

PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS

"Coming out wasn't easy," Nelson explains. "But people were much more comfortable to see me as a lesbian than a gay man."

Nelson must have skin 2 inches thick, because he has to deal with prejudice all the time. On the bus, he endures verbal attacks on an almost daily basis.

"They ask me what my gender is and get angry," Nelson says. "They stare at my throat and see if I have an Adam's apple. They don't even realize they're being prejudiced and transphobic."

"You need to know my name and the correct pronoun to use," Nelson says, leaning forward as his voice becomes serious. "But don't ask me what sex I am. I think I know which bathroom to use."

Still, Nelson has a remarkably sober view of his persecutors. "I understand that prejudiced people are people with potential for change, and I'm also a person with potential for change."

Nelson, a member of COQSURE and Gender Machine Works, has been a Buddhist for seven years, actively involves himself in anti-oppression work and provides ground support for tree sitters at Eagle Creek. He recently moved in with his boyfriend and is getting married in a few months.

Last year Nelson went to Gay Pride, openly identifying himself as trans. This year he plans to organize a whole group of trans, intersex and cross-dressing people and march with them in the parade.

"Most people don't wear shirts that say, 'I am trans,'" Nelson says. "It can get lonely walking around the city. It's a great feeling to be among trans people and visible to the wider community." —PZ

to realize maybe I'm not a woman at all. You see, I'm a gender-complicated person."

The 22-year-old college graduate just came out of the closet for the second time. He identifies as a trans guy attracted to guys but sees himself as someone more attracted to individuals than genders.



PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS

## ● K.D. PARMAN

The first time K.D. Parman went to Pride, she saw something that scared her. Macho women climbed up the pedestrian crossing signs, ripped off their shirts and hurled them into the crowd.

This year, Parman will join those grls, the Lesbian Avengers, for the Dyke March. Then she plans to kick back.

"I just want to hang out, sit and watch everyone—from drag queens to Dykes on Bikes," she says. "Everyone comes out full force. For one weekend no one has to be discreet. Everyone's like, 'Yeah, damn it, I'm gay, so get over it.'" Parman thinks the government should stop

sinking its claws into personal decisions. "We should extend freedom to do what we choose," she explains. "It enrages me that some guys can put into law that my lifestyle is illegal."

As a result of this conviction, Parman has worked on political campaigns for the past five years. She oversaw volunteers and staff as statewide field director for No on 9 in 2000.

"I couldn't just volunteer. I had to work," she remarks.

Like a lot of people, Parman still has some kinks to work out with her family. Although she is out to them, she describes their relationship as "don't ask, don't tell."

As a 27-year-old graduate student at Portland State University pursuing a master's degree in education, Parman plans to become a high school science teacher. She lives with her partner of four years, Jeana Frazzini, and says they became close "while traveling around the country for four months in a '70s Volkswagen bus." Parman also plays soccer on the women's team Artemis, which is training to go to the Gay Games in Australia next year.

—PZ

## ● PATRICIA RAICHT AND ANN MARIE CHINN

Patricia Raicht and Ann Marie Chinn have known one and other for more than 20 years and have been a family for the past eight years. Today the center of that family is a 3-year-old "Sprout" Dakota Grace Chinn.

Continued on Page 36

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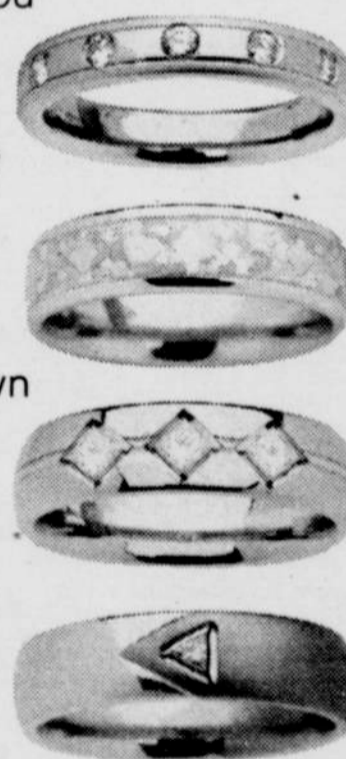
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