



Continued from Page 23

weekend, as well as some with suggestions for improvement. Those suggestions are very much welcome, as is any offer of participation in the planning and execution of all of the Pride events. I hope to continue with Pride for a long time to come.
—Debra

The parade was cool, and so was the Dyke March. I love the energy they bring! The festival wasn't as good as last year. Stage shows were good though. The dogs didn't bother me because I am a huge animal lover.
—Teresa

COMPLAINTS DEPARTMENT

I just moved here from Southern California, and I have been to Prides in San Diego, Los Angeles, Long Beach and Palm Springs. This was by far the most pitiful display of Pride I have witnessed since becoming a lesbian 25 years prior. Booths closed at 6 p.m., unbeknownst to those of us who arrived later. No dance area. Too small overall. Dyke March sorely lacking in participation. Entertainment was less than interesting. Portland is supposed to be a huge and dynamic gay community. What happened?
—KDL

I live here (actually native Portland/Oregonian), and I agree with KDL's statements. I have traveled to a lot of Pride celebrations, and yes, the Portland show is not that great. Much better in several other West Coast cities. Face it: Portland Pride is the "redheaded stepchild" of the West Coast.
—I Agree

Pride, like most queer events, is fading. The big dance parties, Coronation, the big Halloween events and theme events were all much better years ago. Just not as good, fun, affordable and inspired like they used to be.
—Old Fart

The parade route [moved off Stark Street] still pisses me and many people off. What happened to having a separate area for drinking? There were underage people with drinks all over the place. Smoking and dogs were a bit out of control as well.
—Jack

No booths to buy cool stuff like previous years.
—Cody

I had a lot of fun with the parade, but in less than five minutes of entering the festival, I received a bloody rope burn from a dog

I've been to a few of the big West Coast festivals and they are grand, but they also charge like \$20 per day to get in. I was impressed with all the great music and all for a \$5 donation. Also it was fresh music and not that tired old Pride one-hit-wonder '80s crap. Just because I'm queer doesn't mean I love disco. Thanks to the organizers for realizing that.
—Redheaded Stepchild

I had a blast. The crowd was great. So was the whole mood of the day, from what I saw. People with dogs and smokers: It's a mass of humanity sharing a day and a small space. Let's be tolerant and kind.
—Mark

leash and got caught in the middle of two large dogs attacking each other. The jerk who wasn't watching his dog that gave me the nice scar on my leg didn't even apologize. People shouldn't have to be injured or attacked by dogs at the festival. Ban dogs altogether inside the festival area!
—Anonymous

There was a separate "pet parade," so why does there have to be dogs inside the festival area?! The festival crowd is shoulder to shoulder, and I, too, was hurt by a dog, and I will not go to another festival as long as they allow dogs inside. There is barely enough room for humans, let alone dogs on leashes tripping people up and barking and snarling at people. I talked to a half-dozen people, and all were pissed off about the dog situation inside the festival area!
—PDXer


Hey, you didn't have a dog take a leak on your leg. It happened to me and three other people. I don't mind dogs if they are well-behaved. But as someone suggested, this may not be the best place for them.
—Jeffery

I'll stop bringing my dog if you stop smoking at the festival. The smoking was out of control this year, especially with all the kids at the event.
—Smoking Pooch

Forget dogs and smokers. Did anyone else see the guy carrying the gun? At that point I gathered up the kids and went home.
—Anonymous

[Pride Northwest responds: "The gentleman meant no harm. He was just exercising his right to carry a handgun, and he did have a permit, but due to the complaints we received, the security staff did ask him to leave."]

"Be the change you wish to see in the world."
—Mahatma Gandhi

Funding Change.  Changing Attitudes.

eQUITY
FOUNDATION

www.EquityFoundation.org | 503.231.5759