

HISTORY OF PRIDE

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was very exclusive. You know, that it was focused on gay white male businessmen. The criticisms ultimately prompted the committee to pull out of the event just two weeks before it was supposed to be held. Many people feared there would be no Gay Pride because of that controversy, but PTC stepped in and took over. Gay Pride went on, but not without creating some bad feelings," he says.

Prompted by the controversy, some gay men and lesbians form a group called TKO (short for technical knockout), whose goal is to build a bridge between their respective communities.

Until this year, some feel Portland Gay Pride has predominantly been just that—gay male pride. For the first time, due largely to interim work by TKO, lesbians and gay men from various cultural and economic backgrounds really get involved in

1982



PHOTO BY LINDA KLIEWER

what becomes known as Portland Lesbian and Gay Pride. That's not to say there aren't lingering hurt feelings running along gender and racial lines. On a less serious note: The beer truck never shows up.

1983

This year the rain comes down in buckets. So, too, does the controversy. This time it involves a white man who comes to the Pride March in blackface and an Aunt Jemima costume. An African American woman reportedly confronts him at the rally, where he pleads innocent, saying his costume selection is simply in good fun. Many don't see it that way, however, and a community

meeting addressing problems surrounding racism is organized.

1984

Three thousand turn out for a Lesbian and Gay Pride Dance and Rally, the largest Portland Queer Pride event thus far.

1985

Another controversy looms this year, involving a group called Oregon Community Pride Inc. and the Lesbian and Gay Pride steering committee. At issue is the question of who is actually sponsoring the event. OCP holds the beer license and parade permit, while LGP controls the previous

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