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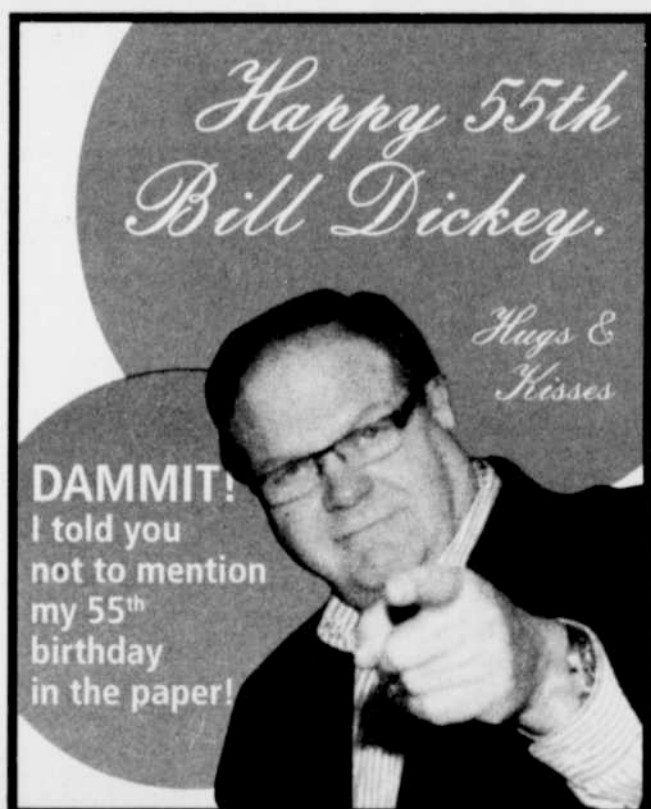
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Acting Up & Out

"KC" Hanson, more than politics

Carla "KC" Hanson says her first act of activism was insisting to play basketball with the boys on the playground. She was in the fifth grade.

Then, the following year, all the girls wanted to play basketball.

"It was very organic," Hanson, 52, jokes, "a very grassroots movement."

Hanson, who has a loud personality and a laugh to match, is one of the leading political activists in Portland. She is also a lesbian. She is chair of the Multnomah County Democratic Party. She fought anti-gay ballot measures in Oregon in the early '90s and in 2004. She also campaigned for John Kerry for president.

"I've been gay for as long as I've been a Democrat," she says, though she didn't make a connection between the two identities at first. When she initially got serious about politics during her time as a feminist at the University of Kansas, she was mostly about gay politics.

"It began to dawn on me that it would be quite helpful to get involved in wider Democratic politics," she says, "both for altruism and also for GLBT justice."

Hanson helped bring gay issues to light to the Democratic Party in Oregon. She didn't do it alone, of course, and she repeatedly points to others' contributions. But in any case, she says the work by activists in the state had a big effect.

"The Portland community has been remarkable in what it's done through the

"Portland is really to be lauded on a national basis for the strides we've made. Oregon Democrats had a role in increasing the role of the GLBT community in the broader Democratic community for activists nationwide."

—CARLA "KC" HANSON

years. Portland is really to be lauded on a national basis for the strides we've made," she says. "Oregon Democrats had a role in increasing the role of the GLBT community in the broader Democratic community for activists nationwide."

Hanson encourages everyone in the community to get involved. In what? It doesn't matter. Everyone can find an issue to care about, she says. It could be something as simple as a school levy or as broad as a national movement for marriage equality.

"All that matters is that you not only care about something but that you activate yourself on it," she says.

—AARON SPENCER



Over the Edge

Electro rocker Carmine Evillé returns

Meeting up with someone like Carmine Evillé in the arborous, family-friendly confines of Mt. Tabor Park seems at first a bit odd. The vampiric, gloomy undertones of his thrumming electro-pop palette notwithstanding, Evillé's persona alone lends itself toward a darker locale. But as the 35-year-old musician explains, he's a country boy at heart.

"I grew up riding horses and four-wheelers," says Evillé, whose second solo album, not yet titled, is scheduled for release at the end of the summer. "I was the kid who came home with mud caked all over him. I do love the city, but I love getting away from it, too."

From his home studio in Happy Valley, Ore., Evillé has composed hundreds of songs since his first release, 2007's *Edge of the World*. Having built a reputation as a meticulous songwriter, Evillé has honed his latest batch of songs from a broader perspective than his previous efforts.

"[With] my first solo album, I was trying to get a lot out there," Evillé says. "There was a lot of raw emotion that went behind that. This second one is geared more toward life experiences, not just a particular time. I

