



MARTY DAVIS

Nicole Browning (left) and Stef-Anie Wells address the crowd at Pride 2006.

Pride President Bids Farewell

Nicole Browning, who has been president of Pride Northwest for the past three years, is stepping down. She made her resignation known to the board before this year's Pride and nonetheless pulled off a successful event. Tens of thousands of Oregonians have enjoyed celebrating their community these past few years due in large part to her energy and efforts.

According to Browning, she had been ignoring her personal life and wants to "focus on me." A graduate student working toward a master's degree in public health, she had taken the spring term off to work on Pride but doesn't want to postpone her studies anymore.

Browning is upbeat about the changes her departure will bring to Pride Northwest. "Pride is always the result of someone's hard work. It's not a bad thing to have someone else at the helm...change is always good."

Pride '06 gave Browning much to be proud of. "It was essentially flawless. I am very pleased, especially with the additional week of events, which were amazing."

According to Stef-Anie Wells, Pride Northwest vice president and parade chairwoman, board elections will be held later this summer. "Transition from year to year is very common," she says. "Though Pride is a labor of love, people come in, work hard for a few years and move on to new opportunities."

Wells, who has worked on the board for two years, says the community partners and sponsors, as well as all of the events during Pride Week, made this year's festivities great. "Every year, it is people that make Pride a success—all the wonderful

volunteers, sponsors, organizations, businesses, float builders, entertainers and everyone who comes to Pride each year."

One concern this year was the construction on Southwest Naito Parkway. "The parade went smoothly despite all the construction," says Wells.

When she's not working as a wedding planner and film promoter, Wells collaborates year-round with the rest of the board on planning Pride. When asked about the ability of such a small group of people to continually put on such a large event, Wells quoted Margaret Mead, who said: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Portland Approves Symbolic Resolution

Portland Mayor Tom Potter and the City Council unanimously passed a resolution June 14 urging Congress to adopt the Military Readiness Enhancement Act of 2005.

The U.S. armed forces nondiscrimination resolution was introduced by openly gay Commissioner Sam Adams and co-sponsored by Commissioners Randy Leonard, Dan Saltzman and Erik Sten. Testifying in support of the resolution were retired U.S. Army Reserve Maj. Frank Dixon and former U.S. Army 1st Lt. Fred Fox.

House Resolution 1059, which was introduced by U.S. Rep. Marty Meehan, D-Mass., would repeal the military's ban, also known as "don't ask, don't tell," on the service of openly gay, lesbian and bisexual personnel. The bill began with 57 co-sponsors and now has 115 co-sponsors, including Oregon Reps. Earl Blumenauer, Peter DeFazio and David Wu.

"Don't ask, don't tell" is un-American because it creates a second-class citizenship," said Dixon, who led the efforts in collaboration with the Military Education Initiative and National Stonewall Democrats. "This is no way to thank our lesbian, gay and bisexual patriots for their selfless service to our country. As stewards of democracy and freedom, we all have a role to play in ending discrimination against our lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender service members."

According to the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, more than 65,000 sexual minority Americans serve in our nation's armed forces. More than 10,000 service members have been discharged under "don't ask, don't tell," and replacing them has cost \$200 million. Almost 800 service members with critical specialties such as Arab linguists and intelligence analysts have been fired because of their sexual orientation.

With the adoption of the resolution to support the act, Portland joins New York, Chicago, St. Louis, West Hollywood, San Francisco and Cathedral City, Calif., in their stance against discrimination. The California Assembly adopted a similar resolution to oppose the military's ban in September 2005. A second state resolution is pending in the New York Legislature.

Former Just Out Intern Honored

Growing up gay makes you different, said Peter Zuckerman, a former *Just Out* intern who propelled his experience into a journalism career and recently landed the prestigious Livingston Award.



FRANK DIXON

Former U.S. Army 1st Lt. Fred Fox celebrates at Portland Pride days after testifying on behalf of the Military Readiness Enhancement Act.

Continued on Page 10

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