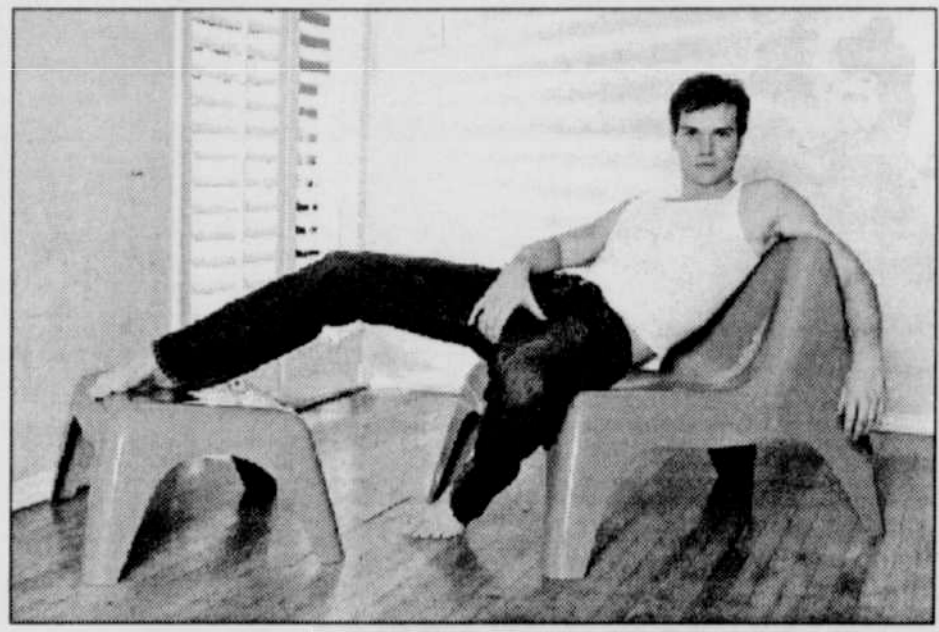


NORTHWEST newsbriefs

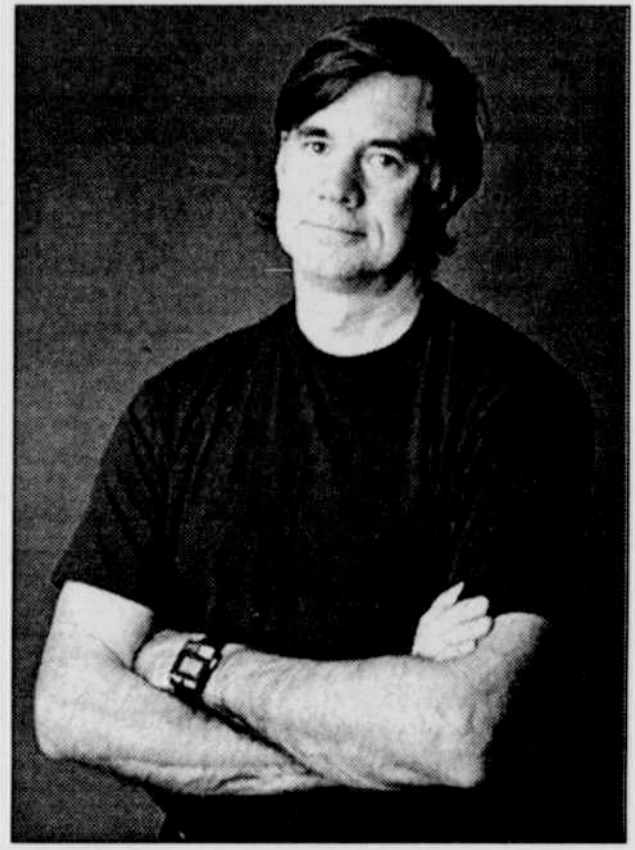
al Women in Trades Career Fair from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 15 at the Local 290 Plumbers & Steamfitters Training Center, 20220 S.W. Teton Ave. in Tualatin.



Entry-level apprentice workers' wages begin at \$9 to \$14 an hour, and journey-level women construction workers and mechanics can expect to earn \$22 to \$20 an hour—substantially more than their peers who work in traditionally female-dominated occupations such as retail sales, child care and cosmetology.

Come meet Gus Van Sant (right) and Peter Paige at a May 8 cocktail reception for openly gay Portland City Council candidate Sam Adams

The public is invited to meet tradeswomen, apprenticeship coordinators, community college instructors and trades employers from more than 60 different organizations. Attendees also will be able to participate in 10 different hands-on workshops and get practical advice on building their skills for careers in trades that are non-traditional for women: plumbing, electrical wiring, sheet metal work, carpentry, welding and more.



"Even in a poor economy, things still need to be repaired, especially buildings, bridges, roads and homes, so tradeswomen have marketable skills," said Connie Ashbrook, Oregon Tradeswomen executive director and a former elevator constructor. "The opportunities are only going to get better from here. As the baby boomers start to retire, we'll see a growing demand for skilled workers, opening the door for women to enter the trades."

For more information call 503-335-8200, ext. 21, or visit www.tradeswomen.net.

VAN SANT, PAIGE STUMP FOR ADAMS

Two prominent openly gay celebrities, filmmaker Gus Van Sant and actor Peter Paige, will play host to a cocktail reception for Portland City Council candidate Sam Adams from 5 to 6:30 p.m. May 8 at the home of Terry Bean, 1882 S.W. Hawthorne Terrace.

Portlander Van Sant is the Oscar-nominated director of *Good Will Hunting*, *My Own Private Idaho* and *Drugstore Cowboy*. Paige, who stars as Emmett on Showtime's *Queer as Folk*, spent two years in the Rose City during the mid-1990s performing in several theatrical productions.

Adams served as Mayor Vera Katz's chief of staff for 10 years. If elected, he would be Portland's only openly gay city commissioner.

The suggested donation is \$250 a person or \$500 a couple. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be provided.

To RSVP call 503-236-2082 or e-mail austin@samforpdx.com.

OKLAHOMA ENACTS BAN ON ADOPTION

Democratic Gov. Brad Henry signed a discriminatory anti-family measure May 4 that forbids same-sex couples residing out of state from adopting children in Oklahoma.

The new law removes a loophole that had

allowed same-sex partners in states where co-adoption is legal to seek children in Oklahoma. The legislation stemmed out of a March controversy in which the Oklahoma Health Department refused to issue a birth certificate for a child adopted by a gay couple who live in Seattle.

State Sen. James Williamson, R-Tulsa, offered House Bill 1821 as an amendment to another bill April 12. The Senate passed the measure by a 44-0 vote April 12 and the House by a 93-4 vote April 26.

The measure requires the state, its agencies and the courts of Oklahoma to not recognize adoptions from other jurisdictions by same-sex couples. The effects of this bill are potentially harmful to same-sex couples who are both legal parents of their children and move to or travel through Oklahoma. The nonbiological parent may be denied access to his or her children in the hospital or barred from making medical decisions for them.

"This law threatens abandoned and orphaned children by refusing to afford them stable, loving homes"

—Dave Noble

"Henry's support for this legislation is disgusting and goes against Democratic principles which value American families," said Dave Noble, National Stonewall Democrats executive director. "This law threatens abandoned and orphaned children by refusing to afford them stable, loving homes."

Oklahoma already maintains some of the most anti-gay adoption statutes in the nation. State law bars same-sex couples in Oklahoma from adopting children, although gay individuals may become adoptive parents.

Compiled by JIM RADOSTA and MEG DALY

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