

NORTHWEST newsbriefs

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If elected, Adams would be Portland's first openly gay commissioner. He says there is "a lot of work left to do" for the sexual minorities community.

"There is a lot that can be accomplished when we have openly gay member of City Council," he told *Just Out*. "Not only will it give you a vote [but also] you will have a bully pulpit to raise these issues and lobby state government."

Adams says his top priorities regarding queer rights include "prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity in the city's contracting system" and "recognizing gay marriages or civil unions recorded here in the U.S. or abroad as eligible for domestic partner benefits."

He will also continue to push forward the creation of a queer community center.

"I've been at this for one year, full time, and the response from queer community has been fantastic," he said of his campaign. "If elected, I'm going to work hard to pursue my vision of equality for all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity."

WORKSHOPS FOR HIV+ JOB SEEKERS

Cascade AIDS Project is offering a free workshop series for people with HIV who want to return to work.

Positive Work Search classes take place from 11 a.m. to noon Mondays through Nov. 15 in Suite 300 at 620 S.W. Fifth Ave. Lunch will be served.

Organized by Lynn Wiles, coordinator of CAP's Working Choices program, the workshop schedule is:

- **To Disclose or Not to Disclose: That Is the Question (Oct. 18):** Americans with Disabilities Act specialist Denise Speilman talks about discussing your health status with an employer and asking for reasonable accommodations on the job.

- **Benefits Planning (Oct. 25):** Certified benefits planner Doug Zeh discusses Social Security disability benefits, how to calculate your benefits against your earned income, the trial work period, the "ticket to work" and extended medical and prescription coverage.

- **Vocational Rehabilitation Services (Nov. 1):** Counselor Connie Foster talks about resources available to individuals with HIV and other disabilities, including on-the-job training, asking for an accommodation and worksite modification.

- **Family Leave Medical Act (Nov. 8):** Helen Russon, a Bureau of Labor and Industries attorney, tells you what you need to know about this important act.

- **Ask the Hiring Director (Nov. 15):** Jeff Pearl, human resources director for Washington Mutual Bank, talks about what employers look for in a job candidate and in an employee, and how they view issues around disclosure.

To register contact Lynn Wiles at 503-223-5907, ext. 217, or lwiles@cascadeaids.org.

A FRESH FACE AT PORTLAND GAY MEN'S CHORUS

Portland native and seasoned arts administrator Tomi Douglas has taken the helm as executive director of the Portland Gay Men's Chorus.

The 30-year-old straight woman brings a fresh perspective to the 25-year-old queer group.

"Not only does [Tomi] bring a wealth of experience to the job, but her already established network in the Portland-area performing arts community will be a great asset to the chorus," PGMC artistic director Bob Mensel told *Just Out*. "I look forward to lively discussions about PGMC's future direction—a future that will be greatly enhanced by her sense of innovation and her vision for implementing our combined missions of musical excellence and social justice."



Homegrown girl
Tomi Douglas is the new head honcho at the Portland Gay Men's Chorus

Douglas returns to Portland after three years away. She spent one year as the marketing director for San Diego Repertory Theater and then traveled to New York City, where she worked most recently as executive director of the New York Gay Men's Chorus.

With a degree in marketing and in theater, Douglas' credentials also include three years as the marketing manager at Portland Center Stage. She is thrilled about her new place of work.

"I think it's fantastic," she told *Just Out*. "There's a ton of stability in the organization...we're one of the permanent players."

Douglas and Mensel are the only paid staff at PGMC. Douglas commends the organization for its dedicated volunteer base and board of directors.

"This organization has really reached out to community," she said. "We don't have a large budget [so the] volunteers and board take on a lot of responsibility."

PGMC is one of a handful of gay men's choruses nationwide that are celebrating a quarter-century of existence. Now that being a queer chorus is not such a novelty as it was in the 1980s, Douglas says many are facing a similar question: How do you produce good art that doesn't rest on being queer?

She hopes her experience in regional theater and in New York will be an asset to the organization. "Once you've produced an event at Carnegie Hall," she says, Keller Auditorium seems like a piece of cake.

"I can challenge myself and the organization to think in different ways," she says. "I bring a broader arts perspective."

Douglas is looking forward to the first PGMC event of the season, *Adults Only Cabaret*. This "annual evening of bad taste" takes place 8 p.m. Oct. 16 at Reed College's Kaul Auditorium, 3203 S.E. Woodstock Blvd.

For tickets call 503-226-2588 or visit www.pdxgmc.org.

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RE/MAX equity group

In Celebration of its Sweet 16 Birthday, The LaurelThirst Public House will be holding a Fundraiser and Silent Auction with benefits going to Project Quest, a community health center which serves many people with chronic and life threatening illnesses. Silent Auction from 7-10:30 PM. Sliding scale cover \$3.00 and up starts at 9:00PM. Entertainment features Andi Starr and The Henrys from 9:30-midnight.
Project Quest Website: projectquest.org

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