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Gay Life Health Network gathers men to give them the lowdown on gettin' down, down there

by Inga Sorensen

Page 26

## Tough questions, frank answers

A somewhat adversarial interview with outspoken lesbian feminist and women's music avant-gardist Alix Dobkin



BY CHRISTOPHER D. CUTTONE

hat?!" I gasped. "You want me to interview Alix Dobkin? Isn't she that crazy, transhating lesbian separatist?"

"Well, not exactly..." came the answer. "We just thought you interviewing her would be more interesting than her being interviewed by another lesbian feminist."

Aside from her impending arrival in Oregon for a slew of events April 29 through May 6, the extent of my knowledge about Dobkin was a one-sentence quote and a lot of hearsay regarding her involvement in an unfortunate episode in Philadelphia in 1998. I thought she was a fanatical separatist who lusted for a world dominated by women; I thought



Alix Dobkin

she was a big meanie who refused to have any sympathy for the discrimination experienced by trans people.

Wrong, wrong, wrong.

I learned how wrong I was via email. (I thought we'd disagree so much that I was afraid to interview her in person. I had some tough questions in mind, so I even feared a phone conversation.) Turns

out Dobkin and I have a few things in common. We both grew up in Philly, both enjoy critical thinking and discussion of social issues, and we agree to disagree.

First of all, I want to let you know my perspective. I'm a queer-identified bisexual man, 26-yearsold, and I've spent a fair amount of time pondering the "sociology of gender" at the university level.

Thanx for your intro. Even if you hadn't described your background I would have guessed it from your questions...a dead giveaway.

Continued on Page 6

