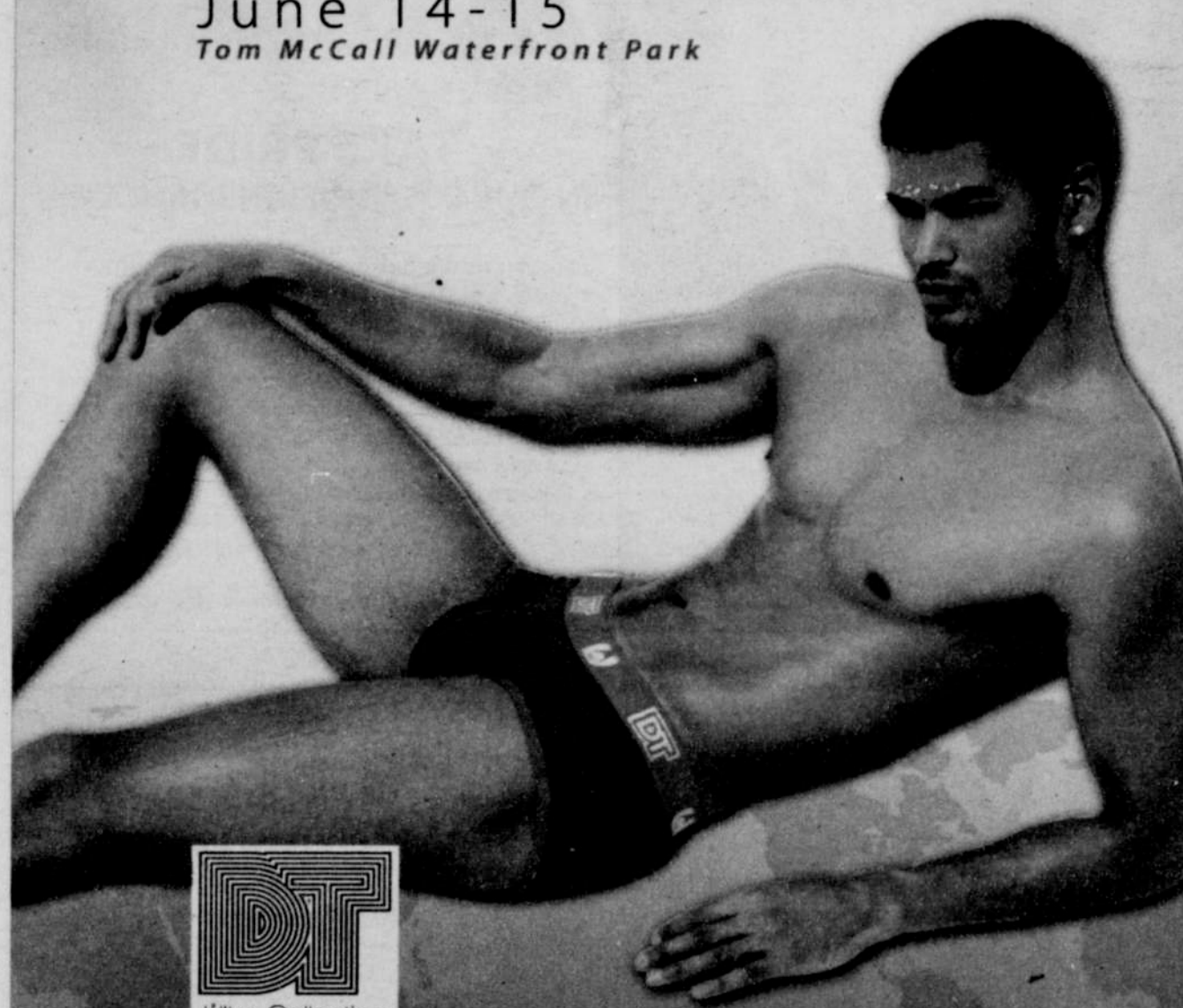


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Prides of Color

Black and Latino gays and lesbians
take pride in culture

by Jaymee R. Cuti

Prides of color give Portlanders a chance to recognize yet another layer to the queer community's uniqueness: its cultures.

Black Pride and Latino Pride are both gearing up to share their diversity with greater Portland. By showcasing the food, music, art, stories and people that make Portland's queer African Americans and Latinos distinctive, they are contributing richly to a Pride season for everyone.

Latino and Black Prides are taking differing approaches to events and activities that celebrate Pride. In its third year, Latino Pride is expanding to a four-day celebration themed "Papis y Chicas." Highlights include events with esteemed out-of-

open up to a collection of artists from Fire & Ink and Voices Rising, a Seattle-based group that's part of Pride Foundation's Racial Equity Initiative. The audience is encouraged to participate. A \$5 donation is suggested.

Black Pride will continue with a Black Out Party on June 13. Black Out is an outreach project for Unity Project of Oregon's board, staff and volunteers to hit the bar scene, talk with revelers about the organization and pass out safe-sex packages and information about Black Pride events. If you're on Stark Street or in Old Town, you might run into the producers of Black Pride. If you'd like to join them, call the Unity Project office at 503-417-7991.

One of the biggest block parties of the year

will draw hundreds of people to Crush, 1412 S.E. Morrison St., from 4 p.m. to close June 14. Black Pride is closing down Southeast 14th Avenue between Morrison and Belmont streets for break-dancers, DJ Kutz D. Kutz and DJ Seoul. Brooklyn's Kin4Life, a lesbian hip-hop group, will headline. The free meat and veggie barbecue is co-sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign of Portland's



Latino men and those who love them turned up for the 2007 Latino Gay Pride, "Noche de Fuego."

town speakers, a men's party, a ladies brunch, of course, the all-day fiesta at the Jupiter Hotel Courtyard with guest speakers and performances.

Black Pride, which is produced by Unity Project of Oregon (formerly Brother to Brother), is keeping it simple. In its sixth year, Black Pride is paring down from the weeklong slate of events that had participants on their toes last year to a concentrated weekend with some activities combining with mainstream Pride celebrations.

"Instead of trying to cram programming into one weekend, those are things we're going to do year-round," said Alisa Simmons, executive director of Unity Project of Oregon. The group is in the midst of launching a book group and film night.

Black Pride organizers promise that rumps will shake at parties planned later in the weekend but that its kickoff event will stimulate the mind.

"We wanted to celebrate arts and culture in a way that has never been celebrated before," said Simmons. "The wealth of talent in our communities is amazing and very rarely showcased. At its core, it's a chance to celebrate who we are and our various contributions to arts and culture in America."

Black Pride is hosting a reading and open mike poetry slam from 7 to 10 p.m. June 12 at Powell's Books, 1005 W. Burnside St. Readers include Marvin K. White, an accomplished author from Red Bone Press, a publishing house that prints the work of queer black authors. Then the mike will

diversity committee. Donations are accepted.

Black Pride will also have a booth June 14 and 15 at Portland Pride and plans to march with approximately 50 participants in the June 15 Pride Parade.

Latino Pride's first event is a visit from renowned actor and filmmaker Dan Guerrero. This year's festivities will kick off from 7 to 10 p.m. June 5 with a reception and chance to meet Guerrero, who will show his award-winning documentary, *Lalo Guerrero: The Original Chicano*. Guer-



Drag performers are well represented at Latino Gay Pride.

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