

books by women and helped many more through the Soapstone women's writers residency. She and Barrington share a large, sunny home in Southeast Portland, where Gundle has lived since 1975.

"Things constantly change," she says. "Mostly, as I near 60, I think about doing less. But every once in a while I think, wouldn't it be fun to learn a whole new something, again, from scratch."

—MD

Jonathan Weedman

Growing up in Marsing, Idaho (population 750), Jonathan Weedman had no queer point of reference, but he still managed to figure out he was gay. "It seems ridiculous now," he says, "but when I was 13, I thought I was the only gay person in the world."

Weedman knew he needed to get out of Marsing, and he saw education as his ticket. But as soon as he made it to college in northern Idaho, he was targeted for his sexual orientation, even though he hadn't come out to anyone.

"When I got to college I was blown away because everyone assumed that I was gay," he says. "I thought I passed. I was floored."

People would yell "fag" at him from across campus, and his college roommate tried to get a room change. But Weedman persevered and eventually came out. He then started a queer group on campus with another student, a transsexual woman.

With activism, the threats increased. "The windows on my truck were bashed out," he says. "I got tons of hate mail. It was wacko."

Instead of getting scared, Weedman got empowered. "Every [school] project I did was

about queer stuff. It was such a process of really embracing this thing."

When he moved to Portland to attend graduate school, he had thoughts of becoming an adult therapist, but the only jobs he could get were with youth. And he discovered that counseling youth was a perfect fit.

As a therapist and program manager at the Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center, the 27-year-old spends time with queer kids and their families so they, too, will feel empowered instead of scared. Luckily for the queer youth of Portland, Jonathan Weedman made it out of Marsing.

—KB

Paula Funatake

Portland native Paula Funatake is an attractive 48-year-old woman of Japanese ancestry, an aficionado of the outdoors and a trans parent of two children. She lights up all over when she talks about her 8-year-old son, Evan, who is a first-grader at Buckman School.

"I volunteer once a week in the classroom," she says. "I know Evan's teacher. She understands my story. And Evan's."

"I am a part-time parent," Funatake continues. "This is a big part of my life.... The struggle to keep Evan in my life was a huge issue in my divorce."

The divorce took two years and many negotiations and legal challenges to settle. During this transition Funatake was involved in mediation, custody evaluation and counseling. These were very difficult times, but she never allowed herself to be separated from her son.

Funatake's struggle to maintain child custody inspired her to establish a Web site to help other trans people in similar situations. After a year of working on the site, Transparency (www.geocities.com/transparency) got up and running.

"The Web site has given me the

opportunity to meet many people." Funatake leans forward, both elbows on the table. "It takes the feeling of being lost and alone away. People from all around the world are in touch."

Funatake is involved in community education in the Portland area, too. She presents diversity workshops at Portland State University and Reed College and with Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

"You know who is my staunchest supporter?" She doesn't wait for an answer. "Evan is. He even attends some of the speaking engagements."

"Family can't be predefined," she says. "People are like nature; they want to move to where there is balance. Like rocks after a landslide and how they come to settle at a resting place."

—RL

Rob Douglass

Rob Douglass, 33, is a proud native of Portland. "It's something that carries a bit of weight these days," he says with a smile.

He works for a software company, but his passion is being a "social historian and a social activist of sorts." A graduate of Portland State University with a bachelor's degree in history and international studies, Douglass has been a member of the Gay and Lesbian Archives of the Pacific Northwest for seven years—as a

"People are like nature; they want to move to where there is balance"

—Paula Funatake

board member and officer. Working with GLAPN gives him the chance to do something practical with his degree.

Douglass says he has especially enjoyed working with PSU students on collecting oral histories and researching gay places in town. "Making the archive relevant to the new generations—to continue that history and legacy so that young people are aware of their past here in town—has been so rewarding."

Knowing what goes on around him and being involved at the local level are important to him. The local level "is where you can do the most good and make the most changes," says Douglass.

When it comes to Pride, he has both practical and philosophical thoughts about what the festival means to him. "It's a celebration of who we are as people, as individuals and that we have a place or event where we can be ourselves and we can be respected," he says.

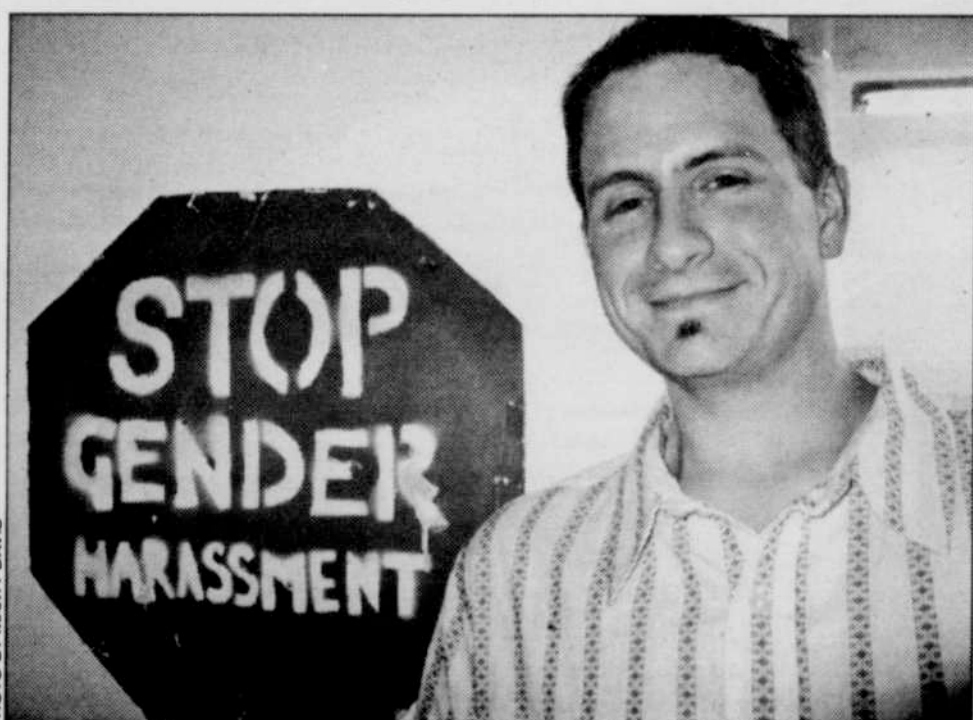
Then he adds, "For me, Pride is the ability to see myself for who I am, that others can see me for who I am and that I may live within my heart more and more each day."

In Douglass' view, Pride is not about our differences. He says the annual event asks "only that I am able to bring the world the best of what I strive to be and that the world obliges me that small gratitude in return."

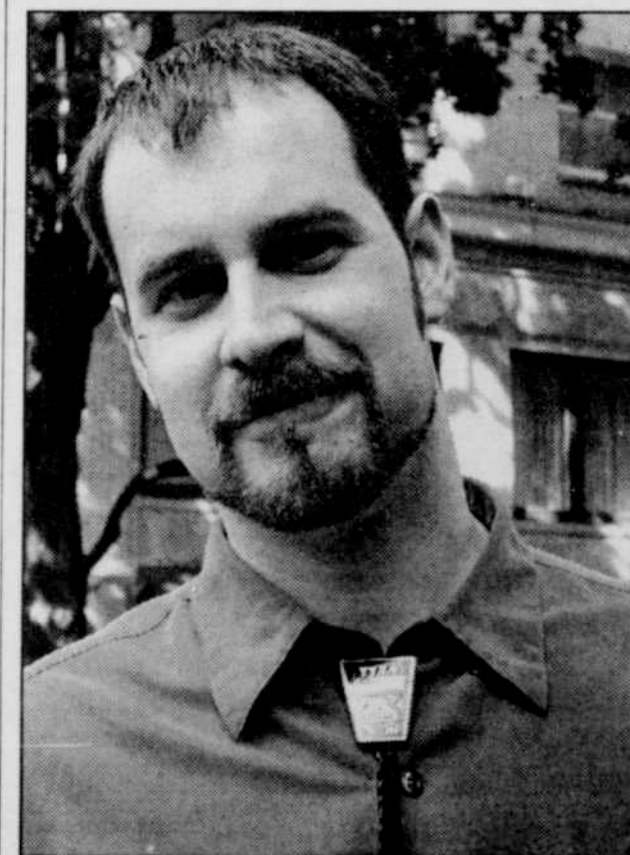
—Pat Young



Paula Funatake and Evan



Jonathan Weedman



Rob Douglass

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