

Good grief, it's June again and Portland Pride 2003 is upon us. With or without the approval of the weather gods, hordes of us will make our annual migratory flight to the Waterfront Park festival site June 14 and 15. Here we will be presented with a superb opportunity to view the best our community has to offer. There will be representatives from community organizations, health service agencies and providers, government

THE QUEER PROFIT

by Marty Davis

PRIDE EDITION SPECIAL

services and many others who cannot and should not be squeezed into a specific category. Also anxiously and eagerly waiting for you to view their wares will be a plethora of booth vendors with retail items for sale. Shopping! What a great opportunity for you to celebrate Pride, exercise in the fresh air and stimulate the economy while supporting members of your own community.

Wear comfortable shoes, drink lots of water and come visit both days. Saturday is the calm, comfortable day with lots of time and space to visit, browse and enjoy meeting new people. Sunday is mayhem—glorious, packed, boisterous and crowded mayhem. As a preview for your visit—be it Saturday, Sunday or both—The Queer Profit introduces a few of the vendors who are looking forward to meeting you.

Barb Reiber is a Portland photographer who specializes in landscapes and intimate floral close-up shots. Her work reflects her love for the mountains and the unique quality of light and air that is found only at sunrise. Mountain heights bring an array of alpine wildflowers to the photographer's lens, and Reiber is skilled at capturing tiny details.

Portland Pride 2003 will be the artist's first year as a vendor. Her images will be available for you to take home on greeting cards, magnets and matted and framed pictures. If you own just about every last rainbow doodad you need, here's a chance to take home a souvenir of nature—and further the efforts of a local lesbian artist.

Also from Portland is lesbian artist Linda Williams, designer and chief of staff at Dragonfly Creations. She has displayed her wares at several Portland Prides and is a

Gender-bender vendors

Burly girls and bejeweled boys welcome you to their booths



Photographer Barb Reiber specializes in landscapes and intimate floral close-up shots

hit with the crowds because of her combination of quality artistry and reasonable prices. Her dragonflies can be found on jewelry, magnets, hair clips and even hats and more. Prices are in the very affordable range of \$1 to \$40.

And if glimmering insects aren't your favorite booth, #B11 also will have a traditional display of ankle bracelets, wrist bracelets and necklaces, all priced under \$10—and all in proud rainbow colors. Now if you can't go there—if you can't buy one more rainbow item—then ask about the specialty wooden beads created by Williams and a few other elfish bead makers. These are very special items, and again the pricing is more than reasonable.

"My prices are affordable because I believe in supporting the queer community," Williams says. "Loving hands and imaginations have and will continue to make Dragonfly Creations as unique and special as my queer family."

"My prices are affordable because I believe in supporting the queer community"

—Linda Williams

Setting up shop at their first Portland Pride this year are Aaron Hall and Edmund Gaines of Portland's Pendleton Jewellers. Note that Gaines' full name is Edmund Pendleton Gaines and that he recently relocated his 12-year-old business to Oregon from Georgia.

Keep this in mind if you happen by their booth and notice the fellas shaking their heads in consternation. This might be because of a recent letter they received from venerable Oregon corporation Pendleton Woolen Mills. Seems that the blanket folks feel our intrepid jewelers are infringing on the Pendleton name and causing confusion for their customers.

Are you feeling confused? Would



Burly Girl Gear offers high-quality casual clothing for women, girls and babies

you have difficulty telling the difference between woolen clothing products and fine jewelry? It all seems rather odd to me. That aside, Pendleton Jewellers will have for sale an array of Pride-themed jewelry and will be happy to share with you their knowledge of commitment rings and keepsakes.

Here's another reason to stop by their booth. As a special benefit for Basic Rights Oregon, the jewelers will be selling raffle tickets at the very reasonable cost of \$1 apiece. A lucky ticket will be drawn June 17, and the winner will receive a \$500 gift certificate to Pendleton Jewellers. Tickets are also available at three other booth locations: BRO, the Portland Area Business Association and the official Pride Northwest staff booth.

Finishing up our quartet of profiles are southern Oregon business and life partners Colleen Callan and Cassie (KC) Trujillo. Finding themselves jobless thanks to Oregon's poor economy and deep cuts in the social service and education fields, the couple set about to explore nontraditional employment and revenue-raising endeavors. An initial foray into the landscaping business gave birth to the Burly Girl concept, and that's where we now join our heroines.

Now called Burly Girl Gear, our intrepid entrepreneurs provide high-quality casual clothing for women, girls and babies. Callan and Trujillo embroider and screen-print their unique logo and specially created definition on pigment-dyed clothing and other accessories.

In defining their concept, the creators say: "A Burly Girl is a person who is intelligent, courageous, determined, independent, strong and inspiring...with the addition of any other quality deemed important to their sense of self." If you see yourself, a friend, a partner or a loved one as a Burly Girl, then these burly gals have just the Pride memento for you. For a preview

visit www.burlygirlgear.com. This is merely a sampling of the vendors you'll have a chance to meet at Portland Pride. Enjoy them all, and have a great weekend! JM

Business news with a queer bent should be reported to MARTY DAVIS at marty@justout.com.

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As a native Seattle resident, I have a full understanding of your Sunshine needs. Allow me the opportunity to reveal the beauty, warmth and value of Palm Springs and the entire Coachella Valley. View my listings at www.michaelpaduano.com. Email mpaduano@winderemere.com

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