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If you would like to play in the Rose City Softball Association, teams are  
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**DIVERSIONS**

**She's the  
 real thing**

A central figure in lesbian culture and the international lesbian movement, renowned folk singer, songwriter and outspoken feminist activist **Alix Dobkin**, will read from her memoir *Driving My Red Blood (A Radical Girl Grows Up)* 7 p.m. Feb. 22 at **Mother Kali's Books** in Eugene.

She was born a "red diaper baby" to Communist parents in 1940. The "personal is political" slogan of early second-wave feminists has characterized her entire life, and this memoir-in-progress documents and reflects on what it was like to be in the movement during the extraordinary final half of the 20th century. More than an autobiography, this political and cultural history of our recent past describes people, places and events too interesting and formative to be forgotten.

From the Brooklyn Dodgers at Ebbets Field and Manhattan in the 1940s, through the anti-Communist hysteria and the birth of rock 'n' roll in the '50s, to the '60s Philadelphia lesbian bar scene and the musical hothouse of Greenwich Village, Dobkin tells it like it was with hindsight and humor. Many of the stories have previously appeared in her "Minstrel Blood" column in Chicago's *Windy City Times* or in political articles and commentaries in national women's and lesbian publications.

Always a voice for justice and social change, Dobkin began her professional folk-singing career in Greenwich Village during the mid-1950s, belting out songs of protest and vision. She came out in 1972 and turned to writing and singing for women in general and to building lesbian culture in particular. Producer of 1973's groundbreaking *Lavender Jane Loves Women*, Dobkin has six additional highly praised albums and a songbook to her credit.

For more than a quarter-century, she has traveled internationally to women's communities, sharing lesbian gossip, stories and music and building cultural networks. She often speaks on college campuses about her experiences with global lesbian cultures and her anti-racism work.

—tova stabin



Lesbian icon Alix Dobkin reads from her memoir at Mother Kali's Books

**Not just java**

Touchstone Coffee House, 7631 N.E. Glisan St., is more than just coffee. Oh sure, you know about the live music, you know about the weekly tarot reader and the open mike.

But did you know the lesbo bistro sells lovely gifts, too? And just in case you blew Valentine's Day off, as usual, and your sweetheart is all pissed off about it, as usual, you can slip on in anytime for a fabulous selection of items.



Touchstone Coffee House is full of treasures

The list never ends, but here's an abbreviated version: candles and candleholders, German chocolates (yes, they're better than American), glass pocket stones, pewter hearts and angels, karma cards, bead jewelry, cool pins and teapots. Weekend

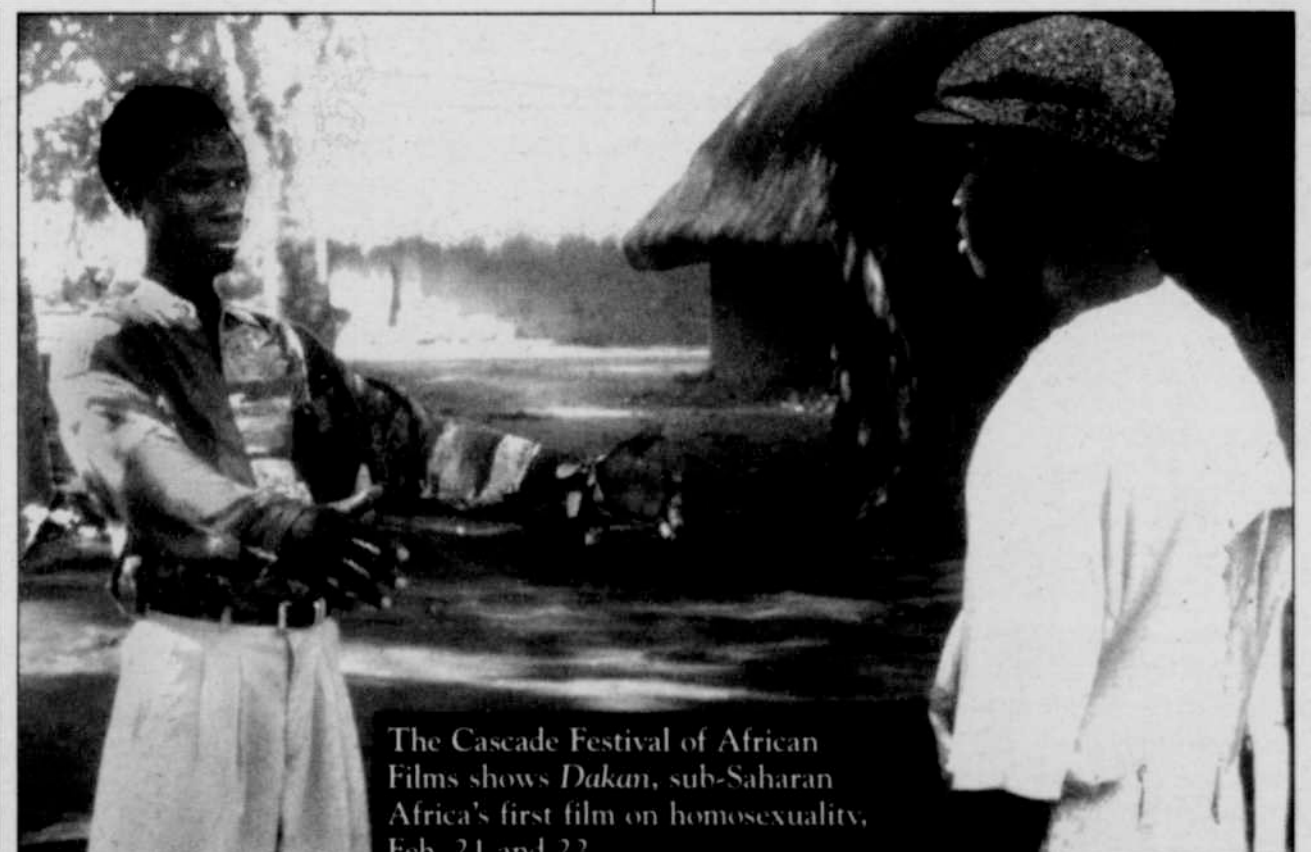
hours have just been extended until 10 p.m., so honestly, you really have no excuse.

**Out of Africa**

Portland Community College plays host to the 12th annual **Cascade Festival of African Films** in celebration of Black History Month through March 2, and three absolutely not-to-be-missed **queer films** are in the batch.

*Dakan (Destiny)* is a 1997 film out of Guinea that follows two young men's forbidden love. In their world, there is no word for what they are and no acknowledgment that gay love exists at all. "Since time began, it's never happened," one boy's mother tells him in the film. "Boys don't do that. That's all there is to it."

The film follows a familiar path through the



The Cascade Festival of African Films shows *Dakan*, sub-Saharan Africa's first film on homosexuality, Feb. 21 and 22