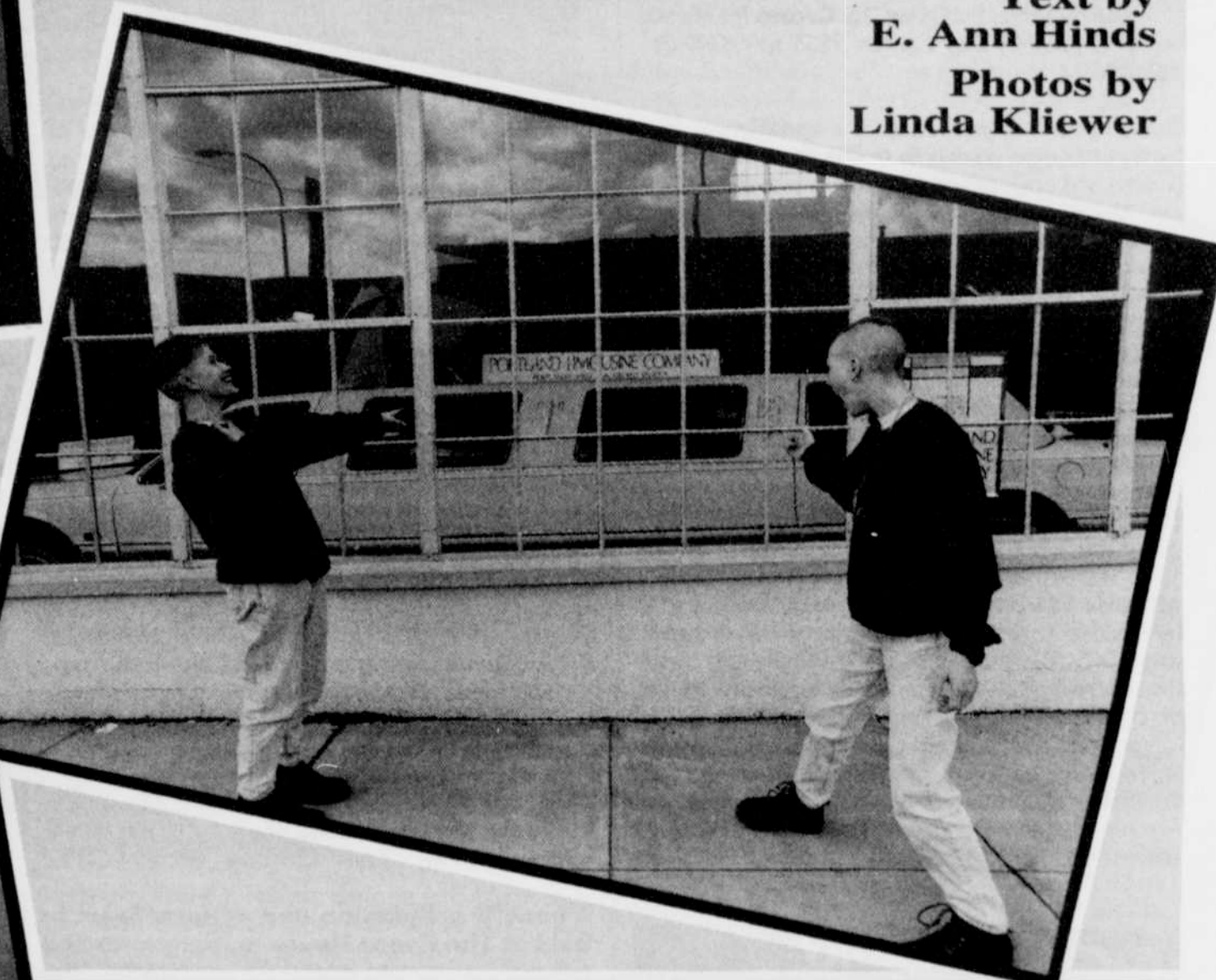
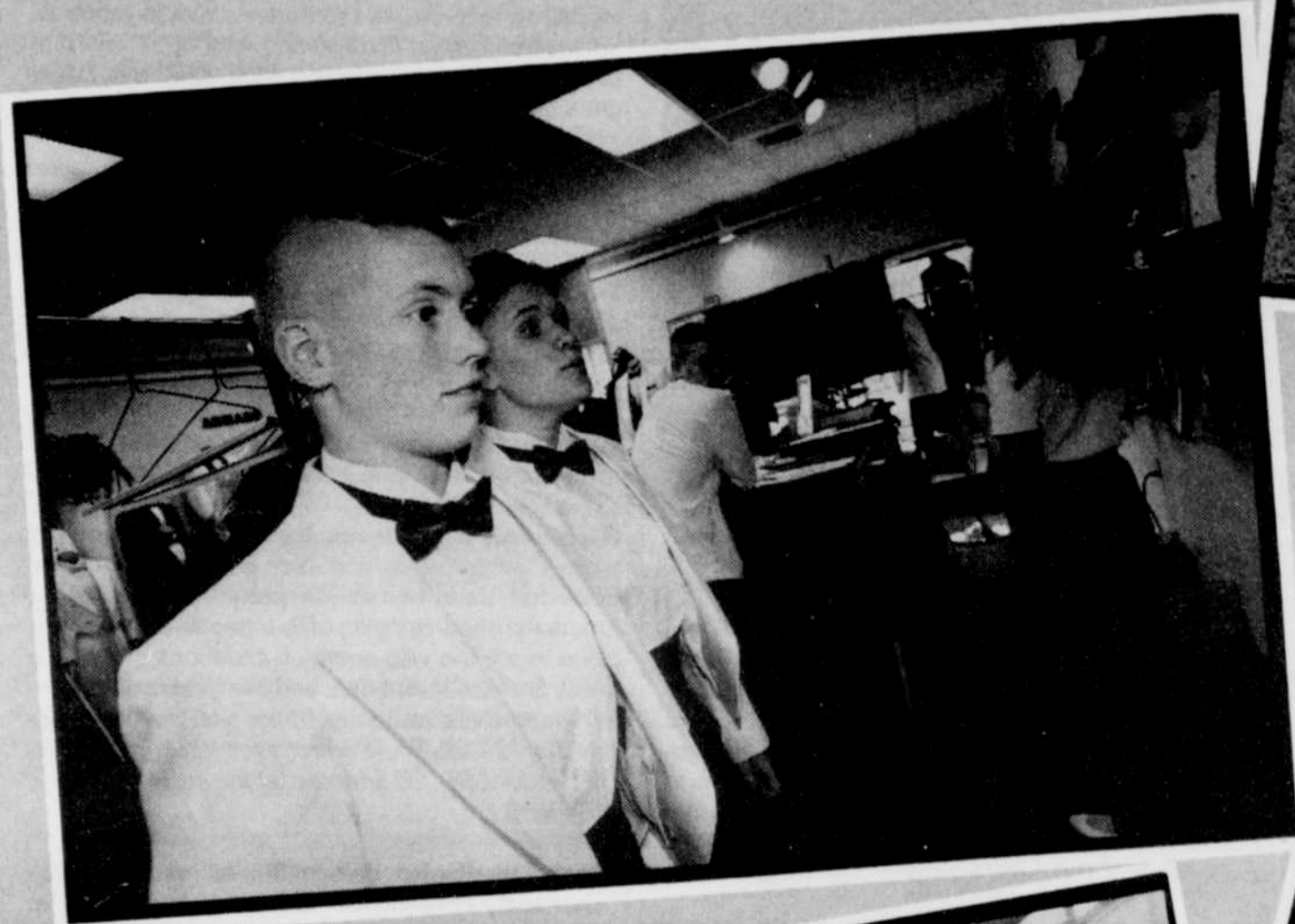


RIGHTS OF PASSAGE

Maribeth and Brandy are girlfriends. They go to Centennial High School in Gresham together every day. Both swim on the varsity team, and Maribeth plays trumpet in the band. They sound like your average college-bound teens, but they are a couple—and out lesbians—in a conservative Oregon town.



Text by
E. Ann Hinds
Photos by
Linda Kliever



On the evening of Saturday, May 20, Centennial High School juniors and seniors will experience a rite of passage—the high school prom. Along with the other couples attending, lesbians Brandy Higgins and Maribeth Seeber will dance the night away. Not many queer teens are lucky enough to find each other, to date, to dance, to go to the prom. We asked Maribeth and Brandy what would make their date a memory to treasure. On their wish list: matching white tuxes with tails, a limo to and from, a romantic dinner in a fancy restaurant, gorgeous corsages, and prom tickets and pictures. Mom (Carol Root-Seeber, pictured with the happy couple) is very supportive and hopes the girls realize their dream date. You can help them have the high school prom you may never have had and perhaps always wanted. If you would like to make a contribution, please send your check or gift certificate to Just Out, PO Box 14400, Portland, OR 97214, ATTN: PROM.

In the June 2 issue Maribeth and Brandy will let us know how the evening went. If there are other young gay and lesbian couples attending proms this spring, please let us know! We'd love to publish your prom pictures so future queer couples will be encouraged to make this rite of passage a *right* of passage.

