



Celia Lyon (left) and Terri Popejoy welcome visitors to their "home away from home"

Bella Casa Realty is celebrating its first holiday this year. The intrepid team of principal broker Celia Lyon and associate broker Terri Popejoy made a bold and brave move away from the corporate world and opened their own business in 2002.

At a recent holiday open house, their new office space and "home away from home" was delightfully and elegantly decorated for the season. If these real estate divas could make every home they sell even half as warm and inviting as their own space, their working days soon would be behind them.

2002 brought changes and new ventures to the coffee shop barons (and baronesses!) of our community.

Out on Northeast Glisan Street, Touchstone proprietor Becky Bilyeu has a brand new sign lighting up the night sky and leading tired shoppers and worn workers to her part of the world. The weary and weak are reminded that they should head out to her java joint for some last-minute holiday gift ideas. You see, there's more than just coffee there. Along with a tasty beverage and a few minutes of non-mall-ish relaxation,



Touchstone Coffee House has a brand new sign to beckon java junkies

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Realtors hold warm open house; coffee shops heat your insides; former Portlander flies north for the winter

you'll find hand-crafted candles, soap and other "potions."

But wait, there's more! Bilyeu has magnets, hand-scribed stones, pewter pocket angels and—yes, Virginia, there is a Santa—darned if she didn't leave a fine selection of Affirmation Card decks at Touchstone. We all have to get in touch with our spiritual side sooner or later. If you'd rather wait until later, buy a bunch of Coffee Cash Cards for everyone, head home, and kick back.

If you're in Southeast Portland and needing a coffee fix, fire up your favorite mode of transportation and head to the city's newest lesbian-owned cafe, Haven. Located one block west of the Egyptian Club on Division Street, this new neighborhood hangout is well on its way to being a popular spot with the caffeine crowd. It is roomy, has a great feel and features stacks of popular board games to entice you on a wintry afternoon.

A dream 10 years in the making, Haven serves Stumptown coffee, sandwiches, pastries and all kinds of aromatic teas and brews. Owner Dale Schiff came to Portland two years ago and brings with her more than a decade of experience in social work and child therapy. In fact, it's Dr. Schiff—yup, Dale Schiff, Psy.d—a logical background indeed for one who yearns to open a coffee shop. Ironically, she was able to start Haven with earnings from



Dale Schiff's Haven is a dream 10 years in the making

lucrative investments, including some darn good timing on the purchase and sale of Starbucks stock.

What's better than the notion that Starbucks helped fund a lesbian-owned cafe offering exhibits of original artwork, a music night featuring "lesbians with guitars" and that decades-old coffeehouse standard, open mike night? Oh yeah, free alternative publications are available to browse through while you sit and sip. Can you get any of that at Starbucks? Nooo.

Our barista tour continues with a stop at the Beehive on East Burnside Street. Formerly the Burnside Bean, this establishment recently was purchased by 3 Friends owner Randy Rappaport. He is clearly on his way to creating his own coffee dynasty and giving Starbucks a run for its money. Go, Randy, go!

The Beehive also features the ever-popular Stumptown coffee and has expanded its edible offerings to include lunch-time soup and sandwiches. Known as the "sister store" of 3 Friends, in part because of a largely female staff, the cafe has received a significant upgrade in appearance as the new owner refreshes the space.

So there you have it: Three gay-owned eastside coffee shops providing warm, welcoming and delightfully fragrant venues where you can hang out and feel at home. Don't forget, though,

these places need your business and your dollars, so step right up to the counter and order that drink.

For those of you playing "Where's Kip?"—and I know there are many of you—our favorite tall and handsome Oregon expatriate, Kip Beardsley, has left Arizona and moved on to Minneapolis for a new position.

"The Minnesota Department of Health has a great reputation for research and innovation in the fields of sexual health," he says. "And, after spending a summer in Phoenix, why not winter in Minneapolis?"

Though he didn't mention it in his e-mail, I'm sure Beardsley meant to invite everyone to visit and go ice fishing with him. Or whatever the hell else you do in Minnesota during the winter.

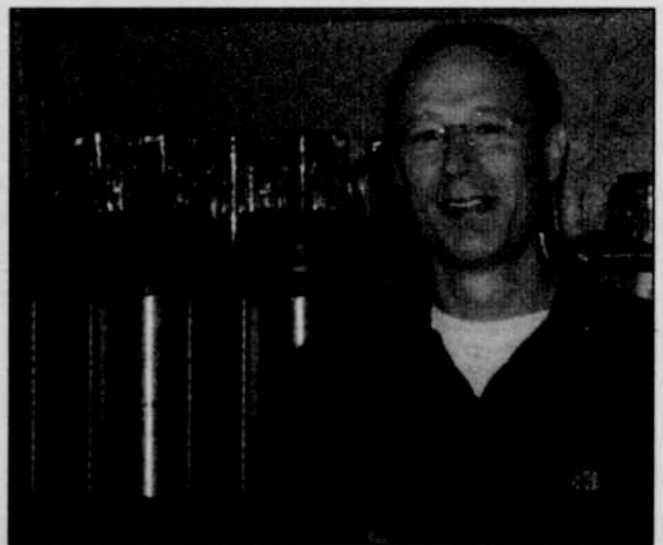
While one moves on, another moves back. After ending his yearlong journey to Spain and other destinations, Dean Sidwell has returned to Portland, where he now is working as a clinical specialist at CODA Treatment Services.

He also is planning to form in February a support group for gay men dealing with relationship issues and to schedule in March a workshop for men and women on the topic of fear in our lives. Welcome home, Dean.

And finally, perennial overachiever Jeff Fisher continues to earn industry respect and regard in his field of creative design and identity.

He has signed a book deal wherein he'll write a volume on the business of graphic design for industry publisher HOW Design Books. The man behind Jeff Fisher LogoMotives has received more than 400 regional, national and international graphic awards to date for his corporate identity efforts. **J**

Business news with a queer bent should be reported to MARTY DAVIS at marty@justout.com.



3 Friends owner Randy Rappaport has opened Beehive, a "sister store"



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