

Leather Pleasure

Aparaphilia has what you need to make OLP 2011 a whipping good time

As Oregon Leather Pride Week 2011 looms, legions of leather fetishists are gearing up, so to speak, to put their best boots forward. It's serendipitous, then, that leather lobbyist Bruce Parrott timed the opening of his new Northeast shop Aparaphilia with this month's influx of kink, BDSM and otherwise lace-loving community members.

Open since May, Aparaphilia (8232 NE Fremont St.) is Portland's newest go-to shop for quality leather and fetish apparel in a charming boutique setting. Parrott reports that while business is building slowly, feedback from the community and the neighborhood has been nothing but positive. He did his homework before making the move to Portland from Las Vegas to open the store and seems to have a leg up on the competition—especially since his closest rival is in San Francisco.

"There's no sense in going into competition with someone who's already established," Parrott explains. "I saw what was here. I spoke with the Leather Alliance to get a feel for what was wanted. My main thing is quality."

Parrott focuses on a variety of media outside of leather, including rubber, latex and

neoprene goods like bibs, restraints and corsets. Soon he'll add PVC items from Germany and England. Notably, Aparaphilia carries the Guangzhou line of restraints and handcuffs, which are relatively rare in this country. The store also expects invisible lock collars that are custom-made in Germany, and currently unavailable in the States.

Thus far, Parrott estimates his business has generated equal interest from the LG-BTQ community as the straight, a patronage he's trying to foster.

"Leather has become as much a fashion statement as it has a lifestyle," Parrott says. "There's quite a large straight fetish community and so I want to serve them as well. I find that straight money's just as green as gay money."

Parrott encourages special orders, as he's not able to carry every size and color of each product in his small shop. From leather sling frames capable of holding 625 pounds to a currently untouched leather straight jacket inventory, Aparaphilia is home to whatever sexiness suits you.

"I'm surprised no one is interested in straight jackets here!" Parrott adds.

Here's hoping that takes off soon.



Your Aparaphilia welcoming committee

Aparaphilia (8232 NE Fremont St.) is open from noon to 8 p.m. Tues.-Sat. and noon to 5 p.m. Sun. For more information, call 503-254-7283, visit aparaphilia.com or search "Aparaphilia" on Facebook.

Time To Play

A rundown of OLP 2011 events for the uninitiated and the über-fan

Are you a leather novice? A seasoned veteran? Either way, Oregon Leather Pride 2011 has something for everyone. OLP co-chair Ben Brown Jr. suggests an option for every "comfort level."

Whipper-Snappers First Strike Party

Fri., Aug. 5, 2-4 p.m.
The Conservatory, 5224 SE Foster

This young adult group for ages 18-30 holds monthly events that mentor and encourage BDSM activities in a "safe, sane and educational manner," Brown Jr. says. Both individuals new to the community and more seasoned pros are welcome.

Sunday School

Sun., Aug. 7, 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
The Conservatory, 5224 SE Foster

The annual Bad Girls event is open to all genders, and offers training classes. This year's topics will include blood play, razor play and edge play. Brown Jr. calls these

"more serious classes," geared toward the more experienced player.

Kinky Women's Welcoming Munch

Tues., Aug. 9, 7-9 p.m.,
Weird Bar, 3701 SE Division St.

Portland Leather Men Potluck

Sat., Aug. 13, 4-6 p.m.,
Location available by emailing
tuckerwalter@gmail.com

Both events offer a chance for self-identified men or women to meet in a social atmosphere, but in a more intimate one than the barbecue (see below), and mark an opportunity for groups to share events, news and otherwise catch up with each other.

Leather Family BBQ

Thurs., Aug. 11, 6 p.m.-dusk
Overlook Park, N. Fremont and Interstate

"I would recommend this to anyone new to the scene," says Brown Jr., calling it an

event "where you will literally meet, connect and network with just about every type of kinkster or fetishist in the area. Very welcoming, relaxed and easily the single favorite event overall."

Everybody PLAY Party!

Sat., Aug. 13, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.,
TA Event Center, 300 NE Multnomah

An annual Portland Leather Alliance event for OLP, the PLAY Party allows attendees to be a part of a BDSM scene. DMs (Dungeon Masters) will be available to answer questions and direct participants to scenes of interest. Tickets for the event are available at various locations and events during Leather Pride; visit the OLP website for more information. ☪

OREGON LEATHER PRIDE 2011 takes place August 5-14 at various locations throughout Portland. For a complete schedule of events, times, admission information and more, visit oregonleatherpride.org, search in the "Notes" section on the "Oregon Leatherpride" Facebook page, or turn to *Out & About* on pp. 21-24.

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