

Number Crunch Time

The Facts of Pride

by Jaymee R. Cuti

With rainbow balloons popped and hangovers remedied, Monday morning quarterbacking gives way.

Immediately following the Portland Pride parade and waterfront festival, *Just Out* asked readers, via our Web site, to share their experiences. We heard calls for a dance floor, better enforcement on the smoking ban, arguments against a smoking ban and complaints against sloppy pooches and their unruly leashes.

The weather and entertainment, particularly Lady Miss Kier, received the highest praise.

Pride Northwest released some preliminary numbers, announcing that revenue from gate entry was down and that beverage sales were up from last year: \$53,498 in 2007 at the gate compared to \$45,232 in 2008, and \$33,546 in 2007 beverage sales compared to \$42,569 in 2008.

Pride Northwest's preliminary revenue totaled \$176,000, compared to \$189,198 in 2007.

Pride's first food drive for Esther's Pantry, a program of Our House of Portland, collected 600 pounds of food.

Pride Northwest was strapped tightly, with two board members taking on multiple personalities. The event was put on by president Debra Porta; parade coordinator and treasurer Pat Olson; volunteer coordinator Angela Ogren; Pride Northwest staff member Mark "Zebra" Thomas; and Hank Renfrow, who, at 30 weeks pregnant, acted as vice president, media relations coordinator, secretary and interim entertainment coordinator; plus a core group of 12 volunteers.

Renfrow encourages those with opinions about how to improve Portland Pride to volunteer or join the board. Applications are available at www.pridenw.org, and elections are held in the fall. 10



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