

WE'LL HAVE A "GAY OLD TIME"!

A rainbow of planned pride events celebrate the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities

by Jann Gilbert

Like a birthday that stretches out over several friends' worth of dinners, parties and movies, with lots of presents, this year's lesbian and gay pride celebrations promise to keep us going for days! Plans include a Block Party and Street Dance, a Dyke March, the 1994 Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade and Festival, and a Stonewall Commemorative Run. So, clear your calendars and get ready to party!

The weekend begins Friday, July 8, with a Pride Block Party and Street Dance, where you can kick up your heels from 7 until 11:30 pm—at which time the proverbial sidewalks roll up. The North Park Blocks, between Everett and Glisan Streets in NW Portland, have been chosen as the site of this community event, which boasts music, refreshments, dancing and the amusing prospect of melon bowling—a fund-raiser for the Cascade AIDS Project and Pride Northwest, Inc. All ages are welcome at this event.

Also on Friday, and only one block away in those same North Park Blocks, a Dyke March will assemble at 6:30 pm and set off at 7:30 pm. Sponsored by the Lesbian Avengers, the purpose of this march is to pump up the volume on dyke visibility and solidarity. So, grab your capes and show up—let's get visible!

You can begin pride day itself with a "Pride Service to Celebrate Sexual Diversity," sponsored by First Unitarian Church of Portland. This service will be led by the Rev. Mark Belletini, a gay minister from Hayward, Calif., and First Unitarian's own Rev. Marilyn Sewell. Music will be performed by Bridges, Portland's lesbian and gay choir, and Mark Acito, Portland Opera Quartet's tenor soloist. The service will be held in the church, at 1011 SW 11th Ave.



Pride march through Portland, June 1993

has worked with the Equity Foundation, the Lesbian Community Project, and African Americans Voting No on 9, among others. Recognized in 1991 by the Right to Privacy PAC at the Lucille Hart Dinner, Walker has been a regular fund-raiser and contributor to many activities, programs and groups supporting equal rights for African Americans, gay men and lesbians.

Fulmer's involvement in the queer and mainstream communities goes back 20 years, during

leadership and other contributions. The awards will be presented at the festival in the North Park Blocks, which begins at 1 pm, following the parade.

Portland's Pride Parade is expected to draw people from all parts of the state and nation. One of the more notable groups visiting are the Seattle Chapter of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. The sisters run a nonprofit AIDS charity organization involved in fund-raising to benefit other AIDS organizations. Made up of men and women from all facets of the community, the group

cocktail reception hosted at CC Slaughter's from 7 to 8:30 pm, the evening of the parade. A \$1 donation is requested; all proceeds will go to Our House, a local AIDS charity.

A variety of groups will be sponsoring contingents to march in the Pride Parade. Longterm lesbian couples, the Jewish lesbian potluck group, Asian and Pacific Islanders, and people with disabilities are just a few of the banners you'll see flying in this year's parade. Last year's parade and rally drew over 11,000 people.

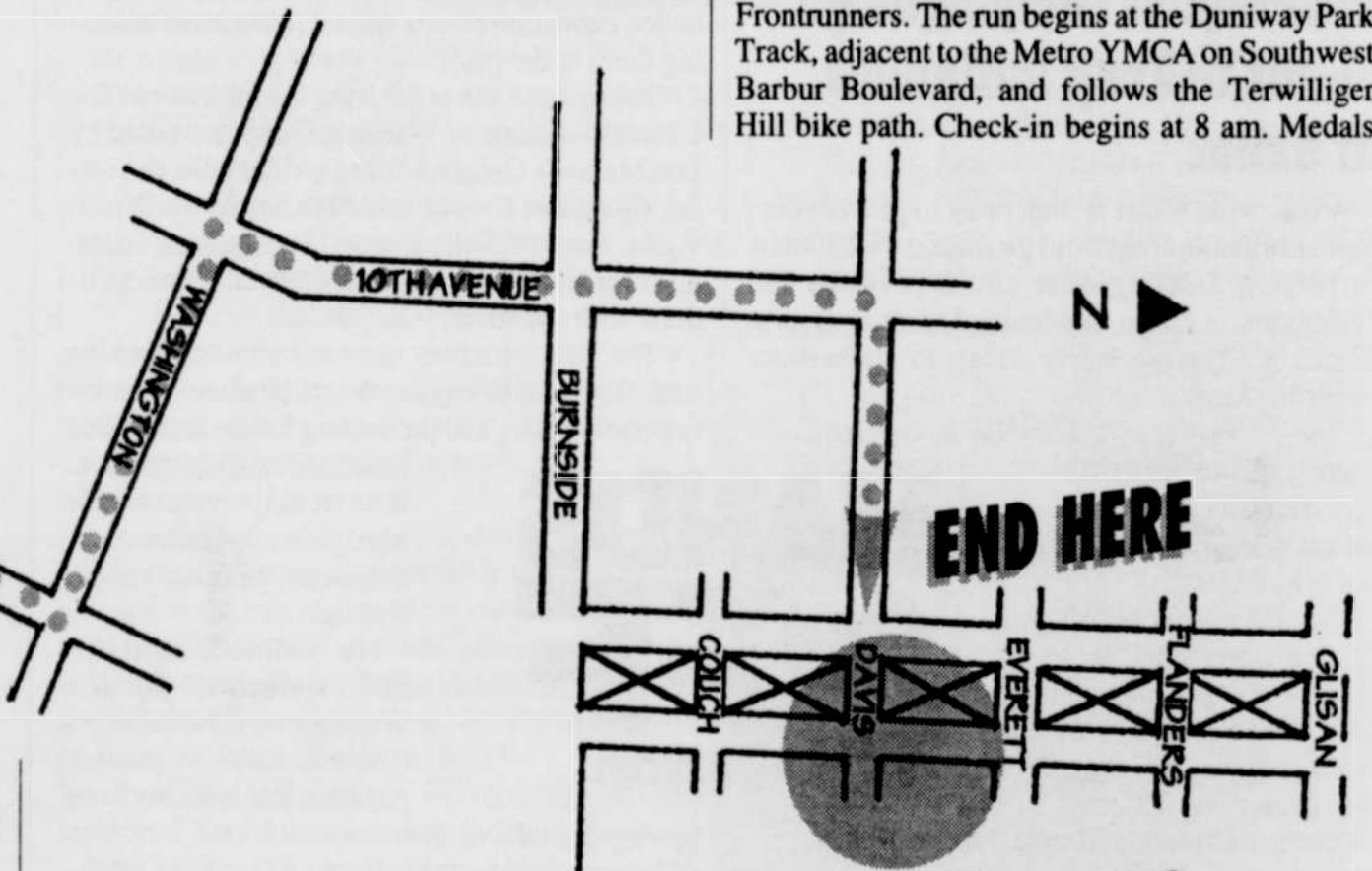
Following the parade is a festival which begins at 1 pm in the North Park Blocks, at the end of the parade route. The festival has traditionally provided a marketplace for vendors and organizations to showcase their wares. Food, drink, information and entertainment will be available.

Saturday night, July 9, is bursting with possibilities for the die-hard party animal. Three giant events will vie for your time, energy and dollars! If you crave a sit-down affair after all that marching and dancing, plan to attend the Portland Gay Men's Chorus concert "Songs of Protest and Freedom," in the Intermediate Theater of the Portland Center for the Performing Arts at 8 pm. Bob Mensel, conductor, says, "PGMC will try to capture the spirit of humanity's quest for freedom as we catalog various culture's protest songs."

But maybe you're not tired of twinkling those toes. Then you'd best join the Lesbian Community Project for their Pride Dance and Casino, from 8 pm to 1 am in the Emerald Ballroom of the Tiffany Center, located at Southwest 14th Avenue and Morrison Street. There will be dancing, refreshments, music, entertainment and gambling for donated prizes. One of the most intriguing prizes is a flight of doves donated by a local school, which trains them as part of student activities.

Another dance option is Code Blue, self-described as "Portland's hottest women's dance bar!" They'll be kicking at the Melody Ballroom from 9 pm until 2:30 am, so you die-hards can party-hop into the wee hours!

Then at 9 am Sunday morning, July 10, bring your tennies and run or walk in the Stonewall Commemorative Run, sponsored by the Portland Frontrunners. The run begins at the Duniway Park Track, adjacent to the Metro YMCA on Southwest Barbur Boulevard, and follows the Terwilliger Hill bike path. Check-in begins at 8 am. Medals



NORTH PARK BLOCKS FESTIVAL SITE

After the Pride Service, get set for the big event, the one we anticipate all year, the Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade and Festival. Parade participants are asked to assemble in the South Park Blocks, at Southwest Park Avenue and Columbia Street, at 9 am. The parade steps out at noon. The Pride Parade is the third largest parade in Portland, after the Portland Rose Festival Grand Floral and Starlight Parades.

The Pride Parade will step out promptly at noon, going west on Columbia to Broadway, then making a trek north on Broadway to Washington Street. A left there will take marchers to Southwest 10th Avenue, where the parade heads north again, crossing West Burnside to Northwest Davis. It makes one more right and disperses into the North Park Blocks at Ninth Avenue.

Grand Marshals of this year's Pride Parade, and recipients of the 1994 Spirit of Pride Awards, are Floreid Walker and Steven Fulmer. Chosen for their community involvement and longterm hard work, both Walker and Fulmer are well known around Portland.

Walker is currently the district manager at Waddell and Reed Financial Services and is a board member of the American Civil Liberties Union, the Community Education Project, and the Portland Area Business Association. She is a member of the Portland City Club and the Women's Foundation of Oregon. In the recent past, Walker

which time he has been completely out. He currently serves on the Multnomah County Commission on Children and Families and is a member of the Sexual Diversity Project. Fulmer has been assisting people in the terminal phase of HIV disease for 10 years, through personal care, advocacy and pinch-hitting case management. In the '80s he was a co-founder, board member and chairman of CAP's Personal Active Listener program. Other past involvements include the Portland Gay Men's Chorus, the Equity Foundation, Right to Privacy PAC, and the Bishop's Task Force on AIDS.

The Spirit of Pride Awards were initiated in 1993 by the organizers of Lesbian and Gay Pride to recognize individuals for their contributions in the community. Consideration for this award includes community visibility, years of voluntary service,

strives to bring awareness to everyone, as well as a warm and healing spirit to those who are fighting HIV disease.

Sister Ignatia Agnostia, Mistress of Communication, writes, "When we want to be 'high profile' in the public eye, we don our habits, which give us our unique identification and 'no doubt about who we are appearance.'" The image of the nun as a tireless caregiver echoes the group's goals and ideals.

The sisters are inviting the community to a

will be awarded in several divisions, and donated prizes will be given away in a drawing. All genders, ages, races and abilities are welcome.

So much to do, so little time. When this weekend is over, you'll need a weekend to recover, but with the Oregon Citizens Alliance and the religious right constantly tearing at our right to live proud, visible lives, this shot in the arm is just what the doctor ordered!

PHOTO BY LINDA KUEVER