

ADAMS, OTHERS CONSIDER MAYORAL RACE

The long-awaited decision by U.S. Rep. Earl Blumenauer, D-Ore., to seek re-election to a fifth term in Congress rather than run for mayor of Portland has gay politician Sam Adams potentially shifting his candidacy away from the U.S. Capitol and back to City Hall.

In a Sept. 2 announcement, Blumenauer suggested that he can serve Portland best by representing local interests within the federal government. He stated: "It is clear that Oregonians agree that this nation is at a crossroads, and most are disturbed about the direction we are taking. At home and abroad the choices being made are eroding our standing in the world, weakening our fundamental liberties, degrading the economic well-being of all but a few, and playing fast and loose with the environment. These concerns on the national level affect us here at home."

Likewise, Blumenauer's decision affects Adams' future political career.

Adams left his post as Mayor Vera Katz's longtime chief of staff Aug. 15 to explore a run for Blumenauer's seat, but only if the congressman opted to join the Portland mayoral race. Meanwhile, Adams also ruled out the race for the City Council seat being vacated by Commissioner Jim Francesconi, who already has thrown his hat into the mayoral ring and is considered the contest's front-runner.

Adams now says he is meeting with advisers and soon will announce if he intends to launch a campaign for his former boss' position.



If Sam Adams decides to run and is elected, Portland would be the largest U.S. city with an openly gay mayor

"I certainly respect Earl's decision to run for re-election, and I'm certainly not going to run against him," Adams said. "I'm looking at my options right now, and one of those includes the mayor's race. I think it's important that an office of that importance be a seriously contested race. If I run, I'd be running to win and to make sure that there's a really good debate."

A debate, noted Adams, that would clearly

focus on the issues of jobs, the economy and education but also touch on civil rights and issues affecting the sexual minorities community.

But there may be opposition from another gay contender. Real estate investor Robert Ball, who last year led a failed initiative attempt to reform city government, has expressed interest in bringing a commerce-oriented focus to local leadership.

"It's pretty much consumed my thoughts the last 24 hours," Ball told *The Oregonian* Sept. 4. "Portland is ready for a progressive candidate who is business-smart."

According to the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, the city of Providence, R.I., population 173,618, is the largest in the United States to have an openly gay mayor, David N. Cicilline. Portland, which had 529,121 residents as of 2000, therefore would steal this title if Adams or Ball decides to run and is elected.

Also in the running for mayor is former Portland police chief Tom Potter, a strong supporter of gay rights. His lesbian daughter, Katie, is a cop who works in the bureau's benefits and disabilities office.

SHOW BENEFITS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Pride of the Rose Scholarship recipients will be presented during the 24th annual *Timabout* Sept. 7 at Darcelle XV, 208 N.W. Third Ave. Doors open at 7 p.m., with the show beginning at 8.

This year's event is titled "Over the Top and Off the Wall: The No Slow Show" and will

kick off the 25th year of Pride of the Rose, Portland's oldest sexual minority scholarship. Since it was founded in 1979 by Rose Emperor V Frank Schreckenberger and Rose Empress XXI Allison Grey, the fund has awarded more than \$140,000 to students from Clark County, Wash., and the four-county Portland metropolitan area.

Applicants must be gay, lesbian, bi or trans or the children of queer parents. Funds for the scholarship are managed by Equity Foundation, a charitable organization that manages several other scholarships serving the sexual minorities community and that provides funding for educational, health and cultural projects each year.

Questions about Equity Foundation may be directed to info@equityfoundation.org or P.O. Box 5696, Portland, OR 97228-5696.

BUSH PROTEST LARGELY PEACEFUL

Thousands of protesters gathered Aug. 21 at Columbia Park and marched along North Willamette Boulevard to University of Portland's Chiles Center, where President Bush held a million-dollar fund-raiser.

In a generally calm and orderly demonstration, protesters voiced concern about a number of issues, including the war on Iraq, the environment, the economy and civil rights. Chants ranged from the serious ("Liar, liar" and "Bush go home") to the humorous ("You're sexy, you're cute, take off the riot suit").

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**Up for anything,
except noon.**



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