

out standing

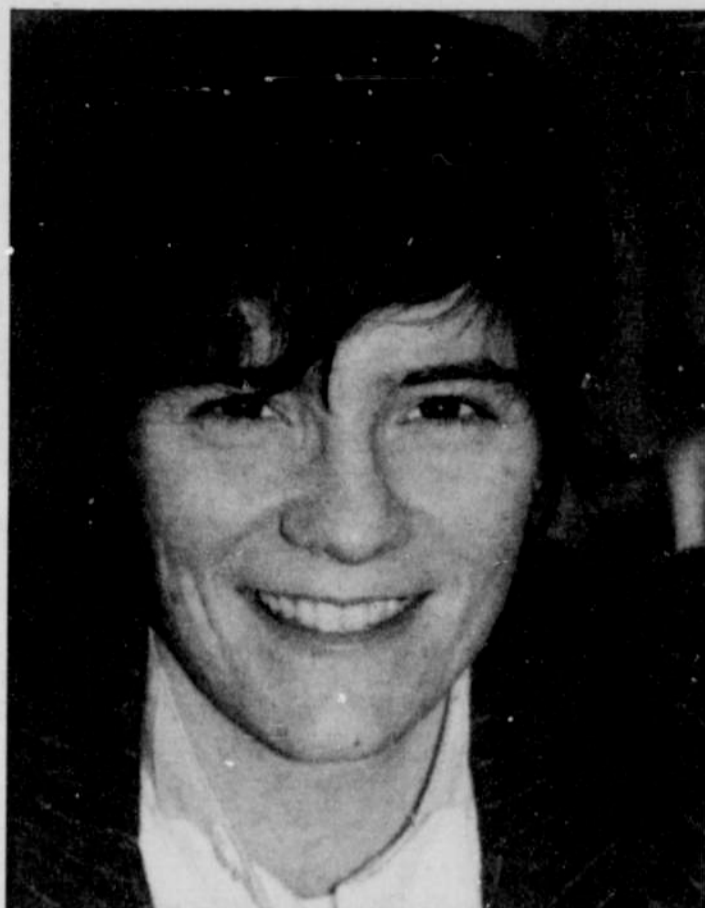
Beginning at the Center

Not many 22-year-olds run community centers. This did not stop Gene de Haan from becoming Q Center's coordinator and only full-time staff person last February. Almost a year later, she marvels at the changes already resulting from her work, both in the community and herself.

"I've learned more in the past 11 months than I had any idea I would. And it's a new organization, so everyone is figuring out 'What is a queer center in Portland, and what does it look like?'" de Haan said. Having studied English at Reed College, she imagined she would have been in graduate school at this point in her life. "I'm glad I've taken the year to get more practical experience before going. I didn't expect to be here, but it's really taught me a lot."

On a typical day at Q Center, de Haan attends meetings with volunteers, community members and other organizations. She coordinates programming events and handles the logistics of an office. She draws from her experiences volunteering with different nonprofits, including the No on 36 campaign, the Trans/Identity Resource Center and Reed's Paradox Café, a nonprofit community space she ran for two years.

When she isn't working for the queer community, she does volunteer work with animals. The owner of a few strays, de Haan said her biggest passion is for animal rights and welfare. "I am looking to go to grad school in a field involving



Gene de Haan looks to a bright future.

animals. I'm taking pre-veterinary classes to see if I have the stomach for it," she said. A fan of athletics, de Haan also has played rugby and started doing triathlons last summer.

Though she is at the investigative stage of her future career, de Haan has a clear vision for the future of Portland's queer community. "Portland already has amazing, well-established, dynamic queer communities. I feel like that's just going to grow—hopefully with more cross-pollination between groups that are already out there." **JD**

—Malka Geffen

just asking

Free from the shackles of Multnomah County, what mountain should former Multnomah County Chair Diane Linn scale next?



ROB NOSSE
Union Activist

"Maybe a bartender or a minister, because both are really good at helping people with their problems."



SUSAN STOLTENBERG
Portland Impact
Executive Director

"The one she's most passionate about, which is related to children and education, truly closing the achievement gap and serving the needs of kids with the greatest obstacles to success."



TRINITY WILSON
Psychiatric Nurse

"There are so many mountains that need her passion and wisdom. She won my heart when she championed for mental health issues."



DICK LEVY
First Registered
Domestic Partner in
Portland

"Any mountain she chooses. I'd love to see her remain in public service, because she's really a gem."

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