

He says he feels like a great weight has been lifted off of him. "I can finally share my personal experiences and not have to worry about saying it was an ex way back when. I'm proud of Derek. He's my family, and I'm proud of my family. I just feel like finally it's all out. I'm completely honest. What you see is what you get. There aren't any secrets."

Elliott says that he's glad he made the decision to come out to listeners but that the experience has brought up feelings he hasn't revisited since he came out to his family as a teenager. He says one of the most valuable aspects of the experience is his chance to serve as a role model to young gay people in Portland.

"If there's a 12-, 13-year-old kid, who happens to be gay, and he hears somebody on the radio that's not some big flaming queen—not that there's anything wrong with big flaming queens, I love big flaming queens—but I'm just a regular guy and it's OK to be just a regular guy, who happens to be gay, and I'm loved by my [co-host], Daria, and we have a good show, maybe that'll make his life a little easier when he tells his parents. I don't know," he says.

O'Neill hopes that the move does not go unnoticed but that listeners will take it in stride. "I don't think anyone's trying to



The Daria and Mitch Show airs from 3 to 7 p.m. weekdays on 105.1 FM The Buzz.

suggest that it was this crazy, brave, over-the-top gesture," she says. "I think it was a very small and simple thing, and that's what makes it beautiful." 10

JULIE SABATIER is a Portland freelance writer and radio producer. In the interest of full disclosure, she is a programmer and active volunteer at the community radio station KBOO-FM, where her show DIY, Portland can be heard the third Thursday of every month at 10 a.m.

Out Loud

Community radio show focuses on local arts and politics

by Julie Sabatier

The Daria and Mitch Show isn't the only place Portlanders can tune their radio dial to listen to queer content. The Out Loud show, broadcast on KBOO Community Radio every Tuesday at 6 p.m., has been on the air since the spring of 2003.

Unlike its mainstream counterparts, Out Loud is focused on advocacy. There is very little music, except for the occasional interlude, and discussion tends to focus on local art and politics.

Rebecca Wetherby, 40, has been a part of the Out Loud collective since its inception. She recently invited Portland scholar Mitch Gould on the show to read some of Walt Whitman's poetry and talk about Whitman's homosexuality. "As if that wasn't enough, he also designed the new Out Loud logo, which will be on our banner this year at Pride. That's community in action," says Wetherby.

Jeffrey Jewel, 47, is the newest member of the Out Loud collective. Shortly after joining late last year, Jewel interviewed the Rev. Susan Leo, pastor of Bridgeport United Church of Christ.

"[It was] just before Christmas, and we discussed how difficult the holidays, family gatherings, etc. can be for everyone, and especially gay people," Jewel says. "Susan had many positive and uplifting things to say that I found very inspirational and hopeful. We got quite a bit of positive feedback from listeners who felt the same way."

Past shows have continued to explore spirituality

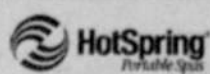
in the queer community, the recent Oregon Queer Youth Conference and tobacco marketing that targets gay men and lesbians. Bonnie Tinker of Love Makes a Family and openly gay Portland City Commissioner Sam Adams have also been guests on Out Loud.

"I'm proud of the variety of shows that we've done," says Carla Remey, 37, who helped start the Out Loud show and is still an active part of the volunteer collective that plans programming, engineers and hosts the show each week. As a lesbian, Remey says she came to KBOO seeking a voice for the gay community.

Jewel's partner, Jeff Lee, 42, joined the Out Loud collective in May of last year. One of his first interviews was with Q Center coordinator Gene de Haan. "That was terrific," says Lee. He has been trying to broaden the scope of the show to include more national and international news that affects gay people. "I would be thrilled if we heard from all kinds of people with human interest stories, news stories, headlines and other stuff. We try to scour the Web for articles and things like that," he says.

All four collective members would like for more people to get involved with Out Loud, especially younger folks. "The weekly format is pretty challenging with only the four of us," says Jewel. "We would all really love to see some more volunteers!" 10

To contact the OUT LOUD collective, e-mail kbooutloud@yahoo.com. To volunteer contact Ani Haines at volunteer@kboo.org.



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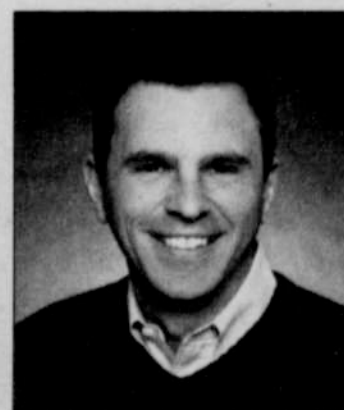
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