

NORTHWEST newsbriefs

LAKE OSWEGO BANS DISCRIMINATION

The Lake Oswego City Council unanimously passed an ordinance Oct. 21 banning discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in housing, hiring and public accommodations.

The move makes it the first suburban community in Oregon to ban bias against queers. Portland, Eugene, Salem and Corvallis have adopted similar policies.



Karl Rohde

The effort was launched by gay City Councilor Karl Rohde, who became confident that it would pass after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned state sodomy laws in June. As it turns out, nobody testified against the proposal.

"I had...always maintained that this would not be a big issue for Lake Oswego," Rohde told *Just Out*. "Lake Oswego is actually a pretty progressive community.... It confirmed what I had been espousing about the community to my friends and colleagues, and that was very nice."

Rohde hopes the ordinance's easy passage will encourage other smaller communities to follow suit. He said he already has been approached for advice by a member of the West Linn City Council.

ADAMS ON THE RUN AGAIN

Shortly after the Oct. 24 announcement that Multnomah County Commissioner Maria Rojo de Steffey was dropping out of the 2004 Portland City Council race, Sam Adams says he's going to run.

The gay man, who served as chief of staff for

Mayor Vera Katz, originally considered and then wrote off a run for the mayor's seat on the council in favor of a bid for Congress, provided that incumbent U.S. Rep. Earl Blumenauer, D-Ore., chose to run for mayor.

Rojo, meanwhile, expressed interest in the City Council seat to be vacated due to Jim Francesconi's bid for mayor. Because Adams and Rojo had agreed not to compete against each other, Blumenauer's decision to run for re-election left Adams without a race.

"My commitment was not to run against Maria," Adams told *The Oregonian*. "Now that Maria's out, I'm going to run."

Already Adams has the support of numerous political and business leaders as well as civil rights activists, including Katz, Rojo, Multnomah County Commissioner Serena Cruz, former state Rep. Gail Shibley, gay philanthropist Terry Bean and real estate developer Robert Ball, a gay man who is considering entering the mayoral race.

Adams says his campaign will focus on jobs, education, families, community policing, affordable housing, basic legal rights for all and neighborhood quality-of-life issues.

"If elected, I would continue my work to improve basic rights for every Portland and each Oregonian," Adams told *Just Out*. "I also would continue my volunteer work of building up the LGBT community. Working with the county and local nonprofits to better serve the needs of LGBTQ youth, seniors and those impacted by HIV and AIDS; confronting bigotry and homophobia in all forms; establishing a successful LGBT community center that better pulls together our own sense of community and strengthens existing LGBT organizations—[these] would all be at the top of my to-do list as a city commissioner."



Basic Rights Oregon's Trans Advisory Group takes to the stage Oct. 24 at the Oregon Convention Center

He adds, "I also would use my bully pulpit to share statewide Portland's very positive experience with our civil rights ordinance that protects lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered Portlanders against discrimination in housing and employment, and lobby for statewide legislation to do the same for all Oregonians."

BRO HONORS VAN SANT, ROJO, TRANS ADVISERS

Basic Rights Oregon honored supporters and raised more than \$80,000 during a dinner Oct. 24 at the Oregon Convention Center. In keeping with this year's theme, "Our Big Fat Gay Wedding," the host was Lainie Kazan, who appeared in the film *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*.

"This year's theme was chosen to rep-



From left, Gus Van Sant accepts BRO's Justice for All Award from board co-chairwoman Jeana Frazzini, host Lainie Kazan and board co-chairman Frank Dixon

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