



PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS

Pride Northwest might give the Waterfront Park festival a facelift—and a fence—next summer

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**BIG CHANGES AHEAD FOR PRIDE 2002**

Pride 2002 might look a lot different next summer. Among several changes under consideration: fencing in the Waterfront Park festival, requesting a \$3 donation and charging vendors a higher booth rate.

According to Christopher Webster, Pride Northwest treasurer, the proposals still are in the decision-making stage. He explains a fenced festival will allow the organization to treat the event more like a private party than a public gathering, which will help remedy security concerns.

"It gives us a great deal of control of who we let on and off the grounds," Webster says. "We will be able to banish certain religious radical protesters from attending or coming in."

Although Webster knows of no reported physical violence, the God squad continues to crash the party every year. Last summer demonstrators yelled throughout a SisterSpirit solstice service.

"They were very loud and verbally disruptive," Webster says. "The police saw fit to escort them...from the park area. At least one of these protesters was armed."

Webster says fencing in the festival will boost permit prices, so vendors might be charged more to have a booth at Pride 2002. "It won't be a huge increase, maybe 20 percent."

Pride Northwest also wants to diversify its sources of income. Although corporate sponsorship has increased significantly, event fund raising hasn't kept pace.

"With the economy the way it is, we're not so comfortable depending on corporate sponsorship," Webster says. "We're asking the community to share in the sponsorship with us."

He says the requested \$10 donation for parade participants probably will stay the same. Of the 100 or so groups that marched last year, about 80 contributed to Pride Northwest.

As for the \$3 festival donation, Webster emphasizes that it will be optional. "If you don't want to give it...it's no big deal," he says.

The donations also will help cover the cost of hiring an event planner, which Webster hopes will serve to strengthen the organization and prevent burnout. Most of the 10 board members have full-time jobs in addition to taking care of the permits, letters and phone calls required to make the annual celebration a reality.

Pride Northwest, which holds monthly meetings, welcomes volunteer participation. This year's event will be held June 15 and 16.

For more information call 503-295-9788 or visit the Internet site [www.pridenuw.org](http://www.pridenuw.org).

**POLITICAL CONSULTANT BOUND FOR FLORIDA**

Portland political consultant Liz Kaufman will head to Florida next month to facilitate an intensive training program in preparation for an anti-gay ballot measure campaign in Miami-Dade County.

Radical extremists seek to repeal the Human Rights Ordinance's ban on sexual orientation discrimination. Officials certified petition signatures Dec. 18, paving the way for an election to be held no later than Sept. 10.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force immediately responded by announcing the formation of the Miami-Dade Campaign Leadership Training, which will take place from Feb. 21 to 24. The program is designed especially for queer activists and allies who will assume demanding roles in the effort.

The training will address three topics: how issues of sexual orientation affect broad social discourse and political campaigns; how to mobilize and unite the sexual minorities community, while reaching out to the public at large, to win broad support; and how to counter right-wing misinformation. Executive director Lorri L. Jean vowed NGLTF will continue to play a critical role in the fight to secure equal rights for all.

"Defending Miami-Dade County's Human Rights Ordinance...will require strong leadership, unwavering determination and very hard work," she said. "But we can prevail if we fight smart, incorporating the lessons of previous successful campaigns."

Kaufman has been a key leader working to stop 33 anti-gay measures in Oregon since 1988. She will join NGLTF's Dave Fleischer, who for the past eight years has created and led training to prepare sexual minority leaders and allies to proceed with high competence in campaigns.

The other facilitator will be Erik Ludwig, former SaveDade campaign manager. He twice led efforts that successfully squashed religious extremists' attempts to place an anti-gay measure on the ballot.

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