

**CONFAB FEATURES  
HSU-LI, SZYMKO**

Two queer musicians are headlining the eighth annual Clark College Women's Conference, "Pioneering Women: Blazing Our Own Trails."

The gathering will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 7 at Gaiser Hall, 1800 E. McLoughlin Blvd. in Vancouver, Wash. It is organized by the college and Southwest Washington community members in the spirit of the 1995 U.N. Women's Conference held in Beijing.

This year's event will feature a keynote address and performance by Asian American music artist, painter and poet Magdalen Hsu-Li. The founder of Seattle's Chickpop Records was nominated for a Gay/Lesbian American Music Award for the song "Monkeygirl" from her critically acclaimed CD *Evolution*. Hsu-Li will also lead a workshop titled "Raising Awareness in Ourselves and Our Communities."

Another featured performer and presenter will be Joan Szymko, a multi-faceted composer who leads the Aurora Chorus and creates music for and performs with the acclaimed Do Jump! movement theater. Intensive training with drum circle facilitation pioneer Arthur Hull has inspired her to share the spirit of rhythm at this year's conference.

A wide variety of workshops are planned, with topics including the impact of female artists and poets, reproductive rights, women as peace advocates and applying feminism to work. Child care, limited scholarships and disability



Magdalen Hsu-Li will deliver the keynote address, perform and lead a workshop during the Clark College Women's Conference on Feb. 7 in Vancouver, Wash.

accommodations are available with prior arrangement.

The conference costs \$30 general admission and \$20 for students and seniors; the prices include continental breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack. Advance registration is recommended, but walk-ins will be accepted on a space-available basis.

For more information call 360-992-2905 or visit [www.clark.edu](http://www.clark.edu).

**ADAMS OPENS CAMPAIGN  
HEADQUARTERS—VIRTUAL  
AND ACTUAL**

Openly gay Portland City Council candidate Sam Adams launched a Web site and opened campaign headquarters this month, with a kickoff celebration Jan. 22.

Taking a cue from presidential hopeful Howard Dean, he intends the Web site to be his virtual campaign headquarters. "I wanted to create a meeting place for voters to get substantive information on the issues," he told *Just Out*.

Adams says his user-friendly Web site—featuring photos of him at work and in the community as well as portraits of him as a boy—is an antidote to what he called "superficial, prepackaged sites." Like Dean, he will keep a regular "blog" to update voters while he's on the campaign trail. "The blog is intended to give people a behind-the-scenes look," Adams says. He plans to profile various Portlanders who have inspired him and to highlight what he feels are the city's best attributes.

At home at the actual headquarters, Adams has some heavy hitters running his campaign. His consultants are Mark Weiner and Liz Kaufman, who ran Randy Leonard's successful City Council bid in 2002 as well as 2003 school funding Ballot 26-48 and two campaigns against the Oregon Citizens Alliance. Campaign manager Austin Raglione worked for Earl Blumenauer for 15 years and ran his successful first congressional campaign.

So far Adams has raised nearly \$80,000, which he said is "on track, but with a long way to go." On the trail to the May 18 primary, he is up against Nick Fish, a labor and employment attorney.

"Voters will be offered positive choices at the

polls," says Adams, former chief of staff to Mayor Vera Katz. "But I feel I have the stronger track record on job creation, school funding and protecting civil rights for all Oregonians."

For more information call 503-236-2082 or visit [www.samforpdx.com](http://www.samforpdx.com).

**TRANS LEADERS  
ENDORSE DEAN**

A group of trans community leaders announced their support Jan. 15 for former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, who is vying for the Democratic presidential nomination. They endorsed the candidate because of his belief in protecting the human rights of U.S. citizens regardless of gender identity and expression.

"As president, I will fight for the civil rights for all Americans, and that includes lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans," Dean has said. "No one should be discriminated against based on their sexual orientation or gender identity."

The trans activists who endorsed Dean included Oregonians Lori Buckwalter, Laura Calvo and Vanessa Lynn. The others included Rebecca Juro of Out for Dean, Ethan St. Pierre of *Trans-FM* and *GenderTalk*, C. Michael Woodward of the Southern Arizona Gender Alliance and Angela Brightfeather of *It's Time, North Carolina!*

"I support Gov. Dean because I believe him to be genuine, inclusive and concerned for the dignity and civil rights of all Americans," Buckwalter told *Just Out*. "He has shown the courage to speak out for transgendered people when so

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