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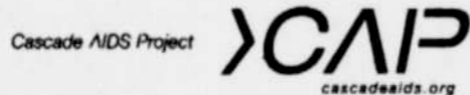
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Last Call

Two LGBTQ landmarks shut down, tear down

Dirty Duck razed to make way for homeless shelter

The home of one of Portland's longest operating gay bars was torn to pieces the week of August 1 with little fuss.

The Dirty Duck Tavern closed two years ago this month after serving the bear and leather community for 25 years. Since then, the building has sat mostly vacant on the corner of Northwest Third Avenue and Glisan Street, to some just another eyesore in Old Town. But former employees and clientele remember it fondly, even if they've moved on.

Former patrons describe the Duck as "divvy," "gritty" and "grungy." Mark Armstrong, a regular who was once named Miss Dirty

ping the property with the Blanchet House of Hospitality, which has a soup kitchen next door. Blanchet

House is building a new homeless center in the Dirty Duck's place.

The move was controversial to many in the city—notably preservationists who wanted to save the building. Formally known as the Kiernan Building, it is a contributing structure to the Chinatown National Register Historic District.

But protest from the gay community never came to a boil. The Duck's former owner, Gail Kennedy, for the most part disappeared from the community. And the bar's clientele had since moved to its new bear den, Pat Langan's the Eagle in North Portland.

"The bear community in Portland has changed due to internet dating and the changing makeup of Portland," says Andy Mangels, a former employee of the bar and cultivator of the Oregon Leather History Project. "The Dirty Duck was such a unique place in that nobody ever felt out of place there or unwelcome."

Kennedy, for her part, has been on "vacation" in the two years since the Duck closed. She spends



The Dirty Duck, moments before demolition

Duck of America in the bar's annual mock pageant, says he'd go to the bar to play pool and "bitch darts."

"We'd have little tournaments," he recalls. "You had to try to get the other person out. If you'd hit their number or their close out or something, they'd say, 'You bitch!'"

The property belonged to the Portland Development Commission, which chose to end the Duck's lease in 2009. The PDC is swap-

most of her time on the Oregon Coast, where she does volunteer work. She says she needed some rest after the Duck, which had only been closed three days in the past 25 years.

Kennedy was a third-generation bar owner at the Duck, and her family's ties to the gay community run deep. Her mother, Margaret "Mama" Bernice, worked at the Duck and owned a handful of bars prior, and her grandmother, Erma Anderson, co-

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