

cant step forward, providing over 100 previously unavailable rights to gay and lesbian families, we still look forward to the day when all Washington citizens are equal under the law," said Friedes.



Eugene Pride offers more to do with Pride Games.

Pride Marches on in Eugene

The parades and block parties have come and gone in Portland. The condoms and peppermints that once dotted West Broadway have been swept away, leaving revelers wanting more.

Luckily, Eugene/Springfield Pride is right around the corner Aug. 9 at Alton Baker Park at the Ferry Street Bridge. Pride festivities will commence at noon with the annual queer youth march to the festival grounds followed by an opening proclamation by Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy.

The focus of Eugene/Springfield Pride 2008 is on the queer community's political and legislative successes, colorful history and awareness of other geographical areas that cannot hold Pride festivals at all. The theme, "Live, Love, Be," was chosen by InterPride, an international network of Pride organizations, and symbolizes Eugene's solidarity with the larger queer community.

Although Eugene-Springfield Pride is not as big as Portland's bash, it is growing every year. "We had our first protesters last year, which I am told is a sign of growth," says festival coordinator Jer Megowan.

This is Eugene's 17th Pride, but there has been some form of celebration since 1970. Although Eugene/Springfield Pride does not yet include a parade, organizers expect one in the future.

New to the festival are the Pride Games, organized by Queer Eugene and sponsored by *Just Out*. Queer Eugene is a Web site created to provide Eugene's queer community with a single place to turn for information about events and news.

In response to last year's pleas for more things to do at Eugene/Springfield Pride, Queer Eugene came up with a tournament consisting of some games that require little to no athletic talent. Some do, however, require a sense of humor, such as the beach ball nose push relay and the five-legged-race.

"It's supposed to be fun, not competitive—that's the point," says Julie Weismann, owner of Queer Eugene. "There are plenty of opportuni-

ties for athletic competition. We wanted fun, and we also wanted families, kids and teens to be able to participate."

Sign your team up for the Pride Games at www.queereugene.com. For more information visit www.eugenepride.org.

Portland Hosts International Soccer Tournament

PDX NetRippers hosted its first-ever LGBTQ International Soccer Tournament from July 18 to 20 at Fernhill Park in Northeast Portland.

The fledgling soccer organization, which is open to all genders and sexual orientations, invited teams from Seattle and Vancouver, British Columbia. Using a format modeled after similar tournaments in those cities, Portland players hoped their own event would create more visibility. The visiting soccer clubs were Seattle's Rain City and Vancouver's Out for Kicks.

"We saw the success of the events in Vancouver and Seattle. In turn, we figured having our own tournament would help grow the local organization and make soccer a more prominent West Coast sport," says NetRippers board member Mickey Mendiola.

With a registered enrollment of 55 athletes taking the fields, the park was filled with the excitement of three round-robin games and one championship game of about an hour each. Instead of using city-based teams, players were divided up equally based on their experience to create a level playing field and interaction among all the athletes.

NetRipper Kyle Connell hopes that future invitationals will grow to have city-based teams come play each other. "Rain City would like to see Portland become more competitive in the tournament style because our location will attract more teams like San Francisco to show up and play," he says.

After three hours of game play July 19, exhaustion was setting in among the athletes. A few teams also experienced their share of injured players, but enthusiasm for the sport kept everyone going.

One such fan who came out to experience the NetRippers play was Mitch Kudsen. "This experience encourages me to join because seeing all abilities playing together shows me that I can fit in also."

For more information about PDX NetRippers visit www.myspace.com/netrippers. 10



Portland is a prime playing location for soccer teams along the West Coast. PDX NetRippers hosted the LGBTQ International Soccer Tournament last month at Fernhill Park.

By STEPHEN MARC BEAUDOIN, JAYMEE R. CUTI, BEN FERGUSON and MATTHEW FREE

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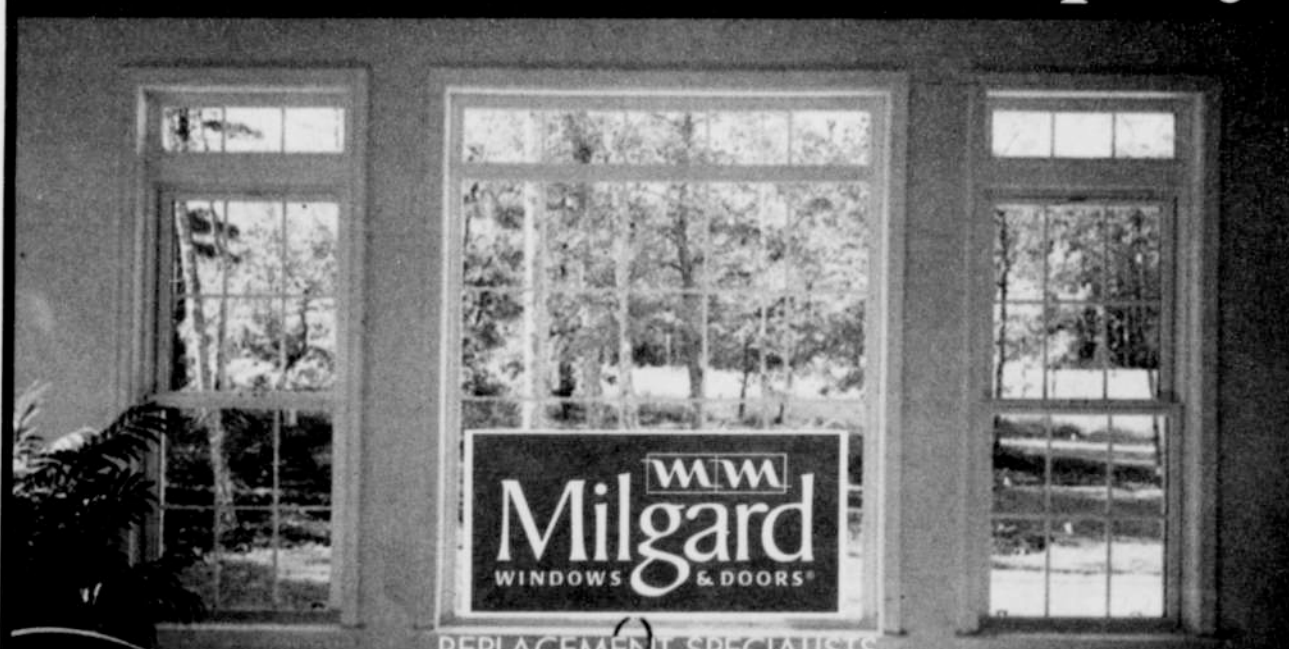
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