

Speak Out

alcoholic beverages as the main drink of sale. The only establishment I have found is 3 Friends Coffeehouse. This is a great start, but there needs to be more places these people can go and still enjoy the socialization of their community that they so badly need to help them be stronger in life.

I am amazed that all of your calendar listings are based around people without these restric-

tions. I would like to see more things for people who are restricted as to what they can do, and I think people really would appreciate this. Please note that there are those of us who have made certain choices in our lives that cause these restrictions to be necessary.

KEITH A. JOHNSON
Aloha

just asking Pride Northwest is considering fencing in this year's Waterfront Park festival and requesting a \$3 donation. How does this make you feel? Would you still attend?

I think it's a great idea. Sad but true, we need funding to make our voice heard in this world.

I don't think \$3 is too much to ask to support the festival, considering the good time you'll have. Most clubs have a cover charge that is usually more than that, and that's only for a night.

AMY ZEPPA
Sequim, Wash.

I think the community nickels and dimes us for everything we do, whether for events or appealing to us for cash. Pride will turn into the "haves" event. Some of us just don't have the money.

I think the well-off gay men and lesbians should give more. If you're gonna charge something, why not charge canned food for the GLBT pantries in the area?

The Bible Taliban should be charged more if there will be admission for Pride.

What will Pride charge for next, watching the parade?

About the Pride celebration, have Yamhill County Sheriff's Deputy Debra Walker be our Grand Marshal in the 2002 parade.

DEBRA J. MARTIN
Vancouver, Wash.

When I moved here, I was surprised to find Pride was free!!! Promoting an event of this caliber is a tremendous undertaking even with corporate sponsorship and requires a financial foundation from ticket sales.

When I served on the Pride board in Las Vegas, we fenced the event and charged \$10 for the festival and \$50 for parade entry. We continued to have an outstanding attendance, which increased each year.

ANN OCCHI
Portland

The reasons given by Pride Northwest are inadequate for me to be able to comment on. I for one never have been affected one way or the other by the presence of the religious right wing.

I probably will not attend. However, this is largely because it has become nothing more than a commercial enterprise under the leadership of Pride Northwest.

RICK CRITTENDEN
Portland

I think the fence is a very cool idea. By making Pride a "private party" atmosphere, you will create a greater value to all observing and attending. And if a minuscule \$3 donation is

going to hinder anyone from coming, our community does not have too much to be proud of!

GABRIELA KANDZIORA
Portland

Changes are generally proposed to solve a perceived problem. So I'm wondering what problem this change is intended to solve.

Is Pride Northwest losing money? Is it to keep "unsupportive" folks away?

My gut response is, "Don't do it."

If money is the issue, Pride Northwest could be more assertive in collecting donations. With an entrance fee, you might get \$3 from people who otherwise would drop \$10 or even more into a bucket.

If you're attempting to keep out undesirables, remember that you are also guaranteed to keep out many of the "questioning" or otherwise less "out" folks as well. Do you really want to do that? I doubt it.

SHARI BANDES
Portland

Regardless of a fenced-in area, I still would attend. It is important to represent diversity in the gay and lesbian community, and Pride is the event to do so. I would pay the \$3 and enjoy myself.

TRINA ANTONOPOULOS
Portland

This will be my first festival, so I will attend, whatever the circumstances. After 12 years in San Francisco, it will be refreshing to celebrate on a smaller scale.


I would be interested in knowing where the donation money will be going, of course. And a fenced festival discourages a "come one, come all" atmosphere, but three bucks shouldn't put a dent in anyone's pocket.

In the past 30 years, I've seen too many festivals spoiled by finger-pointing straight people, drunken fag bashers and panhandling vagrants. If for no other reason than safety, I'd say let's keep them out with an admission charge.

DONALD FINCH
Portland

next issue The second season of Queer as Folk: entertaining fantasy or damaging stereotype? Would you watch it with your parents? Respond at www.justout.com. (Don't forget to include your name, city and daytime telephone number.)

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