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Portland, Oregon FREE

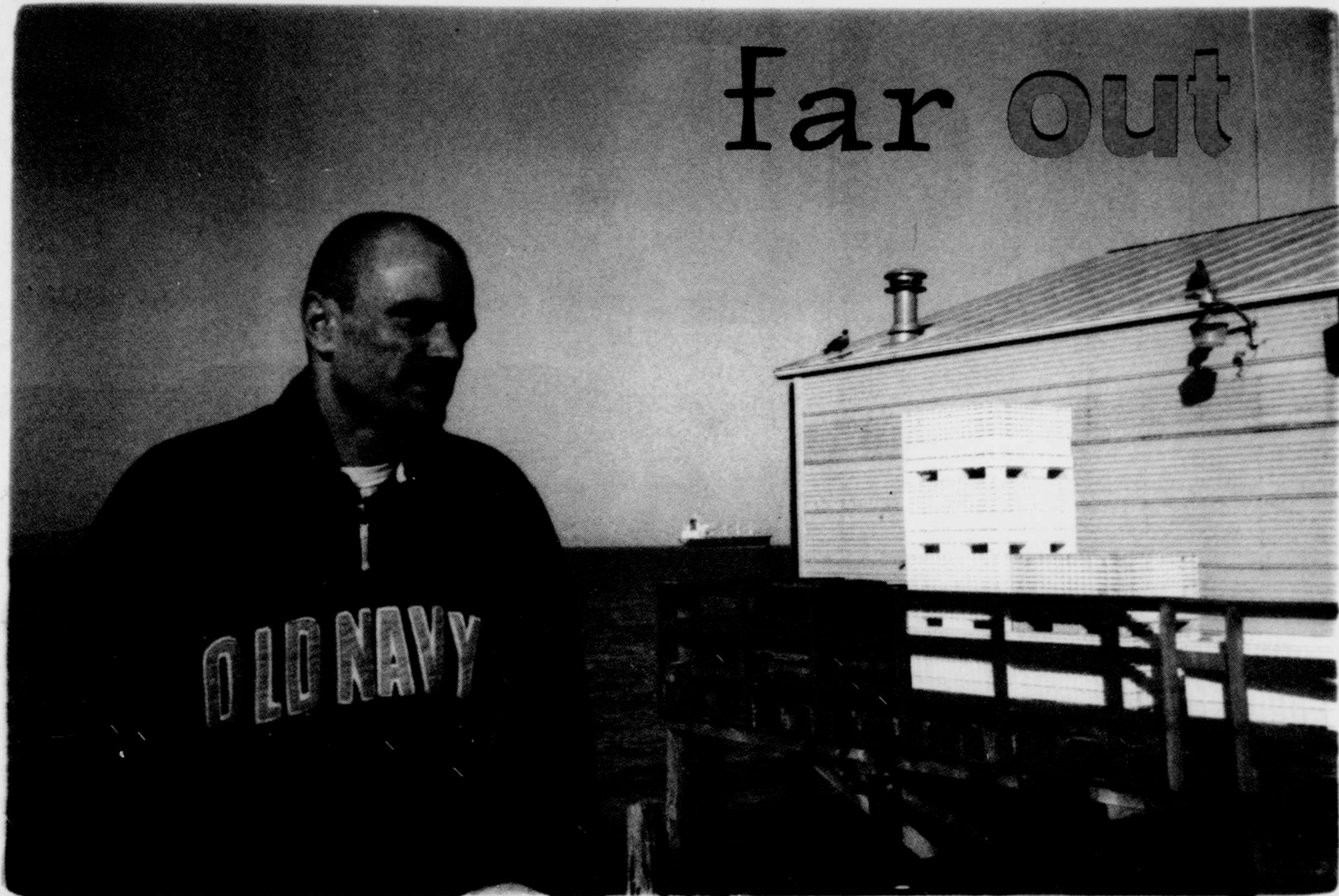


PHOTO BY JIM RADOSTA

## Rural folks share stories of small-town life

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### High visibility

ABC's *20/20* interviews alternative family from Portland

BY JONATHAN KIPP

One of the longest-running and most critically acclaimed evening newsmagazines, *20/20*, soon will feature one of Portland's own alternative families.

We are used to hearing about gay men and lesbians having children. Melissa Etheridge talked about her kids on television. Anne Heche and Ellen DeGeneres also spoke of their dream to have children.

One season, Oprah Winfrey followed the story of two men having a baby with the help of a surrogate. She even sent a camera to the men's baby shower.

And then there is Rosie O'Donnell. The media haven't shied away from the topic of gays having babies—or even adopting foster children.

But what about the older children—the ones raised, at least partially, in the closet? What about the kids who were born before it was a trend? The ones born when it was

unusual for a same-sex couple to create families that included children?

These stories aren't reported often. Some say at least part of the reason for this is because of lingering secrecy.

The upcoming *20/20* exposé is about one of Portland's blended families. It is also about one of Portland's "queer" families. It is a story made up of so many smaller stories that these people only could be one thing: a family.

And mainstream America—from Weed, Calif., to Manville, N.J.—soon will learn more about this family of three children and two moms from Portland.

Josh Graham and Alex Tinker are brothers. They are the ones who will be featured in the *20/20* piece.

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