

director, told *Just Out* it was policy not to discuss internal affairs such as contract renewals with the media.

Rumors of Joyce's layoff having been the result of his being gay are essentially unfounded. Joyce himself admits that there wasn't any glaring evidence that would point to that reason, though he did contact Lambda Legal to discuss his rights just in case.

"I think when there are no answers, you look at all the options," explains Joyce. "I think as gay men and women, sometimes no matter what the situation, we always ask in the back of our head, 'Did I not get that promotion because of ... Did I not get that raise because of ...' There's always that lingering question of doubt in the back of your head. But there's nothing I can see that would say that one is related to the other."

For the foreseeable future, Joyce plans on maintaining his position on the board of directors for Growing Gardens—a community organization that helps build urban-raised garden beds and teaches people how to grow a portion of their own food. His future in broadcasting, though, appears scrambled.

"It's a sinking industry," says Joyce of television news and journalism. "There are lots of different skill sets I have. I really enjoy people. I could do marketing; I could do politics, broadcasting. Maybe I can try to scrounge up enough money to try to write the great American novel."

Crystal Hotel Opens with Nods to Its History as Gay Landmark

The three-day grand opening venture for the latest McMenamins establishment, the Crystal Hotel (303 SW 12th Ave.), began Tuesday, May 3 with free live entertainment at the new Al's Den and at the adjoining Ringlers Pub. Through Thursday, May 5, the celebration continued down the street to the Crystal Ballroom for three sold-out shows with hometown folk crooner M. Ward headlining.

After the newness wears off a little, however, the opportunity stands to revisit the past of this legendary building at 12th and Stark—once part of Portland's infamous Pink Triangle during the 1970s. The interior of the Crystal Hotel pays homage in many stunningly artistic ways to the various incarnations of the location.

On the first floor sits the cleverly named Zeus Café, after Nate and Tillie Zusman, whose infamous Desert Room once drew the ire of churches, city councilmen and even the scrutiny of the 1957 U.S. Senate hearings on vice and improper labor practices. The next two floors feature 51 rooms total—9 king suites, 42 European-style queen rooms—at a price range of \$85-\$165. Booking a room also ensures the opportunity to purchase tickets to the Crystal Ballroom event that night, plus early admission to the show.



COURTESY OF MCMENAMINS

In the basement rests Al's Den—named for 1940s underworld character and gambling overlord Al Winter, who conducted much of his business in the room. The building was most recently occupied by the notorious Club Portland, a longtime bathhouse. The building's gay history encompasses a period beginning around 1968 when the Pied Piper emerged, alternating its stage shows between male strippers and females over its three- to four-year existence. In 1978, the club was reinvented as Kuchina, catering to gay clientele almost exclusively. Later came the opening of ground-floor gay clubs like Flossie's and Silverado, with the bathhouse located upstairs.

In the halls snaking around Al's Den and the heated saltwater soaking pool hang framed


photos of the various characters and businesses that have made the building a truly unique Portland entity. Flossie's owner Stephen Boden is featured prominently, as are photos of drag-clad performers and patrons.

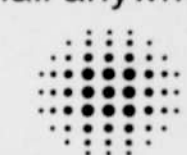
In the spirit of recognizing the historical significance of the building—namely its nearly unrivaled place in Portland's LGBTQ awareness movement—portions of the proceeds from the three-night grand opening festivities went to the Gay and Lesbian Archives of the Pacific Northwest.

For more information on the new Crystal Hotel, visit mcmenamins.com. You can also visit justout.com for a sneak-peek preview of the hotel opening, as well as a comprehensive story on the building's history.

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