

Continued from Page 29

"The people that refuse to behave and look the way society expects them to are what created this movement. I think we end up dismissing these folks a lot," she says. "[Pride] is still about that for me. I don't know if it's reflected in the way we celebrate pride as a city."



Anderson grew up in Portland and Boise. Six years ago, she took a self-defense class that changed her life, she says, and made her want to teach one herself. This desire eventually led to her involvement at Bradley-Angle House, a resource for domestic abuse survivors.

Anderson recently resigned after devoting four and a half years to the organization, chalk-ing her resignation up to a case of burnout. Now, with the help of two other women, she has organized a six-week self-defense course for plus-sized women.

"Body image is so confusing," she says. "In a lot of ways it's like being queer."

—KD

GREG LOOK AND GENE BUNTING

Spending time at this couple's small "gentleman's farm" near Albany is like going home. It is the kind of place where so many of us wish we had grown up: ducks in the yard, horses grazing in the pasture and a basnet puppy waddling up to say hello.

Greg Look and Gene Bunting have been making a home here since their commitment ceremony 20 months ago.

The couple played a "cat and mouse game" of sorts for several months before their romance blossomed. Little by little they found they have a lot in common. Among other things, both men love animals and living close to the land.

They say they enjoy city life too and regularly visit Portland to see friends, kick up their heels at country western dances and enjoy good food. But Look and Bunting can't wait to get home to their little corner of the Willamette Valley whenever they go out of town.

"I enjoy being in 'gay culture,' but I get gayed out," Look explains with a laugh.

The two men feel that gay guys in cities sometimes have a narrow view of what life is about and have little to talk about. For them, life is full of many things: family (Look has a daughter), cattle and horses, careers, projects on their property, travel, and pets.

"Being gay men is not 95 percent of our life," Look says.

Both men were once married and have struggled through divorces and lost dreams; their similar histories bond them as well. Coming out has been a process of small steps for both, but new dreams are beginning to emerge.

"You earn your place," Look explains about how he's gotten more and more comfortable being himself.

He first noticed that he'd progressed when he met other men still struggling to come to terms with being gay.

"The more you come out, you work your way up," Look says. "And you get healthier and are around healthier people."

Bunting and Look are involved in many activities, including the Human Rights Campaign. They once hosted a fund-raiser, attended by Betty DeGeneres, on their home's deck and invited all their straight neighbors.

They say they often have straight people in their lives over for dinner. "Our home is open to all regardless of orientation. We treat everyone the same," they say.

"It's the subtlety that shows our pride," Bunting says. "We live a normal life like anyone else."

The couple say they sometimes show affection to one another out in the yard. They forget, they say, that they are different and that someone might have a problem with two men holding hands on their porch.

"Part of pride is that you forget you're gay," Look says.

—JK

TERRI TREAT

If you're looking for the pride in gay pride, you need look no further than Portlander Terri Treat. When asked how she feels about the subject, this woman radiates energy, excitement, enthusiasm and intelligence as she articulately explains her feelings toward the topic at hand.

Simply put, Treat loves pride weekend. Specifically, she feels a major sense of pride in being part of a massive group of people—people with major differences who yet manage to come together for this celebration of diversity, accomplishment and achievement.

This self-described "sentimental romantic" says pride "is all about love." Treat looks forward to hugging and kissing all day long: old friends, new friends, people seen all the time, people seen only now and then.

Treat is especially effusive about the Dyke March. She attended the first such event in the '80s in Washington, D.C., and still relishes the power of the experience. She is

FAMILY PRIDE

The Class of 2000

Just Out surveys the many faces and ways of life in our proud community

"I love being queer. It's so easy for me; it's all about the love—love for each other, no matter who we are."

—Terri Treat



Continued on Page 33

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Dharma Rain Zen Center is a Soto Zen Temple for Lay practice, bringing people together to build community and wisdom through practice. DRZC offers retreats, classes, introductory workshops, and sesshins. The Zendo space is shared with groups in the Vipassana, Tibetan, & Zen traditions, creating a unique atmosphere and opportunities for learning about Buddhism and its daily application.

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