

Breaking the binary barrier

The myths, the madness
and the mirror of

by Gina Daggett / Photos by Marty Davis

Bisexuals: "We're too queer to be straight and too straight to be queer. So we're shunned by both. And that's shameful, especially by people who know what it is to be shunned," says Glenn Scofield Williams, who believes, as a whole, the queer community does its best to be inclusive. "Where it breaks down," he contends, "is with individuals within the community."

Williams says he's neither homosexual nor heterosexual; he's just sexual.

"Why should I need to define it any more than that?" asks the bookseller and free-lance writer, who occasionally contributes to Just Out. Williams has been in a committed relationship with his female partner for 16 years. But, he says, "The dick is its own connoisseur, and how it responds to stimuli is what makes me sexual...not where I end up putting it."

Scott Dillinger, a gay man who works at Oregon Health & Science University as a social worker and therapist, says, "I do not believe that human sexuality is a locked feature, like eye color or other physical traits." Rather, he believes sexuality is one of the most fluid human characteristics, "one that is continuously being explored and developed as we age."

Bi woman Yasmine Branden, who works for a Portland utility company, is in a long-term relationship with a lesbian. She says bisexuality is "a capacity for attraction—emotional, physi-

cal, intellectual—to more than one gender. By identifying as bi, you affirm the complex spectrum of sexuality."

Meg Daly, who identified as lesbian for six years before embracing her bisexuality, doesn't think she'd been bi all along. Daly, who writes regularly for Just Out, says: "Sexual orientation has a number of factors to it, including sexual attraction, of course. But it is also a political identity, a social identity and an intellectual framework through which one sees the world." She adds that queers need to allow each other the "flexibility to change, to explore, to discover on our own."

Lesbian Caron Parker, a student at Portland State University, is less concerned with physiology. She focuses on her deep-rooted tendencies instead of a sexual structure that molds the human condition. "All I know for sure," says Parker, "is that at age 6, I fell in love with Lindsay Wagner and was the Bionic Woman for Halloween for three years in a row."



Glenn Scofield Williams rejects labels, preferring simply "sexual" over "hetero," "homo" or even "bi"