

Linda Traeger is warm and composed, such that spending time with her makes you feel as though everything is right with the world. No wonder, then, that she was just appointed as executive director of Equity Foundation, an organization that supports the sexual minorities community by funding programs that promote diversity and tolerance; it would seem that her new job is to make sure everything is right with the world.

Traeger comes to Equity from a position as program developer and manager at Goodwill Industries of the Columbia Willamette, where, among many tasks, she headed the expansion of a vehicle donation program. She attributes her passion for activism to growing up in the segregated town of Omaha, Neb.

"I always had a feeling that racial segregation was wrong. All the activism of the '60s was happening when I was a teen-ager," she remembers.

Traeger came out as a lesbian in her late 20s after a brief marriage. "I did a good job of repressing who I was and what I really felt in the early years," she says.

Soon thereafter she met her partner of 26 years, whom she is still with today. Their interracial relationship has further cemented Traeger's commitment to cultivating acceptance: "It's allowed me to see the harmful effect of discrimination on a very personal level and in general."

Of the time that has passed since she met her partner, Traeger notes: "The world has changed so much: We're more represented in government institutions, we're able to adopt, get married...there are small gains, but there

A CONSTANT STRUGGLE

New executive director wants to increase Equity Foundation's visibility in promoting tolerance by J.B. Rabin

is so much more to be done. It's a constant struggle to maintain those rights, to keep them from eroding."

This is exactly what Traeger plans to do in her new post, and she has very specific ideas about how to do it. "I do think it's important to market what Equity Foundation is doing more effectively. There are people in [the sexual minorities] community who don't know about it, and other people wanting to support diversity and justice who would want to support it. To accomplish that, I know I need to have contact with people in the community who have [similar] concerns," she says of her desire to increase Equity's visibility with groups across Oregon concerned with the negative effect of ignorance and fear.

Traeger also believes that what Equity is doing should not be limited to Oregon. "One of my hopes for Equity Foundation is I would like to see the things going on here highlighted and replicated in other parts of the country," she says.



Linda Traeger was drawn to Equity Foundation because it supports education and awareness while combating ignorance and fear

She adds that another goal of hers is "to significantly expand the funds annually allocated to grantees." This is no small task, as Equity boasts an impressive \$234,000 granted to more

than 200 nonprofits in 2002 and a total of \$1.5 million granted since its inception in 1989.

With a résumé that reads like a who's who of nonprofits, Traeger seems to be the perfect person to carry out Equity's mission. "I'm really feeling like I'm in the right place. It's a job that allows me to draw from all my past experiences from all my past jobs," she says.

Prior to her position at Goodwill, Traeger served as vice president of Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights in Chicago, where she headed up housing and service programs for people with HIV/AIDS and provided case management and emergency assistance for people who were homeless or at risk. Also to her credit, she was a co-founder of the Lavender Fund, which established an endowment fund for queer programs; a board member of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago; and a member of the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Traeger was attracted to Equity because of the breadth of causes it supports. "I like Equity Foundation because it provides an opportunity to fund education and awareness, but also allows funding for things that are more celebratory...to acknowledge our experience as human beings," she says.

Sitting at her desk in an office filled with light and a beautiful view of the city, Traeger reflects on how lucky she is to be doing what she's doing. "Normally when you work, you don't have time to get involved in issues that are important to you. Now, it's my job." ☐

For more information about EQUITY FOUNDATION call 503-231-5759 or visit www.equityfoundation.org.

J.B. RABIN is a Portland free-lance writer.

International Beauty School



Competency Based School

No Minimum Hours Required

Hair Design
Nail Technology
Facial Technology

Some Classes Begin Weekly
Modern Salon Atmosphere
State of the Art Equipment
Quality Education at a Reasonable Price

Stop by anytime for service to sample the quality of our students and get more information on the program

• Payment Plans Available

www.intern-beautyschool.com

Salon Services

Tuesday-Saturday 11am-6pm

Hair Cuts Wed thru Fri FREE

Perms starting at \$25.00

Hair Color starting at \$20.00

Manicures \$6.00

Pedicures \$15.00

Artificial Nails \$10.00

Facial \$15.00

Waxing starting at \$5.00

Please visit our school for the complete menu of service

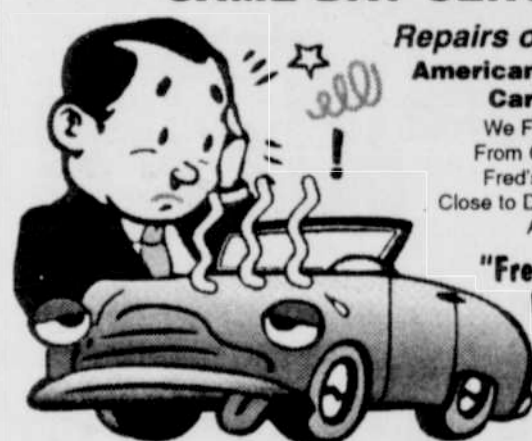
2215 SE Division Street ~ Portland, Oregon
(a stop on the #4 bus line)

503-236-5600

DOMESTIC **A&G** IMPORT Automotive

Mention this ad and get a 10% discount.

"SAME DAY SERVICE ON MOST REPAIRS"



Repairs of All Makes & Models

American • European • Imports

Cars • Trucks • RVs

We Fix It Right the First Time

From Oil Changes to Overhaul,

Fred's Auto Works Does It All

Close to Downtown • Free Local Rides

All Makes & Models

"Fred's Auto Works..."

Why Doesn't Yours?"

Services Include:
• Maintenance • DEQ
• Tune-ups • Poor Engine
Performance
• Brakes • Clutch
• All Electrical Problems
• Carburetors & Fuel Injection
• Pre Purchase Inspection
• Alternators & Starters
(Repaired, Rebuilt
or Exchanged)

503 238-1159

926 SE Morrison, Portland • <http://aandgautomotive.uswestdex.com>



CELIA LYON TERRI POPEJOY
(503) 260-6231 (503) 330-0400

Bella CASA
REALTY, INC.

Summer is simply the best time to put your home on the market. Call the best realtors for the job. Celia & Terri for Power Team! Buyer—let's get out there & find you a home...Call us now!

Bella Casa Realty Inc.

1523 SE Ankeny, Portland, OR 97214 • 503-231-SELL (7355)