

NORTHWEST news

TEAM PLAYER

Portland's first gay city commissioner taps three out queers

by Sarah Dougher

Portland City Commissioner Sam Adams has named his new office staff, which includes a former executive director of an economic development agency, a lawyer, a schools advocate, a Metro public outreach specialist, a nurse, a retailer, a state parks planner and a retired labor leader. It also includes three openly queer people.

"I feel very fortunate to be working with this collection of people," Adams said. "They were selected because they are best; that they are openly gay will add to their effectiveness in my goals for the city. These are get-it-done people who share my passion for Portland and for shaking up City Hall. I am the City Hall insider, so I was looking for hardworking outsiders. I found them."

Taken together, the Adams staff's professional profile includes nearly 50 years of private sector experience, 60 years of public sector work and 10 years of nonprofit experience.

"One of the strengths of this staff is its diversity," said Adams. "It includes a range of political outlooks and English, Spanish and Tagalog speakers. It includes people of African American, Asian American, European American, Latino and Native American ethnicity. They reside in North, Northeast, Southeast and Southwest Portland."

For new staff representative Jesse Beason, city politics has always been something of a hobby. A graduate of Lewis & Clark College, he has served as public outreach specialist for Metro regional government, has worked with the Phil Busse for No on Constitutional Amendment 36 campaign.

When Adams was elected, Beason saw his chance to have a greater impact on the future of the city. He sees money as a primary challenge of city governments—he notes it is not popular to tax the citizens, yet funds are required to address the tough questions facing Portland. His stance regarding queer equality is holistic; he believes these rights are part of a larger human rights agenda that addresses racism and economic disparity as well. He sees the city as a powerful force for change in this regard.

David Gonzalez, hired as office manager, comes from San

Francisco, where he worked for Staton-Hughes Consulting. He also attended State University of New York, Oneonta.

Gonzalez was politically activated in college when he became co-chairman for the National Gay and Lesbian Student Coalition. "There was



Openly gay Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Sid Galton swears in Sam Adams as city commissioner Jan. 3

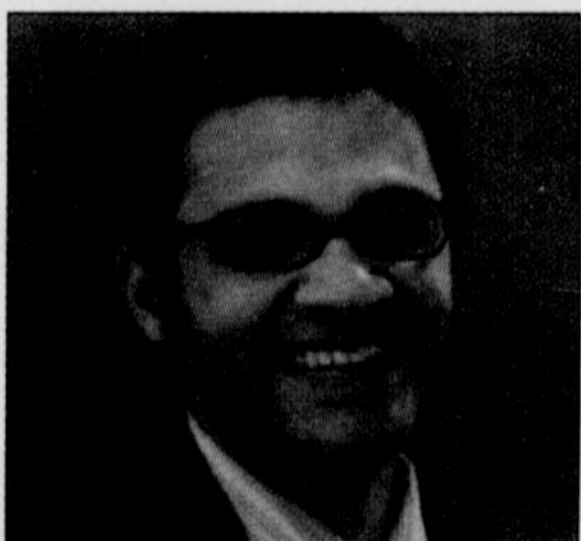
really no national queer student voice," he says, "so we had to make one."

While participating in this group, he began to realize the importance of elected officials in forwarding the agenda of queer rights around the country. He has worked on the campaigns of several gay candidates in San Francisco, including Supervisor Arthur Jackson and Mayor Suzanne Leal, as well as other candidates for supervisor positions.

Having moved from the Bay Area only eight weeks ago, Gonzalez is eager to get to work for Portland. He sees Adams' out gay identity as a powerful force for leadership and looks forward to helping him in his efforts to shake up City Hall.

Mary Jo Markle, another out gay staff member on the Adams team, was hired as staff fellow. A graduate of Brown University, she comes from a background as an AmeriCorps regional team leader. She is relocating to Portland and was not available for comment.

Adams said that although his staff will be City Hall outsiders, they have deep roots in Portland. Their combined volunteer experience includes: Affordable Housing Now, Basic Rights Oregon, Cascade AIDS Project, Citizens for Schools, Coalition for a Livable Future, Coalition for School Funding Now, Grant High School Site Council, Habitat for Humanity, Lewis and Clark Commemoration Committee, Mount Tabor Middle School PTA, Multnomah Village Neighborhood Association, Native American Youth Association and the Filipino-American Chamber of Commerce. [Q]



Jesse Beason, Adams' new staff representative



David Gonzalez, Adams' new office manager

PHOTOS BY MARTY DAVIS

MARVIN SALLES
broker



ONE ACRE W/MT. HOOD VIEW
\$590,000
Traditional 5BR/3BA & over 4,000 sq. ft. Vaulted ceilings, wall of windows & so much more!

SULLIVAN'S GULCH B&B
\$535,000
5BR/5 1/2 BA, old Portland style, remodeled and fabulous.

DOWNTOWN CONDO
\$219,000
with Mt. Hood, Mt. St. Helens & city views. 2BR/2BA & over 1,000 sq. ft.

QUINTET & CONDO
\$159,900
Close in w/View of pond 2BR/BA, 1,126 sq. ft. Pool, tennis, clubhouse, gym, 1-car garage.

GARDEN VIEW CONDO!
\$89,900
In Beaverton. 2BR/1BA, private patio, fab colors, new Pergo floors, washer.

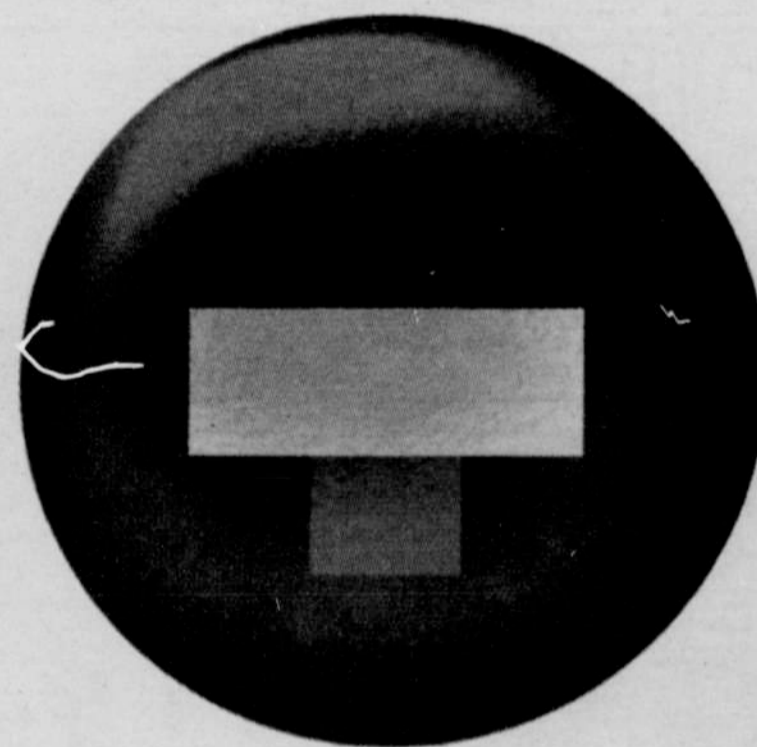
(503) 320-1271 **John L. Scott** REAL ESTATE

LAUREN RALPH
REALTOR

Pearl River Co.
Actual for your floor

MT. HOOD, SEASIDE, SUNSET, S.W. 1000
1818 N. Industrial Ave.
(503) 282-2107
pearlrivercompany.com

imagine staying positively free from STDs



PDXSEX fact:

Syphilis is back & looking for hot guy-on-guy action.
Living with HIV? Syphilis can hit harder & faster.
Test every 3 months (it's always confidential).

info: www.man2manpdx.us • STD Clinic: 503.988.3700
CHOOSE WHAT WORKS FOR YOU: learn • protect • test • treat
[condoms help prevent STDs but do not protect you 100%]