

outstanding

Rose City Softball Player Honored

Toni Carr, 55, has been playing softball since she was a teenager. She played semiprofessional fast-pitch for 16 years before becoming a coach and umpire. Carr, a lesbian, is one of the original founders of the Rose City Softball Association (RCSA). At this year's North American Gay Amateur Athletic Association (NAGAAA) Gay Softball World Series in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., she will become the first Portlander to be inducted into the NAGAAA Hall of Fame.

"I'm almost speechless. It's a very big honor," she said.

Nominees are required to have participated in NAGAAA for at least 10 years and demonstrate their contributions at the local and national level. Carr, who has umpired at the Gay Softball World Series, made a perfect candidate.

"I decided to nominate Toni to acknowledge her and honor her for her long softball career," said Carrie Gundermann, RCSA women's division commissioner.

Carr is something of a local softball heroine. The annual "Chick Magnet" tournament takes its title from her nickname.

Carr, who hails from Edmonds, Wash., grew up playing softball with a father who coached and a



Toni Carr's softball career earned her a place in the NAGAAA Hall of Fame.

mother who played until she was 42. She said her parents and siblings are proud of her Hall of Fame honor.

"They're pretty excited," she said. "They wish they could be there, but it's hard for them to travel."

Carr's love for the sport runs deep. She took the field as an umpire just six months after hip replacement surgery in 2004.

"I may not be playing, but I'm still in it," she said of her 22 years as an umpire. "I'm going to try and make it to at least 25 years."

—Julie Sabatier 10

just asking

Just Out went to the North Portland Pride Barbecue and Festival to ask revelers, "What do you like best about NoPo?"



AIMEE WILSON
Service Employees International Union Staffer

"From the St. Johns Bridge to Cathedral Park, I think it's just one of the most beautiful parts of Portland. It's really varied in terms of the businesses and the people that live here. I think it's going to be a great place to raise a family."



RICHARD ELLMYER
NoPo Activist

"As a political activist for 30 years, I think North Portland has a great politically active community that I've been happy to be a part of since 1975."



SHELLEY BENTON
Former Rose Festival Princess from St. Johns

"The diversity...lots of Latinos, Russians, I love the gay community. Lots of kids, older folks. I love it all. Everyone seems to get along and knows each other. It's very accepting here in St. Johns."



KIRK MCAFEE
Sneakin' Out Groupie

"It seems like it's very welcoming of everybody."

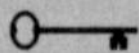


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