



Guide to P Pride



"Keep Portland Queer!" on the waterfront and beyond

An obvious riff on the ubiquitous "Keep Portland Weird!" bumper stickers, this year's theme for Portland Pride is more than a catchy slogan.

"It's really great to be queer here," says Pride Northwest president Stef-Anie Wells. "You don't have to go to a queer establishment to be comfortable. That should be celebrated...Portland, the Pacific Northwest and all it has to offer."

According to the Pride Northwest Web site, "Portlanders and queers have a lot in common. We like things fresh and independent. We know how to be an individual while being part of a community."

In line with the theme, Wells says all of the Pride Festival food vendors are from the region (with the exception of Ben & Jerry's, which is promoting its New Avenues for Youth program). In addition, all but two entertainment acts are locally based. Only nine booths represent national companies, while 75 belong to nonprofit organizations and 65 to local businesses.

Queer was selected as an all-inclusive term identifying gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning, intersex and ally communities. "Queer is still a transition word that not everyone embraces," says Wells, "but it is an all-encompassing word."

Portland Pride 2007 is all about this special place where we live and the breadth and variety of fabulous people we are. 10

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