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underemployed, back to work." He's not talking about low-paying, inadequate jobs but rather about family-wage jobs, providing options for education and ending intergenerational poverty. He's deeply concerned about the number of single-parent households living on subsistence wages.

Adams also prioritizes the growing public safety problem of increased substance abuse in the city. He cites increased use of methamphetamine, alcohol abuse and other substance problems—problems that cross income level and the rural/urban divide and generally make households vulnerable to increased theft and crime.

Adams has a goal of seeing the queer community center brought to fruition and plans to

advocate on the state level for nondiscrimination in housing, education and marriage. In addition, he will continue to work for increased rights and opportunities for trans people, acknowledging they are inadequately served, even in Portland.

Educational opportunities have been key in Adams' development as a citizen and a thinker. He reflects positively on mentors who have encouraged him through his own educational process and who gave him opportunities for work in the public sector. He credits a vice principal and a teacher who gave him support at South Eugene High School.

Following his entry into U of O, Adams studied Spanish at the suggestion of a counselor who told him it would help with employment options. Also, during two semesters at Universi-

ty of Guadalajara, "It was the first time I saw the U.S. from the outside looking in."

He left college to work for Peter DeFazio in his successful congressional bid. He's best known for his 10 years as chief of staff for retiring Portland Mayor Vera Katz. He shares values with DeFazio and Katz, noting: "They are concerned with equal treatment for all people, not for superficial and artificial reasons, but looking at people's intentions and actions. Both, he says, work very hard, are very genuine and are not afraid to speak out, even if it's to their own party."

Adams graduated in 2002. When not working for his communities, he is an obsessive vegetable gardener, remodels and restores old houses, loves movies, skis and enjoys visiting with family and friends.

He brings a new voice to city politics both

because of his background as well as his vision for the future. He is proud to be from a rural background—and to be gay (he's single) and from the West.

Adams is well aware that Portland can come off as arrogant to rural Oregonians, and this, he says, "is where we have to build bridges. We're in this together."

SAM ADAMS will be inaugurated noon Jan. 3 at Portland State University's Native American Student and Community Center, 710 S.W. Jackson St. To RSVP call 503-236-2082 or e-mail grdnjhnstn@yahoo.com. The event will feature speakers, entertainers and a reception with Native American cuisine.

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"Blame-shifting does have its rewards. Nothing could be more satisfying than to think that gay men and lesbians—not we—are responsible for the shameful rate of failed marriages in this country. If, as the Rev. Jerry Falwell claimed, they were indirectly >>

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