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Just out



inside
Comic Bill Bradley's ongoing
one-man show raises social
awareness with a smile
page 29

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Portland, Oregon **FREE**



Like to watch?

**Beating the dreary
winter with a VCR and
a queer vision** page 20



Phoenix Rising Foundation Executive
Director Allanya Guenther

Rising from the Ashes?

Phoenix Rising Foundation is on the brink of extinction

BY INGA SORENSEN

The dank and darkness are bearing down hard this late Friday afternoon, as the rain visits the earth in commanding bursts. A ceaseless layer of clouds is slung over the city, creating a thick and threatening milieu.

It's the type of day where one wants to head home, light a fire, don soft sweats and abandon tensions and troubles—at least for the weekend.

At this moment, the latter hankering may feel unattainable to Allanya

Guenther, who admits that sleep of late has been fitful at best—at worst, elusive.

And it's no wonder. After all, Guenther, who turns 54 on Jan. 24, is teetering on the edge of myriad unknowns. Her professional future is in question, as is that of the organization she currently heads, the Phoenix Rising Foundation, which has provided counseling and other services to the sexual minorities community for two decades.

At the agency's office in downtown Portland, recognition plaques hang on the wall. One, from the Portland chapter of the National Leather Association, thanks Phoenix Rising "for its service and dedication to the Portland community."

Cushy couches and inviting chairs inhabit various rooms, many of which offer fabulous panoramic views of the city. Photos of James Dean and Judy Garland welcome visitors. Copies of *OUT* and *The Advocate* are layered neatly on lobby end tables.

Given some stunning revelations, the orderliness betrays.

Continued on page 6