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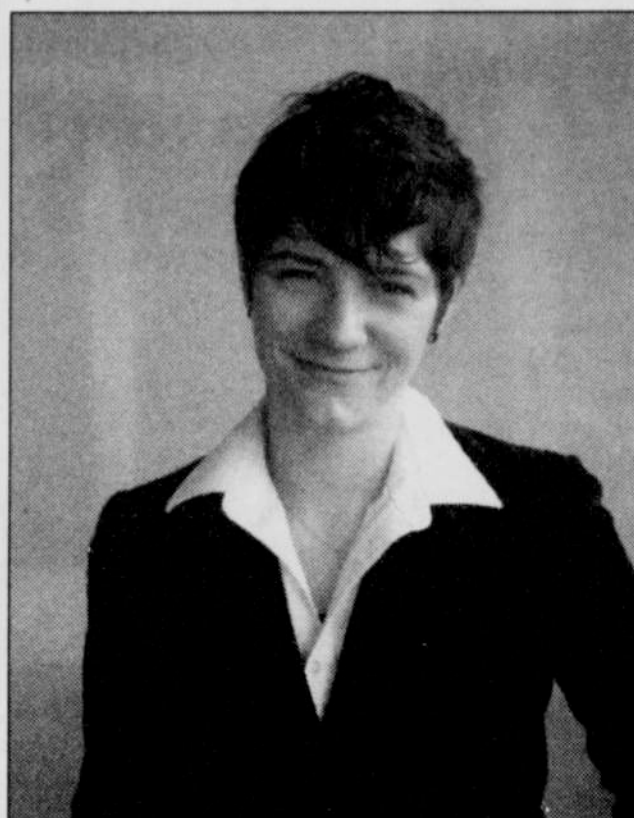
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Gene de Haan brings her management skills to Q Center.

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As a student at Reed College, de Haan spent two years managing the not-for-profit coffee shop/community center on campus, where she oversaw 35 employees and was in charge of establishing business relationships on and off campus. She managed all the finances, including allocating funds, generating financial reports, purchasing and fund raising.

"I grew up the only out dyke in my Salem high school of 2,400 kids," de Haan said. "This experience taught me that access to an embracing and affirming community is invaluable. I'm honored to be a part of this important work."

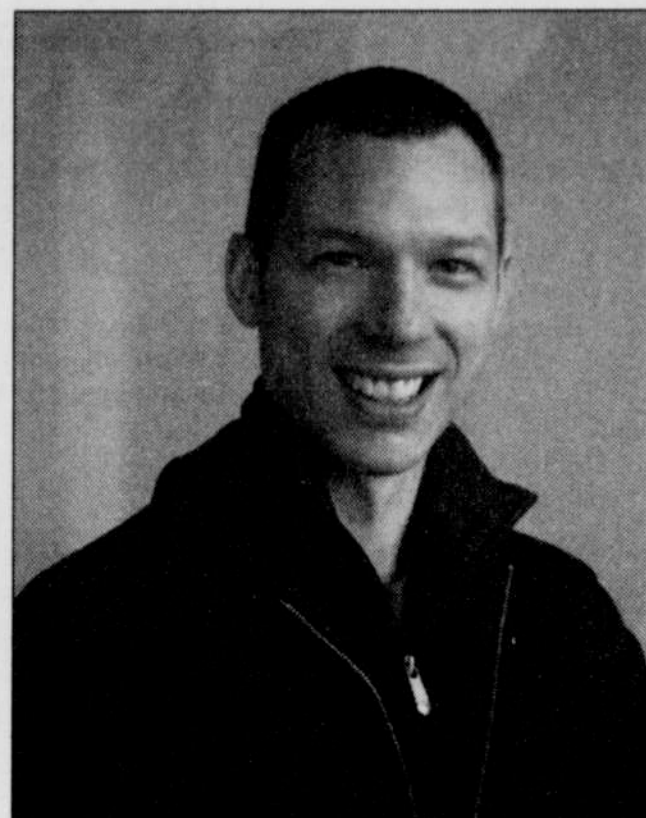
The community center will continue to use the Q Center name during the rollout period. Decisions about a permanent name and development of the overall community center brand will be made during the next year.

Upcoming Q Center events include a community meeting from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Feb. 9. Join board members and meet de Haan at Haven Coffee, 3551 S.E. Division St. For more information e-mail info@pdxqcenter.org.

Gay Into Straight America Sends Word

Dotti Berry and Roby Sapp are on a yearlong journey called Gay Into Straight America.

At their wedding in Portland, Berry and Sapp made the vow to "change the world through the expression of our love." They see Gay Into Straight America as their continued commitment to bridging the divide and reaching out to those who are



Baker Tim Healea heads up the Q Center board of directors.

wrestling with their understanding of queers.

Berry and Sapp recently wrote the following while on the road: "We feel that the key to our own freedom is in our own back pockets. It does not lie in the hands of the church leaders or the rest of society, even though so many gay people are sitting back just waiting for the church and the government to anoint us with a magic wand and say, 'You are OK, after all.' We are OK, end of subject. If we need others to tell us we are OK in order to believe it, we are the ones that need continued healing."

To read Berry and Sapp's weekly updates and to send them encouragement, go to www.soulforce.org. You can also visit their Web site, www.gayintostraightamerica.com.

Equity Celebrates Donors, Community Feb. 16

Equity Foundation's sixth annual Investments in Dignity Awards celebration will be held Feb. 16 at the Governor Hotel, 614 S.W. 11th Ave. In addition to the presentation of awards and grants, the event will include hors d'oeuvres, wine and a silent auction. Tickets are \$50, with all proceeds going to support Equity's grant-making and educational programs. Doors will open at 5:45 p.m.

Equity celebrates the work of its grantees, the generosity of its donors and the support and loyalty of its friends who embrace the dignity and worth of all people. Each year it honors two members of the community who have championed its mission. This year the John Grigsby-Jim Vegher Investments in Dignity Award will be presented to Thomas D. Aschenbrener, and the Torchbearer Award will be presented to Sho Dozono.

Aschenbrener is being recognized for his outstanding contributions to Equity. As its first volunteer executive director, he created the systems that would enable Equity to fulfill its mission as a fund-raising and grant-making organization. He was instrumental in involving Equity in seven annual workplace giving campaigns and setting the stage for the organization's participation in more than 17 campaigns statewide this year. Aschenbrener subsequently served as an Equity board member from 1995 until 1998 and, along with other early board members, helped establish donor advised funds and scholarships and developed the procedures to manage them.

Dozono is being honored with the Torchbearer Award in recognition for his contributions as a



Gay Into Straight America adventurers Dotti Berry (left) and Roby Sapp (right) pose with their tour guide at the Focus on the Family headquarters.



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