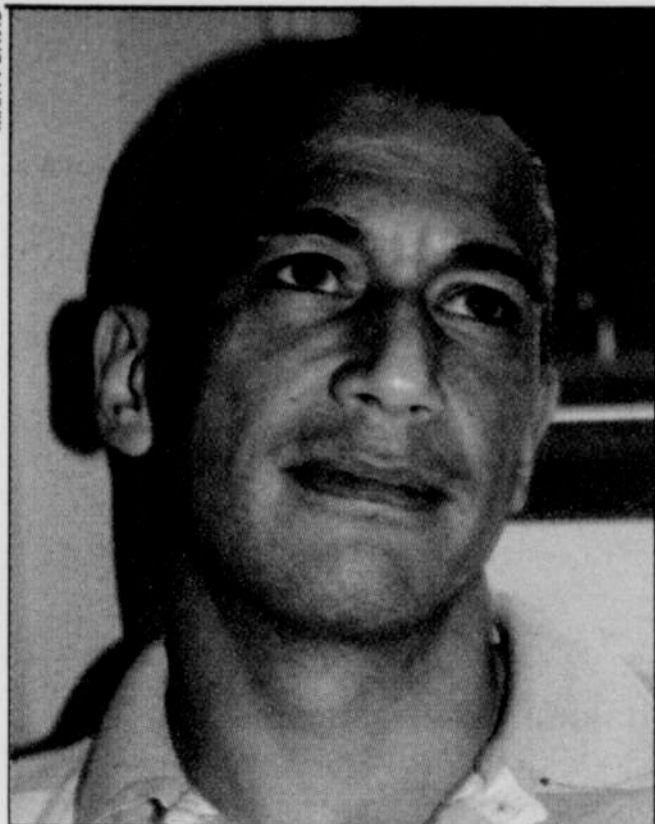


MARTY DAVIS



Paul Soriano is one of several artists showing at Portland City Commissioner Sam Adams' office in City Hall.

he ended up bringing several pieces that express clear support of the lesbian and gay communities."

Leonard made this post June 2 on Adams' blog: "I appreciated the theme of last night's First Thursday.... We have had First Thursday art themes that have displayed a variety of themes and cultures since this event began shortly after Sam arrived at City Hall.... Thank you, Sam, and thank you to the artists that display their art in the various commissioners' offices at City Hall."

Thousands Raised for Scholarship

The Pride of the Rose Scholarship Fund raised a record-breaking \$11,000 during the third annual Touch of Class benefit May 21 at Darcelle XV Showplace.

The event sold out in April, and 100 people packed the room for a prime rib dinner, a show and an auction. All aspects of the production were donated, including food, services and auction items.

Scholarship applications are available through Equity Foundation until the end of July. Recipients will be decided in August and announced during the annual Turnabout Show Sept. 10 at Darcelle's.

Mary Li Joins Q Center Board

Q Center announced last month that Mary Li has been elected to its board of directors. "We are very excited to have Mary's experience with community centers and deep commitment to community collaboration," said Gwenn Baldwin, Q Center co-chairwoman.

MARTY DAVIS



Activist Mary Li has joined Q Center's board.

Li has lived in Portland since the early '80s and has spent her career working with nonprofit service and advocacy organizations. In the mid-'90s, she was a founding member of the Asian Family Center.

"I have seen firsthand how critical a community center is for creating, building and maintaining a strong, vibrant community that has identity and purpose," says Li. "I believe this also to be true for GLBTQ communities."

Her experience with new organizations gives Li insight that will greatly benefit Q Center. "I think the biggest challenge will be finding balance among everything that can be done vs. what has to be done in the early years of an organization."

Li; her partner, Becky; and their daughter, Ava, are directly affected by the current political situation. "We are deeply disappointed that in spite of his access to all the information to the contrary, the president continues to refuse to acknowledge the reality of our families and our need for full civil rights in order to use us in a cynical midterm election rallying cry for the benefit of the radical religious right's political agenda."

As a partner in the first couple to marry in Multnomah County in March 2004, Li sees Q Center's importance in the community. "Build the community and you work to build the political power that will make a difference in the fight."

Li works for Multnomah County in the department of school and community partnerships. She has joined the Q Center board's recruitment and training committee.

Seattle Boasts Twice the Pride

Seattle is gearing up for two events celebrating Gay Pride on the same weekend, June 23 to 25.

A split ensued when organizers of the Seattle Pride festival chose to move its weekend celebration off Capitol Hill, the heart of the city's gay district.

Seattle Out and Proud, formerly the Seattle Pride Committee, said the event had outgrown its parade route on Broadway and festivities at Volunteer Park. It moved Pride to Seattle Center, with the parade flowing downtown on Fourth Avenue.

Critics, some from the Capitol Hill business community, believed Seattle Center was too touristy and uninspired for such a colorful event.

In response, the Capitol Hill-based LGBT Community Center planned activities for the same weekend, including a march along the traditional parade route. These festival newbies also landed two longtime sponsors of the 31-year-old parade: Microsoft and Anheuser-Busch wholesaler K&L.

What some view as contentious and divisive infighting, others see as options that Seattle's queer community has not seen in the past.

Washington Initiative Victory Garners Praise

In a statement released June 7, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force applauded the work of queer rights advocates, particularly Washington Won't Discriminate and Equal Rights Washington, for successfully defending a state law banning discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Opponents of the law, led by conservative activist Tim Eyman, failed to gather enough voter

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Here's to a healthy and fun weekend.

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