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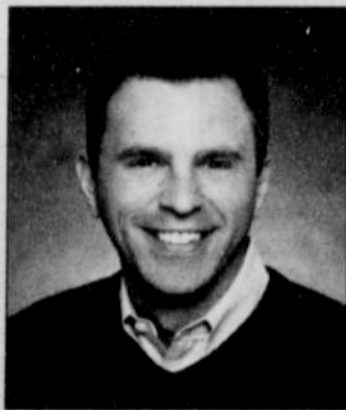
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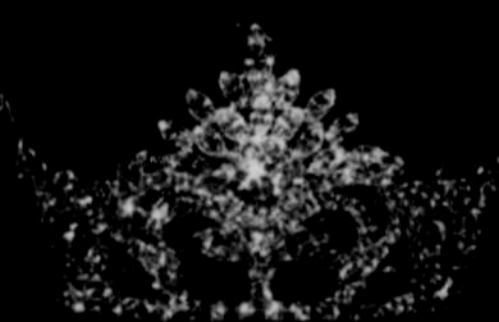
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Plus Pageant*

Sunday, March 11, 2007



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northwest

Wonder Ballroom Is Here to Stay

Ownership of the historic Hibernian Hall—which is home to Wonder Ballroom's music venue, cafe and gallery—changed hands Feb. 2. Co-owners Chris Monlux and Howie Bierbaum, who are gay, and Mark Woolley sold the building to a couple from Northwest Portland.

"People are flipping out because they think we've sold the business," said general manager Howie Bierbaum. "All this means is we made a killing in the real estate market. We're not going anywhere."

incorporated in 1994 is its move this month to 1401 S.E. Morrison St.

Stereotypes continues to be a home stereo store that also provides home theater and office systems. According to Inman, it specializes in finding better gear at reasonable prices. "We're like the Trader Joe's of home audio, selecting out the best items we can find at particular prices for the performance," she said.

The new location will offer Stereotypes better visibility, better parking and a new layout that Inman designed from scratch. "We're going to interface with computers for streaming audio—everything in the store is iPod ready. We're showing custom install distributed audio and hard drive servers that can hold 3,000 CDs," said Inman. All that, and Stereotypes still sells turntables!

The staff at Stereotypes prides itself on offering friendly service, honest advice and no judgments about spending limitations. "I love showing people the possibilities, and I love it when they get home and call us back saying that they love their stereo," Inman said. "I've had customers say they stayed up 'til 2 a.m. listening to music and how nice bringing music back into their home is and how all their CDs sound like new."

Inman said she has supported gay organizations in the past and puts up fliers for the Portland Gay Men's Chorus and the Portland Lesbian Choir. "We're always welcoming and helping the gay and lesbian community with a very honest approach to music for their home and business."

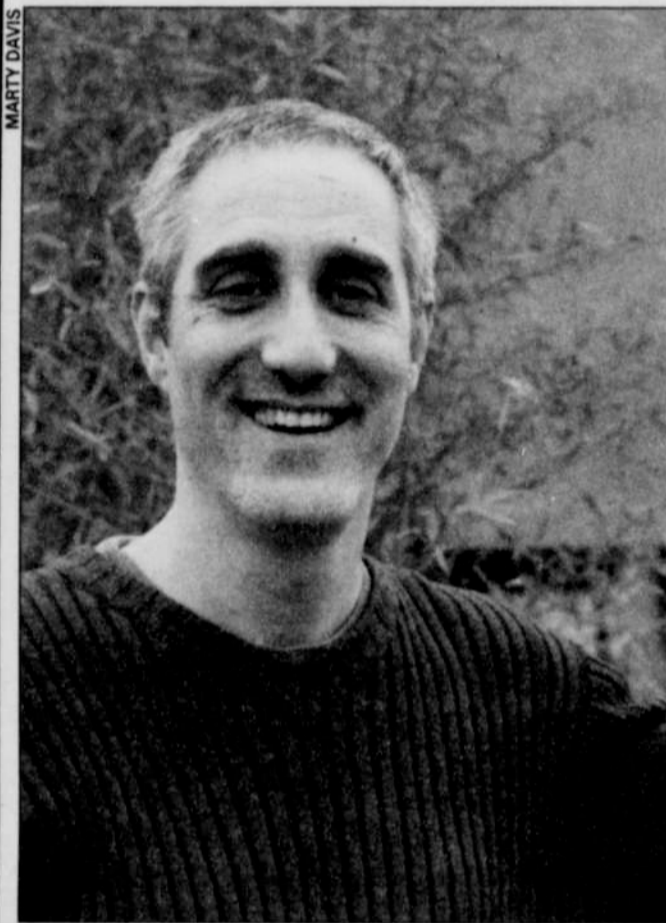
Once a DJ for the *Woman Soul* show on KBOO-FM, Inman also supports local music events and noncommercial radio stations.

Homestyle Cooking Comes to Town

Gay chef Willie Black and his sister Mari opened Odessa's Café, named for their mother, in September at 3445 N.E. Broadway. Since then, patrons have enjoyed Black's "special rub."

"My homemade barbecue sauce takes three days to cook, and it's done on a charcoal, hickory and mesquite grill," he said.

business watch



Howie Bierbaum will continue to run Wonder.

Bierbaum said the ballroom's eclectic mix of events, nonsmoking policy, hassle-free eastside location and mellow atmosphere have contributed to the business' success since it opened in June 2005. The home to pop and rock shows as well as nonprofit, charity and fine arts events will not change a lick, according to Bierbaum. "The sale has given us the time, energy and money to improve the business, and we won't have to worry about the real estate," he explained.

Wonder Ballroom, located at 128 N.E. Russell St., has been host to many queer-related shows and events, including Kiki and Herb, the Total Drag contest, Basic Rights Oregon's Strut and several appearances by the beloved Gossip, returning again April 4. Bierbaum said he hopes to get the Girls for Girls Seattle dances to the ballroom as well. He is excited about upcoming events, such as appearances by poet laureate Robert Pinky, Storm and the Balls and the third annual new music ensemble.

To reiterate, Bierbaum and friends are still running the show. "We have long-term leases 'til 2013!" he said. "When the roof leaks, we won't have to climb up there anymore. Not having to deal with the maintenance of a 100-year-old building allows us to focus on the businesses, which is a real plus."

Stereotypes Moves to New Location

Many things have changed since Stereotypes owner Teri Inman found her love of music in an all-girls rock 'n' roll band. The biggest and most recent change for this audio store since it became



Stereotypes owner Teri Inman's passion for sound led her store to a new location on Southeast Morrison Street.