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local news

Inclusivity is the key to community

Gay and lesbian pride committee welcomes diversity

by Jann Gilbert



Eric Brown, chairman of the board of Pride Northwest, organizers of the 1994 Portland Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade and Festival, stresses that the group is "working to make everyone feel part of the community." He says, "This is a community event, sponsored by the gay and lesbian community."

Brown notes that people of all ages are welcome not only at the parade and rally but also at the block party and street dance being held the night before. The party and dance will be held in the North Park Blocks and will include "melon bowling" as a fund-raiser for the Cascade AIDS Project.

At last count, over 100 groups have signed up to march in the parade. In addition, over 150 community organizations and vendors have registered to offer their goods and services at booths located near the post-parade rally. Last year's

parade and rally drew over 11,000 people.

Parade participants are being asked to assemble in the South Park Blocks, beginning at 9 am Saturday, July 9. Floats, bands and marchers must be fully assembled by 11:30 am, according to Brown. The parade will step out promptly at noon.

Following the parade, a festival and rally begin at 1 pm in the North Park Blocks, at the end of the parade route.

Pride Northwest will honor the efforts and achievements of two community leaders at the rally, presenting each with a Spirit of Pride Award. Under wraps for now, the leaders' names will soon be revealed. The next issue of *Just Out* will divulge the honored names and offer a full schedule of the many other events that will take place during the Portland pride celebrations.

For more information call Pride Northwest at 295-9788.

Gay and lesbian program to air locally

In the Life is the first national gay and lesbian series to run on the Public Broadcasting System. The program is now being shown on over 60 PBS stations around the country.

On Wednesday, June 22, OPB plans to air one episode of the series, at 10:30 pm, following a documentary on Stonewall. OPB currently has no plans to run the programs on a regular basis.

It goes without saying that the station will receive complaints from viewers objecting to *In the Life*. It is important that the queer community show its approval and support for mainstream stations that show lesbian- and gay-oriented programs. This can be done by calling 293-1984, or writing to OPB, 7140 SW Macadam, Portland, OR 97219. Let them know you support progressive programming.

Hear the Stonewall march live!

KBOO 90.7 FM presents live coverage of Stonewall 25: The International March on the United Nations to Affirm the Human Rights of Lesbian and Gay People on Sunday, June 26. Coverage is from 10:30 am until 5 pm.

This will be a live broadcast of the march in New York City which commemorates the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall riots, where gay men and lesbians openly and collectively resisted police aggression. The riots are credited with giving rise to the modern queer rights movement.

The march is about visibility. Our increased visibility may seem to increase the violence and hatred directed towards us, but it is this same visibility which will ultimately guarantee our full rights as human beings. Tune in and celebrate with KBOO.

Compiled by Jann Gilbert