

FAMILY PRIDE 2001

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Although Pride celebrations continue to be important to them, parenthood has tempered their participation in activities somewhat, Chinn says. Today the trio start their Pride festivities at a brunch with other lesbian mothers



PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS

and their children, then watch the parade and visit the festival.

Two years ago the family marched in the parade. "I felt a tremendous amount of pride when we marched in the Portland Pride parade with our daughter," Raicht says. "I was amazed at the numbers of people that cheered for us and our little family and made us feel proud."

But Pride parades haven't always been care-free. When the family marched in 1999 they were confronted with fundamentalist Christian protesters who shouted "ignorant and hateful things."

What upset the women most was that their 1-year-old daughter could see the spectacle. That confrontation only has fueled their determination to be proud. "It is for them that I hold my head up high and keep marching," Raicht says.

She thinks Pride events are imperative. "It helps us show each other and the rest of the community who we are and the diversity within our own community. We are your neighbors, your teachers, your coaches, your doctors, your graphic designers and your customers. Our visibility is essential to increasing tolerance, acceptance and, hopefully, celebration."

In addition to their careers (Chinn is a business operations manager at Cascade AIDS Project; Raicht works in commercial real estate at Grubb & Ellis) and their civil rights work, the women participate in a 4-year-old group of lesbian moms. It now consists of seven couples and eight children with one baby on the way.

The monthly gatherings have given the kids a chance to see other lesbian families and to have friends who come from similar backgrounds, Raicht says.

—Jonathan Kipp

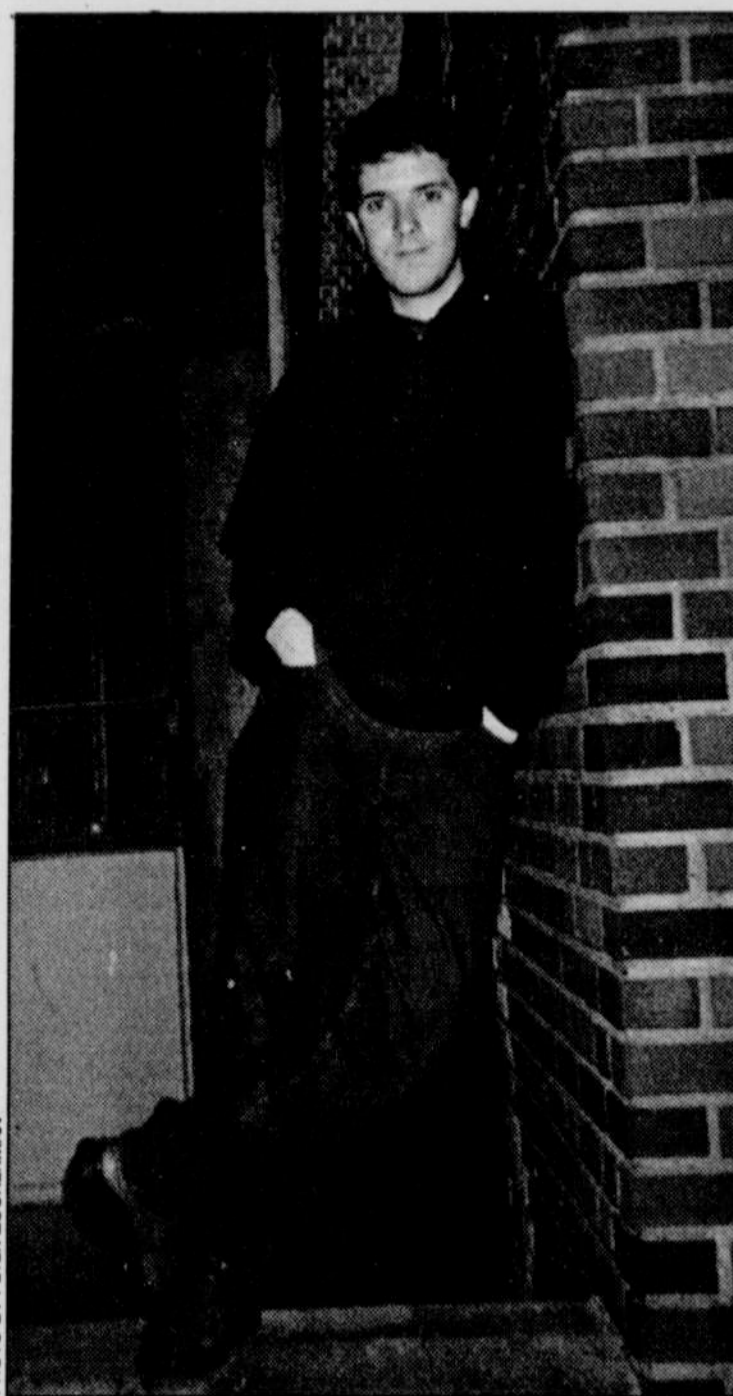


PHOTO BY PETER ZUCKERMAN

"It was hard at first, but I didn't want there to be any illusions," he remarks. "I just told all my relatives that I'm gay and that's who I was. Some of them were shocked, some of them said they didn't care, and some of them were proud of me." His mother claimed she's known since he was 4.

Growing up in conservative Boise, Idaho, Stone is not someone you'd expect to become a pride figurehead. But during the fall semester, he led the Queer Alliance and expanded the organization to provide support for faculty and staff as well as students.

This semester Stone co-leads the Multicultural Resource Center, which provides support for minority students. He also works as a house adviser, math tutor and secretary in the residence life office.

"I feel like I'm celebrating pride every day," Stone says. "I'm living in an apartment with my boyfriend for the first time, and we go on walks together every day."

Stone recently discovered what pride meant to him when he returned home for his brother's high school graduation.

"We had this reception after the graduation," he explains. "One of our acquaintances asks me if I have a girlfriend, and I'm not sure what to say at first. I'm in arch-conservative Boise, Idaho, surrounded by all these grandparents."

Stone pauses. "So I'm quiet for a moment, and they all start listening to me. So I say, 'No I don't have a girlfriend, but my boyfriend's really nice!'"

—PZ

● DYLAN STONE

On the final day of Coming Out Week last year, 20-year-old Reed College biology major Dylan Stone picked up the phone and called all his aunts, uncles and cousins.



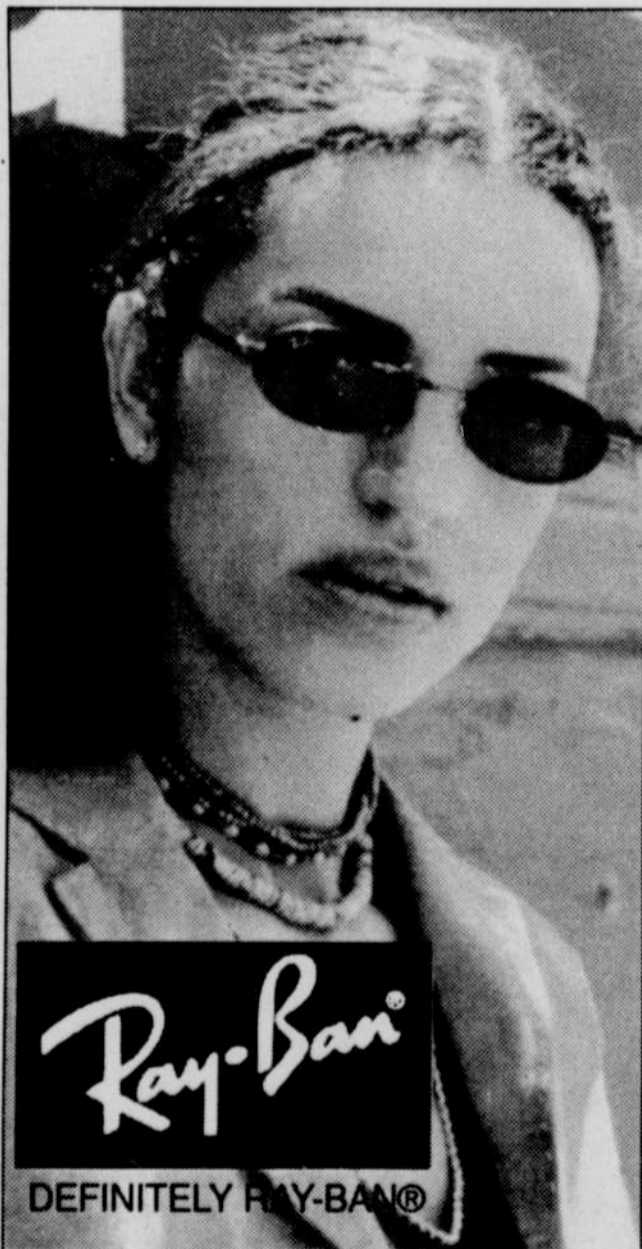
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