

subject of attention from outlets such as OutSports.com and has even sprouted a Facebook fan page dedicated to uniting the friends (including a third blogger, Robert) for the first time in person via *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*.

Usselman is a 16-year-old sophomore at Skyview High School. After becoming friends with Newcomer and Robert (last name unconfirmed as of press time) through the gay social networking site Gay Youth Corner, they soon bonded over their mutual love of sports.

"We were friends for about six months," says Usselman, who is a varsity track runner at Skyview. "One day I was running on the treadmill, and I came up with the idea that we should start a blog to help other teens out through their experience and acceptance. We've all gone through hard times and we didn't want any more of the younger generation to go through them as well."

In addition to the blog, Usselman has spearheaded a week of anti-gay bullying events at Skyview from Monday, February 7 to Friday, February 11. Dubbed "Stand As One," the project, as Usselman explains, will be similar to the MTV show *If You Really Knew Me*—a reality series that focuses on youth subculture and different cliques in high schools.

"It shows everyone that we all may be different, we may all wear different clothes and have different interests, but we're still all human," says Usselman.

Stand As One will feature a video segment focusing on different cliques. Representatives from each clique will show a clip, then tell a secret about themselves. Usselman's video will conclude with him coming out to his school for the first time.

"I'm kind of anxious to see how the other athletes in our community take it, since some of us are good friends outside of our competitiveness," says Usselman. "I'm pretty sure my school will be very accepting."

For more information on "Walking the Road," visit bradrobertben.wordpress.com. You can also visit the Facebook group page "Brad, Robert and Ben for ELLEN the Generous."

—Ryan J. Prado

HIPFiSH Bouncing Back After Holiday Fire

HIPFiSH Monthly—Astoria's gay-owned alternative news publication—was ravaged following a fire December 16 in the city's historic Riverside district. As of press time, there were no causes given for the fire, and no official estimation of the extent of the damage has been reported.

"Our motto is kind of 'coastal voice, cultural beat,'" says Dinah Urell, *HIPFiSH*'s publisher.

That beat was in danger of being drummed out following December's fire. But the community banded together in late January to hold a weeklong art auction as well as a fundraising show called Entertainment-a-thon to help ease the paper's financial burden. The combination of both events raised \$20,000 toward getting *HIPFiSH* back on track.

"The community has certainly spoken," says

Urell. "It's overwhelming and kind of heart-stopping for me."

Plans for a small March issue of *HIPFiSH* are being implemented, as well as a full April issue.

"There may be a lot of putting Humpty back together again," says Urell, "but we can do that."

For more information on how to help *HIPFiSH Monthly*, visit helphipfish.com. You can also donate money via a PayPal account, accessible at hipfish-monthly.com.

—Ryan J. Prado



Kendall Clawson and Mayor Sam Adams at the 2010 Q Center Winter Gala

Q Center's Clawson Recaps Winter Gala, Looks Forward to Governor's Office

Not quite 48 hours after an epic party at the Nines and a day before starting her new job at the governor's office, Kendall Clawson was all gratitude. The Q Center executive director took a few moments during her last day at the Portland LGBTQ hub to reflect on January 29's Winter Gala, her future with Governor Kitzhaber's administration and a very eventful couple of years.

For Clawson, the third annual soiree, which drew some 600 attendees and raised more than \$131,000—more than double the 2010 tally—hit "every note that really represents us. ... I think it's rare that you see it in our community. We had every faction: younger people, older people, people with money, people who scraped their pennies together to come."

In addition to monies raised from ticket sales and auction items, a \$200,00 donation from the estate of Ed Cauduro sent the evening over the top—and marked an inspiring kick-off to the start of a new capital campaign for the center. (A tribute to the late benefactor will be featured in the February 18 issue of *Just Out*.)

"The money that was coming in for Q Center is totally life-altering, it really is," Clawson said. "So I'm super grateful and I want to say 'thank you' to everyone for putting their paddles up, and for buying a ticket, and for remembering that it's a fundraiser for our home."

The night also marked a surreal moment for

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