

Madame Bouffant



Opening June 3
{grand opening party june 16}

- custom & ready to wear wigs
- hair & fashion accessories
- fancy things
- makeup



1130 sw alder
503.219.wigs

...wear more hair

p.s. look for our float in Pride!

www.madame-bouffant.com

WELLS FARGO

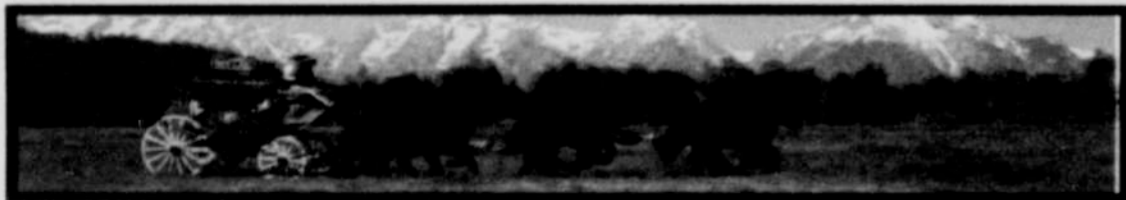
The Next Stage®



Taking Diversity
And Equality To
The Next Stage



Over the last 20 years, Wells Fargo has donated more than 13 million dollars to GLBT charities; developed a network of GLBT Wells Fargo Team Member Resource Groups to promote an inclusive working environment; and has worked with the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce to increase opportunities for GLBT-owned businesses. Wherever it is you want to go, Wells Fargo is committed to helping you reach your *Next Stage* of financial success.



© 2005 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. All rights reserved. Member FDIC.

wellsfargo.com/glb

NORTHWEST news

ERIK STEN COMES OUT

City commissioner stands boldly for queer civil rights

by Jaymee R. Cuti

In a city whose leadership consists of an openly gay commissioner, a mayor who first marched in the Pride Parade in uniform as the police chief, a governor who introduced a civil unions bill and county commissioners who granted marriage equality to gays and lesbians, it's difficult to stand apart as the exemplar for civil rights.

Somewhere between a young idealist and a seasoned veteran lies Erik Sten. Elected in 1996, serving his ninth year as Portland city commissioner, he is the senior member of the council. At 37, he is also the youngest.

"I'm having an identity crisis," said Sten. "I don't know if I can be a youthful voice of experience."

Though he has aligned himself with numerous progressive causes through the years, some have questioned Sten's commitment to issues affecting sexual minorities.

Couched in admiration for other projects, representatives for Basic Rights Oregon said they would like the commissioner to step up his support.

"Commissioner Sten has never done anything to disappoint Basic Rights Oregon, and we have no reason to doubt his commitment to our issues," spokeswoman Rebekah Kassell said.

end chronic homelessness in Portland.

According to Kathy Oliver, executive director of Outside In, a homeless youth clinic and program, approximately 30 percent of homeless youth identify as queer.

Sten makes a connection between oppression of sexual minorities and homelessness.

"An inability for certain parts of our community to accept lesbian and gay teen-agers is a direct cause of homelessness. Teen-agers find themselves in situations where they have to leave and have nowhere to go," said Sten.

He believes the creation of a queer community center will have a positive effect on queer youth, as well.

"The community center could have lots of benefits—one by giving gay and lesbian teen-agers an easier path to meeting role models," he said.

Development of the Q Center has taken off recently, with Commissioner Sam Adams at the helm. He says Sten has been an ally for that project and many issues affecting queers.

"Erik is a strong supporter of the LGBT community," said Adams. "This is not just a job for him, it's a passion."

When Sten is not at the forefront of queer civil rights, he's a supporter. He arrived at the Multnomah Building within hours of waking when gay

and lesbian couples were lined up to marry in March 2004.

"I wanted to congratulate people and feel the love in the air," he said. "I also wanted to show political solidarity and lend whatever help my presence in office delivers."

Despite the Oregon Supreme Court's decision to overturn same-sex marriage, Sten shows un-



Commissioner Erik Sten, flashing his trademark grin, glams it up at City Hall.

"At the same time, in comparison, Commissioner Sten has not in recent years risen to the same level of leadership as other city commissioners on issues of equality and fairness for GLBT Oregonians who regularly contribute, speak publicly about these issues and attend our events. But, we have nothing but respect for Commissioner Sten and his work for the city and would welcome him as a more actively engaged ally."

Sten rose to that challenge with an unequivocal voice of commitment.

"I've missed a lot of banquets, but I've never once missed a vote or turned down the chance to say what needs to be said," said Sten.

In the past, Sten has supported Multnomah County's domestic partnership registry; co-sponsored the Equal Benefits Ordinance, ensuring that Portland only contract with companies that protect sexual minorities in their non-discrimination policies; and funded the startup study for the queer community center through the housing bureau.

"It's not a cause for me so much as a fundamental issue of basic human dignity," said Sten.

Homelessness has recently become a key issue for Sten. He spearheaded a 10-year plan to

wavering support for the county commissioners who gave gays and lesbians a glimpse at full equality.

"It was a terrific thing they did, and I stand by it without reservation," he said.

The commissioner is hesitant to endorse Senate Bill 1000 but concedes that civil unions will lead to marriage equality, which he believes in.

"It makes sense to support civil unions as a next step, but I'm for gay marriage," he said.

Sten recognizes that the city council is sorely lacking in diversity, with Adams' sexuality lending the only tinge of minority status to the all-white-male panel.

"There's no substitute for having women and minorities on the council with the subtle but different points of view, but Sam brings intangible depth and perception on gay and lesbian issues that the other four of us can't, because he lives the issues," said Sten.

Buzz about a mayoral run has followed Sten since last November's election. Instead of running, he and his wife had their first child. Sten is eyeing the mayor's seat in the next election.

"I'd love to do the job, but I don't need the job to work on the issues I care about," said Sten. "I wouldn't rule me out, either." □