

NORTHWEST newsbriefs

TWO DYKE MARCHES THIS YEAR!

This year it seems that two are better than one when it comes to the planning of the yearly celebration of dyke visibility.

The Saturday Dyke March, organized by Pride Northwest board member Stef-Anie Wells, will take place at the traditional time and place: 6 p.m. June 18 at the North Park Blocks. Step-off will occur at 7 p.m. and follow the Pride parade route.

Wells has a permit and insurance, so there will be vehicles in the parade for disability access. For more information call 503-969-1598 or e-mail lesbianavengersportland@yahoo.com.

If the regular Pride parade smacks a bit too heavily of Bud Light and other marketing schemes for your tastes, you might want to participate in the Sunday Dyke March. The theme is "The Second Coming."

Those interested in this parade should meet 11 a.m. June 19 at O'Bryant Square, 800 S.W. Park Ave. The route has yet to be determined because the group has no permit, but it will move toward the already-scheduled Pride Parade.

In a statement, organizers report that their march will commemorate the legacy of the Stonewall riots more than 35 years ago with a radical message:

"We honor the role of all queers, especially working-class queers and trans people who have made major contributions to queer rights but who have to fight twice as hard for visibility and voice in the GLBTQ community.

"We will set the terms for our own visibility. We do not need a city permit for this. We will not pay an insurance company \$300 to insure our march (as most marches in Portland that go awry are due to police brutality/intimidation in the first place). We will not use a corporate

sponsor to pay for our visibility."

This march is open to all genders and sexualities and will be joined by the group Queer Revolution, whose Alterna-Pride parade will be congruent.

There will be limited accessibility assistance provided. For more information call 503-460-FIRE or e-mail dykemarchpdx@yahoo.com.

Wells says that although she agrees with some of the sentiments of the anti-Gay Pride organizers, she views the Dyke March as never having been focused on combating the main-

stream Gay Pride celebrations, particularly with an anti-consumerist message.

"It's about dyke visibility, period," she said. "Queer Revolution is going about things the wrong way. I don't agree with their methods. Gay Pride is not a time for infighting. We don't need the right wing to bring us down if we already have ourselves bringing us down."

—Sarah Dougher



The Dyke March is a perennial favorite for ladies on the make.

MORE FREEDOM FOR PRIDE PROTESTERS

Anti-gay protesters will have a lot more freedom at Portland Pride than they have in recent years, thanks to an injunction announced earlier this month.

Protesters now have the right to bring signs into the festival and to move freely, unescorted by security, through the festival. Pride Northwest organizers also do not have the right to interfere with the protests unless they believe protesters are inciting a riot or physically engaging with festivalgoers.

"It expands their free speech rights," said Tobin Britton, president of Pride Northwest. "Our hands are tied unless they physically attack someone, giving them quite a bit of leeway to come in and spew their hateful rhetoric."

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