

# Q+A

AARON RIDINGS

## WHAT DO YOU DO FOR A LIVING?

I work as part of the development team at Basic Rights Oregon, raising funds for the freedom to marry, racial justice and trans justice programs. This past year, I've been taking classes at PSU towards earning a Master's Degree in Public Administration.

## HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN PORTLAND? WHAT DO YOU LOVE/HATE ABOUT IT?

Portland has been home for most of my adult life. I love Portland because of its quirks, not in spite of them. I love the unconventional fashion, community involvement, local politics, the coffee, the beer, its proximity to nature and the fact that it is filled with lots of other idealists, like myself.

## WHAT'S A PASSION YOU HAVE THAT NO ONE WOULD GUESS?

I love books and spend lots of my free time in the library and Powell's finding new historical fiction books to read. I am also a big science fiction nerd, especially when it comes to watching *Star Trek* and *Battlestar Gallactica*!

## HAVE YOU EVER EXPERIENCED GAY BASHING?

Yes, many times over the years, both as a youth and as an adult. I am grateful to always have had teachers and friends who did what they could to help take the bullies and bashers to task!

## WHAT IS AN IMPORTANT TOPIC THAT THE LGBT COMMUNITY SHOULD BE TALKING ABOUT AND ISN'T?

We should talk more about giving back to and supporting our LGBT elders who cleared the path for us. We need to spend more time and effort honoring those who fought before us to give us the freedom that we have today. ■

Be a part of Q&A. Send a short note to editor@justout.com and tell us about yourself or a friend.

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