

00623067904857 YEAR IN REVIEW

A Year in Business

Queer entrepreneurs flourish

by Jaymee R. Cuti

Portland's queer business community met a handful of new entrepreneurs offering unique wares and services in 2005.

Mike Oravetz and Nick Williamson, partners in life and business, purchased Mother Dear's Crown Jewel Bakery (formerly Mother Dear's Tasty Pastries) in February and brought the flavor of delicate European baked goods to the corner of Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Killingsworth Street.

The pair were perfectly aware that they were two white boys in a predominantly African-American neighborhood and customized their menu to fit their new clientele.

"We've been used to the world we live in for so long. We're now changing to fit the community," said Oravetz.

Their welcome reception is evidenced by their staying power (and sweet potato pies) through 2005.

Gay-owned wine bar and singles hot spot Crush expanded its space, nearly tripling its size this year. The expansion has made room for larger parties and events featuring live music and DJs.

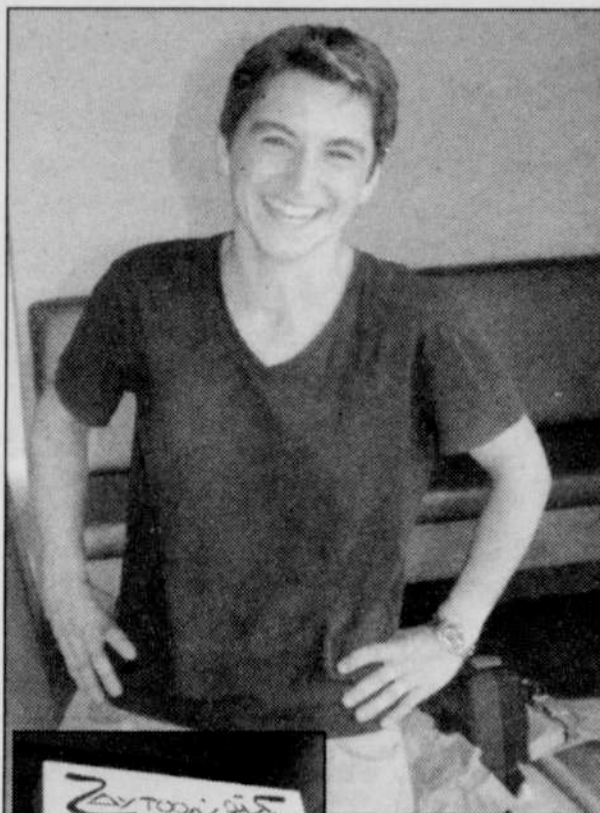
Scandals is also undergoing a renovation and should be open for business in its new location by New Year's Eve.

Last August, lesbian Aysha Ghazoul opened "a new kind of bar" in Zaytoon, 2236 N.E. Alberta St. The drinking and noshing establishment boasts Middle Eastern cuisine, muddled specialty drinks and the best baklava you've ever tasted. Zaytoon, meaning "olive" in Arabic, hosts art exhibits and quiet folk and jazz bands and projects student films on the walls.

Gay-owned Eclectic Home opened at 2259 N.W. Raleigh St. in 2005, offering an "eclectic" range of home décor and essentials. This high-end variety shop is full of furniture, imports, art and even jewelry.

Northeast Portland said hello to When Pigs Fly, a gay-owned shop of playful gimmicks and off-the-wall gifts. The lively shop in the Fremont district opened in April. It is an outlet for those hard-to-find steak throw rugs, bacon bandages, coconut purses, fish beer coolers, martini glasses with smooch marks and outer space TV trays.

A new gay-owned gift shop opened just in time for the holiday shopping rush. Canoe, 1136 S.W. Alder St., features a variety of well-designed items, from wooden bird statues to Humpty Dumpty salt and pepper shakers to the best peppermint sticks \$4 can buy. 10



Aysha Ghazoul is proud of her new business, Zaytoon.



Partners Mark Bergal (left) and Johnathon Guerra of When Pigs Fly smile with store mascot Winter.



Sam Adams' First Year

Queer eye for the community at large

by Sarah Dougher

2005 marked the first year of Portland's first out city commissioner, Sam Adams. Although tales of his activities and antics graced nearly every issue of *Just Out* this year, we thought it proper to ask his office: So what have you done for the queers, Sam?

A look back through the year revealed what we know to be true: Adams works diligently on behalf of working Portlanders no matter how they identify. His attention to the environment and public safety also reveals his broader interests in the well-being of the entire city. Issues on Adams' plate this year specifically related to the queer community included:

- **Research and legwork on the Equal Benefits Ordinance.** Adams worked with staffers and elected officials from other cities to explore the feasibility of an EBO for Portland. This means certain city contractors would be required to provide benefits to their employees with domestic partners equivalent to those provided to their employees with spouses. For more information see Page 13.

- **Launching Q Center.** Adams' office served as the first temporary office space for the young organization, which benefited from his knowledge and skill at collaborating in the development of the board. Adams is a vocal supporter of Q Center in his community meetings around the city, continuing as a primary adviser in the raising of funds and development of connections to funding.

- **Work on behalf of Senate Bill 1000.** Despite the setbacks dealt to pro-gay lobbyists this term, Adams was a fixture at benefits and rallies and on the floor of the committee chamber testifying about his belief in the justice of both civil rights and civil unions. In addition, he was the auctioneer at the Basic Rights Oregon luncheon, which netted around \$25,000 for that organization's work. 10



Portland City Commissioner Sam Adams (left) and Mayor Tom Potter sit at Adams' swearing-in ceremony in January.

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