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Ba-rock It Like a Gay Trombonist!

Sam is crowned, Barack will rock with Portland gay band and other recent Oregon queer news of note

COMINGS

Obama Parties

The Democratic Party of Oregon lost a party co-host right after announcing two celebrations for the inauguration of President-elect Barack Obama. As explained in *Willamette Week's* Dec. 25 "Rogue of the Week" column, the newspaper's marketing department agreed to co-sponsor a dance party at the hip queer-friendly nightclub Holocene with the Democratic Party, but after getting flak for the ethically hazy decision, it later pulled out of the party, and *The Portland Mercury* later stepped in instead. The Holocene bash is

Ginger Salon, which opened Dec. 4, wants her salon to be "the antithesis of big business, where people can come in and feel comfortable during their hectic day." In addition to a full spate of salon services, Ginger also features fresh-baked goods from Black Sheep Bakery, where Everson's wife, Amanda Felt, works.

—James Maxwell

comings & goings

Sam Is Crowned

Amid a throng of adoring fans, friends and political glitterati at Parkrose High School, Sam Adams was crowned Jan. 5 as Portland's new mayor. Among the notable

attendees: his full City Council, including newbie Commissioner Amanda Fritz; longtime mentor and

former Portland Mayor Vera Katz; and a host of queer and allied supporters from across the city. See Page 15 for a report and interviews from the swearing-in ceremony.

—Stephen Marc Beaudoin



Rose City Gay Freedom Band trombonist Teresa Nowicki is pumped to be parading for Barack Obama on Jan. 20 in D.C.

Queer Political Staffers

Speaking of queer politics... a number of newly installed Portland and Multnomah County officials have swept up openly gay and lesbian

folks to staff their offices. Some of the notable queer staff appointments: in County Commissioner Judy Shiprack's office, Matthew Lashua has taken the reins as chief of staff, with Keith Falkenberg as her scheduler. Over at Adams' office, some of his more noteworthy openly queer staff include Shoshanah Oppenheim, Cevero Gonzalez and Wade Nkrumah.

—SMB

but one of two parties going down Jan. 20 in Portland to celebrate Obama's first day on the job. The Victory Ball (\$100 a pop) is from 8 p.m. to midnight at Tiffany Center's Emerald Ballroom, 1410 S.W. Morrison St. The Holocene 21-and-older dance party (only 8 bucks!) features DJ Optimo from 9 p.m. to bar-thirty at 1001 S.E. Morrison St. For more info call 503-239-8629 or visit www.oregondemocrats.org.

—Jaymee R. Cuti

In Other Words Is Saved

Portland's nonprofit feminist bookstore has been saved—for now. As first reported on JustOut.com, In Other Words faced closing its doors for good if it couldn't come up with some serious cash to pay down outstanding credit lines. But according to program director Katie Carter, the community responded with a whopping \$18,000 and counting in donations since Dec. 10. Great, right? Yes, but the bookstore had another scare Dec. 23, when the weight of several feet of ice and snow from "Snowpocalypse 2008" caused part of its ceiling to crash to the floor. To protect customers from exposed electrical wires, the store closed for two days, reopening Dec. 26.

—SMB

New Queer Salons

Economic downturn be damned! Two new gay-owned salon-plus boutiques have opened their doors in recent weeks and hope to survive Depression-era retail lows with their own brand of fabulosity. Barberama Salon, 3905 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., and Ginger Salon, 1720 N.W. Lovejoy St. #215, are offering customers more than just a haircut. Brian Fuqua hopes his combination of salon Barberama plus coffee shop Javarama, right within its walls, attracts curious customers. "I was tired of working for someone else and loved the space and idea with the salon and coffee shop," says Fuqua, the new owner of as of Oct. 10. Deanna Everson, owner of