

northwest

Celebrate Pride at Q Center

Q Center has a spread of events planned around Pride Week that will attract visitors with varying interests.

The week begins with Family Fun day from 3 to 5 p.m. June 11. Organizers will turn Q Center into a kid's zone and ask participants to bring educational toys and games.

Nationally lauded North American Tupperware top seller and theatrical performer Dixie Longate will give two benefit drag performances, beginning with a VIP event from 7:30 to 9 p.m. June 11 at Q Center. Refreshments are available. Tickets are \$75.

Longate will also perform during a party from 8:30 to 10 p.m. June 12 at the Jupiter Hotel, 800 E. Burnside St. Tickets are \$25. A dance party will follow the performance.

A meet-and-greet Welcome Wagon event is expected to attract approximately 20 queer-friendly organizations to Q Center for fun and social networking with refreshments and a DJ from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. June 12.

Q Center Bingo is from 7 to 9 p.m. June 20, hosted by drag sensation Poison Waters. Prizes will be offered, and refreshments will be available.

Jennifer Chrisler, executive director of the Family Pride Coalition, will address an audience at Q Center from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. June 29, speaking on the subject "Real Families, Real Facts: The Truth About LGBT Families and Politics." Donations are suggested.

Q Center will also have a presence at the Portland Pride festival and parade, marking three years since the concept of a queer community center was floated and 1,600 attendees responded to say they would support such a facility.

Q Center was awarded a \$7,000 grant by Mayor Tom Potter's Visioning Committee last month for outreach work to include queer Portlanders in the drafting of the city's vision.

Q Center, 1028 S.E. Water St., is open from 4 to 8 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sundays. For more information visit www.pdxqcenter.org.

Crowds Come Out for University Drag

Western Oregon University held its 10th annual drag show May 11 in Monmouth.

Performers Thomas Bell, Rjay Carey, M. Mae Dunn and nearly a dozen others strutted to a fairy tale theme in front of more than 450 people.

"We had a great turnout for the show," said Dunn, a WOU student and director for the show.

Dunn saw particular importance in staging a large-scale drag show in Monmouth.

"A college drag show out in conservative back country U.S.A. is not exactly the event of the year. However, to the few drag kings and queens out here, well, this show is reason to celebrate," she said.

According to Dunn, the kings and queens she performed with gave professionals a run for their money at the packed performance in terms of entertainment value.

Don't Miss the Prom

Queer youth are headed to boutiques, vintage shops and dusty attics to unleash their style at "Masquerade," a free all-ages queer prom presented by the Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center.

"Masquerade" is from 8 p.m. to midnight May 27 at Q Center, 1028 S.E. Water St.

The drug- and alcohol-free prom is open to queers and allies. DJs, raffles, free HIV testing, refreshments and more will make the evening an event to remember.

For more information call Zan Gibbs at 503-872-9664, ext. 27.

Grants Made to Queer Advocacy Groups

Pride Foundation, based in Seattle, made the first grants May 4 from its new Advocacy Fund. The fund was created to respond to specific equality issues facing queer communities in the Pacific Northwest.

Among the four organizations receiving a total of \$19,306 was Portland's Basic Rights Oregon Education Fund, which will support an aggressive public education and power building campaign called 50 Voices Equality Project. Other recipients included Interfaith Alliance of Idaho; Pride Inc. of Helena, Mont.; and Washington Won't Discriminate of Seattle.

For more information visit www.pride-foundation.org.

Protesters Oppose Military Recruitment Abuses


Approximately 50 activists, parents and teachers gathered May 8 for a rally to regulate military recruitment visits at Portland Public Schools.

Recruiter Watch PDX, a coalition of members from Veterans for Peace, Military Families Speak Out, Code Pink, the G.I. Rights Hotline, Portland Lawyer's Guild and concerned parents, organized the rally, which met at Holladay Park and ended at the Blanchard Education Services Center.

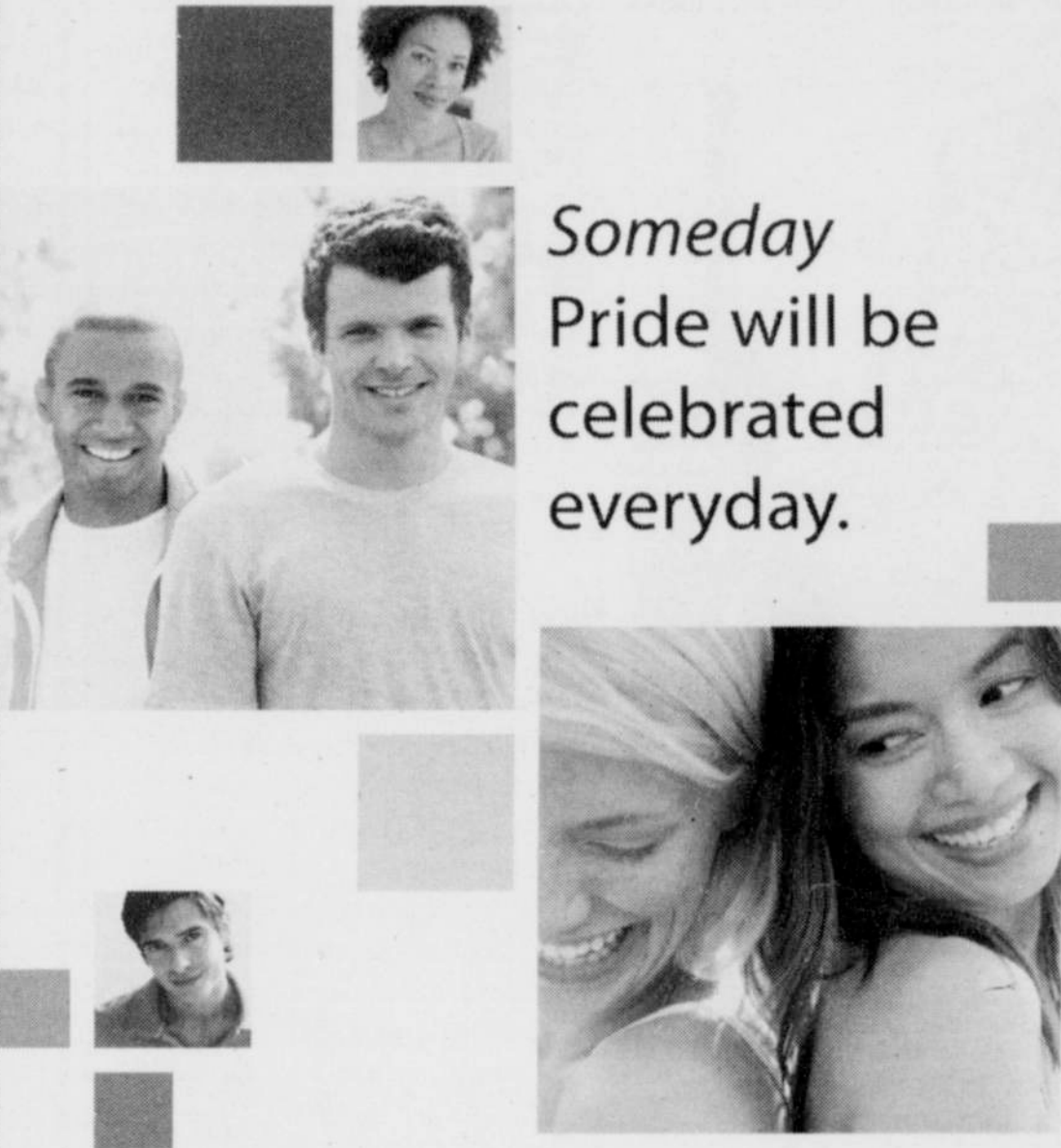
Speakers, which included teachers reading students' testimonials, revealed abuses and false promises made by military recruiters. "We're looking for the schools to set some uniform standards and put stringent controls on recruiters," said Kathy Neary of Recruiter Watch PDX.

She said recruiters often target low-

Continued on Page 10



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More than 450 people turned out to see Fairy Godmother Thomas Bell (left) and M. Mae Dunn as Prince Charming at the Western Oregon Drag Show.