

Without a hitch

Now that Portland Pride 2005 is behind us, share your ideas for next year's celebration

With few visible glitches, Portland Pride has pranced away for yet another year. By most accounts, the event was deemed a resounding success. Attendance was high, crowds were genial, weather was perfect, and the oft-maligned parade route seems to have worked fine.

Born of discontent, the Stark Street block party has the potential to become a viable and energetic accompaniment to the larger Pride Northwest-sponsored events. It's more than OK to broaden the scope of the festivities and create more options for showcasing the businesses and talents of our community.

I think it would be suitable, and potentially profitable, if one of our bustling business districts such as Alberta or Mississippi hosted a Pride art show in 2006. Perhaps this could be a project for the Russell Street merchants, highlighting the new Wonder Ballroom. I see a blocked-off street, tents and canopies, food vendors, music and a celebration of the diverse work of the many artists found in our state's gay, lesbian, bi and trans community. Competition to the waterfront festival? No, rather complementary and additional. One event caters to art, one to services and merchandise.

Do you have your own ideas, opinions or visions for change for Pride events in 2006? Your opportunity to speak up, as well as volunteer your own services, will take place July 13 when Pride Northwest holds its annual community forum at Portland State University. Visit www.pridenw.org for complete details.

Former Portland Mayor Vera Katz could not be induced to personally pick up her Spirit of Pride Award, but that can be explained away. Her health is a priority; she's been feted by every organization in town, and you know, it's not as though she's courting voters any longer. She has earned the right to be a diva at this point in her life. Her non-appearance should not affect her greater legacy of good works.

Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski presumably will be running for re-election in 2006, and his presence in this year's parade would have been welcome. Electing to spend Father's Day with his family was his reason for this non-election year nonappearance. With Republican contenders lining up early for a shot at his job and memories of his close race in 2004 still in my mind, I think the governor missed an opportunity to strengthen ties with our community. Yes, he's strongly supporting Senate Bill 1000, but there's still the bitter reminder of the 36 counties that

voted for Ballot Measure 36 in November. His presence at Pride could have sent a positive message to the community.

Potential Multnomah County Commission candidate and Cascade AIDS Project executive director Thomas Bruner rode in the parade with outgoing Commissioner Serena Cruz. Coincidence? Yeah, right. Two cars back rode announced candidate Jeff Cogan, chief of staff to City Commissioner Dan Saltzman. We don't know much about Cogan at this point, but as the 2006 primary grows closer, *Just Out* will be closely examining all candidates in all races for their positions and history on civil rights and progressive causes.

Just Out celebrated Pride this year by doubling our number of outdoor distribution boxes in the metro area. I think we should all be proud of the fact that we live in one of the few large cities in the country where the gay and lesbian paper is widely and visibly distributed outdoors. It's my goal to continue adding boxes and increasing the accessibility and scope of our message.

That said, even as I increase visibility in one area, I lose it in another. The St. John's Community Center has called to halt distribution in the city-owned facility because of concerns that "children might see the paper."

Let's note, please, that it's the St. John's COMMUNITY Center, not the children's center, and it belongs to all of us. It's for all ages, all races, all genders, all sexual orientations and all economic levels. I agree that *Just Out* is not written for children, but neither are the majority of television shows, movies, video games, music lyrics, billboard advertisements and virtually every component of mass media. This is why children have parents. To monitor them, educate them and raise them to honor and respect all walks of life. This is not the function of the staff of the St. John's Community Center, nor is it their place to censor and impose their own values upon a community center.

In addition to increasing our distribution and visibility, *Just Out* has other changes in store for our readers. We listen to you when you speak to us at Pride and other events, and we take most suggestions seriously. To implement needed changes, Ashley Austin is switching roles from saleswoman to Web designer, and shortly we'll be unveiling our dramatically new and improved site. At about the same time our new electronic format appears, you'll also see a new look on the street versions of the paper. Stick around, you're going to like what you see. **J**

FEATURE

22 DON'T RAIN ON OUR PARADE!

Portlanders celebrate Pride under sunny skies

NEWS

7-15 NORTHWEST

Salem and Eugene Pride celebrations; first-ever Bend Pride photos; eyewitness report from South Korea and China; Nike endorses civil rights; Saturday in the Park; Big Mama's Church; local HRC events planned; elder resources and events; Pride of the Rose Scholarships available now

16-19 NATIONAL

New bipartisan bill would give binational couples equal treatment; new anti-meth ads cause a stir; triple HIV infection

20-21 WORLD

Polish gays march despite ban; former soccer star comes out; Singapore bans circuit party; French venues cancel Capleton concerts; Czech prime minister supports partner bill; Slovenian Parliament passes partnership law; Canada and Spain legalize same-sex marriage; Venezuelans stage kiss-in at Supreme Court; Argentine actor denied U.S. visa; Costa Rican cops face punishment for attack on gays; Anglicans give Americans, Canadians the boot

ARTS AND CULTURE

34 MUSIC

Mandonna pays tribute to the goddess of pop

37 THEATER

Face the musicals

39 BOOKS

Self-help guides for the hetero women we love

40-41 FILM

Bewitched remake straightens out one of the queerest shows in television history

42-43 DIVERSIONS

Martin Moran; Girlyman; Lisa Koch; Candy from Strangers; Northern California Women's Music Festival

COLUMNS

33 MS. BEHAVIOR

Baby on board

35 EPIQUEERAN

Going tapas

45 JIM'S CLOSET

Fahrenheit 9/10

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REFLECTIONS 5 years ago in *just out*... Volume 17 Number 17, July 7, 2000

- National organizers of the StopDrLaura.com movement, a grassroots effort to discourage advertisers from sponsoring the television show, would like Portlanders to support their campaign.

- Despite considerable disapproval from his Republican colleagues, Oregon's Sen. Gordon Smith continues to support expanding the list of federal hate crimes to include those motivated by bias against gay men and lesbians.

- About 10 years ago, Corey Baker started an organization for people who fall through the cracks. He founded Friends of People with AIDS, a low-profile group that provides patients with services that are overlooked by larger organizations, services that directly improve patients' quality of life.

- Pride Northwest, the nonprofit group that orchestrates Portland's annual Pride event, is experiencing what can only be described as infighting. *Just Out* has learned that longtime board member and self-described historian Janna MacAuslan was voted off the board at a June 29 meeting. The elections were held



during a closed session after nonboard members and *Just Out's* reporter were asked to leave.

- Club Z, a new all-ages nightclub, opens July 8 in downtown Portland. The new club takes over the space once occupied by the Edge, also an all-ages nightclub.

- Reversing a New Jersey Supreme Court decision about a gay Scoutmaster, the U.S. Supreme Court voted 5-4 in support of the Boy Scouts of America's unwritten policy banning homosexuals from the organization.

- Those thrill-seeking Southwest Washington Socialites are taking another jet boat cruise up and down the Willamette River. This event is always a sellout, so get your tickets early.

- Whether it's work on race and class awareness or insistence on sign language interpretation, many of the practices that are taken for granted in feminist enterprises around the country were the subject of testing and turmoil at Michigan.

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