

# outstanding

## Jaye Sablan Helps Queer Youth of Color

**G**enderqueer Pacific Islander Jaye Sablan graduated Aug. 19 from Portland State University with a bachelor's degree in child and family studies. Originally from Saipan, which is part of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Sablan grew up on the East Coast and moved to Portland in 1998.

A self-proclaimed empathic person interested in issues of oppression, Sablan interned at the Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center to work with queer youth of color. "People who feel marginalized for any reason want to give back," says Sablan. "I thought about different mentors I've had and wanted to be that."

Working as an intern, Sablan coordinated SMYRC Loves Queer Youth of Color, an event for kids and community members. According to Sablan, youth participants performed a variety of skits and open mike acts discussing racism.

Sablan also served as an intern at Asian Family Center and worked with Southeast Asian immigrants on basic survival English and studying for citizen application exams.

The 2004 recipient of the Audria M. Edwards Scholarship, which was established in 1987 by Lady Elaine Peacock and Misty Waters, Sablan is busy applying to doctorate programs.

"I want to look at how my own people [the Chamorros] view ourselves and preserve our identities and cultures," said Sablan about future goals. "What was queer sexuality like before we were colonized? How did we express that before the arrival of outside dominant forces? What were indigenous



MARTY DAVIS

**Jaye Sablan mentors as a tribute to others influencing queer youth.**

forms of resistance to preserve that expression? How do they feel about themselves now, with Western influence? Literature on this subject is very exoticized." To this reality, Sablan says, "No, we're talking back, and this is what we're saying about ourselves."

Sablan feels grateful for the support from family and partner William as well as Patti Duncan, Jana Meinhold and Toetu Faaleava—professors at PSU who have provided invaluable guidance. **fb**

—Malka Geffen

# just asking

*Just Out* asked those playing charity bingo at the Fox & Hounds, "What do you need to survive the last two years of the Bush administration?"



**SCOTTY MARPLE**  
Medical Assistant

"Mucho alcohol."



**MIKE ROWE**  
Democrat

"Impeachment proceedings."



**STEPH NEWSTRUM**  
Happily Married

"I don't think the Bush administration has anything to do with it. People have to understand that we were attacked and continue to be attacked."



**KATHY HOGAN**  
Fox & Hounds Owner

"I need something to survive city government taking away parking in Old Town and wasting taxes. The city and state are taking away our right to exist."



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