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clearly capable of seeing and celebrating all the difference and all the connection, all at the same time.

Visibly warming to the subject, Treat continues explaining how she feels proud of the women who came before her, proud of the radi-



cal, proud of the feminists, proud of their efforts and how they labored so that Terri Treat can be out and proud today. She is proud to be continuing that work so the women of tomorrow can be proud of the efforts and lives of the women of today.

Treat ends our conversation with: "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."

—M D

## DOUG STAUFFER

Doug Stauffer is filled with pride. He's proud of the life he's made on his 150-year-old farm near Woodburn, Ore., with Jeff Clark, his partner of 11 years.

Proving that two young guys who met in a bar can indeed live happily ever after, Stauffer and his mate have been on quite an adventure. In 1994 they held a commitment ceremony in Oregon before moving to Hawaii for two years, where they officially registered to be married, should that ever become a possibility there.

Stauffer is also proud of his newfound heritage. He always knew he was adopted, and he

enjoyed the support of his adoptive family when, at age 33, he was finally ready to search for his roots. It only took his partner 30 minutes on the Internet to locate Stauffer's birth mother's death certificate and determine she had lived in southern Oregon.

Minutes later Stauffer was calling names that matched his mother's, and he hit pay dirt almost immediately.

"I'm happy to tell you you're talking to your brother," said the voice on the other end of the line.

Now here's where gay pride really gets put to the test. Before any "Hallmark moment" family reunion could be planned, Stauffer was determined to let his family know exactly who he is.

"I came out over the phone—I wasn't going down there and not have them accept me," he says with clear self-confidence and conviction.

And despite some family members who lean pretty darn far toward the conservative right, Stauffer and his partner were welcomed into his long-lost family at their first meeting.

It was a great relief to finally understand his background. "I've always had a great connection to Native American things, to nature, but I didn't know why," Stauffer explains. Learning his father was Irish and his mother was Seneca-Cayuga fit together the puzzle of his life.



Since learning of his native blood, Stauffer has become a registered member of his tribe and begun attending a sweat lodge. He has also bought a tepee to set up on his farm.

"I want to learn my culture, I want to pass it on to my nephews and nieces," he says.

He is also trying to figure out where he fits into his culture as a gay man. "As a twin spirit,

I may have to sit between the men and the women in the lodge," he says quietly, adding that many indigenous people are afraid of gay men and lesbians, because of the Christian overlay of negativity.

"Many of them have lost the old ways," he says sadly.

But Doug Stauffer is ready to do something about all that. He is starting a group for gay and lesbian indigenous people. (See the announcement in the Bulletin Board section on Page 39.)

"I want to bring us together, to be more visible in native culture," he says enthusiastically.

Referring to the two-spirit tradition, in which gay Native Americans were revered and often became the shamans of the tribe, he adds: "I want to revive the old ways and the reverence for gays that the culture originally held."

His voice softens as he speaks again of his land, the place where he grew up, the place that is once again his home: "I feel blessed to be able to look out my living room window and see all these old trees. Nature brought my two worlds together."

—OG

## LORI PATTERSON

Lori Patterson is the kind of person who reminds you everyone in the world has an interesting story to tell.

The 33-year-old, 6-foot-plus "office maven" for the Lesbian Community Project was born and raised in Boston, and though her speech has assimilated to West Coast style over the years, Patterson says she still thinks with a Bostonian accent.

She moved to Portland in 1993 because of the easygoing lifestyle and the bookstores.

"It seemed like where all the hippies came to retire," she says. "Also, there were a lot of good bookstores. I'm a total book person; I'm one of those nutty people who smells books when they're just published."

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# FAMILY PRIDE

## The Class of 2000

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

"Pride to me is 'woo-hoo!' I remember hanging out in Dupont Circle with a bunch of half-naked people," she says. "It felt like such

a sense of freedom and safety. I thought, 'Was this how it felt when Martin Luther King was here?'"

—Lori Patterson

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