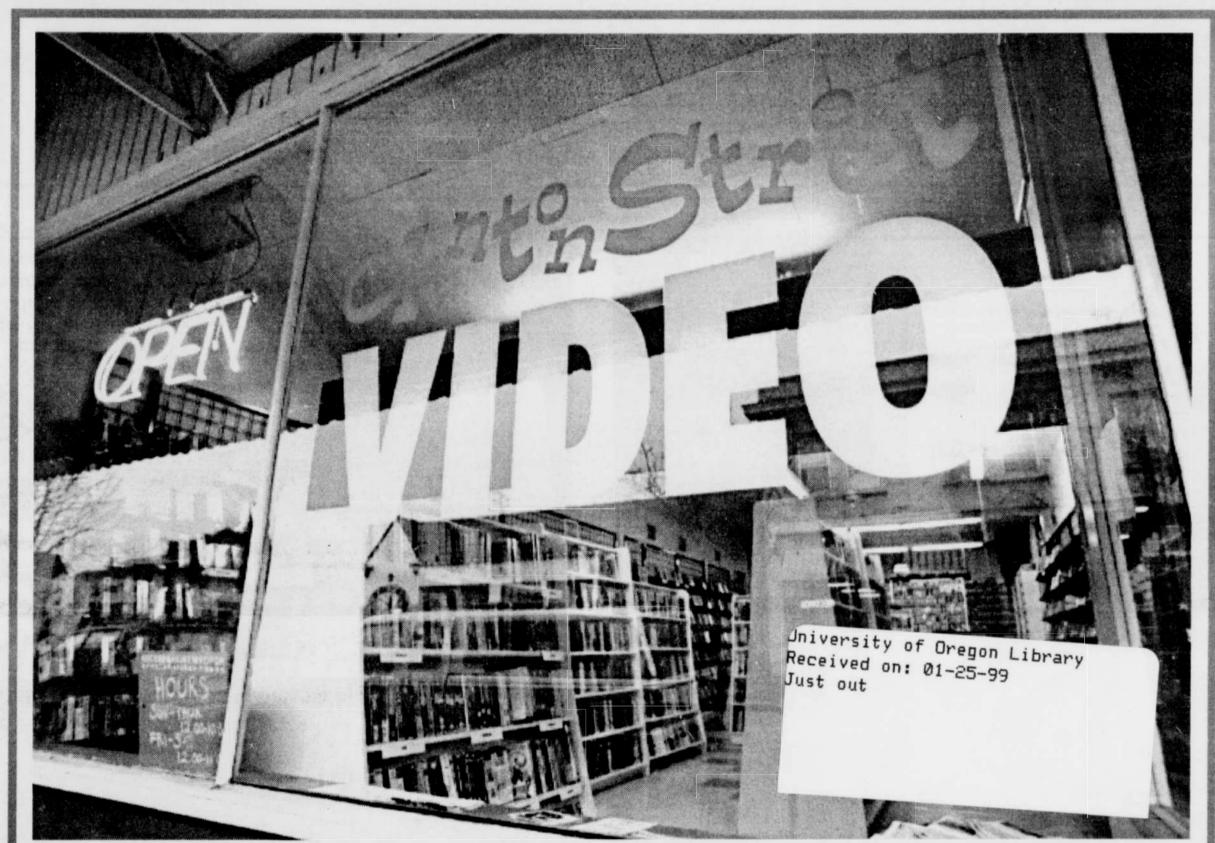
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Comic Bill Bradley's ongoing one-man show raises social awareness with a smile page 29

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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

he 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 hanker- to the sexual ming may feel unattainable to Allanya for two decades.

he dank and darkness are bearing down hard this late Friday afternoon, as the rain visits the 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.

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