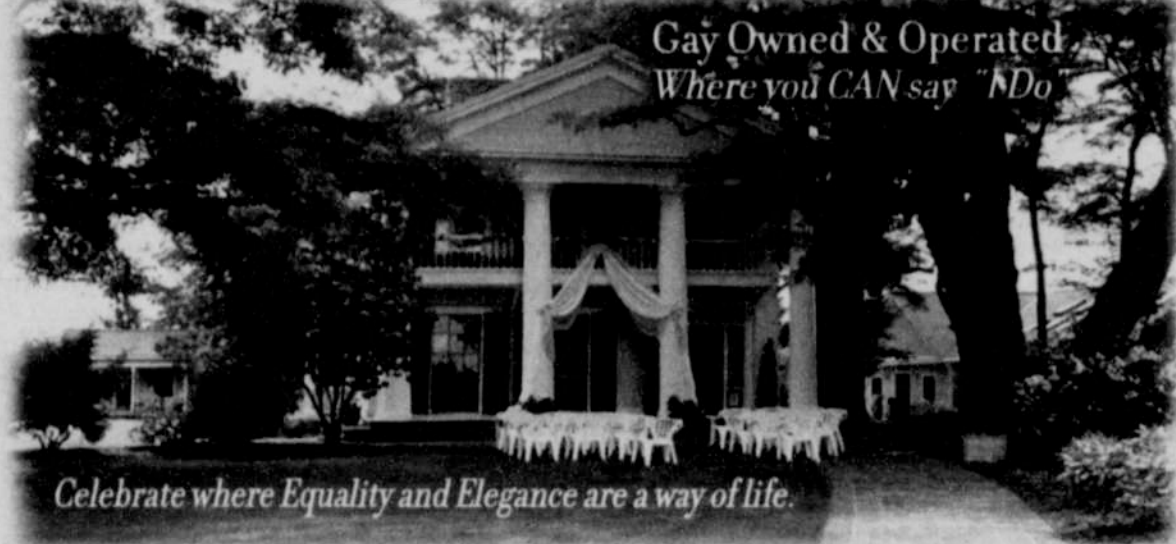


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## northwest

# The Tribute

Pioneering activist honored at gala

by Jaymee R. Cuti

**H**undreds are expected to don masks and Mardi Gras beads at "Masquerade," Basic Rights Oregon's annual fund-raising gala.

This 25th anniversary event will honor a dedicated activist who traces his first brush with the gay civil rights movement to 30 years ago. Terry Bean will be presented with the Fighting Spirit Award.

Past recipients have included Roey Thorpe, BRO's former executive director, and Ramón Ramírez, president of Northwest Treeplanters and Farmworkers United.

always comes through. If he says he's going to raise the money, he raises the money," said Weller. "With his sparking personality, he really knows how to get people to want to give."

Bean's reach has extended past the Oregon borders.

"Terry's had an impact that affects both Oregon and this entire country through his work to secure protections on the state level and nationally," said Jeana Frazzini, BRO's development director, who is overseeing the event. "The tribute video will capture voices from all aspects of his work."



From left, gay civil rights giants George Eighmey, Don Powell, Julie Davis and Gail Shibley embrace in Salem at the historic signing of Senate Bill 2 and House Bill 2007.

The gala aims to raise \$225,000 for general operations and for supporting equality-minded candidates. The masters of ceremony are Thomas Bruner, regional executive of the American Red Cross for Oregon, and Jacky Thomas, a general marketing manager for Nike.

A film crew converged on Bean's West Hills home Sept. 10 to record interviews with his friends and colleagues. The footage—including interviews with longtime gay rights supporter Bill Dickey, Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski, former Oregon Gov. Barbara Roberts and pioneering activists Jerry Weller and Don Powell—will be edited into a three- to four-minute tribute video that will be screened at the gala.

Weller first collaborated with Bean in 1977 on a referendum in Eugene.

"A lot of people call themselves major fund-raisers in the gay and lesbian community. Terry

Former state Rep. Gail Shibley, D-Portland, had a cache of memories about Bean from her years in the Legislature. She recalled an evening in 1984 when he and Powell "wined and dined" her into accepting what proved to be an impossible challenge.

"Somehow—only smooth-talking Terry could do this—somehow they got me to take the bait and head up lobbying the gay rights bill—it was a non-discrimination in state employment bill that year—for a very specific, very swing Democratic senator from my home district in Linn County because of my connections there."

That legislator was Mae Yih.

"She was never with us," said Shibley, who experienced a cathartic moment when she realized that state Sen. Frank Morse, R-Albany, who so resolutely advocated for gay rights in 2005, was Yih's successor.

A separate crew is filming interviews in



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