

speak out

just asking

Did you attend any Pride 2001 events? What did you enjoy? What would you like to see changed next year?

My partner and I attended the parade and spent most of Sunday at the festival. This was my first Pride Festival, and the total experience was incomparable.

From an organizational standpoint, everything appeared to run smoothly, there was a wide variety of things to see and do, and the entertainment was awesome. Those who gave of their time and resources to put this together for the community deserve a huge round of applause.

From my personal viewpoint, the liberation of living out loud in the company of others doing exactly the same thing is simply addictive. My heart was warmed by the many expressions of love I saw and the wealth of tiny, intimate gestures that passed freely between friends and lovers.

For one shining day I could hold my partner and love her as I always do but without

being careful. It was intoxicating—I spent the whole long, beautiful day naturally high and wanting more.

I walked away from the festival sad to see it ending but with two resolutions tucked firmly into my heart. First, next year I want to be one of the folks who help make the festival happen.

Second, I want to live each day out loud, wherever I might be. No one ever is going to rush up and congratulate me for being queer, but I will not live silently.

I want to carry the spirit of the festival into the world. It might sound corny, but if we each don't do it, it never will be any different.

Suggestions for next year: Have sunscreen available for those of us who come totally unpre-

pared. Start the dance earlier—some of us have to work the next day—or just make it longer, starting earlier in the day.

JENNIE WRIGHT
Portland

I attended the Pride Festival and partook in the Dyke March. I really enjoyed myself this year. I would like there to be more amenities at the festival for disabled individuals and more entertainment and food vendors.

TANYA DAVIS
Portland

The parade was too long; I would like to see more colors, floats and sponsors. Could the straight community pony up some sponsorship? It was well organized, and the bands were terrific; kudos to the stage crews and organizers. Nice to see many new vendors this year. Let's do it better every year.

DENNIS BODE
Portland

gan Womyn's Music Festival. I do not support discrimination and so-called "justified" ignorance.

JESS BRUNELLE
Portland

Under my skin

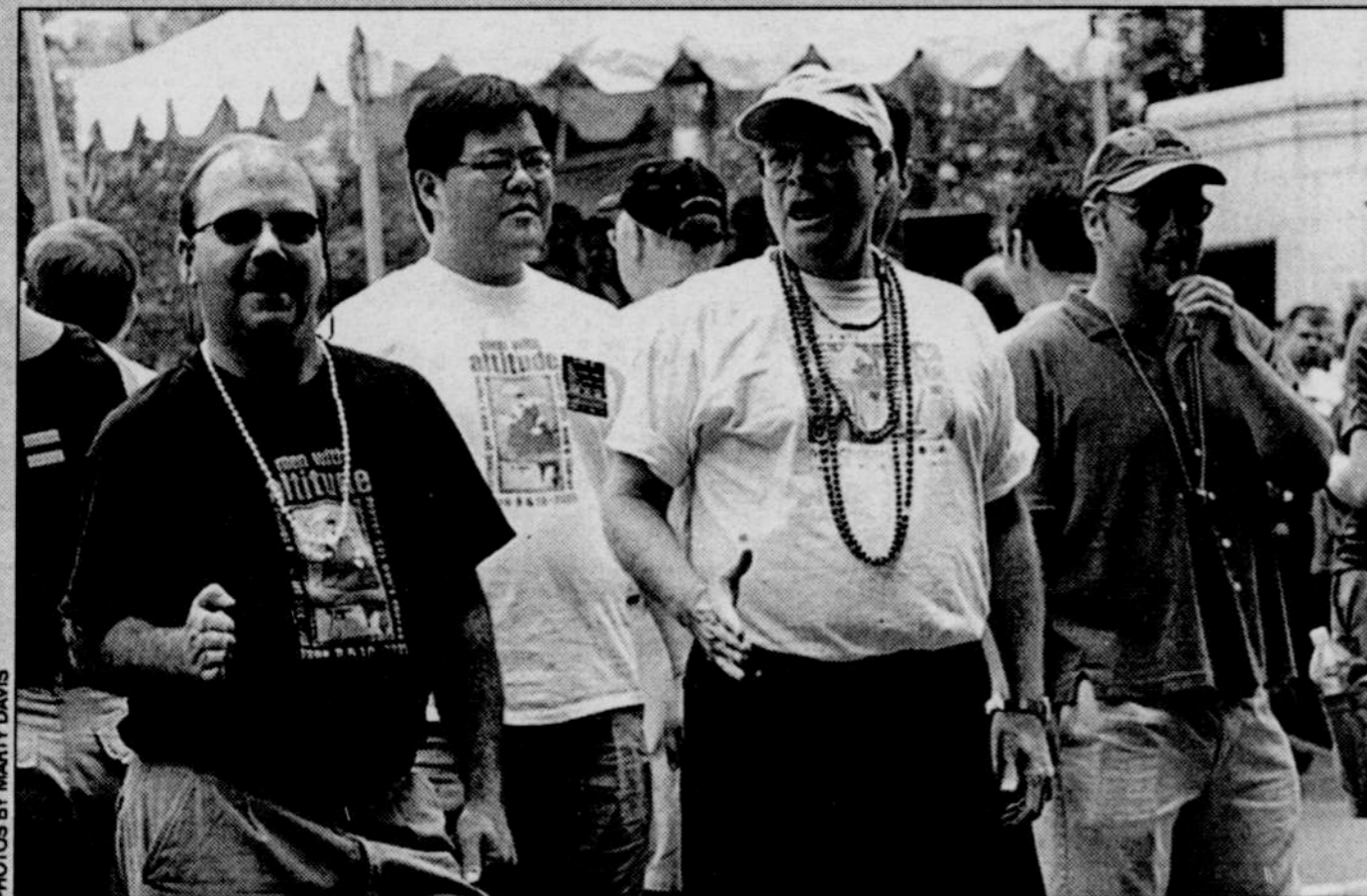
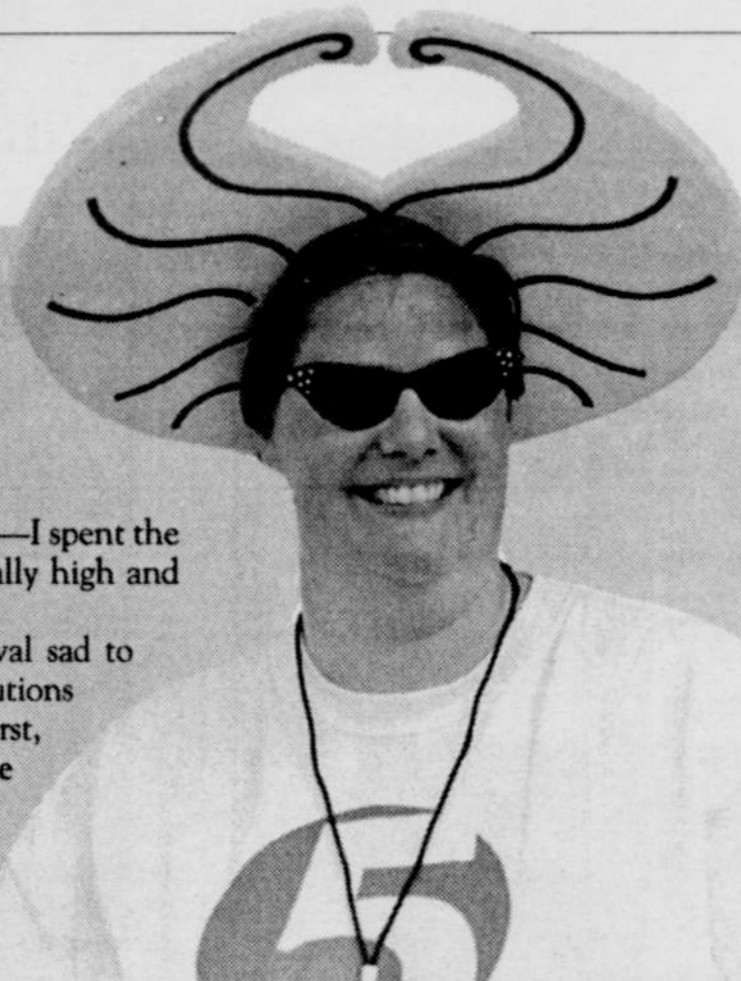
TO THE EDITOR:

It is with great interest that I respond to the request in Marty Davis' June 15 editorial ["If You Must March Naked at Least Dress Warmly...It's Been Chilly Lately"].

Who do I look up to and admire? What would I like to be different?

Well, I am an aspiring, opinionated public figure, and I am working on my skills of offending people on many issues and being a divisive force in the queer community. My hero, Marty, is you!

I strongly agree with your opinions of women going topless during the Dyke March and Pride. Women's breasts are very naughty and incite terrible things, and only men should be able to go topless in the summertime! Without your exposé on the "people...that actually send or reflect a message of pride to our city," I might have made the mistake of believing all dykes—even the ones who go topless during Pride—were worthy of respect for being so out



NEXT ISSUE: Do you think the Burnside Triangle should be declared Portland's official gay district? Respond at www.justout.com. (Don't forget to include your name, city and daytime telephone number.)

uals who care about their dogs. Those of us who operate the track care about the dogs.

We have been recognized for this effort: "If your state or area is looking for a model to emulate check out the adoption system in Oregon. Virtually no greyhounds—even young pups and retired breeding stock—fall through the cracks in that state. You may never achieve Oregon's efficiency, but if you're even in the same ballpark you'd be doing quite well" (*The Greyhound Review*, December 2000).

We wish you and Peanut and all your animal-loving readers the very best.

CARL L. WILSON
Multnomah Greyhound Park President and General Manager

Gender offender

TO THE EDITOR:

I've noticed in the past month or so *Just Out* has run advertisements for events allowing only "women-born women." I must say this is very confusing to me.

I don't understand why a person assigned a male gender at birth but who identifies and lives as a woman should not be allowed in. I don't think I am a more "true" or "pure" woman

because I was assigned a female gender at birth.

Also, most if not all of these events are run by lesbians. In a society where women are supposed to be attractive and accessible to heterosexual men, how are these lesbians not challenging gender every day?

If I was born female but identified as a male, would I be allowed into these functions if I didn't tell anyone? There are plenty of "dykes" who pass as men every day.

If I was born female but identified as both female and male, would I be asked to leave half of me at home?

If I was born a hermaphrodite but lived my life as a woman, would I be asked to stay only half the time? Better yet, could I get in for half-price?

Can you see how absurd all of this really is? Are the people making these rules trying to hold on to some sort of "gender purity"?

I value women-only spaces, but not including trans women is discrimination—pure and simple. How is this any different from the religious right wing trying to hold on to some kind of "traditional family values purity"?

I don't support establishments or events that discriminate against trans people of any orientation or identity. I do not support Breitenbush Hot Springs for holding its Women in the Woods event, and I do not support the Michi-

Drive with Pride



Schedule your appointment today with:

Lisa Costello
503-256-3700

REY REECE DEALERSHIPS
ISUZU-VOLKSWAGEN-USED

122nd & East Burnside
www.reyreece.com
vdublisac@hotmail.com

San Francisco Style in Portland



GOLD DOOR

Ethnographic and Contemporary Jewelry and Art
1434 SE 37th Avenue | Portland, OR 97214
503.232.6069 | jerry@thegolddoor.com

Without a travel agent, you're on your own.

Plan Now for Holiday Travel

- Mexico
- Hawaii
- South Pacific

LLOYD TRAVEL

1026 NE Multnomah
503-288-5145
Mon. - Fri. 8:30 am - 5:30 pm
Sat. 10 am - 3 pm

For fast, fair and friendly service, contact

KELLI BEEBE

A good person to know for all your insurance needs

- AUTO (503) 699-0992
- HOME TOLL FREE:
- RENTERS (800) 699-0992
- LIFE
- COMMERCIAL
- WORKER'S COMP

