

SUSAN MYRICK



PFLAG dad and Portland Mayor Tom Potter (left) addresses regional conference attendees with Portland notables Maria Rojo de Steffey and Sam Adams.

April 21 to 23 for a long-awaited conference.

The first in more than 10 years, this regional conference focused on diversity within the PFLAG community in Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Idaho and Montana. Nearly 150 people attended the weekend of celebration and workshops, including PFLAG dad and Portland Mayor Tom Potter, whose office sponsored the opening event at City Hall. Also in attendance were City Commissioners Sam Adams and Erik Sten, Multnomah County Commissioner Maria Rojo de Steffey and state Rep. Steve March, D-Portland.

"It was great working with people from the city and the county," says Patricia Keeney, president of PFLAG Oregon State Council. "They are all very supportive."

The weekend was filled with workshops and events that included topics such as working effectively with legislatures, maintaining safe environments in schools and honoring the diversity of faiths reflected in PFLAG membership. "Many of the workshops were designed to highlight the positive aspects of each culture within our PFLAG family," says Keeney.

One highly attended workshop, "Working to Ensure Diverse Thinking Is Really Diverse," was led by Robert Minor, professor of religious studies at University of Kansas. Transgender and intersex issues were also big topics at this conference, as highlighted by workshops led by author, educator and activist Jamison Green.

Potter formally addressed the conference April 22 when attendees heard keynote addresses from PFLAG national executive director Jody Huckaby and PFLAG national president Sam Thoron. Performances from guitarist/singer Barb Galloway, Seattle's Bent Writing Group, March Fourth Marching Band and cabaret singer Auntie Bijou and the Humble Divas livened up the celebratory side of the conference.

"PFLAG Northwest is in the midst of an organizational shift," says Keeney, explaining the many years between regional conferences. "We have some of the oldest chapters in the 31-year-old national organization. As a result, many of the pioneering organizers are gone due to aging and health issues."

Keeney recognizes the need to power up the next generations of PFLAG membership. "With the broad range of information that was available at this conference and with the special feeling of love and acceptance PFLAG has for its unique family, we expect to have a more activated and informed Northwest region."

Visitors Association CEO Leaves Oregon

The Portland Oregon Visitors Association announced May 3 that its president, Joe D'Alessandro, is taking his talent to lead the San Francisco Convention & Visitor's Bureau.

D'Alessandro, who is gay, is described as a guiding force for more than a decade in Oregon's \$6 billion tourism industry. He will assume his new duties July 5 but will continue to work closely with POVA's staff and board until August.

D'Alessandro's success in the industry was honored last month when Gov. Ted Kulongoski presented the 2005 Governor's Tourism Award to him at the 22nd annual Governor's Tourism Conference.

POVA plans to contract with a national executive search firm this summer to seek a new president.

OSU Celebrates Queer Pride

Members of Oregon State University's queer community are joining friends and allies for its annual Queer Pride Celebration.

"The Queer Agenda: Justice for All," scheduled for May 15 to 19, will incorporate educational sessions, entertainment, a drag show and an honoring ceremony. Queer Pride Week is presented by the Rainbow Continuum.

For more information call 541-737-9161, e-mail rcosu@oregonstate.edu or visit www.oregonstate.edu/groups/rcosu.

PSU Celebrates Queer Awareness Week

Celebrate Queer Awareness Week at Portland State University from May 8 to 12. PSU's newly opened Queer Resource Center sponsors this event, which will feature entertainment, educational workshops, a queer art gallery and a community resource fair.

Event highlights include an address by City Commissioner Sam Adams, a performance by Sissyboy followed by a Lube Olympics and Drag Race, and a Live Acts of Homosexuality tent. An all-ages queer prom, "A Night of Kings and Queens," wraps up the week of festivities. Admission to the dance is \$5.

For a full schedule of events with campus location information, call 503-725-9742 or e-mail qrc@pdx.edu. 10

Compiled by JAYMEE R. CUTI, MALKA GEFFEN and JOSHUA RYAN

EVERETT STREET

AUTOWORKS

DOWNTOWN PORTLAND

10% OFF ANY LABOR
OR **\$19.95 LUBE, OIL AND FILTER**
with this coupon

Expires June 2006 • Applies to most vehicles • up to 5 quarts of oil

503-221-2411 NW 5TH AND EVERETT

509 NW EVERETT PORTLAND OR 97209

WWW.ESAUTOWORKS.BIZ

Compassion. Community. Commitment.

For every Portland police officer, there is a story...

Jim Ferraris, Assistant Chief

"What sets Portland apart from other agencies in the area is the diversity that police officers experience. And we strive to make our agency reflect that diversity, because only by doing so are we truly going to be the best organization that we can be."

Join us and write the next chapter.

www.joinportlandpolice.com

*Don't worry chief,
I will be all right.*

Valentino

**ROSE CITY
VETERINARY
HOSPITAL**

809 SE POWELL BLVD
232-3105

**don't know jack
about syphilis?**

[s'okay: that's our job*]

* **syphilis 101:**
it can cause painless sores
or a skin rash • it can have
no signs • it can be cured

Testing for STDs every 3 months
helps make it safer to play.

All confidential, all the time
503.988.3700 Portland
360.397.8089 Vancouver