

culture



Portland City Commissioner Sam Adams and state Rep. Tina Kotek, D-Northeast Portland, will lead the Portland Pride parade as grand marshals June 17.



MARTY DAVIS

Leading the Way

Two government officials are the grand marshals for Portland Pride 2007

by Malka Geffen

Sam and Tina. Tina and Sam. They are the darlings of Portland's sexual minorities community. City Commissioner Sam Adams and state Rep. Tina Kotek, D-Northeast Portland, do not simply look good at political rallies—they work hard so we can enjoy basic rights in our daily lives. With shared visions, they were chosen as grand marshals for Portland Pride 2007.

"This is my 15th Gay Pride parade in Portland," said Adams. "I'm absolutely humbled with the honor."

While waving to citizens, Adams can reflect on the many accomplishments he's made as Portland's first openly gay city commissioner. "I've sought to move forward reforms to government policy that benefit the queer community, starting with domestic partner health benefits in 1994 to domestic partnership registry to the Equal Benefits Ordinance," he said. Co-founder of Portland's Q Center, Adams has lobbied at the state level for the past 20 years for nondiscrimination and domestic partnership legislation.

"We need to expand resources and support for young folks just coming out," he said about the future. "There's still a lot of bullying and stereotyping we can start working on right away."

Adams also said employment policies across the state need to be changed, especially around gender identity. In light of the recently passed gay rights bills, he said there is

a need for statewide education. "There's a difference in passing laws and changing minds." While he recognizes the work ahead, Adams said it's good to pause and celebrate this milestone.

Kotek attended her first Portland Pride parade in 1991 and said she is honored to be a grand marshal this year. "2007 has been an important year politically for Oregon's GLBT community, so it seems natural to have two of Oregon's out elected officials be this year's grand marshals," she said.

She added that it's great to share the honor with Adams. "We have shared interests, particularly economic justice issues, and we're both from the Kenton neighborhood in fabulous North Portland!"

Pride gives Kotek a chance to bask in the legislative accomplishment of advancing queer rights in Oregon. "I have been thrilled to be a part of this year's efforts to pass Senate Bill 2 and House Bill 2007. I also worked very hard last year to elect a pro-equality majority in the Oregon House so we could achieve these victories," said Kotek.

What advice does the legislator have for holding on to the rights we just received? "Stay active in electing pro-equality candidates, at every level of government," she said. "And be prepared to work hard to defend Senate Bill 2 and House Bill 2007 at the ballot if we need to." **jo**

Spirit of Pride

Ally legislator Ginny Burdick receives recognition

by Malka Geffen

A long-standing supporter of gay rights, state Sen. Ginny Burdick, D-Portland, helped make the 2007 legislative session a boon for queers and equality-minded Oregonians with the passage of House Bill 2007 and Senate Bill 2.

"This session I felt honored to have both bills in my committee," said Burdick, who ran the Senate committee hearings and work sessions. "It was really straining to have all these beautiful people in the audience and hear all that painful stuff said. We prevailed; those two votes on the Senate floor were the highlights of my Senate career."

"It is a very treasured honor for me to have this kind of recognition," Burdick said about receiving the 2007 Spirit of Pride Award. "It gets to who I am as person. I don't happen to be gay, but I believe so strongly in full civil rights for everyone."

Burdick said she'd like to think she received the award not just because of her work in the Legislature this year, but for her unflinching support of these issues throughout her career.

"When I first ran in 1996, my opponent was a well-qualified gay man, Frank Dixon... a great person. When I won the election, I felt even more driven to advance those issues—a stronger sense to be active and not just supportive," said Burdick, who recalled testifying in

1997 in her first session as a freshman senator and minority member in favor of same-sex marriage. "I remain in favor of full marriage for GLBT people. The bittersweet part of these bills, especially domestic partnership, is we didn't give full equal rights. Until full equality is achieved, we're not finished."

Burdick said she hopes those who oppose the newly passed laws will not get a referendum on the 2008 ballot. But if they do, she urges Oregonians to pull together as a state. "We don't need another divisive measure. We need to join hands, not tear each other apart." **jo**



State Sen. Ginny Burdick, D-Portland, is the recipient of the 2007 Spirit of Pride Award.

MARTY DAVIS

eatingout eatingout eatingout eatingout eatingout eatingout eatingout eatingout eatingout



BREAKFAST SERVED ALL DAY

open 7 days a week at 6am
serving a full menu til 1:30am Mon-Sat
Pool • Lottery • Arcade
Homestyle Cooking
Smoking & Nonsmoking

**523 SE Grand
Portland**

503-235-5494

www.myspace.com/523mp

The Side Door

FULL MENU INCLUDING
ESPRESSO SERVED UNTIL MIDNIGHT

bagels, espresso, soups, salads,
sandwiches, pasta specials,
organic juices, beer and wine,
first Fridays, pinball, & free wifi.

**425 SE WASHINGTON ST.
503.233.8553**

www.myspace.com/425thesidedoor

KEEP IT LOCAL



HAVEN COFFEE

free wifi, live music
beer & wine

So Gay!

Art • Panini

3551 SE Division • (503)236-6890

havencoffee.com