

The Learning Curve

Continued from Page 27

ties, although oftentimes growing up is extremely hard for us," she says. "It just goes back to you're scared of what you don't know. And once folks know someone that's queer and an identity is actualized, it's not so scary."

That recognition and integration is a lesson she has brought to campus life, too. As student body president, Melton's vision is one of "shared governance." She wants to see decision-making shared with all members of the university community, bringing students, faculty and staff to the table when policies are discussed. With greater involvement, everyone's interests—including that of sexual minorities—can contribute to a greater whole, even when the issue is not specific to any one community.

"Every decision that comes across my desk, I read with a queer lens. I'm a queer person and have those life experiences, so something that is heterosexual or homophobic isn't going to slip by with my stamp of approval," she says. "One of the biggest moves the queer community needs to make is having queer people in positions of power—and making decisions that not only affect the queer community directly, but communities in general. I think that's the way

queer issues are normalized."

Not that mobilizing the queer community isn't still very important, she adds. "Queer organizations need to

continue, and the more the merrier, but I think that those organizations also need to start focusing on leadership development in general and developing people into leadership that they can use in any organization or structure."

That includes cultivating queer allies among leaders, too. She says it

again goes back to her roots in Cave Junction—building a sense of community by finding ways for people to participate more fully, not just the gay community or the campus community but on all levels.

"People have to take responsibility to make their communities better," concludes Melton.

"Don't be afraid to engage the world. The oppression of the queer community will never be resolved or changed if queers and allies don't engage the rest of the world."

—Maddy Melton



PHOTO BY ADAM AMATO

Growing up in rural Cave Junction taught Maddy Melton to value a sense of community, a principle she brings to her role as student body president at University of Oregon

Respecting kids

A sense of responsibility to the community is exactly what the new Emerson School will model when it opens its doors to grades K-5 this month.

"This is a place where gay and lesbian families can come and be gay and lesbian families. They don't have to be something they're not," states Jo Sigmund, one of the three founders and a parent who has worked in the education field for 18 years. "They don't have to worry about their kids. They can be out and be part of our community."

Get a Room!
(or your own home)



Helping people
buy homes, every day.

- ♦ first-timers welcome
- ♦ all credit/loan types
- ♦ free consultation
- ♦ \$0 down loans

Rose City
Mortgage Specialists

Apply at www.RoseCityMtg.com or call **503.768.4248**



**"You grow up the day
you have your first real
laugh at yourself."**

—Ethel Barrymore

NEW • USED • LEASE

Call **Ramona**
503-807-6455

for a fabulous deal!



Be Safe
SUBARU
Drive Safe



Tom Wood
Branch Manager
Escrow Officer

Serving the Portland Metro area
for all your Escrow and Title needs

- Residential
- Commercial
- 1031 Tax Deferred Exchanges
- Reverse Exchanges
- Business Opportunities

Put my experience
to work for you!

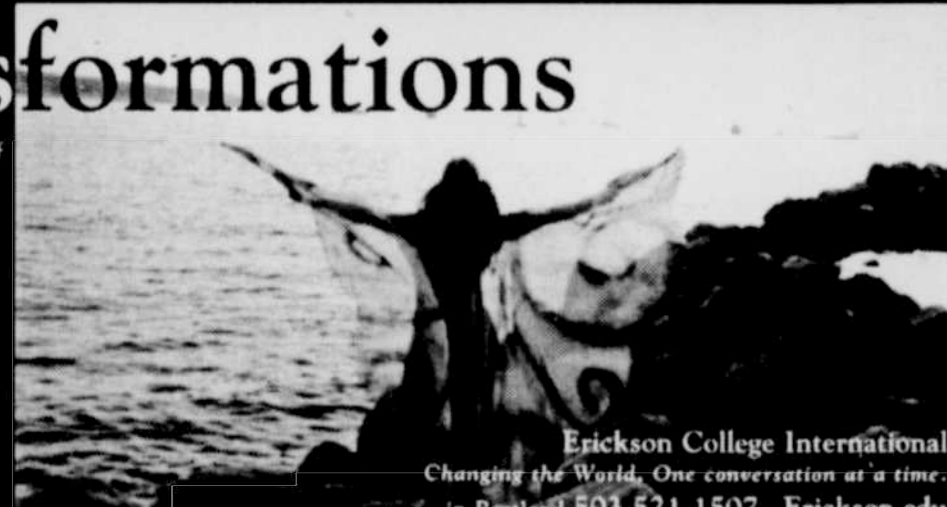


503-350-5099 fx: 503.226.7399

Transformations

Learn how to help yourself
and support other's to live
a life they love!

The Art & Science
of Life Coaching
Starts Sept. 19, 2003



Erickson College International
Changing the World, One conversation at a time.
in Portland 503-521-1507, Erickson.edu