

FAMILY PRIDE!

Continued from Page P33

was in ninth grade I told my friends that I wanted to play at Carnegie Hall," Haywood says. She didn't have the support of her family, though, who saw classical music as "white." The only support she had came from within herself. "It was difficult for me to believe in myself as classical pianist. I never felt entitled," Haywood explains. "Most of the time when I play, people focus on my race over my talent.... Instead of accepting people for who they are, society measures people by stereotypes and expects them to fit in a nice little box. I am a black gay female who plays and composes classical music and listens to country. I'll never fit in a box." —MF



Cris Land

Cris Land

Cris Land describes himself as a trans guy ambassador, and he's observed firsthand how Portland queers have become more understanding of their trans siblings. "Gay folks and trans folks are very much joined," the 39-year-old affirms. "Gender identity protection and hate crimes legislation help protect gay people because gay people are also victims of that very same violence and discrimination." Land grew up mostly in Colorado and came out as lesbian after high school but found little family support. He sampled college, worked at a group home and hitchhiked to Oregon, where he studied sociology and women's studies at Portland State University and helped found

a women's union and lesbian alliance. "I was able to make the decision to explore transition once I started loosening up about the whole idea of identity and the thought that you have one identity that can't change," he says. "It was an evolving understanding of myself that went from being lesbian—which felt closer and certainly was better for me than being a straight person—to becoming a butch dyke." By then, Land had settled into a relationship with his partner. He knew she'd be accepting of his desire to proceed with transition, but he also realized the decision would affect her life, too. Their identity as a lesbian couple would change, though Land continues to consider himself queer. Land began taking hormones even while beginning a new position with the Information and Technology Group at Oregon Health & Sciences University. He came out to co-workers a year later, having begun what was probably the first visible on-the-job transition at OHSU. Today, Land is senior manager of the computer support team and considers his transition complete, having faced a difficult second coming-out to his family last year. In another change two months ago, the couple moved from urban Hawthorne to 5 1/2 acres in rural Warren that Land says come with peace, quiet and critters. —TK

John Scussel Jr.

From Gulf Coast banker to West Coast hair stylist, John Scussel Jr. has made a journey in more than mere miles. "As I've matured and migrated north and west, I've gotten more and more away from the standard culture of America," says this Radical Faerie known as FireWolf, a nickname reflecting his affinity for flame and the canine's role as teacher in native lore. "It was like I'd found a home for myself," he says of Faerie gatherings, "a commonality of acceptance that doesn't generally exist in gay culture. Everyone has their own reason for being there, but for me it's a celebration of the male spirit in all its manifestations." Raised in Florida, Scussel worked in banking while studying for a marketing degree at University of South Florida. He came out as a gay man during his college senior year, but he's never been one for labels. "Sexuality is fluid," he explains. Scussel explored lucrative accounting posi-



John Scussel Jr.

tions, eventually serving as controller for a national distributor of professional salon products. To gain credibility with clients, he sought a cosmetology license and soon traveled the country teaching hair coloring.



Bay Hall (right, with partner Boots Davis)

Scussel, 41, moved to Portland about a year ago to date a guy he'd met at a Radical Faerie gathering. Although the relationship didn't go anywhere, neither did he. Contentedly single, Scussel lives in Southwest Portland and works full time as "hair god" for Cuts and Chemistry, an independent salon in the nearby Garden Home neighborhood. Every fourth week, however, he packs his bag—and his shears—to visit family and clients back in Tampa. Between fawning with Faeries and flights to Florida, Scussel enjoys naturism and country western dancing (kudos to DJ Crystal, he says). But on the horizon are two goals: running the Portland Marathon this fall and hiking the Grand Canyon from rim to rim next year. —TK

Bay Hall

Listen up! Bay Hall has something to say. This 26-year-old Vancouver, Wash., transplant is head of the Lesbian Community Project's Deaf Awareness Program. Whether she's speaking or signing, she's working hard to create opportunities for deaf and hearing queers to interact and communicate. The LCP board member's program offers education, support and social events. "It takes the whole community working together

MARTELL-OWEN
Fire's Eye
GALLERY

Open 11am
to 5:30pm daily

located 7 miles SW of McMinnville
on Hwy 18 at Bellevue
WE SUPPORT GAY PRIDE!
503/843-9797
fireseyegallery@onlinemac.com

it's ME!
wigs

breast forms, bras & more! trans friendly
cosmetic makeovers & consultation
visit our booth at the PRIDE FESTIVAL!
susan johnson owner/fitter
2041 ne burnside, gresham
503/491-5110 ~ www.shopitsme.com

“Let the Spirit of Pride
Move You!”

Let me help you
reach your
full potential!

Timothy Mather
psychic channel counselor
503-888-8451 ~ www.tgmather.com
present this ad for \$20 off your 1st reading!

ASL
translator
available
on request

detours
A Travel Shoppe
Different Roads • New Views
(formerly Lloyd Travel)

Here's to a Great
Portland Pride 2003!

Call us for your next adventure.
Mexican Villas, South Pacific Paradise,
European Delights and More!

503-674-5145
1475 NE Village St. • Fairview, OR