

NORTHWEST BRIEFS



Trans March in Portland PRIDE 2008. This year, Trans March steps away from Dyke March to promote its "Gender (Free) For All."

experiencing from the mission.

"I didn't think it would affect me, but it's hard to see children as young as 12 involved in survival sex, drugs, a lot of violence," said Noble.

Operation Shine will receive a grant next year, she added. There are high hopes to set out in 2010 "in a slightly different way; it's gonna grow," said Noble.

Advocates can follow HYPW 2009 at pridewalk2009.org, on Twitter, Facebook, YouthNoise and on YouTube.

Gender (Free) For All Steps Out On Its Own

The last two years have seen the Trans March occurring in conjunction with the Dyke March during the cavalcade of Pride NW events. However, citing "a need to create a space for trans folks in the community," Nik Wilhelm and a dedicated, community-based discussion group have organized the 2009 Trans March "Gender (Free) For All." The autonomous event will be held on Saturday, August 1.

In past years, the two marches happening in concert with each other posed an uncomfortable scenario for participants, said Wilhelm — a situation in which people felt they were not properly represented.

"[Participants felt] that to be in the Trans March, one must also either identify or have a previous identification as a dyke," explained Wilhelm. "For those who identified as both a dyke and trans, they were forced to choose where in the march they would walk [and] which identifier was more important for them."

The Trans March will address specific points regarding trans/genderqueer visibility, inclusion and gender versus sexual orientation. Each issue acknowledges a distinct need for awareness in this year's march.

"Gender (Free) For All is about the right of every individual to identify however they desire, visibly and proudly, whether it's male, female, other, somewhere in between, none at all, whether a person varies in their gender identity from moment to moment, or if they've known how they identified since birth," continued Wilhelm. "The march is about the inclusion of more options than male and female, but not to the exclusion of

any identity."

The event will also help raise awareness for the promotion of local sustainability over corporate sponsorship.

"For the members of the committee, championing sustainability means supporting our local businesses and helping grow and enrich our community through conscious, compassionate activism," said Wilhelm. "A small business owner donating funds, goods, or time to their community is often more vested in the impact of the donation than a large corporation. As such a contribution will generally make a correspondingly larger impression on their bottom line and the way in which they are viewed by the community at large."

There is a benefit event for the Gender (Free) For All at In Other Words (8 NE Killingsworth St.) on Friday, June 26, 7-10 p.m. Admission runs on a \$5-\$20 sliding scale. The fundraiser will feature local bands, performers and raffle prizes from Adorn Body Art, Babeland, Presents of Mind and much more. Wilhelm and crew encourage people to show up in costume (drag) and join them and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence in chipping in for a worthwhile cause. Confirmed entertainment includes drag king Johnny O, the music of Slim and the Competitive Eater and Jim Strange with the Proud and the Damned; more acts will be announced as the event date nears.

Pending a permit, the pre-march rally, to feature local speakers and performers, will be held 5-7 p.m. Saturday, August 1 at Unthank Park (510 N Shaver Ave.). The march will then head east on Failing, south on Vancouver, west on Fremont and north on Mississippi Ave. to end at the Q Center (4115 N Mississippi Ave.), where a free-luck is planned.

HRC to Host Inaugural Basketball Tourney

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) has announced its Inaugural Women's 3x3 Basketball Tournament for Saturday, July 25 at Irving Park (3535 NE Seventh).

HRC is the largest gay, lesbian, bi and trans political and civil rights organization in the United States. The tournament's objective is to raise community awareness, understanding

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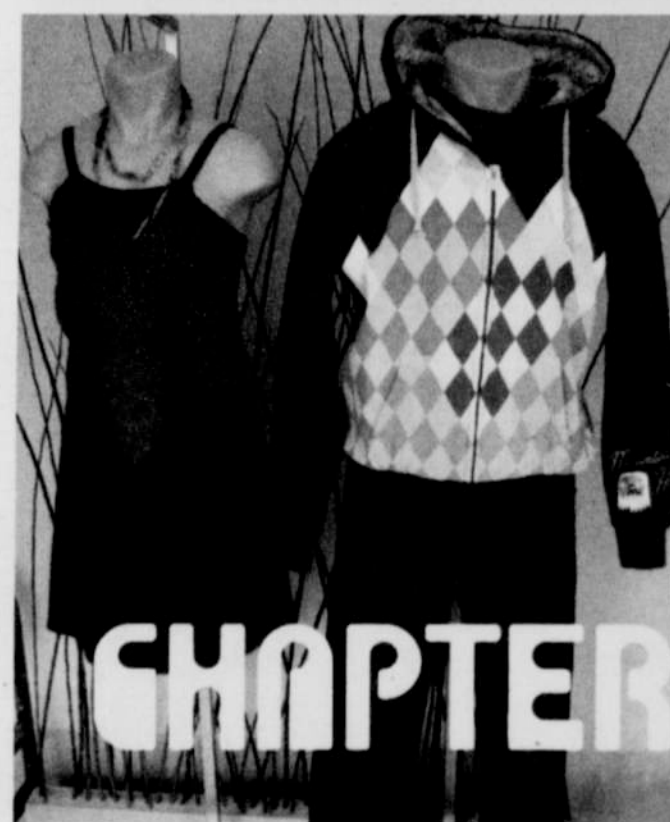
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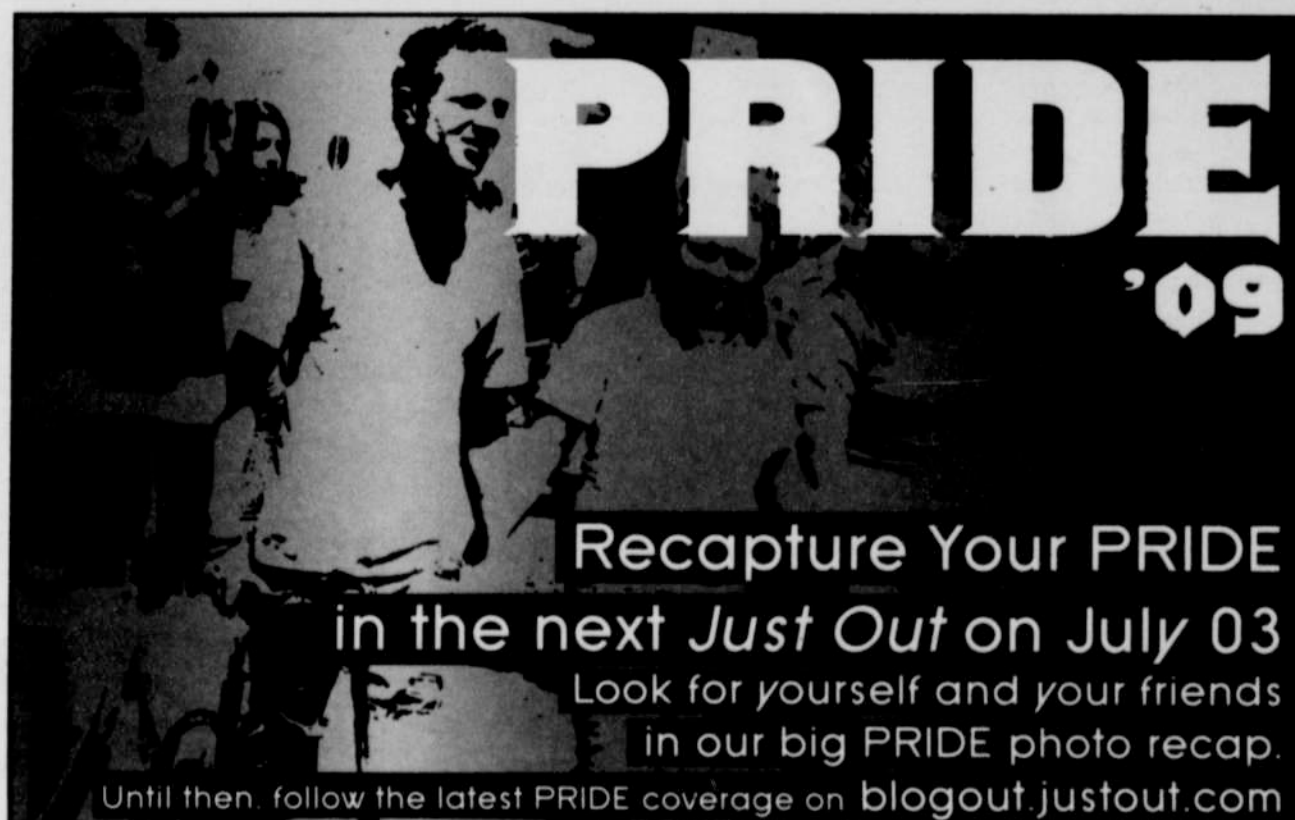
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