

outstanding

Activist Speaks, Writes and Rallies

Stacy Bias is the woman behind the FatGirl Speaks Conference, a celebration of size, self and sexuality held in Portland in 2004. Since then, she has teamed with F.A.T. PDX (Fat Action Troupe Portland) to organize Cupcake, a popular monthly dance party at Holocene for "fat folks and allies."

Bias recently began working on a book. The working title is *FatGirl Speaks*, and she will be interviewing women of size from around the world for the project. She says she received 215 responses in just three days of Internet solicitation. "It's something that people really want to talk about."

Bias, who has been a "fat activist" for three years and a queer activist for six, says this new project is very close to her. "I need to hear these stories from people.... This is a way for me to actively connect with people who are having the fat experience so I can understand experiences that are other than my own and to get people involved in their own experiences."

Bias recently received a fat apology Aug. 30 from *Willamette Week*. The paper devoted a page to letters from readers and an apology to Bias in response to a cruel listing it ran about her project with anti-fat sentiments. Refer to the *Just Out* blog at www.justout.com for details.

Bias' book project will spread her message



Stacy Bias, the force behind size-positive activism, is taking her message on the road with a book project.

beyond the usually accepting Portland borders to cities where size discrimination is more acceptable.

"I know it's different in other places," she explained. "The goal is to create an opportunity for people in other cities and other places to do what we're doing with *FatGirl Speaks*."

For more information visit www.stacybias.net.

—Julie Sabatier

just asking

As the season changes from summer to fall, *Just Out* asked readers, "What's your most memorable school experience?"



KRISTIN FLICKINGER
Vice President,
Democratic Party of
Oregon's GLBT
Caucus

"Running for class president of the junior class. The night before the speeches, I got the worst haircut of my life—total mulletville. I got dressed up in a purple silk shirt and khaki denim shorts. I won!"



RYAN RUELOS
Crush Drink Shaker
and Graphic Artist

"I had my most embarrassing moment on my way out of Western Washington University. It was my very last class, and I just answered a question completely wrong after making fun of the class all quarter long. Everyone was like, 'What a jackass.'"



TIM IRWIN
Small-Business Owner

"Wrestling in high school, in Oklahoma of all places, being accepted for who I was."



LAURA CALVO
Political Activist

"Watching my little boy go to kindergarten, getting on the school bus 21 years ago. He was just a little boy, and now he's my big gay son."

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