

BY RYAN J. PRADO

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Ball & Investitures
December 10th 6pm
Melody Ballroom
615 SE Alder



Pancake Breakfast
December 11th
8am-10am \$5.00
The Roxy
1121 SW Stark St.



Emperor's Tree Hunt
December 11th
10:30am
Allen's Tree Farm
19067 Redland Rd.



Tree Decorating
& Toy Drive
December 11th 1pm
Q-Center
4115 N. Mississippi



'Tis the season to shun the frigid weather, stoke the fireplace and curl up with the stacks of books you procrastinated reading during the fall. Lucky for you, Oregonians and Portlanders alike produced some outstanding tomes steeped in as far-reaching topics as vampires, personal memoir involving growing up to be a female rock star (figuratively in former Governor Barbara Roberts' case; literally in Storm Large's), and spending eternity in Hell. Sounds like some good readin'! Let's get to it, shall we?

October brought only the third published memoir by a woman head-of-state, *Up the Capitol Steps - A Woman's March to the Governorship*, by former Oregon Governor Barbara Roberts. Documenting her upbringing in Corvallis, through her lobbying of the Legislature to guarantee educational rights to special-needs children—stemming from her oldest son's autism—to her successful Oregon House runs in the early '80s, her terms as secretary of state, and her governorship of Oregon from 1991-95, the book serves as a fitting blueprint for future leaders to peruse.

"I really wanted to have young men and women who picked up this book understand that you didn't have to have money or power, or a strong background in your family, or anything of that nature to become a leader," Roberts told *Just Out*. *Up the Capitol Steps* is also the only autobiography written by a former governor in Oregon state history.

Roberts said that her desire to empower future leaders ran in conjunction with her desire to leave a legacy of positive policy

building and leadership for the LGBTQ community in a time when it wasn't as mainstream as it is today. To wit, it was Roberts' idea to have the Portland Gay Men's Chorus perform during her inauguration ceremony as secretary of state in 1984.

"One of the things I did in the book was make certain that my own history with the [LGBTQ] community was very clear," explained Roberts. "I made sure I took full advantage to point out not only my commitment, but the change that had occurred in Oregon over the years with [LGBTQ rights] as a public policy issue. I feel really proud that when a gay person picks up this book and reads it, they will be included."

From one woman to another, the publication of Storm Large's memoir, *Crazy Enough*, is bound to generate whirling discourse at your office water cooler when it's released in January. Trudging the rocker's oft-dicey, mostly rebellious adolescence in sexual liberation, to her musical beginnings and her relationship with her mother, the book's shock value stands on equal ground with its message of following your heart, and letting the cruel world be damned.

"Honestly, my story is not super unique, but I hope at least it is entertaining, at most strikes a chord with people who feel out of place and unloved, makes them laugh, and let's them know that everyone feels that way."

-STORM LARGE

"If I wanted to get a specific response, I would have written a sex book, or a cook book...or some sex, food hybrid," Large told *Just Out* in October. "So many people who write memoirs have done amazing things in life. Honestly, my story is not super unique, but I hope at least it is entertaining, at most strikes a chord with people who feel out of place and unloved, makes them laugh, and

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