

outstanding

Dixon Gets It Done

From the military to the law to politics, Frank Dixon has seen and done it all. His most recent task as a Basic Rights Oregon board member is to act as liaison between the board and the organization during its search for a new executive director.

Dixon's history in gay activism was sparked in the '70s, when he was an openly gay man on active duty at Fort Polk, La.

"I had a difficult choice to make when I realized I was either bi or gay and would have to lead a double life. So I left [the military]. I had a sense even at that time that there was outright discrimination and bars to people with a different sexual orientation to pursuing a career in the military.

"My military experience has given me a very acute understanding to how we're not treated as full American citizens," said Dixon. "We have a sub-status, and it's something I wake up with every day."

Dixon graduated from Northwestern School of Law at Lewis & Clark College in 1979 and has been in Portland ever since. As a trial attorney, he represented Rich Watson, a naval ROTC assistant professor who came out and was discharged under "don't ask, don't tell." Though the case was heard in a Seattle district court and San Francisco's 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, it ended with an unsatisfactory outcome in the U.S. Supreme Court.

According to Dixon, Roey Thorpe came knocking at his door in 2001 looking for more voices to be added to BRO's board of directors.

Dixon recalls many successes of the BRO board



MARTY DAVIS

Frank Dixon will assume a lead role at Basic Rights Oregon during its search for a new executive director.

during his time as co-chairman. "We planned for the next likely ballot measure we'd have to fight. But we looked at it so that, at the end of the ballot process, we'd have a statewide organization in place with a solid staff, good board and excellent executive director either way."

With Thorpe's departure from BRO, Dixon said he's not going to assume every duty she now performs. "We'll certainly be relieved when we do find an executive director who will be charged with moving forward the shared vision of the board and the organization, which is to eliminate discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity."

Dixon, who moonlights as a farmer on his great-grandfather's land in Kansas, has been in a committed relationship with real estate broker Dan Volkner for 25 years. **jo**

—Malka Geffen

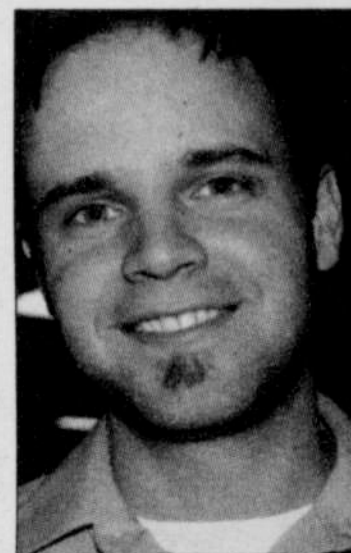
just asking

In the most recent election cycle, the gubernatorial candidates spoke about adopting a state sales tax. At a recent *Just Out Gay Skate Night*, we asked what you thought about this proposal.



MELANIE PARKER
Contract Specialist

"I think it's necessary because they're losing out on a lot of money from people who come over here and purchase things."



NATE SMITH
Human Resources

"I think it's probably a good idea as long as the proceeds go to education and as long as it's on non-essential items."



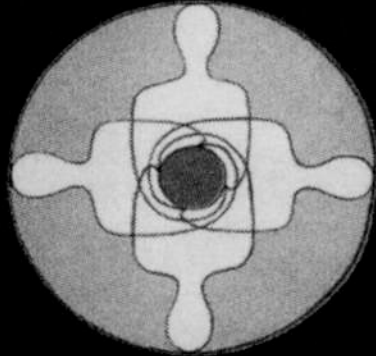
AMBER VALENTINE
Artist and Designer

"I feel like we already pay enough taxes, and the government doesn't spend it right."




TONY LE TIGRE
Amateur Provocateur

"I think there should be a 50 percent sales tax so we don't have problems funding our schools. But I don't think it'll pass since they've tried eight or nine times."



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