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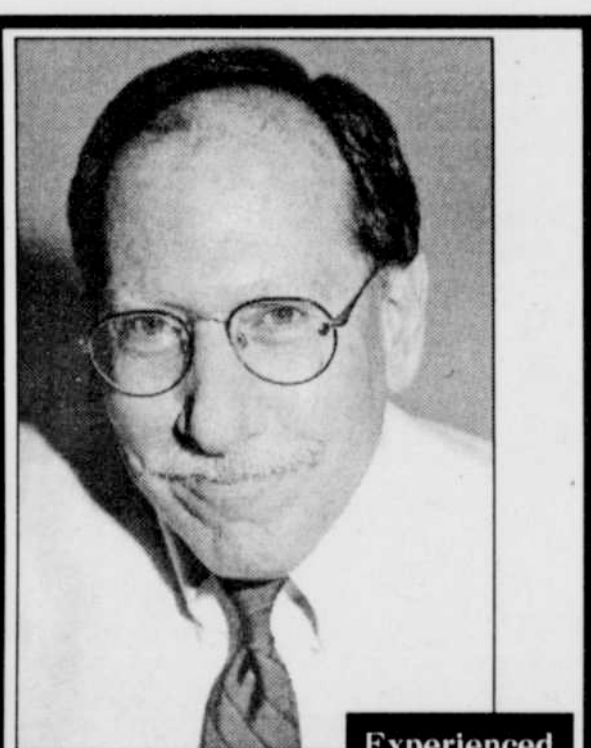
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NORTHWEST newsbriefs

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friendships I've made. I will try and put to good use the unique lessons I have learned."

Adams has been busy meeting with various political players and advisers to determine the next step in his career. He originally had his eye fixed on the City Council seat that will be vacated by Commissioner Jim Francesconi, who has thrown his hat into the mayoral race.

But some speculate that he now may choose another route. Should U.S. Rep. Earl Blumenauer, D-Ore., take on Francesconi in a bid to succeed Katz, then Adams may instead turn his gaze toward Washington, D.C.

Either way, he expects to announce his intentions early this month. Meanwhile, Katz has appointed Judy Tuttle to take over as chief of staff upon his midmonth departure.

CHEZ IT AIN'T SO!

Reports of Chez What?'s demise have been greatly exaggerated.

The cafe and bar at 2203 N.E. Alberta St. was on the brink of going out of business last month, but lesbian owner Keri Salim has devised a solution that will keep its doors open for the foreseeable future. By the end of August she hopes to solidify plans for selling Chez What? to three of her employees, who also will take over her loans.

"Financially we're not doing great—but then we never really have—but it's just gotten worse and worse," she told *Just Out*. "I'm just burned out, I'm done, I'm tired. I want to start a new career."

"I'm just in a huge financial hole," she adds. "Even though our sales have been up and the bar is crowded almost every night, it's just not enough, and it probably will never be enough."

Chez What? opened more than nine years ago several blocks down the street before settling into its current location in 1998. In that time Salim has witnessed Alberta's rapid evolution from an affordable area to a popular arts district.

"When I bought my house here, it was because it was a culturally diverse neighborhood," she says. "I don't like that it's become yuppie—I hate it, actually."

Salim, who also works at a catering company to make ends meet, is considering going back to school to study "something that doesn't deal with cooking." Although Chez What? no longer will be queer-owned, she is certain the clientele won't change.

"It's always been kind of a mixed bag here anyway," she says. "All the cute little queers that

are hangin' out here aren't going to go away. This is their place."

**UNITED WAY ANNOUNCES
\$5.8 MILLION FOR PROGRAMS**

United Way of the Columbia-Willamette announced July 24 funding for the second year of its Community Impact business model, providing \$5,829,281 to support the organization's plan for changing 100,000 lives during the next three years.

"This has been a challenging year for the nonprofit community," said Larry Norvell, president and chief professional officer. "By encouraging our partners to work on solutions to some of our community's toughest problems, we're already seeing the positive effects of working together toward common goals. This means we're in a better position to stretch limited resources during these trying times."

An employment program at Vanguard Youth Services received a \$16,736 grant to provide job training for queer kids through work-based learning opportunities such as job shadows, career mentoring and internships. It aims to support sexual and gender minority youth by providing safe, queer-friendly services; increase job readiness skills through mentoring, classes and case management; and help place kids into employment with businesses that are committed to nondiscrimination.

For more information contact Anisah Miley at 503-872-9664, ext. 25, anisah@cascadiabhc.org.

FLOWER POWER

A gay Aloha florist presented a dozen bouquets July 16 to uplift residents of Our House of Portland, a residential care facility for people living with and dying from AIDS.

The benevolent gesture was part of Teleflora's Make Someone Smile Week, a nationwide campaign in which thousands of arrangements are delivered to hospital patients, children at foster care facilities and others who might need some cheering up. A recent study at Rutgers University scientifically confirmed that flowers have a long-term positive effect on moods.

"I asked to be involved with this year's campaign and chose to provide flowers to those at Our House as I am aware how left out, forgotten and unwanted those in this setting feel," Don Duncan of Westside Florist told *Just Out*. "We all can use a lift."



Don Duncan of Westside Florist presents bouquets July 16 to Our House of Portland residents (from left) Lee, Terrance and Douglas

PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS