outstanding

It's Only Rational

Kathy Oliver gets things done for homeless queer youth, and she does so because it's rational.

"I found I could do things at Outside In that I couldn't do anywhere else," she says. "I started a syringe exchange in late '80s. It was controversial, but I felt very strongly about it, and it seemed like such a rational thing to do to save the lives of our clients."

She also started a queer-specific group called Voices in '93. "It was still a little controversial in '93, but I was looking at our clients, and one-third are LGBTQ or questioning. Again, it seemed like such a logical thing to do, and at Outside In I had the support to implement that idea."

A lesbian who grew up in the Seattle area but has lived in Portland for more than 30 years, Oliver was hired in 1980 at Outside In as grant writer and intended to stay for only two years. "I found this was such an extremely innovative agency and it helps clients in ways I didn't see anyone else doing in Portland, and that compelled me to stay," she says. She became the executive director within a couple of years.

MARTY DAVIS

Kathy Oliver has not shied from controversy.

Oliver says she is proud to have opened the Virginia Woof Dog Daycare, which provides on-the-job training for homeless youth at 1520 W. Burnside St. "Moving from the street to the business world can be a culture shock," she says. "Youth have such a natural affinity for dogs. Anytime you're helping queer youth have a safe place and give them support they need to help trade street life for independent living, it's a tremendous help to the entire community."

Oliver says her biggest hope for Portland is that funding for sexual minority youth does not completely dry up. She recommends that concerned *Just Out* readers donate to or volunteer with Outside In. Visit www.outsidein.org for more information.

—Malka Geffen

just asking

Just Out went to Gay Skate Night to ask, "Who would you like to come out or be outed?"

Sarah DeMerritt
Grocery Checker

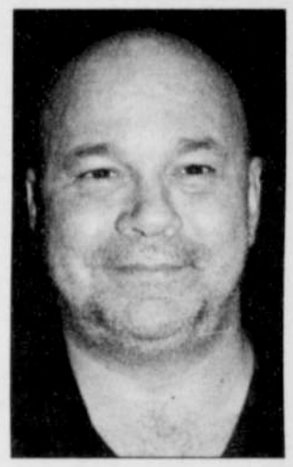
"Gillian Anderson. She appeals to a wide spectrum of women."

Lily-Rygh Glen
Bear Porn Aficionado

"Billy Idol because he's such a bad-ass and nobody snarls like him. Gay people need to learn how to snarl."

Lane Hunter
Performer with BodyVox

"I feel strongly that it's not my place to say. It's a personal thing. We have a lot of people trying to force people out."



Mark Brown
Manager of Esther's Pantry

"Condoleezza Rice because she's single, anti-gay and a bitch."

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in support of GLBT equality.

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