

A HERO'S WELCOME

Basic Rights Oregon soiree fights for truth, justice and the American way

by Jim Radosta • Photos by Marty Davis

More than 850 people raised about a quarter-million dollars for the No on Constitutional Amendment 36 campaign at Basic Rights Oregon's annual dinner Oct. 2.

Because this is an election year, the Oregon Convention Center was packed with candidates vying for attention and donors eager to shell out cash to fight for marriage equality. Among the evening's highlights:

- While entertaining the audience, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* star Wade McCollum stuck his crotch in the face of openly heterosexual Portland City Council candidate Nick Fish. No word on whether his gay rival, Sam Adams, felt snubbed.

- Former Oregon Gov. Barbara Roberts agreed to sing to the crowd in exchange for its generosity.

- The Human Rights Campaign and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force added \$75,000 each to the pot.

- Awards were given to Portland Mayor Vera Katz for a career devoted to advancing civil rights; to activists in Bend for passing a civil rights ordinance; and to four groups that helped make same-sex marriage possible in Oregon: commissioners in Multnomah and Benton counties, the American Civil Liberties Union and BRO's Legal Advisory Group. **J**



From left, Multnomah County Commissioners Lisa Naito, Serena Cruz, Maria Rojo de Steffey and Diane Linn receive a standing ovation for supporting same-sex marriage



Former Oregon Gov. Barbara Roberts serenades the crowd for cash



Benton County Commissioner Annabelle Jaramillo celebrates the fight for fairness



Dinner host Daria O'Neil strikes a pose



Hedwig and the Angry Inch star Wade McCollum whispers sweet nothings to his "Sugar Daddy," Oregon Treasurer Randall Edwards



State Senate candidate and Ms. Oregon State Leather Theresa "Darklady" Reed extols the virtues of the Libertarian Party



BRO executive director Roey Thorpe accepts Metropolitan Community Church of Portland's annual Shepherd Award



Senate Democratic Leader Kate Brown, D-Portland, is the only openly bisexual member of the Legislature



Oregon Attorney General Hardy Myers speaks out against Ballot Measure 36