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the negligence and disrespect toward the community that the board members have displayed.

However, we are adamantly opposed to the threat by four authors of a letter to Pride Northwest that promises to report the board to the Oregon secretary of state and the Internal Revenue Service. We are dismayed that these members of the sexual minority community would resort to a counterproductive cure that is worse than the disease.

The secretary of state supports the status quo and enforces undemocratic laws that keep minor political parties off the ballot. The Freedom Socialist Party has been denied the right to run candidates due to an unconstitutional election law that maintains the dominance of the two-party system.

The IRS is infamous for its abuse of power.

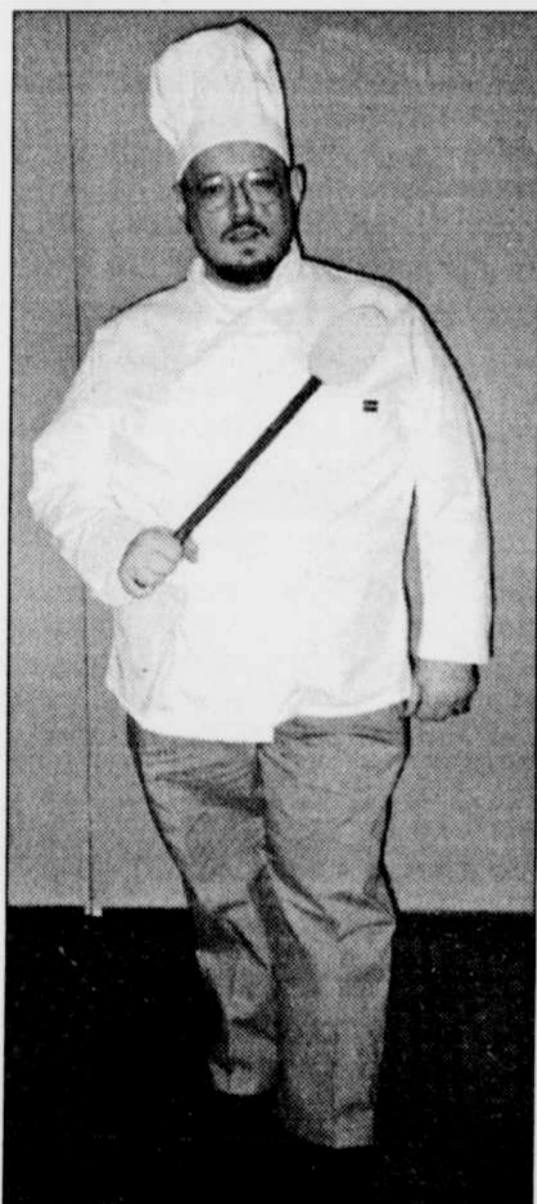
We insist that the threat to turn to an oppressive state apparatus to solve our problems be revoked.

We demand that the board members of Pride Northwest behave as responsible representatives of the GLBT community and uphold democratic principles. Public organizing is the only way to bring about public accountability.

SUSAN SANDSTROM, EDUARDO MARTÍNEZ-ZAPATA, HOWARD THORN, GLENN ALLEN KIRKINDALL, D. SPRING SVART, EVELYN AAKO, JORDANA SARDO, KENNETH BROWN, MARJIE SANDOZ, LUKE ANAVI, ANNALEE PURDY, JENNIFER LAVERDURE, KRIS DEMARIA, KIMBERLY JOHNSON, BRIAN BARNETT AND ADRIENNE WELLER

Activists from the sexual minority and union communities including representatives of Radical Women, Bigot Busters and Freedom Socialist Party

notables



Tony DeBlase, 1942-2000

Dr. Tony DeBlase, one of the great innovators and leaders of the leather community and creator of the Leather Pride Flag, died peacefully July 21 in Portland after an extended illness, largely involving liver failure. He was 58.

He is survived by his lover of more than 24 years, Dr. Andrew Charles of Portland.

DeBlase—a mammalogist, specializing in the biology of bats—was engaged in museum administration and development for much of his professional life. In his free time, he became involved in the founding of the Leather Archives and Museum and served as board of directors vice president from 1992 until 2000.

Also known as Fledermaus—a name he usually reserved for fictional writing about leather, sadism and masochism—he was one of the most active lecturers, demonstrators, instructors and one might even say philosophers of leathersex in the latter third of the 20th century. His accomplishments as a leather leader are legendary and include founding *DungeonMaster* magazine, which published 49 issues from 1979 to 1994.

In 1986, DeBlase and Charles moved from

Chicago to San Francisco, where he was instrumental in creating its Leather Pride Week—six days of events, many of which depended on him for their success. Undoubtedly, one of the most widely celebrated of his achievements in the world of leather was his design of the Leather Pride Flag, which he presented May 28, 1989.

In 1993, he and his partner relocated to Portland. A loyal friend and constant counselor of so many leathermen and leatherwomen, he will be missed profoundly by the hundreds who had come to depend on him for advice, instruction and comfort.

A private memorial was held recently in Portland. Plans are under way for a major memorial celebration of DeBlase's life at International Mr. Leather 2001 during Memorial Day weekend in Chicago.

Contributed by Joseph Bean

David E. Perry, 1952-2000

The community is mourning the loss of one of its finest leaders, Emperor XVIII David E. Perry, who died of cancer July 24. He was 47.

He was born Dec. 3, 1952, in Dubuque, Iowa. He served in the U.S. Army.

Perry moved to Salem and graduated from Western Baptist College with a bachelor's degree in music during the 1970s. He moved to Portland in 1984.

He was past president of the Imperial Sovereign Rose Court board of directors, past Mr. Gay Oregon and an ordained minister. He also was a manager for several restaurants in the Portland area until retiring in January.

"David raised a lot of money for both the scholarship funds and also did a lot of work for Our House and the Pride Foundation," Empress XXXVIII Misha Rockafeller said. "There are several people who are part of the court system now who are there because David Perry got them involved. He was always actively involved with people."

He is survived by his daughter, Becky Heilen; sons, David and Chris; granddaughters, Machaula and Skyeler; and lifelong friends, Emperor X Gary Benoit and Michael S.

Perry's accomplishments were celebrated July 28 at Embers Avenue. Final disposition was by cremation. Omega Funeral & Cremation Service handled the arrangements.

The family is accepting contributions to cover expenses. Write to Friends of PWA, P.O. Box 4014, Portland, OR 97208.

Contributed by Jim Radosta



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