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meetings have been held at New Hope for years. According to Parks, who attends services at New Hope but was unaware of its playing host to an anti-gay conference, the church is one of only three sites in the area that can accommodate the annual event, which includes a catered lunch, audiovisual presentations, department exhibits and display of county vehicles. Unlike Clackamas' Monarch Hotel or Oregon City's Abernethy Center, however, the church doesn't specify event suppliers, freeing the chamber to arrange for services from among its membership.

The church also provides the space rent-free, allowing the chamber to charge lower ticket prices in order to encourage higher attendance—though, Parks added, the public may always attend the presentations free of charge. She noted that the county does not share in the cost of the event, which is sponsored this year by Regence Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Oregon.

County and chamber representatives agreed the venue can't be changed this year but indicated that future planning will consider context as well as finances and logistics.

"I'm not just going to ignore it, but I have to look at all those realistic factors," said Parks, who added that she'd hate to hold the building responsible for what people have said within it.

"These are legitimate questions, and Clackamas County is about being responsive to both reality and perception," Parker said. "If somebody perceives this as not being correct, then we want to talk to them about that, because that's not what we're about."

For more information call the North Clackamas Chamber of Commerce at 503-654-7777.

**ADAMS ANNOUNCES CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDACY**

Sam Adams, former chief of staff to Portland Mayor Vera Katz, officially announced Aug. 1 that he will seek the congressional seat held by U.S. Rep. Earl Blumenauer, D-Ore., should Blumenauer choose to throw his hat into the Portland mayoral race rather than run for re-election.

"Politics is about right and wrong...not just fixing things," wrote Adams, quoting President Abraham Lincoln in a fund-raising e-mail from his recently formed exploratory committee. "I will fight to address key problems facing our nation: The Bush administration still lacks a coherent job-creation strategy, even though we have been shedding jobs for years; spiraling prescription and health care costs force seniors to

**"Politics is about right and wrong...not just fixing things"**

—Sam Adams

chose between paying for their prescriptions or other basic needs; key environmental policies are being shredded; and basic legal rights are under attack."

Adams, 39, also had been considering a bid for the Portland City Council seat being vacated by Commissioner Jim Francesconi's run for mayor. However, Adams told *The Oregonian* that his congressional bid nixes any City Council campaign. If Blumenauer decides to pursue re-election, then Adams would seek other forms of public service.

Blumenauer, who represents the 3rd Congressional District covering parts of Multnomah and Clackamas counties, is expected to announce his decision in September. The district's Democratic primary likely will reflect the

area's high number of registered party voters. Should Adams join the race for Washington, D.C., his opposition therefore might include a number of faces familiar to the sexual minorities community, including state Sen. Kate Brown, D-Portland, and Multnomah County Commissioners Serena Cruz and Lisa Naito.

If elected, Adams would make political history as the first openly gay man voted into office as a nonincumbent.

"I'm very proud of the work I've done on behalf of the local LGBT community," Adams told *Just Out*. "I've played a key role in extending domestic partner benefits to city employees and in establishing the county's domestic partnership registry. I helped to prohibit city contractors from being able to discriminate based on sexual orientation, and I worked to extend local civil rights protections to include gender identity."

Adams also serves as chairman of the board for Cascade AIDS Project. He has served on the board of Basic Rights Oregon and recently helped launch Portland's LGBTQ Community Center Fund.

"In Congress," he added, "I would build on my local work on behalf of our community to extend federal protections for LGBTQ Americans. I look forward to the challenge, and to representing the diversity that makes our city and state great places to live."

For more information visit [www.samadamsforcongress.com](http://www.samadamsforcongress.com).



Human rights activist Kathleen Sadaat (left) and Alyson Bolles of the Lesbian Community Project speak out about the Patriot Act on Aug. 5 at Portland State University

**A PATRIOTIC PANEL**

The Lesbian Community Project co-sponsored a forum Aug. 5 at Portland State University on "The Uniting and Strengthening America Patriot Act and Those in the Minority."

Panelists included human rights activist Kathleen Sadaat, librarian Kim Willson-St. Claire, civil liberties legal expert Carolyn Long and U.S. Rep. Earl Blumenauer, D-Ore. The U.S. Department of Justice is pressuring politicians to expand its surveillance powers under the sweeping "Patriot Act II."

**DEAN RETURNS TO PORTLAND**

Former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean will be back in town to hype his Democratic presidential campaign 12:30 p.m. Aug. 24 at Portland State University's Urban Center Plaza, 506 S.W. Mill St.


A report released Aug. 4 by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force reveals he is the first choice of a large sample of gay voters. The random survey of 1,471 people took place at Gay Pride events in Los Angeles, New York City and Washington, D.C.

About 32 percent of those planning to vote in the Democratic primary said they would support Dean. This was nearly three times the

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*The Questions:* IRA? Roth 401k? Risk? College? Long Term Care? 401(k)? ROLLOVER? **SEP?** LIFE INSURANCE? Disability? Roth IRA?

*The Answers:* FLOREID WALKER



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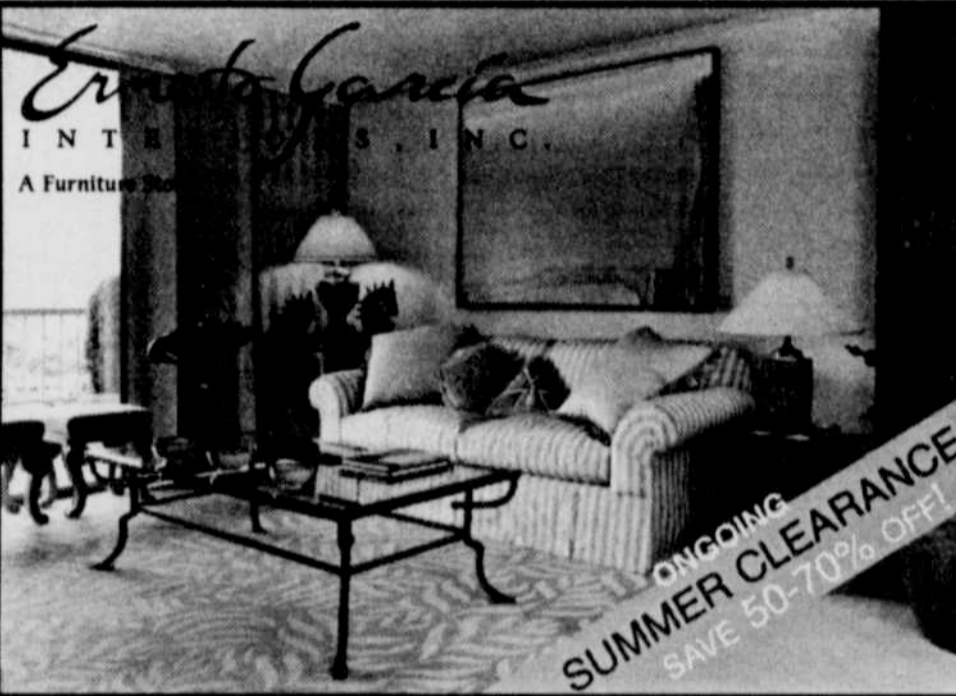
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