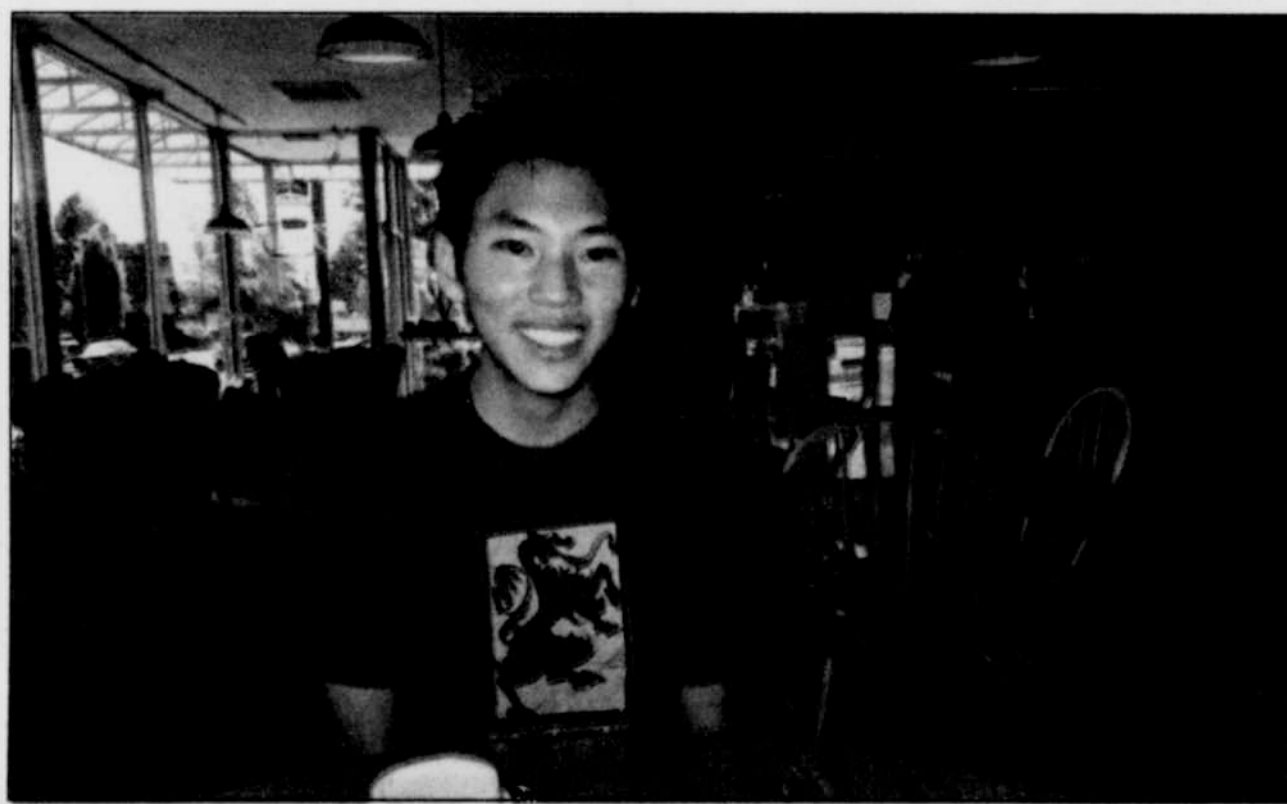




Picture the many faces of our community

Lesbian, gay, bi, trans, queer or questioning...our sexual minorities community has many diverse faces. You could say we're all many relatives of one big extended family. Like a family reunion, Portland's annual celebration of Pride gives us the opportunity to better know our brothers and sisters. Here are a few folks we thought you might like to meet.



Cody Bambino

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Reed College student Cody Bambino has the fresh-faced idealism and passion for justice that makes the progressive world go around. He spent last year as president of the Queer Alliance, a campus activist group that sponsors events and sup-

ports sexual minority students. Under Bambino's tenure, it sponsored a Queer Prom, an event with comedian Margaret Cho and Coming Out Week, complete with a workshop called "Trans 101."

For the 19-year-old psychology major, activism seems to fit like a second skin. It was only two years ago when he was coming out himself—"a fun, amazing and difficult time,"

he says. Leading the Queer Alliance was a way for Bambino to "give back."

But even before then, he had been committed to community work. He spent his freshman year volunteering at Outside In, a Portland youth center.

"Youth voices often don't get heard," says Bambino, who strives to bring different communities together. "Youth need to be empowered and encouraged to take an active role."

Bambino encourages queers of all ages to bridge the generation gaps in their community. Last year, the alliance played host to a reception for *Vintage Voices*, a concert by the Portland Gay Men's Chorus that featured videotaped interviews with elderly gay men and lesbians.

"I remember one woman's story very well," Bambino says. "Part of what made it so compelling was that I had been working with her on the concert, and then I saw her up on the screen. She talked about coming out to her parents and telling them that they just needed to accept her and her partner. It was awesome!"

Next year Bambino will be heading Reed's Multicultural Resource Center. His message to other queer youth: "Keep fighting—on all levels—for social justice. Our time has come."

—Meg Daly

Judith Youngman

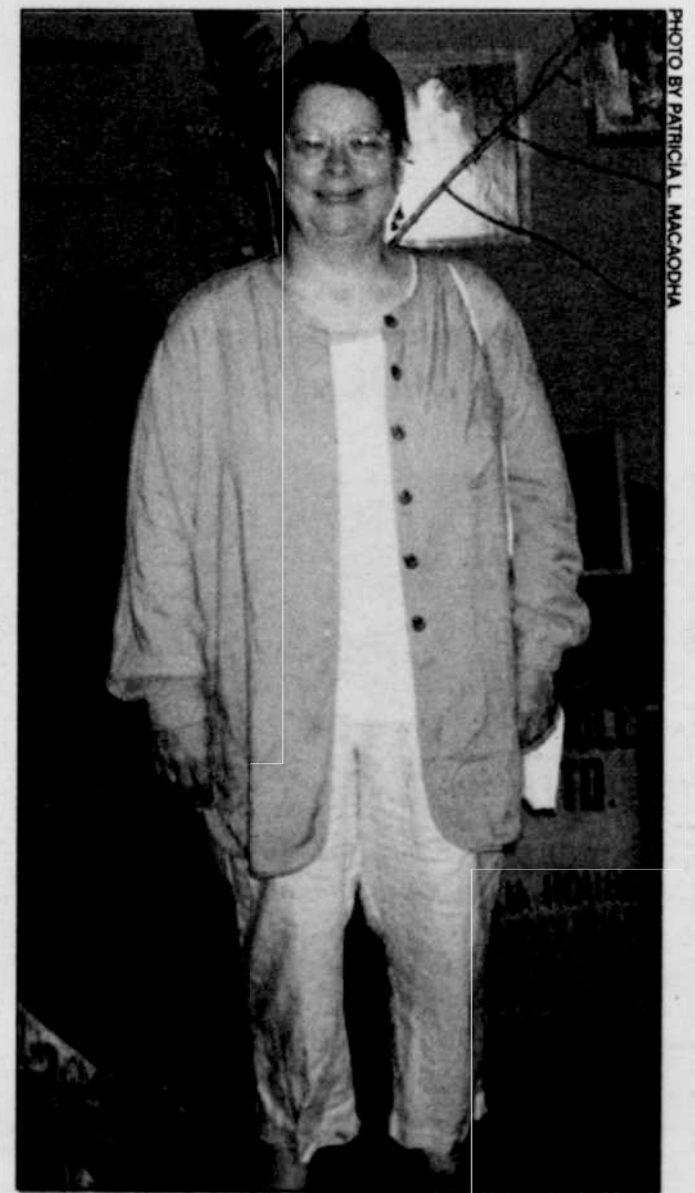
The early 1980s was, the Rev. Judith Youngman believes, the right place at the right time to come out. Living in Seattle, her birthplace, she delighted to the right-on sister music of Holly Near, Meg Christian and Margie Adam. "The atmosphere alone," she says, "was very supportive."

Later, as a United Church of Christ pastor, Youngman's life would run the gamut from very closeted in McPherson County, Kan., to her current position, where "my orientation is a nonissue for the parish."

Completing a master's degree in divinity, Youngman served a UCC parish in Kansas, where she observed the harmful impact of a closeted atmosphere on families with sexual minority children. She knew of six such families.

"They never talked to each other," she says. "When a son died from AIDS, the parents never turned to anyone for comfort, and the other families never offered to give them support."

Eventually, she was called to the completely accepting Gresham church. "I didn't



The Rev. Judith Youngman