

Irene K. Hislop, reporter

It's pronounced his-lop; his like the male possessive pronoun and lop like rabbit ears, and it's Irish. I am a proud, queer, first-generation Irish-Catholic, third-generation Swedish, Italian, feminist, working-class, 25-year-old, socialist, lacto-ovo-vegetarian. I generally find it easier to be out as a lesbian than as a Catholic. As a child, I spent time in both homeless shelters and riding academies. As a college student, I was active with the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Alliance speakers' bureau, *The Student Insurgent*, the Women's Center and the Student Campaign for Disarmament. I recently returned to Portland from Eugene where I earned a bachelor of arts degree in journalism from the University of Oregon in June 1991. I also worked as reporter, volunteer coordinator and editor for *The Lavender Network* until I moved away. My inimitable partner and I will be celebrating our fourth anniversary in November. We own a small but ferocious dog. I don't give a damn what size anyone's hypothalamus is; no force on Earth could make me drink green beer, and I hate writing about myself.



Meg Grace, formatter, ad representative

I am the second of six children born 34 years ago to an Irish dad and German mom. I've made Portland my home since 1987. I live with my spouse, Anita Lacy, and two cats, Sappho, 11, and Minka, 13, in a Mount Tabor neighborhood.

When not selling ad space for *Just Out*, I teach the art of sax playing to students, aged 10 to 51. Teaching never fails to cheer me up after a bad day. You can also find me jamming with other jazz lovers whenever the chance arises.



Jim Hunger, reporter

When Ariel asked me to write this profile, it was the first time I'd ever thought of myself as a retreat. I started writing for *Just Out* many years ago, and returned this summer after a hiatus of five or six years. Words have always been important to me. When I was growing up, books were my friends and solace when there were no others, as my dysfunctional, alcoholic, German Catholic family moved around, following my dad's job changes. I was considered the family candidate

for the priesthood, developing an overweening sense of morality and justice, with enough sexual energy and penchant for buffoonery to render the priesthood untenable. I was a flower child and a radical activist in a vaguely artistic way. Halfway through college I de-railed for a decade, coming to terms with my sexuality and starting to recognize a problem with alcoholism before becoming an English teacher, and then a frustrated fiction writer.

Nowadays I earn my primary sustenance as a newspaper distributor, leaving precious little time for more compelling pursuits, including writing, working as a Personal Active Listener volunteer with the Cascade AIDS Project, weight lifting, fixing up my house and entertaining my dog Guinevere.



Matthew Nelson, religion contributor

It has been two years and two months since I began compiling and writing for *Just Out*. As an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, my work focuses on education of the churches on gay and lesbian issues and encouraging the church to make stronger statements of justice.



Amanda Colorado, typesetter, ad representative

I am a queer-as-a-three-dollar-bill dyke lesbian who was raised in a dirt-poor alcoholic household with eight siblings by a French-Canadian Cherokee fundamentalist and a Scotch-Irish Catholic. Spiritually I am pagan, politically I am radical as hell, actively working for our full civil rights and I vote! I am the 44-year-old mother of a 24-year-old son. My spouse of five years is Pat Bates; we share a house near the ocean with five cats.

I have good self-esteem and celebrate the integrity, honesty and courage that cause me to live my personal credo every day: "I live each day as cleanly, clearly and joyously as I know



how. I walk the pentacle and act out of respect and love for myself and for others. I do as I will and I harm none."

My next personal challenge is to focus awareness on the danger of using words like "pedophile." *Pedo* means children and *phile* means love; this is the word we use to describe those who sexually abuse children! Yet queers are called *homosexual*, which denies that our unions are motivated by love. Please join me in challenging the use of these words so that more accurate words will become common.

Lee Lynch, writer of "The Amazon Trail"

I write about dykes who reflect my own background: one foot in the white working class, one in the middle class. Like some of my characters, my family is from Ireland, France and England and settled in the Northeast and Northern California. Although it was born in *Just Out* in 1986, "The Amazon Trail" is now nationally syndicated. My most recent fiction is the novel *Morton River Valley*, a geographic sequel to *Dusty's Queen of Hearts Diner*. I work in the social services and live happily ever after with singer and songwriter Akia Woods in the large, vibrant and defiantly progressive southern Oregon rural community.



Marilyn Davis, feature writer

I am the white, Anglo-Saxon daughter of a Methodist minister, born and raised in northeast Ohio. A couple of years ago I moved West to consummate a 12-year, passionate friendship with my lover, who is a metalsmith and painter. I have a 19-year-old son who visits summers and holidays. He's one of my favorite people.

I first appeared publicly as a writer when I was 14. John F. Kennedy had just been assassinated, and I read a poem in his honor at the memorial assembly in my junior high school gym. The audience was restless. They passed notes and chewed gum.

But I kept on writing and making speeches. Throughout the '60s and '70s I wrote anti-war leaflets and made speeches at SDS rallies. The Ohio National Guard shot at me in a parking lot at Kent State. By the mid-'70s, inspired by the Women's Movement and my Saturn return, I



came out as a lesbian and a poet. I write and publish poetry, essays and feature articles for *Just Out*. I read at poetry readings and teach college English classes. Now that my hair is turning gray, I find that the audience is more respectful.

Jim Van Dyke, aka Dr. Tantalus, music reviews

Occupation: attorney
Favorite comic book as a kid: *Superman*
Last book read: *Sex by Madonna*
Philosophical influence: Prince
Spiritual advisor: J & B
Household members: Faithful Companion and Tasha, Countess d'Stark
Age: between 30 and death
Quote: "Louder. Faster. Pass out."



Linda Kliewer, photographer

I grew up in Virginia with a family attached to the television industry and a country club. My life was full of swimming and golf.

I was supposed to be a debutante. My coming out was, in fact, the culmination of my white, privileged, Republican upbringing. I'd known I was different since I was five. I do believe coming out is the most powerful action in any queer's life.

I am an artist and documentarian—whether behind a still camera, a video camera or a film camera. I believe in visibility.



Linda Carter, photographer

I am one of the lucky ones—raised in a "normal" (what's normal?), white, caring, healthy, loving Christian (the real kind, not the religious right) family. And it remained that way even after I came out. It's for the not-so-lucky that I take pictures. I "speak" better through my art and photographs, hoping to convey that "If you really knew me (us), maybe you wouldn't hate my (our) guts."



Photos by Linda Carter: Renée LaChance, Ariel Waterwoman, Irene Hislop, Jim Hunger, Marilyn Davis, Linda Carter, Linda Kliewer and Amanda Colorado. Photo by Linda Kliewer: E. Ann Hinds. Photo by Anita Lacy: Meg Grace. Photo by Christopher Briscoe: Lee Lynch. Photos of Jim Van Dyke and Matthew Nelson: unknown.

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