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**NORTHWEST newsbriefs**

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The city of Portland has responded by appealing the injunction and making a recommendation to the City Council, prohibiting certain conduct interfering with the event, according to Chief Deputy City Attorney Harry Auerbach.

The appeal will not be ruled on before Pride '05, but Auerbach is hopeful commissioners will expand the city's right to intervene if protesters are preventing people from participating in Pride.

Britton has spoken with the event security chair and is asking Pride revelers to keep a cool head. "If we try to ignore them and enjoy our day, maybe we can keep a lid on the festival," she said.

Despite the encouraging words, Britton says she is quite upset about the new freedoms Pride protesters were granted. She says she dreads facing "God Hates Fags" and "Die and Go to Hell"

event has some expressive component, have the right under the federal Constitution to determine and control the message presented at their event," said Auerbach. "We believe the Supreme Court of the United States has said that, and we are concerned that the injunction requires us to violate the First Amendment rights of people who obtain permits to hold events in city parks."

—Jaymee R. Cuti

**MAC MEMBERS MUST DOCUMENT THEIR LOVE**

The exclusive Multnomah Athletic Club swung its heavy door open to partners of gay and lesbian members this month, ending a year-long controversy.

Though the MAC will now extend membership benefits to partners of queer members, including full access to the 550,000-square-foot facility, couples must prove their commitment with a civil union certificate, which is not



Don't lose your cool if you see protesters like these on the Pride Festival grounds: Though they may be offensive, they are legal.

messages at an event intended to celebrate love and freedom.

"I'm very unhappy about it. I think it will create an atmosphere of danger," she said. "And we paid quite a bit of money for this space. We followed the procedure, and still we have to allow these people into the event."

Cary L. Smith, a lesbian who has been attending Portland Pride events since 1991, has started an e-mail campaign encouraging volunteers to stand shoulder to shoulder with their backs to protesters, symbolically and literally blocking their messages.

"The more people that are involved, the more effective it will be," said Smith, who will aim to build a "wall of love" between protesters and Pride participants.

The city, meanwhile, is steadfast in its opposition of protesters disrupting Pride.

"We believe that people who take out permits to hold events in city parks where the

issued in the state.

According to MAC general manager Steve Tidrick, neither proof of domestic partnership registration nor joint bank accounts are acceptable alternatives.

"As you may expect, we faced many of the same challenges society at large is facing when it comes to this issue," said Skip Frank, a past MAC president, who presided over the board as same-sex partner membership was addressed. "Like the rest of society, we at the MAC have members on both sides of the issue, and we have members who are directly affected by it."

Same-sex partner membership came to a head in 2004 when two same-sex couples applied for family membership and presented Multnomah County-issued marriage licenses.

At that time, the board appointed a committee to study the issue and "recommend policy changes necessary to recognize same-sex relationships."

The committee solicited responses from the club's 20,000 members and received 180 responses. Of those, 70 percent expressed support for extending family membership to same-sex partners of members.

"Board members considered the club's position on diversity, an important measure in accessing the need to adopt these rule changes," said MAC president Dan McNeil. "Now that the legal questions about the definition of marriage have been resolved, the board deemed that the time was right for the rule changes."

**Multnomah Athletic Club**