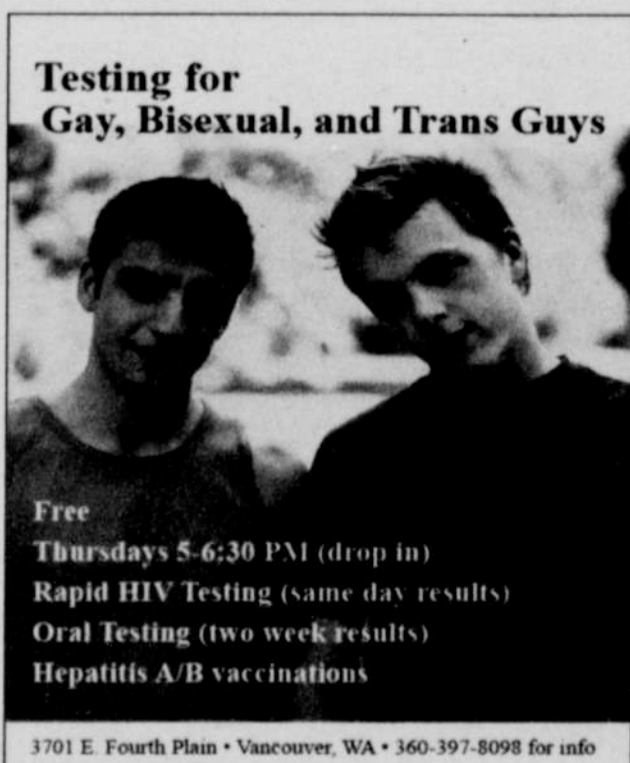
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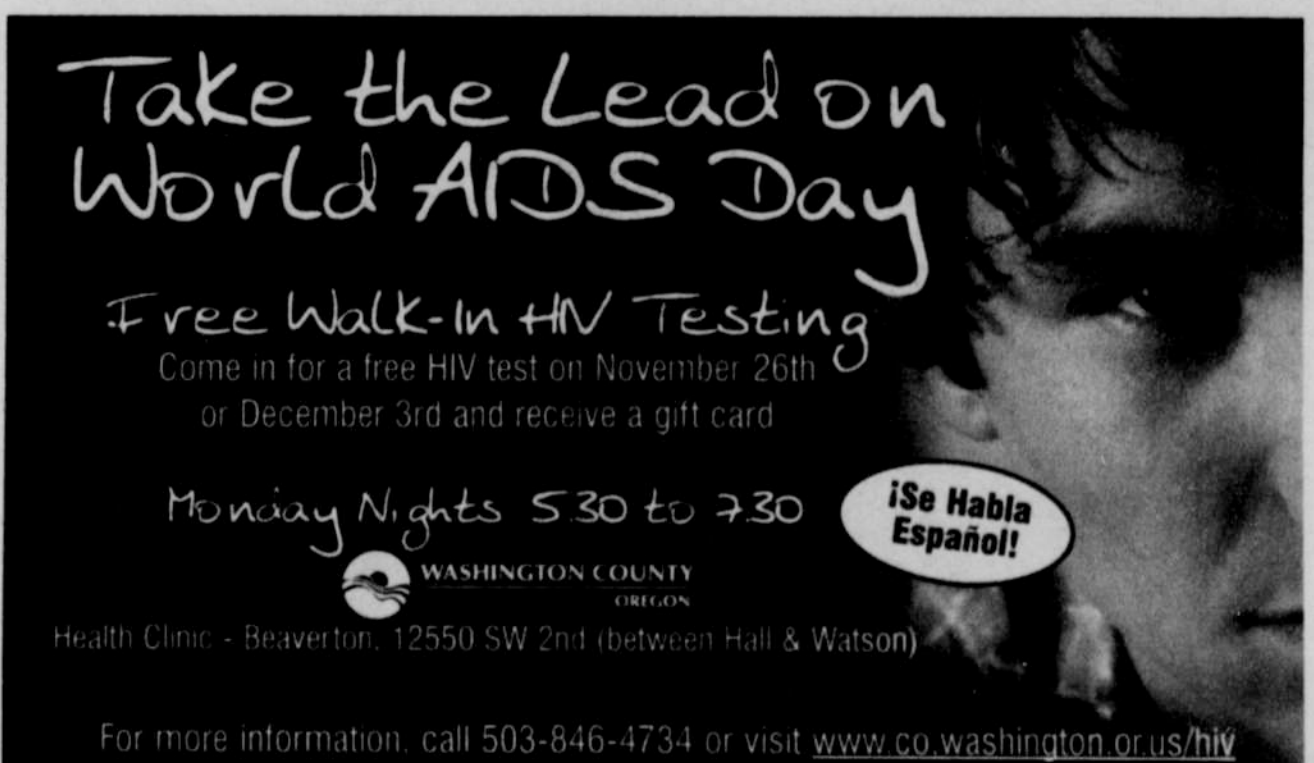
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