

child is different, the feeling that being different from one's peers is so horrific that any intervention is justifiable.

The "queer bodies" Koyama speaks of have an enormous power but also represent a considerable threat to cultures used to enforcing rigid gender norms. With the queer community now well entrenched in the larger world and activism expected, if not always welcome, there's little the medical community can do but accept (even if there's still a long way to go). And education on homosexuality and transsexuality has been increasingly widespread, allowing a consistent, undeniable discussion of these issues.

On the other hand, intersex people, most of them altered irrevocably at or near birth, continue to be defined largely by the medical community.

Are intersex people and queer people thus natural partners in this struggle? It's a complicated issue.

Koyama's work extends into many activist areas (she describes herself as a "multi-issue social justice slut"), and she has found important allies in the queer community. "In 1996 the Transsexual Menace said: 'You should do direct action. You can't just have a conversation with people who want to eliminate you.' So [ISNA] had the first public demonstration in Boston," she says, during a big medical conference. Activists handed out fliers, alerted the media and had an intersex person and several transsexuals help with questions and comments.

"The media went to see the doctors," remembers Koyama, "and they denied it. So we went back and found the document from

the AMA and said, 'Look, this is the medical standard that they publish, this is what they say.'"

Shedding light on the disparity between perceived outcome of patient care and reality is ISNA's strong point. "The doctors always say all the patients are happy with what they receive," grouses Koyama. "I met a doctor who told me that every single patient was satisfied with the treatment. We knew three people who were operated on by this same guy—what the doctors really mean is that nobody has threatened to kill them!"

**ARE THEY QUEER?**

Koyama has compiled the pamphlet *Introduction to Intersex Activism: A Guide for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Trans Allies*. It offers a basic introduction to the topic and suggests ways to build coalitions between the intersex and queer communities, including listening to intersex people, supporting the work of intersex activists and being realistic in understanding that there are differences in priorities and agendas between the two—including the serious medical issues affecting the intersexed.

Asked the inevitable question of whether "I" should be added to GLBT, Koyama cautions: "Intersex people as a group generally do not take it on as an identity the way that many GLBT people do.... If a group or organization is about pride and cultural activities, adding 'I' may not include most intersex people but only certain ones who claim intersex as an identity."

An identity, however, can provide activist clout. "There's a certain political sig-

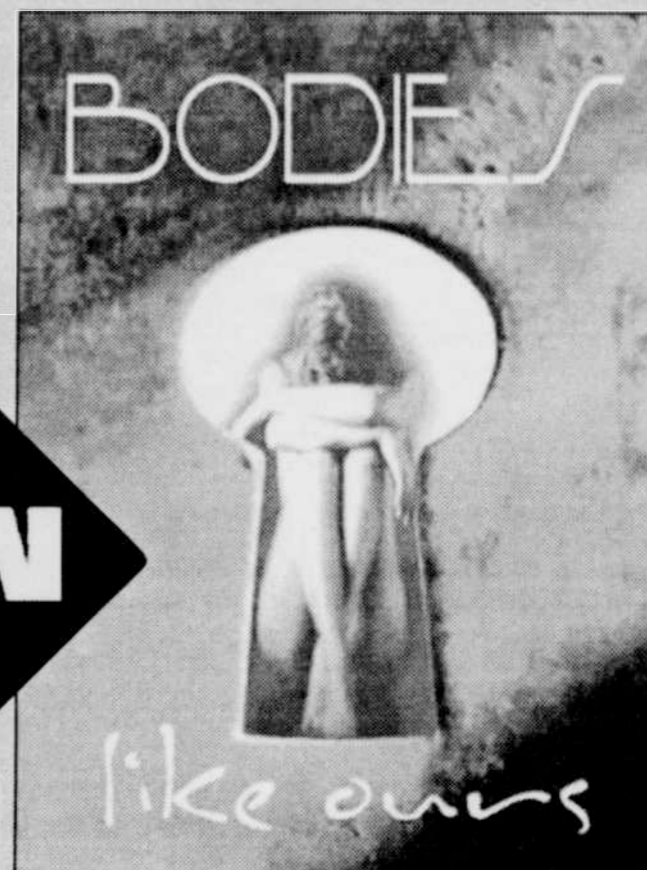
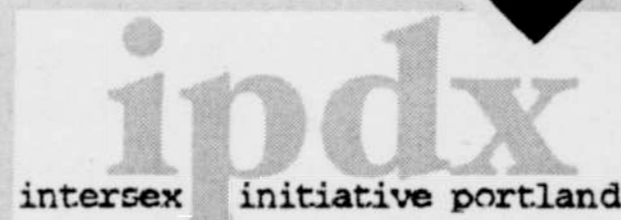
nificance to taking it on as an identity," Koyama notes. "Some organizations have added 'I' without really thinking. But we [ISNA and others] are talking about stop-

ping people from butchering kids. Honoring diversity and celebrating bodies is wonderful, but it's not the agenda we have as intersex activists." □

**Want to learn more?**

The Web has been an essential part of publicizing and building the intersex movement, countering misperceptions and making the many issues that surround intersex intelligible. Here are a few places to surf for important resources and virtual community centers:

- **Intersex Society of North America:**  
www.isna.org
- **Bodies Like Ours:**  
908-832-7755 or www.bodies-likeours.org
- **Emi Koyama:**  
www.eminism.org
- **Intersex Initiative Portland:**  
503-288-3191 or www.ipdx.org



*Donating 20% of my fee to a charity of your choice. Together we can make a difference.*

**KEYSTONE**  
MORTGAGE

**LISA FINKLE**  
Loan Officer  
503.408.1432 / cell: 503.869.5692

4110 Northeast 122nd Avenue, Suite 220, Portland, OR 97230

first & third  
**first & third**  
just out hits the stands the first and third Fridays of every month! Enjoy!

**Drive with Pride**

Visit us online at:  
www.reyreece.com  
or schedule your appointment  
**503-256-3700**

**REY REECE DEALERSHIPS**  
ISUZU-VOLKSWAGEN-USED  
122nd & East Burnside  
www.reyreece.com

**raindrop laboratories**  
www.rdrop.com

Connecting Portland to the World since 1985  
Portland's oldest locally owned ISP!

Internet access - dialup & high speed DSL  
Web hosting Unix shell access  
Spam filtering Static IP addresses

Affordable: \$5-15/mo dialup, \$20 DSL

Visit www.rdrop.com or dial in for details!  
56K/ISDN access and signup: 503-972-0365

You can even connect to a real live human at: 503-574-4195  
Gay owned and operated

Thanks Christine!

Call today for a free qualification over the phone

First Time Buyers • FHA/VA Loans  
Self-Employed • Complicated Borrowers  
Bankruptcies & Foreclosures • Credit Problems  
Investment Properties • Pre-approvals  
100% Financing Programs

**Christine Hall**  
Senior Loan Consultant  
President's Club  
**503-698-5429**  
800-343-9943  
503-301-1941  
hallc@eaglehomemortgage.com

**EAGLE HOME MORTGAGE**

"When we learned the landlord was selling our house, we called Christine in a panic. Being self employed, we thought it might be impossible to buy, but Christine came to the rescue. She made the extra effort to get all our paperwork in order and the loan approved." - Patti & Joy, Rita's Flowers

More Than Candy...  
**Bertucci's**  
Chocolates & Gifts

- Greeting Cards
- Gourmet Foods
- Beeswax & Soy Candles

1560 Columbia Blvd.  
St. Helens  
(503) 366-9602

**WESTOVER HEIGHTS**  
CLINIC

Offering general internal medicine and excelling in sexual health care

Serving the community for 17 years

2330 NW Flanders  
Suite 207  
**503-226-6678**