

Pride peace pursued

TO THE EDITOR:

The board of Pride Northwest Inc. again would like to thank all the volunteers who spent pride weekend working at the event so we could all have a sun-filled celebration of our lives and our families. It was the biggest pride celebration we have had, and there were the most volunteers we have had for several years.

At the beginning of the year, we asked the community to help us produce the event, and you did! We really could not have done it without all the help we got. Thank you!

Financially, pride was also a success this year. Several years ago, pride was operating in the red.

This year, we raised approximately \$52,000, and our expenses were approximately \$45,000. A copy of our 2000 budget to date is available at www.pridenw.org.

We still are receiving bills from this year's event. We continue to struggle with the best ways to financially maintain pride.

There are advantages and disadvantages to all of our fund-raising efforts. Every year, we discuss the pros and cons of the different options.

A considerable amount of time was spent at a community meeting last fall discussing fund-raising options, and some of the suggestions were implemented this year. At that meeting, there was also strong interest in pride hosting a second stage during the event, which we were able to successfully produce this year.

As some of you know, two of our board members from Pride 2000 are no longer on the board. Our board is self-electing, as are many boards.

Every year, we hold a board election. Ten board members were voted upon by the other board members. (Our bylaws do not allow us to vote for ourselves.)

Only two of the board members received unanimous votes. Two others failed to get a majority.

The board is continuing to carefully consider and review the dissatisfaction expressed by some individuals. When our review is complete, we will publish a formal response to the community.

Lastly, the Pride Northwest board will continue to have open meetings, and we encourage members of the community to join us. We will be setting the meeting schedule at our retreat later this summer, and the meeting dates and location will be listed on our Web site or available on our phone line at (503) 295-9788.

THE BOARD OF PRIDE NORTHWEST INC.

Reconsider the process

TO THE EDITOR:

Dear Members of the Pride Northwest Board:

First, I want to congratulate you for completing another Portland pride celebration. This event is very important to our sense of community.

It is especially important to the children, youth and newly "out" adults who have no idea of how many and how varied we are. I'm grateful that although the pride board was laboring under the stress of internal differences and hurt feelings, you were able to work together to complete Pride 2000.

I am deeply distressed to hear of the removal of Tamara Swan and Janna MacAuslan from the pride board. Both of these women have dedicated many hours of volunteer labor and love to serving our community, and it disturbs me to hear that their efforts have been met with rejection of their offer of continuing service.

Working together is never easy. It is especially difficult for people who face the daily stress of discrimination. It is more difficult still when you deliberately gather a diverse group of people who have different expectations and work styles.

I do not believe organizational problems can

be solved through the elimination of several participants. All too often, groups under stress decide to "solve" the problem by identifying one or two people as "the problem" and eliminating them. This form of internal warfare will leave the dominant group with more sense of control, but it rarely solves the underlying issue of meeting the needs of a diverse community.

I know many of you and have worked with you in a variety of situations over a number of years. Each of you brings unique skills and perspectives that strengthen our community and move us toward the common goal of gaining justice for sexual minorities.

I urge you to reconsider the process you used to address your internal group process conflicts. I hope you can find a way to bring Tamara and Janna back to the board and to work together. I hope you will seek this solution not as a compromise but as a positive step toward celebrating your work and strengthening the community.

BONNIE TINKER

Love Makes a Family Inc.

Accountability demanded

TO THE EDITOR:

Everyone who attended Pride Northwest's community meeting July 13 or read "The Waiting Game" in the July 21 issue of *Just Out* is aware we have brought forth several serious complaints concerning nonprofit guideline violations and financial mismanagement by the board. Most of these issues are described in a formal letter of complaint we addressed to the board of Pride Northwest.

After a dissatisfying conclusion to the community meeting, several attendees asked that a second community meeting be held specifically to address the issues we had raised. At that time, Jack Keegan, Pride Northwest's chair, agreed the board would consider the request.

We have received word that the board of Pride Northwest has decided not to schedule another community meeting as requested. The board also has declined requests for private mediation to resolve the issues in the letter of complaint.

Because Pride Northwest has tax-exempt, nonprofit status, it is owned by the community and is required to be an open, accountable and completely transparent organization. (Complete details about nonprofit organizations can be found on the Web site of the secretary of state, www.doj.state.or.us/ChariGroup.)

We would like to invite the community to a meeting 6-9 p.m. Aug. 23 at Metropolitan Community Church of Portland, 2400 N.E. Broadway. We would like to fully disclose our concerns and ask the community for an appropriate resolution.

To receive our list of complaints, please send a request to tamaraswan@hotmail.com.

TAMARA SWAN
JANNA MACAUSLAN
NANCY COOK
Portland

Counterproductive cure

TO THE EDITOR:

We appreciate Jonathan Kipp's article exposing the undemocratic policies and actions of the Pride Northwest board members. The concerns expressed by Jordana Sardo, who is the local organizer of Radical Women, are not new.

Radical Women, a co-founder of pride celebrations in Portland, has been raising the lack of accessibility and democracy and free speech violations to Pride Northwest for years. We identify with the frustration and outrage generated by

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