

Guide to Pride Festival Highlights

What's new in 2007

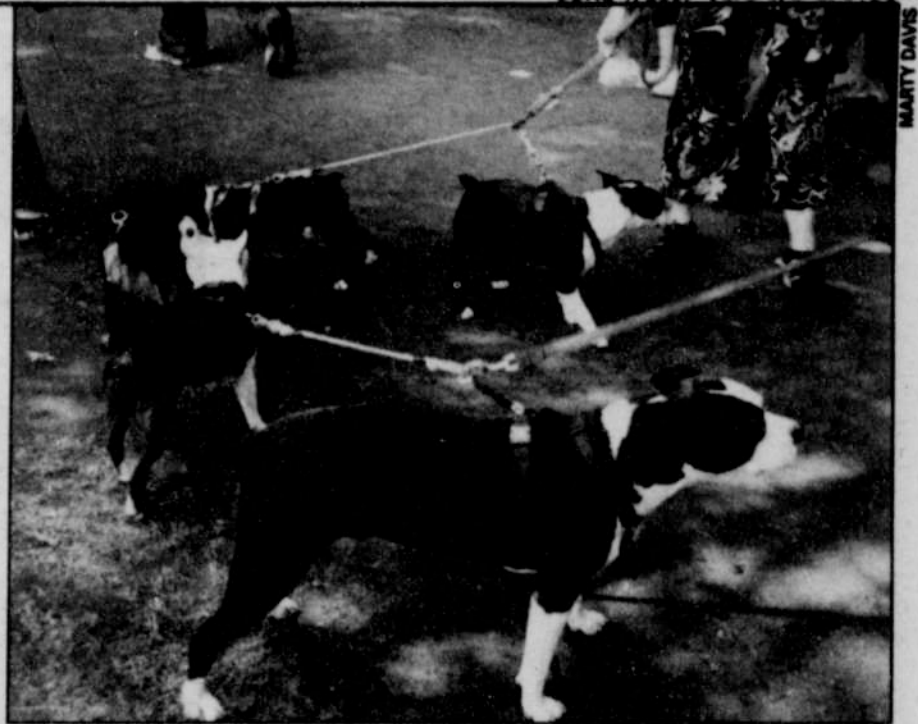
by Jaymee R. Cuti and Malka Geffen

Every June, members of Portland's queer community and others around the state and region converge on Tom McCall Waterfront Park. Whether seeking a celebration among open- and like-minded people, looking to meet that special someone or wanting to groove to the tunes of some excellent entertainers, folks expect and will receive something new at Portland Pride 2007. Here are a couple highlights of what's fresh.

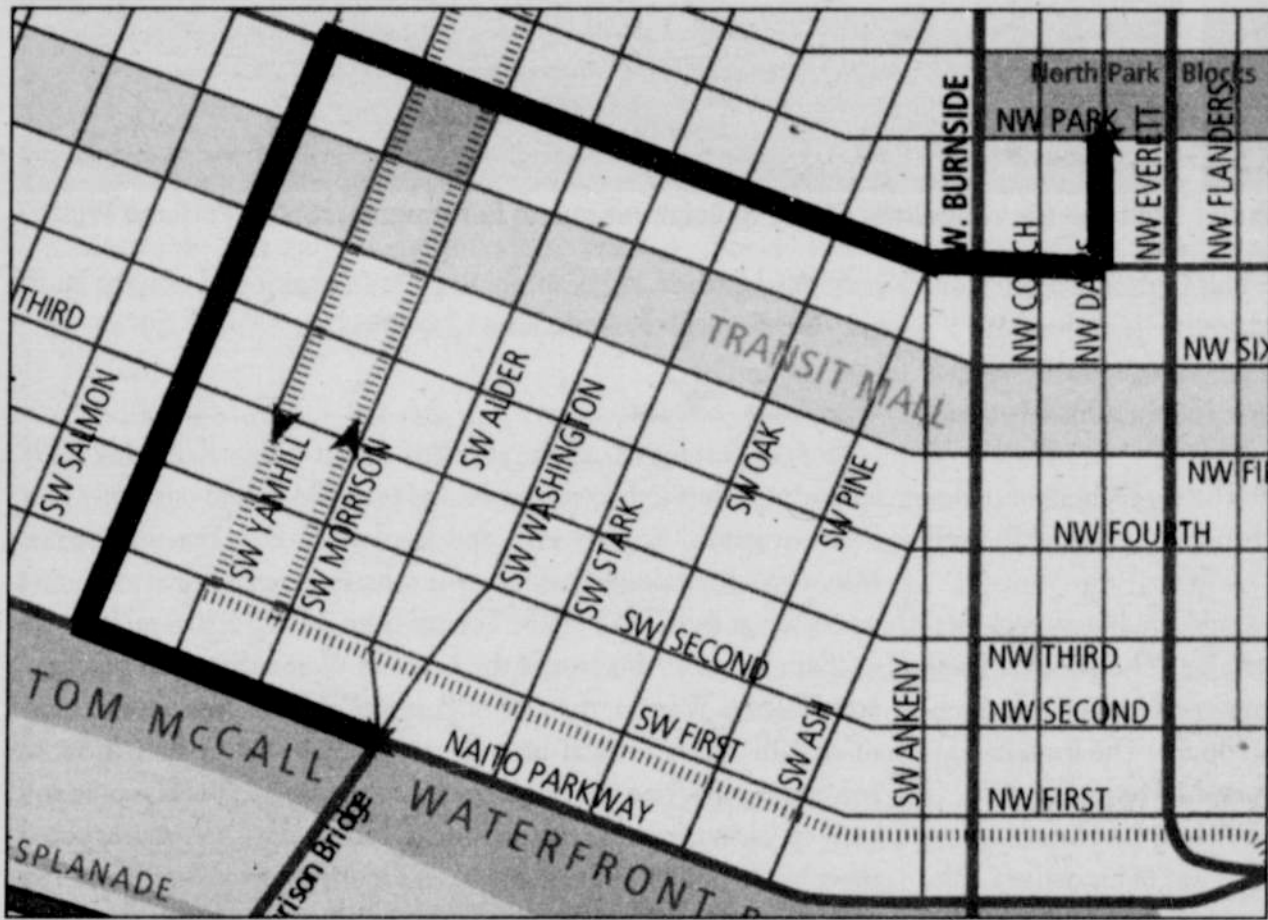
Proud Pets Strut Their Stuff

Is that an Airedale in a leather vest? A poodle in a rainbow tutu? Oh, yes.

Proud pet owners can finally show off their little loved ones in their very own pageant during the big weekend celebration. The Pride Pet Parade will take place at the Festival Main Stage area from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. June 16. Pets on Broadway, Dove Lewis Animal Hospital and



Pooches and other pets parade with pride.



The parade steps off at 11:15 a.m. June 17 from the Park Blocks at Northwest Davis Street.

the Portland Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals are sponsoring what's sure to be a festival favorite. Families will enjoy the fun and entertainment of watching Portland's proudest pets as well as a German shepherd from the Portland Police Bureau's K-9 unit.

Prizes will be awarded for "gayest dog and pal" and "gayest pet (nondog) and pal." First, second and third places in each category will receive a commemorative certificate honoring pet and owner. First-place winners will also receive a special gift basket and trophy from Dove Lewis. Just for entering, participants will receive a Pride sticker, a Dove Lewis temporary tattoo and a goodie bag.

People can register to participate in the Pride Pet Parade by completing a registration form at www.pridenw.org. You can also submit registration forms

the day of the event no later than 12:15 p.m. at the Festival Main Stage. There is a limit of one pet per family.


Youth Hang Out in Teen Oasis

The Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center, in conjunction with Brother to Brother and Planned Parenthood's Teen Council, brings a breath of fresh air to Pride 2007 with Teen Oasis.

Youth organizer Grae Oberhausen, who has volunteered with SMYRC and Cascade AIDS Project, said he looks forward to an area of the festival for queer youth to meet other queer youth. "There's never been a place for youth to go [at Pride], and everyone is in separate groups," he said. "But if we have a central place to hang out, we'll get to meet new people and learn new things about the queer community."

Within the 15-by-15-foot tent, there will be ample space for queer youth to relax and participate in activities. Oberhausen anticipates activities such as Father's Day card making, button making and pomagami. He said educational activities about safer sex and gender will also be on hand. An oil-based lube race will provide some wild

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11:45 am—1:15 pm
Lunch will be provided.

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