

Spew 2 is the carnivallike convention of queer misfits.

BY ADAM BLOCK



"I am a homosexual. I am a drug taker. And I fuck potbellied pigs," Curt Kobain, Nirvana's lead singer, belted recently to a British audience. It seems appropriate that Kobain's fiancée, singer Courtney Love, will headline the benefit gig that

kicks off Spew 2, the carnivallike convention of North America's queer underground and misfit scribes due in Los Angeles the weekend of Feb. 28.

Last year the first Spew gathering drew more than 20 queer 'zine editors and over 500 participants to Chicago. This year, Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions (LACE), an alternative arts gallery, will host the event. Editors of over 50 'zines and hordes of fans are expected for the three-day extravaganza. So why is Love, a hetero rock slut, headlining the opening night?

Author Dennis Cooper, one of the event's organizers, explains, "Spew 2 will reflect the growing antiassimilationist queer scene that is best embodied in the 'zines that have sprung up all over the continent. It's an opportunity for fellow outsiders to meet. We've reached out to invite sympathetic nonqueers who share our iconoclasm. I welcome a notion of queer that reflects more than who you sleep with."

The event's real megastar, the peerless DeAundra Peek, is being saved for Saturday night. These punks know about pacing. Friday night's Club Spew, which will launch the weekend, promises to draw hordes. Headliner Hole (three women and one man, with Love in front) is on a tear. Love is a charismatic, notoriously volcanic performer; she is slutty grunge-rock royalty, with a rabid following. The band's debut LP, *Pretty on the Inside*, was produced by Sonic Youth's Kim Gordon. The disc's first single, "Retard Girl," has been a staple on American college radio stations, and their anthem "Teenage Whore" recently hit number one

on the British independent charts. Brightening the Club Spew lineup is Glue, Los Angeles's beloved power-punk combo fronted by politically correct cross-dresser Sean De Lear.

Saturday's Fair Spew opens at noon at LACE's downtown facility (1804 Industrial St.) and will run until 6 p.m. There will be booths, food, entertainment, and a 'zine art exhibit. *Scream Box* coeditrix Adriene Jenik will curate a video program of queer public-access shows from across the nation; a second video program will feature tapes by Spew participants. The tentative schedule for the day includes readings and performances by *J.D.*'s editor Bruce La Bruce, queer rocker Jon Ginoli's Pansy Division, playwright Danielle Willis, literary bad boys Cooper and Mark Ewart, 'zine queen Lily Brindrop, and many more.

Cabaret Spew will open at 8 p.m. Peek, the most disarming and original drag performer in the southern United States (and I suspect on the planet), will be flying in from Atlanta to headline. Also slated to appear are Cholita, legendary "blacktress" Vaginal Creme Davis's answer to Menudo; Tribe 8, San Francisco's dyke punk combo; Geko, Los Angeles's lesbian rage and dread dyke duo; and Joan Jett Blakk, the Chicago drag legend who is running for the U.S. presidency.

On Sunday, at 2 p.m., Filmforum, an independent film group, presents Spew at 2. The program includes Greta Snider's *Shred of Sex* (with Sister Double Happiness vocalist Gary Floyd and other artists telling how they like to get off) and her punk-themed *Hardcore Home Movie*. Two films from the Toronto queer underground, La Bruce's pre-*No Skin Off My Ass* work *Boy/Girl* and Candyland Productions' *Sexbombs*, will also screen. And Bill Brown, editor of *Not Bored!* from Buffalo, N.Y., will contribute two more short works.

There are many imponderables in such an anarchic event, but Cooper already has high hopes. "If, as *The ADVOCATE* suggested, the street demonstrations against [California governor Pete] Wilson's veto of AB 101 [an employment antidiscrimination bill] were the West Coast's answer to Stonewall, I'm hoping that Spew 2 will be the

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Performer DeAundra Peek

A disarming drag headliner set for Spew 2.

queer Altamont," he grins, referring to the December 1969 free rock concert in Northern California at which members of Hell's Angels murdered a gun-wielding concertgoer in front of the stage while the Rolling Stones were performing, which some call the end of the peaceful hippie movement and the beginning of an era of violence.

For further information on Spew 2, call LACE at (213) 624-5650. Weekend passes are available for \$20; the event is free to 'zine editors. ▼