

Activities, Parade Set for Pride Weekend

Celebration includes people of color

BY NICOLE HOOPER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

"Everyday People" is the theme for this weekend's 31st gay pride celebration.

Tobin Britton, president of Pride NW, believes the theme is perfect for reflecting on recent setbacks at the ballot box and in court with same-sex marriage.

"We are your neighbors, friends or that person in the grocery store," Britton said. "We pay taxes, and don't want to be treated as a special interest. We just want our rights like everyone else. That's why we are everyday people."

Britton has sacrificed a lot of her free time volunteering for the demanding position in an event that's expected to draw over 20,000 people.

Over 100 different groups and companies will march in Sunday's parade,

including Brother to Brother, a local African-American gay activist organization. For the fourth year, a gay black pride celebration is part of the overall festivities.

"It's your pride too, so own it," Britton said. "The gay community in Portland is already small and the minority gay community is even smaller. You tend to wonder where are these people at everyday?"

According to Britton, some members of the lesbian community have told organizers they plan to protest during the parade because they upset over way Pride NW has been put together.

"It's unfortunate and disheartening," she said. "Instead of coming to talk to us to see if we can work together, they are upset that we have corporate sponsorship."

Britton said the primary focus this



Tobin Britton year is fun.

One event will be performances by contestants of "Queer Idol," a spin-off on reality show American Idol. Also, instead of a beer garden this year, Pride has obtained a "walk around liquor license" so that those drinking can enjoy shopping with vendors.

Lastly, the parade route is different this year and will not include Stark

Street which is where many of the local gay bars are located. Some businesses on the street aren't happy with that decision because of the potential revenue lost.

"There are plenty of other queer businesses that aren't on Stark Street. People tend to forget that," Britton said. "It's unfortunate that we don't have a parade on the East side because we have a lot of support over there."

Britton isn't the only person of color that is involved with Pride NW. Poison Waters, a well-known drag queen, will receive a Spirit of Pride Award along with Maria Council for her work with the Audria M. Edwards Scholarship Foundation.

Sam Adams will be this year's keynote speaker, Mayor Tom Potter will also attend and former Mayor Vera Katz will receive a lifetime achievement award. For more information on Pride NW visit www.pridenw.org

Dear Deanna!

I'm in a situation where I must choose between my childhood friend of many years and my new boyfriend of two years. He wants to marry me but always argues with my friend who feels he's not good enough for me. She's caught him cheating and a few other things but we're working it out. I want both of them in my life and don't know what to do. --Gwen; Dallas, Texas



Real People, Real Advice

An advice column known for its fearless approach to reality-based subjects!

Dear Gwen:

It's clear as mud you're walking into a problem with this man if he's cheating. Don't ignore the warning signs or the insight of your friend. Be wise and observe a little longer to see if it's worth risking your friendship over a relationship that may break your heart. Cheating is the ultimate form of disrespect and you should have kicked him to the curb.

Dear Deanna!

I'm dating two women at the same time. Neither woman has all the qualities I seek individually but they become the complete woman I need when combined. I'm tired of lying and running between the two but scared to lose either of them. What do I do because it's causing me to become very stressed? --Marvin; Omaha, Neb.

Dear Marvin:

You're only half a man because that's what you're giving to each of these women. Grow up and evaluate your standards and then determine the standards you want reflected in a woman. Be honest with these women who may dump you because of poor morals and values. If so, you deserve it because you made these two beds and may not get to sleep in either one again.

Dear Deanna!

I've been trying to achieve a certain goal for a very long time. I pray long and hard but nothing happens. I have faith, I stay focused and I visualize what I want. I'm at the point of giving up but I keep hoping that God is going to give me what I want sooner or later. What else should I do to make things happen? --Sherry Carter; Augusta, Ga.

Dear Sherry:

People expect things to drop from the sky but that's not how it happens. God blessed you with the wisdom, dream and creativity but you must do your part. Get on your feet and use the healthy body and mind you have to work hard. Put in the labor and elbow grease to bring your dream to life. Your effort coupled with faith and positive thinking is a guaranteed formula for success.

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Free on All Counts

continued ▲ from Front

cheat who brought a trumped-up lawsuit against J.C. Penney, accusing store guards of roughing her and her family up. "I disliked it intensely when she snapped her fingers at us," said one juror, a woman, who declined to give her name.

The verdict means Jackson will be free to try to rebuild his blighted musical career. But his legal victory came at a terrible price to his image.

Prosecutors branded him a deviant who used his playland as the ultimate pervert's

lair, plying boys with booze and porn.

Defense lawyers described Jackson as a humanitarian who wanted to protect kids and give them the life he never had while growing up as a child star.

After the verdict, a weary Jackson retreated to Neverland where, according to his family, he went straight to bed. The entertainer, who appeared exhausted as he shuffled out of court, is "trying to get back his strength," said his father, Joe Jackson.

"I feel justice was done," Jackson's father said. "We thank the fans for supporting us."

Popular Nightclub Closed

continued ▲ from Front

pliance plan to ensure patron safety and security. These included monitoring for visibly intoxicated persons, use of a security wand, ejecting unruly customers, encouraging police walkthroughs, increasing parking lot lighting and security staff.

Davison-Harmsen said an administrative law judge ruled in her favor that she

complied with the order and found no proof that the fight that led to the stabbing death was related to the bar serving alcohol. She said she has never had a violation for serving visibly intoxicated persons or minors.

The OLCC maintained, however, that Helena's failed to consistently apply several compliance measures, including parking lot monitoring and security staffing levels.

Keeping an Eye Out for Internet Predators

continued ▲ from Front

you check your bank account.

Qwest plans to host a series of identity theft awareness weeks at local high schools this fall, with comprehensive information for youth, parents and businesses.

With more than 20 percent of

Qwest's customer base being teens, it's important to the company to make an effort toward preventing online crime.

"We are a member of this community and take our role very seriously," Pepler said.

For more information, visit www.incredibleinternet.com.

Tips On Internet Safety

- If children chat or use e-mail, talk to them about never meeting someone "in person" that they first met online without supervision.

- Keep the family computer in an open area of the home, such as the living room. Having a computer in a child's bedroom or home office allows for more privacy, which can also mean more sneaking around.

- Have your kids show you their favorite sites and what they know how to do online. Ask them for

help with research to see what they know.

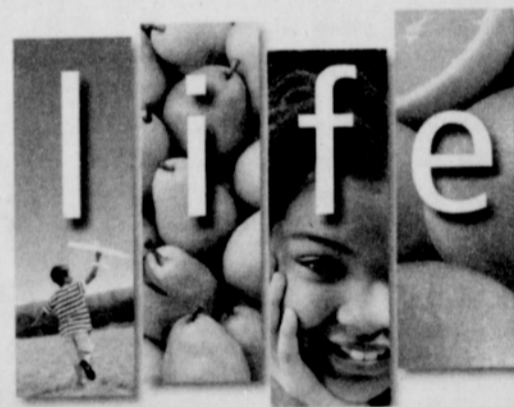
- Consider using filtering or monitoring software for your computer to block out negative sites.

- If your child uses screennames, find out what they are. Suggestive names or names that give a child's actual name, age, location or interest are targets for sexual predators.

- Post house rules about surfing the web next to the monitor to remind anyone on the computer of what's acceptable.

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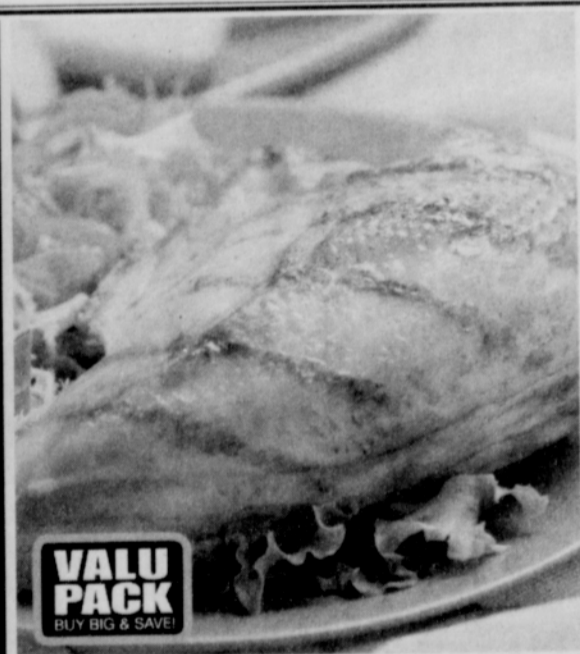
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