

King Jr. Blvd. Visit www.lgbtqmeaningfulcare.org to register. For more information visit www.lgbthealth.net/awarenessweek06/events.html.

—JRC

Queer Counseling Continues

The queer arm of Samaritan Counseling Center's programming, Project Enhancing Queer Understanding And Love (EQUAL) will live on after the 25-year-old organization folds Feb. 28.

According to executive director Michael Sorensen, the center closed as a result of "the negative effects of this economic time and reality that needed donations to subsidize care" weren't available.

Project EQUAL's counselors who provide culturally competent care for sexual minorities have found a new location at 4225 N.E. Tillamook St. The new private practice will provide services familiar to Project EQUAL's clients, including individual, family and same-sex couple relationship counseling and enrichment; queer-specific workshops; the Man2Man recovery group; and trans-focused practitioner education and care. For more information e-mail project.equal@gmail.com.

—JRC

GOINGS

Sam's Ship...Sinking?

The news out of Portland Mayor Sam Adams' office isn't getting any brighter.

One month since admitting to lying about a sexual relationship with a teenage former legislative intern, Adams' political clout and capital continues to take hits, on a near-daily basis.

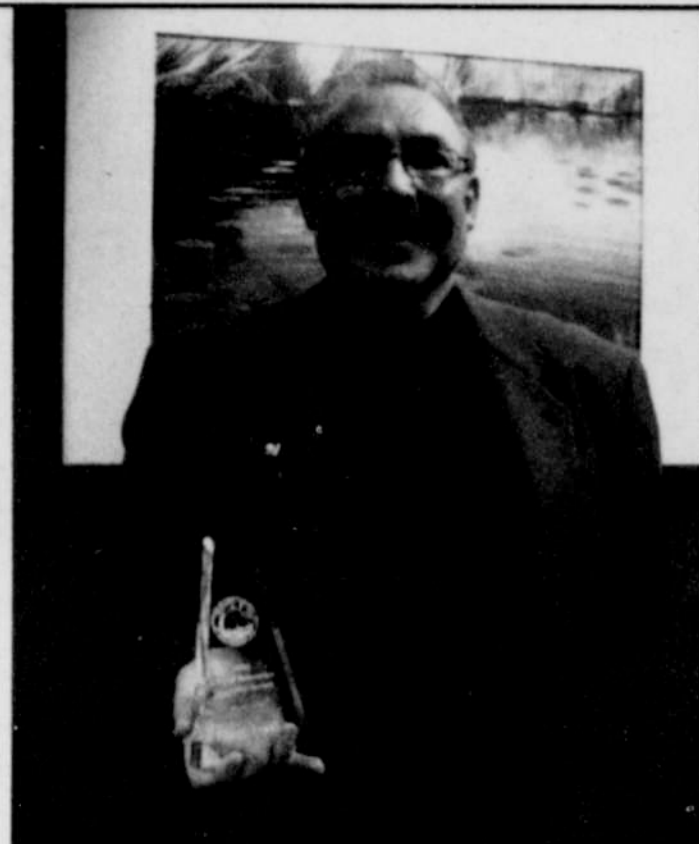
Some of the less flattering news emerging in the past two weeks: Adams' much-touted First Thursday art series at City Hall has been discontinued; a third member of his mayoral staff—Nate Waas Shull, education strategies youth coordinator—has resigned; and Adams continues to be uninvited from prominent civic affairs, including a major Feb. 16 event in Portland with Democratic U.S. Sens. Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden to announce the local pieces of the new federal economic stimulus package.

Meanwhile, a campaign to force a recall of Adams continues to gain steam; see Page 8 for the story.

—SMB

And the Diversity Award Goes To...

A longtime mentor and activist for gay and lesbian youth has been tagged by the Beaverton



Larry Smith, founder and co-chairman of Oregon's Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, was honored Feb. 9 by the Beaverton Human Rights Advisory Committee for his continuing dedication to mentoring queer, questioning and allied youth.

Human Rights Advisory Commission as the 2008 Diversity Award winner.

Larry Smith, founder and co-chairman of Oregon's Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, is a gay retired teacher and volunteer who helped found and fund Gay Straight Alliances in Beaverton and Portland. He continues to travel around the state talking to teachers and administrators about working toward safer schools, regardless of sexual orientation and gender expression.

Smith was honored during a reception Feb. 9 at Beaverton City Hall.

—JRC

Muddy Waters Goes Profit-Free, Queerly

Who cares about making a buck, right?

Well, the queer and allied owners of the newly minted "anti-profit" coffeehouse called Muddy Waters sure don't.

According to queer-identified new co-owner Courtney "Aloe" Johnson, she and a trio of Muddy Waters employees recently bought the coffee haven at 2908 S.E. Belmont St. and flipped it to a self-described "anti-profit" business endeavor: one where anything that the four owners make above and beyond their monthly bills is turned over to local charities and community organizations. They're hosting a March 1 fund-raiser for HomePDX, a local nonprofit that works with the homeless community, featuring fire and belly dancers, hip-hop groups and a "man auction."

They've also, according to Aloe, "switched our products to local businesses, organic businesses," and she rattles off a few names: "Back to Eden, Portland Cheesecake Factory, Uncle Paul's, CBI Coffee, Xanadu chai."

Ultimately, Aloe says, the new Muddy Waters owners want to make the business "a very safe place for everyone who comes through," she says. "We're trying to make a place where it's all, like, one people."

—SMB



Portland Mayor Sam Adams has seen happier days—such as his Jan. 5 inauguration party, which he attended with boyfriend Peter Zuckerman.

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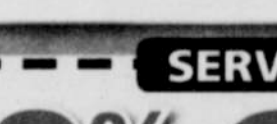
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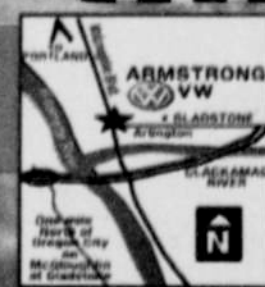
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