

northwest

3 Friends Changes Hands

After six years, the last of three original owners of 3 Friends Coffeehouse has bowed out. Co-owners Michael Linder and Nicholas Hall took over Jan. 1, and aside from a few menu changes, they intend to keep the place pretty much as it is.

"It's an established business; it's pretty solid," said Linder, a former teacher from Tennessee who moved to Portland three years ago. He began volunteering with Q-LAND by administering free

HIV tests in local bars.

Linder found 3 Friends through Radical Faeries, a queer men's group that meets at 3 Friends each Saturday. "I was looking for sort of a tribe, and I read about the Faeries in *Just Out*, actually, so that's how I got to know the place," he said.

Soon after the shop opened, former owner Randy

business watch

Rapaport reached out to the Radical Faeries and encouraged them to gather at 3 Friends. LoveTribe, a group for bisexual men, also meets regularly at the coffeehouse located at 201 S.E. 12th Ave.

"At present there's no formal relationship with any particular group of queer women," said Linder. "One or two nights a week seems like 'young lesbians in love' night in here, though. There's just women everywhere!"

3 Friends is also known for showcasing interesting art while patrons sip a Stumptown latte or surf the free wireless Internet. Local artist and 3 Friends barista Gretchen Gammel recently took on the work of booking artists for the space, which changes its display monthly.

"I think it's known, at least in Southeast, that we're partially queer-owned and very queer-friendly," said Linder. "But more than that, we are a microcosm of Southeast Portland where everybody rubs elbows pretty comfortably."

Queer-Friendly Eye Care Clinic Opens in Vancouver

Most people don't realize that even if they don't need glasses, everyone needs eye exams every two years. So says Trish Hazell, optometric doctor at Lifetime Family Eyecare in Vancouver, Wash.

Hazell offers comprehensive eye exams for

people of all ages. Her focus is on treating entire families, especially those with young children. "People who want to support gay-owned businesses or who don't really feel like experiencing discrimination can come in," she said.

She started out at the Hawthorne Vision Center and recently moved across the river to the Salmon Creek area to start her own private practice.

She also works as a provider for InfantSee, a nationwide public health program offering free screenings for children younger than 1. "That's a great way to rule out large, of-concern problems with babies," explained Hazell, who has two children with her partner, Lisa. She also performs free screenings at area day care centers for children 3 and older.

In addition to full-scope eye care and a range of eyeglass styles, Hazell's practice is "paperless" for those registering online. Her extensive Web site allows patients to make appointments and order contact lenses online. New patients can save time by filling out forms online prior to their first appointment.

Hazell is excited about building a clientele in her new location. "I have some very loyal patients both straight and gay that I've worked with over the years," she said. "I'm looking forward to maybe reaching a few people that I've worked with in the past and letting new patients know that I'm here."

Lifetime Family Eye Care is at 13317 N.E. 12th Ave. and www.lifetimefamilyeyecare.com. Appointments can be made by calling 360-573-3937. **to**



3 Friends Coffeehouse owners Michael Linder (left) and Nicholas Hall fetch a muffin and brew a drink for customer Terri Popejoy.

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