

Pride and Joy

What have you done today to make you feel proud?

Gay Pride has come and gone, but the memory lingers—as do my notes. During Pride Week, I asked Portland's queers to share with me an accomplishment of which they were proud. Their answers were as varied as the people themselves.

Most of the crowd at **Eric Sellers** and **David Fletcher**'s "Hanky Panky" party were too young to remember when gay men used colored bandannas to communicate their sexual tastes, but these alterna-queers were proud to let their freak flags fly. **Lawrence Lowery**, wearing more facial armor than I've ever seen before, is proud of his strength of spirit and being conscious of who he is. **Ryan Scanlan** moved here from Brooklyn, N.Y., just two weeks earlier and is proud that he had the courage to do so, while **Bryn Knowles** recently broke up with her girlfriend and began playing bass guitar in a rock band, despite having always been afraid to perform in public.

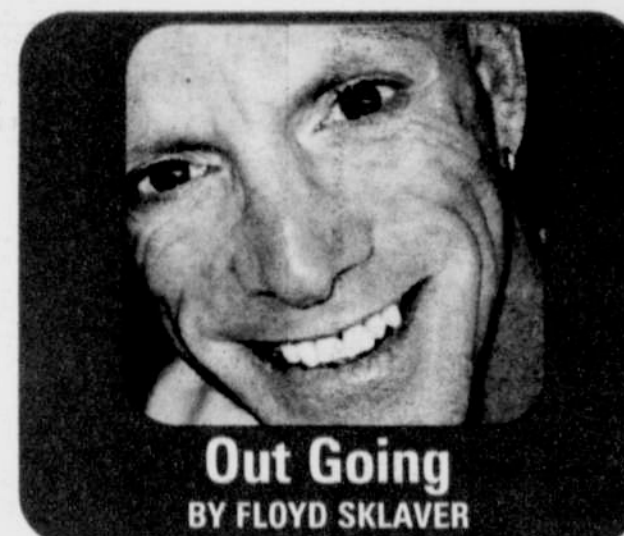
No one was afraid to perform in public at a special staged reading of **Holly Hughes'** *The Well of Horniness* at Q Center. Proud director **Kelsey Tyler** was delighted by "the talent, energy and pizzazz" of his group of actresses, including the tasty **Torrey Cornwell**. In the audience, **Andrea Lowgren** was proud to tell me about her first year as a history professor at Portland Community College. "Today's

the last day, and I can finally relax," she said, letting out a deep breath. Financial adviser **Tiffany Helleson**, who specializes in women's finances, is proud of being "fierce. I'm the little girl who never gives up," she said.

The crowds at Pride this year were also fierce. I started the weekend at C.C. Slaughters, where **Bryan Gutelius** told me he's proud "we can all come together and have a really great time." Similarly, **Bret Pinyerd** is proud of "overcoming my fear of being who I am," and **Lex Sterling** is "proud of the leaps and bounds that the gay community has made in the past five years." **Justin Taylor**,

who sells ads for *Just Out* and performs drag under the name **Ivory Cox**, is proud to have been recently crowned Princess of Vancouver, Wash. And **Josh Weisenborn** is proud of working hard and having it pay off. Young Josh put himself through school and now works in the accounting field.

Next, I dropped by Hobo's and ran into **Donovan Fairley**, whose proudest accomplishment was touring from 2001 to 2005 with the funk band Earth, Wind & Fire. **Raymond Shafe** is proud of his mom, who was beaten and raped and yet raised six kids. "She accepted me when I came out without any hesitation," he told me. **Ben West** and **Paul Rummell** are proud that they've survived two years together. They met at Pride when Paul was running around shirtless and Ben was in dusty boots. "I looked like an angry lesbian," Ben jokes. **Trey Malicoat** and **Eric Smith** (aka Erica Chandler) began living together right after they met, and Trey is proud that he's been able "to last in a relationship with a drag queen for



Out Going
BY FLOYD SKLAVER

as long as I have." I also met the newest member of the drag community, **David Dawson**, who recently moved here from Tucson, Ariz., where he was

a promoter of the Miss Arizona America pageant.

The weekend after Pride, the festivities continued when **Noah C. Buck** and a gaggle of young gays came over to cook Marc and me brunch. Noah is proudest of his relationship with his parents, which was tumultuous for a while. As Noah grilled French toast, **Maekol James** sliced nectarines for the fruit salad. Maekol is proud of his sister for being so strong while going through a messy divorce. And **Sam Gould** is proud of coming out of his shell. "I came out in high school and never looked back," the beauty school beauty told me as he and **Jeremi Carroll** sliced strawberries. **Jenny Taylor** beamed as she informed me she got her black belt in tae kwon do after six years of classes.

As for what I'm proudest of, it's probably that I've written 68 of these columns so far. Considering I'm naturally shy, it's not always easy to be Out Going. **jo**

FLOYD SKLAVER wants to know about your event. E-mail him at floydsklaver@comcast.net.



From left, **Noah C. Buck**, **Jenny Taylor**, **Jeremi Carroll**, **Sam Gould** and **Maekol James** prepare a post-Pride brunch.

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