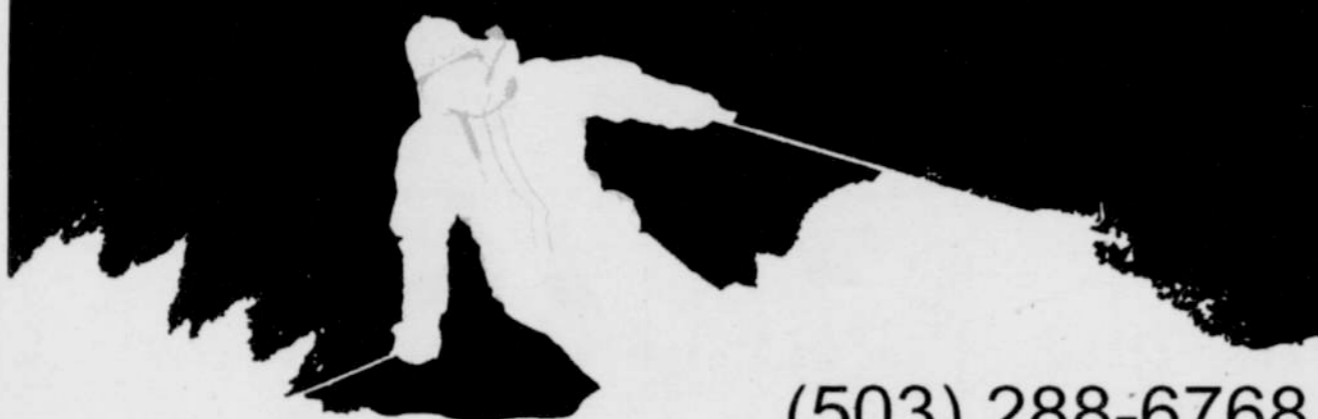




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## GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Look back at Portland's gay rights movement raises the memories of many whose compassion and vision left a mark on the city. Their accomplishments live on at the Keeston Lowery Rose Garden at Portland City Hall and in charitable events such as Peacock After Dark.

Lady Elaine Peacock's real name was Woody Johnson, but she was best known as the former Rose Empress who founded Peacock in the Park in 1987. Along with board members, she began the Audria M. Edwards Scholarship in 1989, which has given more than \$162,000 to students who are—or whose parents are—queer. Lady Elaine started the *Alternative Connection* newspaper in 1991 before her death in 1993 at the age of 32.

"Lady Elaine had such a magnetic personality and was an amazing performer," said Kimberlee Van Patten, a close friend. "Lady Elaine was a person everyone wanted to be around and has been missed by so many people, gay and straight."

Oregonians respected Keeston Lowery for his zeal for life, love for Portland and dedication to civil rights. He was instrumental in the founding of the Right to Privacy Political Action Committee, the political organization of Oregon's gay and lesbian community. Lowery served as a longtime aide to Portland City Commissioner Mike Lindberg and developed Portland's Civil Rights Ordinance, which banned discrimination based on race, religion, gender and sexual orientation. City Hall maintains the Keeston Lowery Rose Garden, built as a memorial.

"Keeston Lowery was an uncompromisingly humane spirit and devoted himself to securing the human rights of gay and lesbian communi-

ties," said Lindberg. Lowery died Aug. 29, 1993.

After coming out in the mid-1970s, Sanford Director began transforming Portland's gay scene. He created the "Foxy Lady and Mr. Hunky" contest for the Imperial Sovereign Rose Court, which raised money for charity. In the early '80s he created "Turnabout," an annual event that recognizes Pride of the Rose Scholarship recipients.

During the 1980s, Director was instrumental in forming numerous nonprofit organizations, including Esther's Panty and the Lucille Hart Dinner. His tireless work earned him the title of "Portland's honorary gay mayor" before he died in 1992.

"Sanford knew everybody," said Frank Schreckenberger, president of the Imperial Sovereign Rose Court board. "When you ran into Sanford, he always had tickets to any event and was so well connected because of his outreaching and caring personality."

—James Maxwell



**Lady Elaine Peacock and Sanford Director (inset) were regarded as Portland gay royalty in the '80s and '90s.**

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