

## outstanding

# Stirring the Pot

**P**ortland Mercury news editor Amy Ruiz took City Hall by storm when she burst onto the political beat last November, after covering Portland neighborhood news since 2005. Ruiz took the position after working for sex columnist and then editor in chief Dan Savage at *The Stranger* in Seattle, also covering the Emerald City's neighborhoods. "I covered goofy civic activism and density issues," said Ruiz. "If it was NIMBY, I was on it."

In Portland, Ruiz took pride in her coverage of the César Chávez street renaming controversy and her extensive coverage of candidates running for City Council.

When Ruiz married her partner, Sonia Ruiz, last year in Canada, it was actually her second marriage. In a political move, rabble-rousers Savage and Ruiz married publicly to bring attention to same-sex marriage, which was sweeping the West Coast without any movement in Seattle.

At the request of Savage's partner, Terry Miller, the marriage license was never filed, but the stunt did spark a lawsuit filed by several same-sex couples for the right to marry.

Despite Ruiz's dedication to covering politics, her natural inclination is to stay home. "I'm such a homebody. I started a vegetable garden, and I'd like to get chickens. I bake and cook. I'm into sewing my own clothes."

Ruiz's challenge of the moment is cooking without recipes and being more seasonal.

**My name is** Amy Ruiz.

**I am known as** news editor of *The Portland Mercury*.

**My cause is** informing people, whether it's in the news that I do or teaching a friend a skill that I have.

**I am** 28 years old. I feel 40 years old, in a good way—I feel pretty grounded. The craziness of my youth has gone away. I'm a more serious person.



**Amy Ruiz covers politics for *The Portland Mercury*.**

**Right now, I'm** taking a break from City Hall.

**My childhood ambition** was to be a teacher.

**My first queer crush** was on Lydia Sifferlin. She was a high school friend who came out to me as bisexual, which I had never heard of before, and I was fascinated. Talking to her made so many things make sense. I was in love with her and never told her.

**I like to spend my down time** at home catching up on my crafty projects.

**My proudest moment** was buying our house last year. The reason we moved to Portland was to have a home, have a garden and the cute little life we wanted.

**My biggest challenge** is trying to cover the entire city with a news staff of two people.

**A perfect day in Portland** would be spent biking to the [Portland State University] farmers market on a sunny day, hanging out in my yard and having friends over for dinner.

**My first job** was as the only girl buser at Awada's Lebanese/American restaurant when I was 14.

**My vice is** ice cream—homemade mascarpone, blackberry, it's always something different. You put me in the ice cream aisle, it's a disaster.

**My inspiration** is all the people in Portland who are making the city happen.

**The last queer or philanthropic event I participated in** was Bites for Rights. Me and my lesbian troupe had a lot of mojitos at Trébol.

**My highest hope for the cause** is that people want to learn and be engaged.

—Jaymee R. Cuti

## just asking

*Just Out* asked gay skaters, "Where is your favorite place to vacation in Oregon?"



**N**ewport. I'm from there, and there's a good nightlife with bars and a dance club. And they're very accepting. I went back in drag and got hit on by the popular guy from high school."

**STEVEN MOSIER**  
AKA SVETLANA HART  
Miss Sweetheart of Portland XX

**I** want to go to Fossil, Ore., because I like to dig up stuff from the past. It's one of the few adventures I haven't done yet. It's on my summer agenda."

**SNICKERS LA BARR**  
Cable Access Queen



**W**hen I first came to Portland, I wanted to see the Oregon coast. The place I remember best is Ecola State Park. Standing on the cliffs and watching the waves crash is very peaceful."

**WAYNE MIJA**  
Our House of Portland  
Executive Director

**I**'m going on a camping trip to Paulina Lake in Central Oregon. It's very woodsy, and I love being in the outdoors."

**KARI NOTZ**  
Energetic



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