

NORTHWEST BRIEFS

»Mayor Apologizes Again at City Club Forum

Portland Mayor Sam Adams delivered his "State of the City" address to a sold-out City Club of Portland audience Feb. 27 at the Governor Hotel.

Right out of the gate, he broke from the scripted speech to apologize for his sex scandal.

"I've made a mistake, as has been well documented, and I am very sorry for the distraction that it has caused my colleagues, my family, my friends and this city. And all I can

ask for is that you judge me based not on my worst moment but on the totality of my public service career and my love and dedication for this city," he said.

The audience applauded in response.

Adams made no requests to restrict the question topics from City Club members but ran out of time after only five questions. None addressed the scandal.

Adams delivered remarks about the economy, green jobs, education and other dense topics with confidence and humor. He spoke

with authority about the imperative of investing in education.

"As of now, Oregon spends 3.4 times as much per prisoner as per public school pupil," Adams said. "Combine this with the fact that only 57 percent of Portland city students complete high school. This means a 43 percent dropout rate. This number is even more staggering for students of color. We cannot talk

about being a sustainable city and a sustainable economy if we continue to allow this kind of failure on our part."

Adams and Multnomah County Chairman Ted Wheeler aim to cut the 50 percent high school noncompletion rate in the next four years. "Thanks to the \$3 million of crucial financial support provided by the federal economic stimulus package, we'll be able to change the lives of the 2,500 students by 2013," he said.

Adams discussed Portland's future role as a leading laboratory for green energy, the "not all lanes are created equal" Columbia River Crossing, the launch of a strategy to reduce carbon emissions that cause climate change, the vision that Portland green buildings will produce more energy than they consume and the declaration, "Portland's going solar, folks!"

His speech was met with a standing ovation from approximately half of the room.

»Rose City Softball Starts Spring Training

More than 70 recruits to the Rose City Softball Association, Portland's queer softball league, showed up for a bone-chilling, rain-soaked tryout clinic March 1 at Delta Park. They came to earn a place on a team for the group's upcoming 15th season.

Stations were established for athletes to

showcase their batting, throwing, fielding and running skills. Becoming caked in mud added to the enjoyment of play.

Team managers also braved the elements. Watching from the sidelines, they noted each player's ability. New teams were formed to accommodate growing interest in the league.

The women's division looked to fill positions on almost all 10 of its teams, and there were possibly enough new members to form an 11th. The open division had many full rosters of returning players, but it needed new recruits to help rebuild.

All athletes who try out are placed on teams based on estimations of ability. In a March 3 draft, new recruits were placed on teams. Announcements about placement followed days later. "Sorry, this draft is not televised on ESPN," joked Jake Packard of the Gay Yellow Pages.

Spring training continues for all teams, and league play starts in mid-April.

»Queer Youth Conference Skips a Beat

The Oregon Queer Youth Conference is taking 2009 off.

Planning for the student-run conference, which started five years ago at Catlin Gable School, was running late to secure its usual February slot.

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Portland Mayor Sam Adams meets the press after his "State of the City" speech Feb. 27.

Spring classes start April 6

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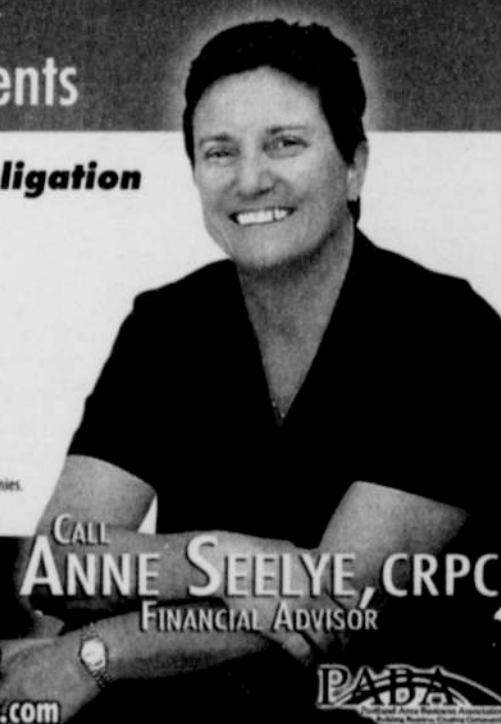


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