

**P**ortland residents will elect four new directors to the city's seven-member board of education May 20.

With multiple priorities competing for limited resources, sexual minority interests—such as anti-bullying efforts, safe-sex education and the encouragement of Gay Straight Alliances—may become truant issues. Regardless, queer voters have good reason to take notice of the people vying for these positions: Two years ago, board member Derry Jackson created an uproar when he called homosexuality a “behavior” and attempted to reinstate military recruiters in high schools.

To learn more about the candidates, *Just Out* invited them to briefly describe their experience with, or position on, issues of concern to gay, lesbian, bi, trans and questioning youth and educators. Two candidates did not respond: John Lekas, a friend of anti-gay shock jock Lars Larson, and James Laidler.

**ZONE 1**

**Jim Davis:** I am the only proven progressive in this race. I sponsored the Amazon Dragon Boat team. I supported the first “safe sex” program in schools as board member and was crucified by Mabon-ites. For too many the military is their only out, but I will make “opt out” info available. Not interested in schools? Would you rather be robbed by an Enron exec with an MBA or a high school dropout with a gun?

**Jim Hanna:** Children want to learn and contribute and have a right to recognition and acceptance. I'll work to create safe, efficient schools that promote trust and bonding, allowing all students and school employees to experience

**ROLE CALL**

**Candidates for Portland's school board speak out on queer issues**

by Timothy Krause

success. Safe schools will emerge when policies are based on positive human relations. We can change attitudes and policies of organizations such as the military and Boy Scouts by exposing their discriminatory practices to others through constructive engagement rather than exclusion.

**John Liljegren:** I have had no involvement in [sexual minority] issues. Under my plan to decentralize authority to boards of directors at each school, decisions about these issues would be made by those boards, not dictated by the district board. If I were making the decision, I would support use of campuses by military recruiters and the Boy Scouts. Generally, I'd want to keep sexuality issues out of K-12 educational programs.

**Eamon Molloy:** I support programs that address discriminatory behaviors such as bullying and sexual harassment and that promote safe schools. Safer-sex education is vital for every high school student. I don't condone the use of campuses by any group that discriminates. However, the No Child Left Behind Act forces the district to allow military recruiters into the schools or lose federal funding. I am a former Boy Scout but haven't enrolled my sons because of its policies.

**Douglas Morgan:** I have always opposed all discriminatory policies and practices based on gender and sexual preferences. I have done this through my membership in the ACLU and the Human Rights Campaign. In addition to my formal position on these issues, I hope you will



PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS

Is there another Derry Jackson among the latest crop of school board candidates?

also consider the ability of candidates to successfully carry this agenda forward through their public service leadership experience and expertise in providing policy oversight of large, complex organizations like Portland Public Schools.

**Terry Olson:** As a teacher, I helped develop integrated curricular projects on the themes of tolerance and respect for others. I am a staunch supporter of sex education in the schools and the formation of Gay Straight

Alliances. Since current military policy violates the civil rights of a substantial segment of our society, I would support a resolution reaffirming the district's opposition to military recruiting in the schools.

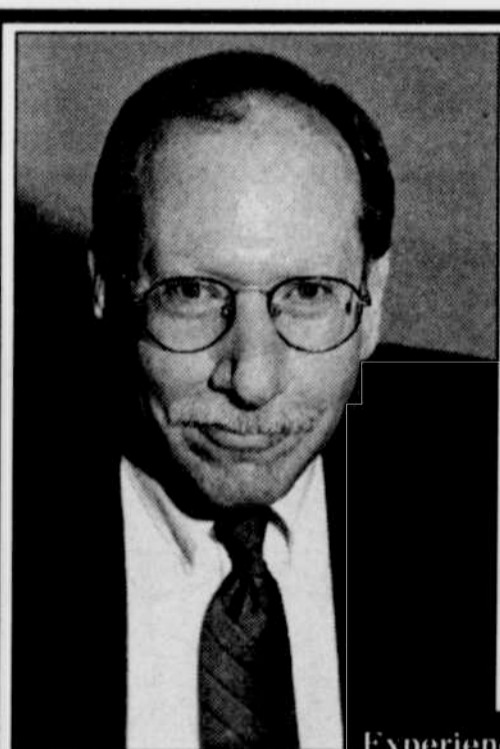
**Ron Stull:** Kids have the right to a good, quality education no matter their race, gender, religion or sexual orientation. Any effort to breach this right cannot be tolerated. Providing a safe place to receive an education by addressing bullying or discriminating tactics is a priority for all of us, not just those serving on a school board. I would be on the side of upholding the law for access to any organization that is protected.

**ZONE 2**

**Martin Gonzalez:** Since 1987, I have worked for American Friends Service Committee, which has a long history of advocating for the rights of LGBT people. I organized to defeat anti-gay ballot measures in Oregon. I strongly support the Safe Schools Coalition's mission: where every family can belong, where every educator can teach and where every child can learn, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation. Count on me to address the concerns of LGBT community.

**Rion Lyle:** I am 20 years old and probably know more about what is actually going on in Portland Public Schools than any of my opponents. I am also very experienced with solving issues facing LGBTQ youth. I am running to ensure all students have an empowering environment that fosters understanding, accep-

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