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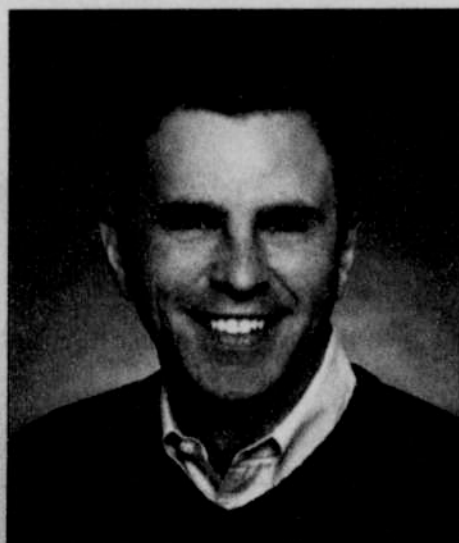
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## northwest

### Red Dress Party Raises \$30,000

The 24,000-square-foot Kalberer Warehouse in Northeast Portland was packed with 1,916 revelers April 12 for Portland's infamously debauched Red Dress Party.

The eighth annual party included entertainment by P-town favorite Storm Large and the Balls, an assortment of DJs, ridiculously limber aerial artists and scorching hot fire dancers.

Themed "Red Sea," the event was an underwater odyssey complete with a coral reef, jellyfish bar and sea anemone beds.

What started in 2001 as a modest house party in the basement of a North Portland home has now become one of Portland's most anticipated and unusual philanthropic events.

To enforce the dress code—red dresses only—the Portland Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence staffed the entrance. There were exceptions to the rule. Former first daughter Chelsea Clinton arrived wearing a Gap Red Campaign T-shirt, and City Commissioner and mayoral candidate Sam Adams sported modest red culottes.

General admission tickets sold for \$50 a person, and VIP access cost \$100, with the proceeds benefiting three beneficiaries. After operating costs, the event raised \$30,000, which will be divided evenly among Senior Housing and Retirement Enterprises, Esther's Pantry and Outside In.

Since its inception, the Red Dress Party has raised more than \$117,000 for organizations dedicated to queer youth and those living with HIV/AIDS.

Since the closing, the board created a questionnaire to help the Southern Oregon sexual minorities community set priorities for the organization's future. The questionnaire is available on its Web site, [www.abdellis.org](http://www.abdellis.org), and is being circulated at upcoming events.

"Even though we do not have an actual physical space as of now, our association could not be more excited for our upcoming events," said Henderson. The association will hold its annual Big Gay BBQ on May 10 at Pioneer Hall in Ashland. The center will also be an integral part of the region's Pride festival July 26 at Jackson County Fairgrounds in Central Point.

"We truly hope we can reopen the community center as soon as possible, and we just want people to know that our association is here for them. Our main priority is to make changes to fulfill the community's wants and needs," said Henderson.

### Cabaret Revue Replaces Peacock in the Park

Producers of Peacock in the Park have struggled with the decision to revive the popular summer festival and benefit since last December.

Organizers Kimberlee Van Patten, Maria Council and Kevin Cook announced April 15 that a brand new event, Peacock After Dark, will take its place.



Peacock in the Park will be replaced by Peacock After Dark, a cabaret revue at Newmark Theatre.

### Southern Oregon Queer Center Closes

The state's first queer community center, Ashland's Abdill-Ellis Lambda Community Center, has closed its doors after leading the sexual minorities community of Southern Oregon since 1996. The center—based on the ideals of Michelle Abdill and Roxanne Ellis, a lesbian couple who were murdered in 1995—provided programs and meeting space.

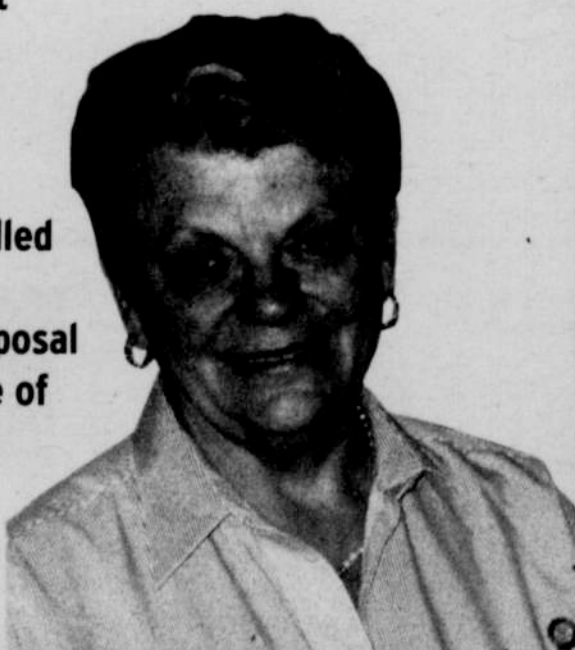
The center's board permanently closed the facility at 206 Oak St. on April 1 because of fund-raising shortfalls and a lack of community involvement and volunteers. "Our staff thought it would be best to conserve money at this time and figure out how to raise community involvement with the center and association again," said Kasie Henderson, Abdill-Ellis volunteer coordinator.

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