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NORTHWEST newsbriefs

Q CENTER FINDS FRIENDS, FUNDS
 Portland Pride exceeded expectations for organizers of the Q Center, the city's first sexual minority community center.
 Leaders and volunteers looked to Pride as an outreach opportunity, signing up more than 1,000 new people pledging support for the project.
 Both the Warehouse Party and Taking Pride in Stark Block Party during Pride weekend were fund-raisers for the Q Center, raking in approximately \$5,400, about half of previous, optimistic projections. The funds have helped offset

GAY MEN'S CHORUS TOPS EXPECTATIONS WITH EXTRAVAGANZA
 A garage sale held to benefit the Portland Gay Men's Chorus raised more than \$7,500 during its "Extravaganza" July 15 and 16. The amount of stuff donated to the chorus so exceeded expectations that a second truck full of treasures was sold off the following weekend at chorus member Gary Coleman's home.

PABA ANNOUNCES 2005 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS
 Each year, the Portland Area Business Association awards competitive scholarships. This year's recipients are Devin McGeehan Muchmore and Michele Pearse.



The Q Center offers a little something for everyone.

Q Center's general operating expenses to date, according to interim director Susan Remmers.
 "Without the community friends and funds, the center cannot happen. We are off to a solid start on both fronts," said Remmers.
 Program development is also under way. Volunteers from the Q Center Community Convenings Work Group are organizing three events to serve as "test pilots" for future ongoing programs.
 The Tech Work Group has created a data-

base and improved the outreach facilities of its Web site.
 The center has also secured the services of In the Black Accounting, which has donated accounting software and bookkeeping services through December.
 Remmers is working with City Commissioner Sam Adams on recruitment of leadership, including a board, and donor cultivation.
 "It is clear: The community needs, wants and can sustain a center," she said.
 For updates, visit the Q Center blog at www.pdxqcenter.org.



Members of the Portland Gay Men's Chorus sing their hearts out at Portland Pride 2005.

PABA will be featuring Muchmore and Pearse in upcoming issues of its monthly *Advantage* newsletter, which can be accessed online at www.paba.com.

PORTLAND WOMEN'S CRISIS LINE HOLDING GALA, SILENT AUCTION
 The Portland Women's Crisis Line will hold its third annual Gala & Silent Auction on Aug. 5 at Hip Chicks Do Wine, 4510 S.E. 23rd Ave.
 The event is from 7 to 10 p.m. and includes appetizers, wine, supportive words from Multnomah County Chair Diane Linn and musical

—Jaymee R. Cuti