

# HODGEPODGE TIME

What's going down in community goings-on? We've got a few tidbits by Inga Sorensen

## REGISTRY PLAN

So, how do people feel about a domestic partnership registry?

During her Jan. 28 State of the City address, Portland Mayor Vera Katz revealed the city's intentions to move forward with such a plan.

The registry, which would be Oregon's second, would give same-sex couples an opportunity to register their relationships at the municipal level. It will likely be a joint registry with Multnomah County.

Since the announcement, the mayor's office has received an estimated two dozen calls, letters and e-mails on the topic, says Sam Adams, Katz's chief of staff.

"There's more negative than positive feedback," Adams tells *Just Out*.

He says some of the negative criticism stems from people's religious viewpoints regarding homosexuality, as well as concerns about the use of taxpayers' dollars to fund such a program.

According to Adams, new initiatives often generate responses from the public, and, generally speaking, the feedback comes from naysayers.

"It's not uncommon. It isn't just the registry," he says.

In other words, perhaps it's human nature, speaking out when you're opposed to something and staying silent when you're content.

"I think the response has been typical of most things like this," assesses Maura Roche of Basic Rights Oregon, a statewide gay and lesbian political organization. "What we likely have here is a small minority of people who have strongly held anti-gay views and are letting those views be known."

For her part, Roche would like to see registry supporters contact public officials and express their sentiments.

"Our people should be reminded to be vocal too," she says. "It's a nice thing to say thanks to the mayor."

According to Adams, Katz has no intentions of backing away from pursuing a domestic partnership registry.

"We're moving ahead on this," he says, adding that a more detailed plan should be ready for viewing in early April. "We're excited about this."

Ashland approved a registry for same-sex couples that took effect in November. As of

PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS



Some Pride Northwest board members circa August 1999 (clockwise from top left) Kristan Aspen (who is no longer on the board), Norm Costa, retiring chairman Christopher Webster, Carmella Ettinger and Jes Nelson

mid-January, 16 gay and lesbian couples had registered with no public brouhaha in sight.

■ *Want to let Portland officials know how you feel about a domestic partnership registry? If so, give MAYOR VERA KATZ a buzz at (503) 823-4120. You can also check in with Portland City Commissioners Dan Saltzman at 823-4151, Erik Sten at 823-3589, Jim Francesconi at 823-3008 and Charlie Hales at 823-4682*

## BOARD SHUFFLE

After nearly four years on the board of Pride Northwest Inc., the group that produces Portland's annual pride parade and festival, Christopher Webster is saying goodbye.

Webster, who has served as board chairman for the past several months, resigned Feb. 12.

"I'm leaving for personal reasons," Webster says. "I need to deal with some other issues in my life right now."

This year's pride event, to be held in mid-June, would have been Webster's fourth with the organization. In the past he served as treasurer.

"I became involved in Pride Northwest because I enjoy production, and that's what our work should be about—producing a great community-wide event."

This past August, *Just Out* reported on some of the challenges facing Pride Northwest—namely, how the board was struggling to attract a broader cross section of the queer community to get involved in the group and the orchestration of pride weekend.

Meanwhile, over the past few months, board makeup has changed a bit, with some folks leaving and others signing on, and there has been some shifting in committee assignments.

Throughout, the board has also pondered visions and ideas for this year's event. The floated concepts include Pride Northwest securing a headliner to perform at Pride 2000.

"This is a very big community," says Pride Northwest board member Norm Costa. "There are a lot of different tastes, and I've heard a lot of people in the community say they'd like to see different types of entertainment on stage."

Costa acknowledges that not every idea will resonate with everybody. But, he says, it's important for Pride Northwest to be a responsible and responsive organization. Still, he notes, growth and change can sometimes cause discomfort.

"Out of chaos comes change—which is usually good," he says. "We're going to prevail."

## DONE DEAL

Northwest Christian College's new master's degree program in school counseling has been accredited by the Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices Commission—despite the fact that the Eugene-based school asks its students to support a code of conduct that deems homosexual behavior as unacceptable.

Some critics had expressed concerns about the college's code of conduct, saying students who abide by it may have difficulty being sensitive to the concerns of the sexual minority youths they may someday counsel.

Basic Right Oregon, a gay and lesbian rights group, called upon its supporters to contact David Myton, executive director of the state Teacher Standards and Practices Commission.

The commission, whose purpose is "to ensure that every student is provided with a competent and ethical educator," establishes rules for licensing, issues teaching licenses and takes appropriate disciplinary action against teachers in violation of Oregon statutes or performance standards.

Despite BRO's call to action, the commission accredited Northwest Christian College's two-year master's program in school counseling on Jan. 14.

*Just Out* made several calls to Myton. He did not respond to our inquiries.

■ *For questions or comments about Just Out's Northwest, national or world news coverage, please send an e-mail to News Editor INGA SORENSEN at inga@justout.com.*

The new **hot** spot for Pan Asian Cuisine

We Cater All Occasions

WE DELIVER 288-3960



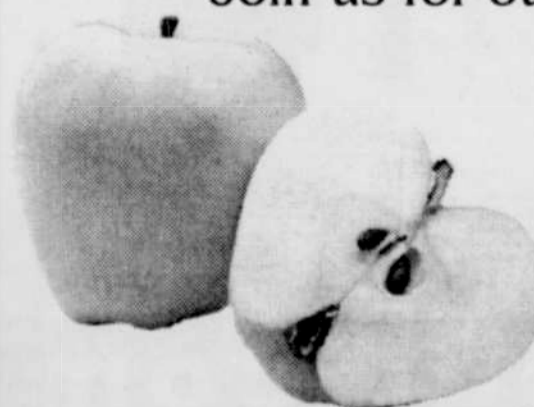
Reservations Recommended

Lunch M-F  
Dinner every night

1411 NE Broadway

For 95 years we've transformed common ingredients into uncommonly good food.

Join us for our uncommonly good dinners, (your ingredients may vary).



Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner Tues. - Sat.  
Sunday brunch 9:00AM - 3:00PM  
Besaw's, 2301 NW Savier St., Portland, 228-2619

**eating out**  
Leave them another tip—tell them you saw their ad in **just out**