CULTURE



kids write and most kids draw but they stop after a while; they grow out of it. We never really did."

While freelance art work continues to be part of Blas' and Davis' careers-including Blas' art work for cast members from RuPaul's Drag Race and both artists' work for Hero novelist Perry Moore and local author Marc ting catalyst for Briar Hollow's plot. Acito-Briar Hollow is their main focus right now. Blas and Davis launched a Kickstarter campaign in December, appealing for donations to go toward printing costs for the first half of Volume 1 as well as application fees and promotional materials needed for this the initial goal of \$500 having been doubled have been my story for the time." as of press time, the comic's creators are now focusing on the direction their story will take in Volume 2, when one of the established characters comes out.

engaging coyness of main character Molly—a and cryptozoology enthusiast who's returning to college following a soul-searching semester this book." off. The comic's cast pegs supporting antagonists in the form of annoying little brothers, sheepish coed confidantes and lots of gaming lingo. This is all groundwork, claim Blas and Davis, for a coming out story that will take Volume 1.

characters?" explains Davis.

"I didn't want to push the story forward for that place." a reason that didn't feel honest," adds Blas. "But I really am excited to get to those story- For more information on BRIAR HOLLOW, Terry to draw."

Blas' own coming out process seems a fit- Comics Fest, visit stumptowncomics.com.

"Growing up. it was really easy for me to come out because I had a gay older brother and a gay older sister. So it wasn't hard. Terry came from a military family, so that was always a little scary. Briar Hollow is a lot of fun for me. It doesn't relate to my life now, but as a kid it definitely would have been my story for the time."

-KIMBALL DAVIS

"Growing up, it was really easy for me to come out because I had a gay older brother and a gay older sister," continues Davis. "So it wasn't hard. Terry came from a military family, so that was always a little scary. Briar Hollow is a lot of fun for me. It doesn't relate to April's Stumptown Comics Festival. With my life now, but as a kid it definitely would

"For me, drawing-in Briar Hollow especially—is therapy," says Blas. "I can put experiences and things I've gone through into this comic without making it preachy. If it's Briar Hollow is already anchored by the all in my head and I don't really have another way to express what I'm going through, then self-proclaimed gamer, comic book collector the best thing for me is to make something of it, or turn it into something positive, like

And that's exactly what Blas and Davis are striving for with Briar Hollow—a comic book for young, gay kids to be able to relate to. A gift for the gnerds.

"More than anything," relates Blas, "we the plot in a very different direction than want this to be a love letter to gay kids and teens and their allies, to give them some-"Most kids growing up, you're not ready to thing fun to escape into. Anyone who feels come out right away, so why do that with our like an outcast needs somewhere to go to feel accepted. Hopefully Briar Hollow can be

lines because they're going to be a lot of fun Blas and Kimball Davis, visit briarhollowcomic. com. For details on the upcoming Stumptown local sustainable beautiful

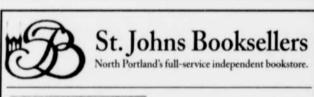


Save 15%

when you order before January 31st.

FLORAL DESIGN

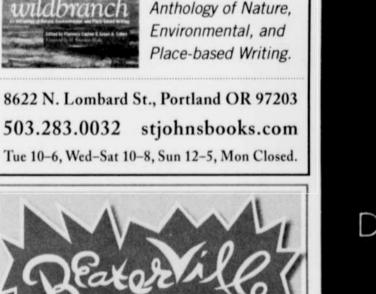
503.358.4687 www.BotanicaFloralPDX.com





St. Johns Booksellers welcomes

Florence Caplow & Maureen Sullivan contributers to Wildbranch: An Anthology of Nature, Environmental, and Place-based Writing.





Free & confidential HIV rapid tests for gay & bisexual men

Oregon City Clinic at 1425 Beavercreek Road Oregon City 97045

Call 503-655-8471 for an appointment Tuesdays 3:30 - 6:30

www.man2manpdx.us







BREAKFAST ALL DAY + NIGHT

FULL BAR! ESPRESSO!

Between North Gay & Gay.

2201 N. Killingsworth, Portland, OR 97217

503.735.4652

The Best-Tasting Vodka in the World

Awarded Top Vodka, Double Gold Medal



2009 SAN **FRANCISCO WORLD SPIRITS** COMPETITION

HANDCRAFTED TO THE PROPERTY OF SPIRITS FROM THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

