

the Portland
MERCURY +



JUNE 14-15

2008
OFFICIAL
GUIDE
BRING
IT

This year, Pride Northwest, Inc. has made quite the promise: Portland Pride 2008 is going to Bring. It.

Oh really? Well, the *Mercury* is going to Bring. It. On! Inside, check out our homage to the cheer-tastic film of the same name, featuring Portland's brightest stars of the queer cheerleading squad (and their rivals, the anti-gay troupe). We've also got queers who bring it with guns, a head-to-head gay-off, and a polite request that certain gays stop bringing it, please. Plus: All the info you need to enjoy Portland Pride 2008, from the parade and waterfront festival to every dance night in town. You know what to do.

EDITED BY AMY J. RUIZ

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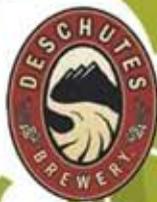
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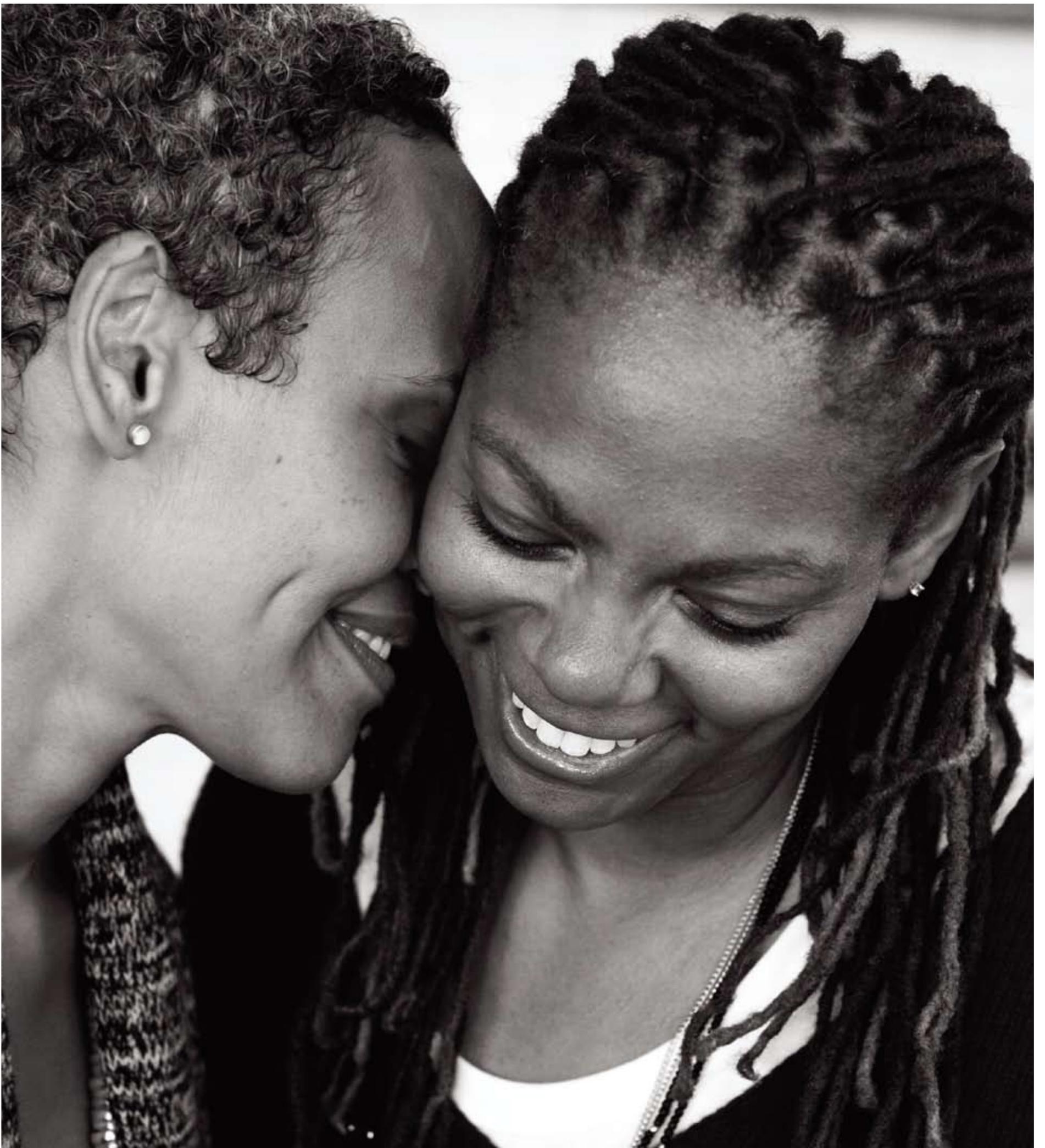
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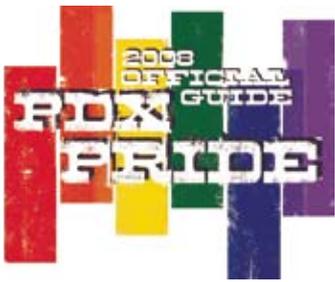
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The BRING IT Manifesto

BRO's Next Battle... and How You Can Bring it, Too!

by Basic Rights Oregon

The BRING IT Manifesto

Can you hear the bells ringing? No, it's not the sound of wedding bells (yet). It's the sound of socially regressive voters getting their wings! According to polls, bigotry is aging out of the US population (in other words, the people who are causing the most problems aren't getting any younger). That means that within 30 to 40 years, issues like gay marriage will be one big fat yawn.

But Basic Rights Oregon (BRO) is not content to wait another generation before lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Oregonians are guaranteed the same basic rights as other citizens. We believe *now* would be a good time to ensure that every Oregonian is safe and secure in our schools and communities. We believe *now* is an excellent time for all of us to

be free to earn a living, and able to care for the ones we love. After 20 years of ballot measures designed to divide our state in two, we believe the time to BRING IT for equality is *now*.

That's why BRO championed two critical pieces of legislation in 2007. The Oregon Equality Act made it against the law in Oregon to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in housing, employment, and public accommodations like restaurants. And the Oregon Family Fairness Act created domestic partnerships, so caring, committed couples can have the legal recognition they need to take care of each other. Together, these laws made Oregon an even better place to live, work, and raise a family.

BRO is working hard to BRING IT...

...because we have to keep what we worked so hard to get.

Out-of-state anti-gay interests are hoping to put measures on the ballot to repeal Oregon's domestic partnership and anti-discrimination laws. BRO is ready to defend our laws with field teams in place across the state, but we'll need your help to get the word out. Sign up at basicrights.org to stay in the loop.

...because there is life outside of Portland!

Along with state political action, BRO has begun to bridge the urban-rural divide. If we want to make lasting change, we have to be prepared to mobilize the LGBT community and allies from Baker City to Astoria. That's why our 2008 public education program is taking the message of equality to rural Oregonians.

...because youth are the future... no, really.

On college campuses around the state, BRO works closely with student organizations to prepare our future leaders. College is a time when most of us barely manage to bathe on a regular basis, let alone assume leadership of a political movement. But BRO identifies college/university students who are up to the challenge, trains them in public speaking and community organizing, and puts them at the forefront of the movement.

...because white is not the only color in the rainbow.

Thanks to the persistent efforts of community members who refuse to let things slide, BRO is committed to raising awareness of racial justice among staff and board members, the larger LGBT community, and our allies. As part of this work, BRO develops and presents trainings on dismantling racism and immigrant rights, sponsors gatherings by and for queer youth of color, and supports networking opportunities for activists fighting for racial justice. By listening and learning, teaching and doing, BRO hopes to become a better ally and foster an atmosphere of greater inclusiveness and participation from all communities.

...because there is no "Equality" without the "T."

BRO is committed to ensuring that the voices, experiences, and concerns of transgender Oregonians are represented in our struggle for equality. We don't believe in sacrificing any letter in the alphabet soup just so the rest of us can have a seat at the table. That's why Oregon's nondiscrimination law ensures that no one can be fired from their job, evicted from their home, or denied a table at a restaurant just because they're transgender. Want to learn more? Look for our workshop "T Is Not for Tokenism" this summer.

...because we are stronger together.

In 2004, our friends in the organized labor, choice, and immigrant rights movements stood side by side with us as we fought against Measure 36, the devastating constitutional amendment that excludes gays and lesbians from marriage in Oregon. In 2007, those same allies worked hard to help us pass our domestic partnership and anti-discrimination laws, and they will be there this year to defend our equality laws from attacks on multiple fronts. We know we are strongest when we work together toward a common progressive goal, and BRO is proud to join our allies this November in defeating anti-immigrant and massive prison spending ballot measures.

Basic Rights Oregon is proud to BRING IT for Oregon's LGBT community every day. Will you join us and make our movement for equality even stronger? Visit us online at basicrights.org.



Everyone should have the opportunity to experience equality.

A philosophy of inclusion drives our organization every day, and allows us to excel in a global marketplace. We salute our Associates, Pride Northwest Inc. and its members who provide opportunities for equality — both within and outside the workplace.

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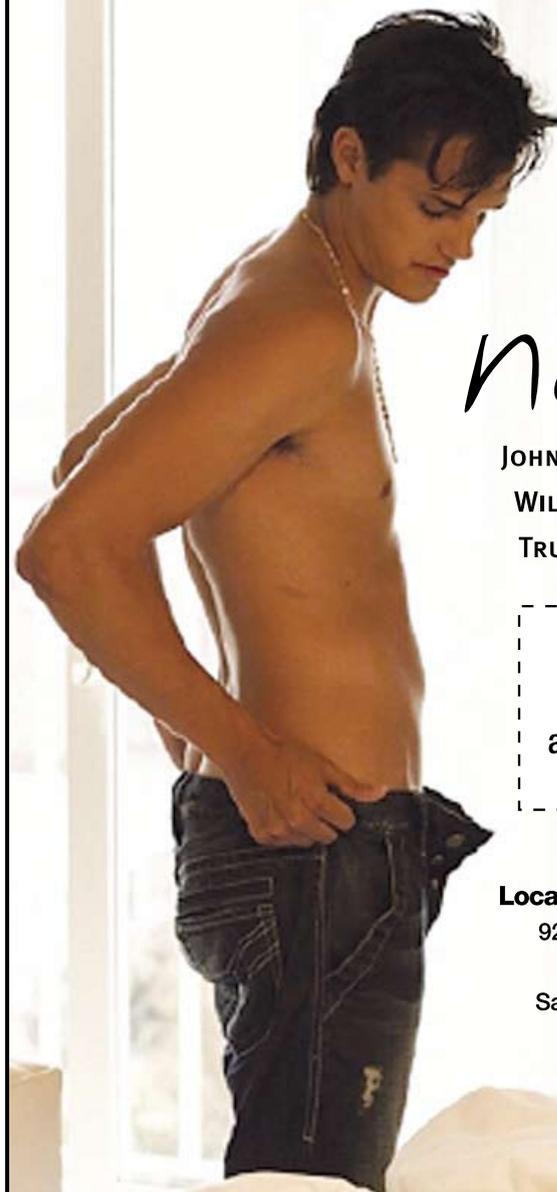
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Double Entendres and the Second Amendment

Hanging out with Portland's Gay Rights Gun Club

by Matt Davis

"Most gun clubs are for men who like John Wayne or Charlton Heston. They're for the pussy, football, and beer crowd," says Pink Pistols member Steve Gilbert, as we're taking a break from shooting on a sunny Saturday afternoon. "The difference is, we're more for the dick, shopping, and champagne crowd."

Gilbert's statement is perhaps the most frank I've ever heard from a gun fanatic connecting shooting and cock, never mind double entendres like "going out with a loaded gun" or offering you the opportunity to "play with my weapon." He's candid and endearing, and I'm beginning to think I might see the point of his bizarre gay rights gun group, after all.

The Portland chapter of the Pink Pistols is one of over 50 similar and loosely affiliated gay rights gun clubs around the country (pinkpistols.org)—and one just started in Canada. For the last two years, 40 or so active members have marched in Portland's Pride Parade, albeit without actually carrying their weapons, thanks to safety concerns expressed by the Portland Police Bureau. Yet to many people, me included, the principles of gay rights and gun rights have always seemed at opposite ends of the political spectrum. I decided to challenge my preconceptions by going along.

EQUAL RIGHTS TO SELF-DEFENSE

Assuming all gay people should be poodle-carrying, cigarette holder-toting Noël Coward look-alikes is hardly politically correct these days, but it was a stretch, even for this left-leaning libertarian, to imagine a bunch of gay blokes shooting guns together without thinking something was out of place.

It turns out I was just being old-fashioned.

I wasn't blind to the homoeroticism in the language or iconography surrounding guns. From Daniel Craig as James Bond to Rock Hudson in *Giant*, not to mention those two handsome cowboys in *Brokeback Mountain*, there's no doubt an excess of masculinity coupled with the image of something hard and powerful stuffed into one's trousers... well, it's always been there. It's just that Western culture (and by that, I really mean "me") has always been more comfortable denying it. Then there's the moral contortionism of the average Portlander (which I sometimes share, but which you might describe as liberal fascism), and which I think is more about being closed minded when it comes to granting others the right to live as they choose.

"In Portland people want to be liberal, which means they're into the gun-control thing," says Gilbert. "And so gay people are often considered traitors when they're interested in guns."



MATT DAVIS

In other words: Most Portlanders are proud they just elected a gay mayor, but wouldn't be too concerned if our local gun fanatics were lined up against a wall and shot. Which is why I now realize the Pink Pistols are fucking wonderful, because they shoot holes through such narrow mindedness with glee.

The Pink Pistols were started in 2000, after gay journalist Jonathan Rauch suggested on salon.com that gay men should arm themselves following 21-year-old Matthew Shepard's 1998 death by beating in Wyoming.

"There's not a city in America where gay couples can hold hands in public without fear," wrote Rauch. "Gay bashing is a kind of low-level terrorism designed to signal that, whatever the law may say, queers are pathetic and grotesque. Beyond a certain point, therefore, law can't be the answer."

Rauch issued a call to arms, literally, offering an idea he thought would be a better deterrent to gay bashers than bias crime laws. "Homosexuals should embark on organized efforts to become comfortable with guns, learn to use them safely, and carry them. They should set up Pink Pistols task forces, sponsor shooting courses, and help homosexuals get licensed to carry. And they should do it in a way that gets as much publicity as possible," he wrote.

On reflection, I tend to agree with him. But I accept that the Pink Pistols' philosophy isn't for everyone.

SOMEWHERE IN THE TILLAMOOK FOREST

"The point is to show people that all of us believe the world would be a safer place if people knew about firearms and shot firearms," says J.J. Ark, a bisexual systems administrator for a progressive left wing web host on the East Coast, as he's driving me out to a logging road in the Tillamook Forest where we'll be

doing our shooting. Ark is wearing a Pink Pistols T-shirt that says, "Pick on someone your own caliber," and I ask if he feels safer carrying a gun with his concealed handgun license in Portland. He says yes.

"Although you tend to avoid situations where you might have to draw the weapon," he admits. "I'd rather be terrorizing paper targets for the rest of my life."

Ark got his .38 special snub-nosed revolver after being threatened while exiting a TriMet bus in 2000. He'd just sold his Vespa scooter, and decided to take up a "safer hobby," he says—he's never seen anybody get shot, but has witnessed plenty of Vespa accidents.

We met with Gilbert and four other Pink Pistols people at a McDonald's in Beaverton. They were: Mike Bowman, the group's organizer and a notary signing agent, and a guy called Doug who'd prefer not to give his last name, but who is a flirtatious version of Carl Reiner's aging con artist character in *Ocean's Eleven*. Doug brought his son, Mike, along, who in turn brought his girlfriend, Crystal—Pink Pistols is a pansexual organization. "We just want to make sure everyone feels comfortable," says Ark.

Speaking of diversity, I was somewhat surprised in McDonald's when Gilbert whipped out a white cane from under the table.

"I can't see the targets, anyway," he said. "I'm legally blind."

Indeed, he's the second blind man in Oregon with a concealed handgun license. I couldn't wait to get back to Portland and tell everyone I'd been shooting with a gay blind man!

GUN TALK

Once we arrive at our range, we set up a table with an awful lot of guns on it, and some targets, both at close range and about 50 yards away.

"What do we have by way of ear protection?" asks Doug.

"I try not to say muffs in case there's a lesbian around," says Gilbert.

Ark uses duct tape to put up the targets.

"You know trannies use duct tape to tuck it back," says Gilbert.

"They don't use it to shut up, that's for sure," says Ark. "At least not the ones I've known."

At this point I feel like lighting a cigar or something to butch things up, but frankly I disagree with Freud about a cigar sometimes just being a cigar, and besides, I seem to have left my humidor at home. I decide to shoot some guns instead. Doug has brought along his AK-47, painted pink and white, and covered in stickers of pink hearts, butterflies, and flowers. Luckily for my fragile straight ego, it fires just like any heterosexual gun might.

"Well, I saw an AR-15 online with pictures of Hello Kitty on it, and I thought I could do better," he says.

I also shoot a .357 Magnum, a .44 Magnum with a hellish kick (and a modified trigger so sensitive it fires when I fart), and two different shotguns firing cartridges filled with birdshot, buckshot, and slugs. We stop to talk politics: Everyone's voting for Obama. Then Doug gives me the chance to shoot his deer rifle, the noise and kick of which is a very centering experience (as in, it scared the shit out of me).

I shoot Ark's Yugo M-56 rifle, and watch Bowman fire off 20 rounds from a GI combine with a paratrooper stock. I also end up smoking one of Mike's cigarettes, and Doug makes a joke about the Englishman "wanting a fag." Gilbert does a surprisingly good job of hitting all the targets, given that he can't see them. Then it's time to head home.

All in all, once the shooting got started, it felt just like shooting on the range in the basement at the Portland Police Bureau, something I got to experience when I went through the city's Citizen's Police Academy last fall ["Spread 'Em," Feature, Dec 13]. But if I had to choose a bunch of people to hang out with while reloading, I'll be honest: The Pink Pistols would win the contest, hands down. ■



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JASON KINNEY

Laura Calvo Brings it Every Damn Day Meet the 2008 Spirit of Pride Winner

by Catherine Cole

GLBT Caucus, treasurer of the Multnomah County Democrat Party, regional director for the National Stonewall Democrats, and the secretary of the Democratic Party of Oregon's third congressional district—and those are just her more consistent positions. She's active in neighborhood groups, and will volunteer to coordinate a benefit party when the need arises (such as when the Hillary Clinton campaign wanted an event specifically for the gays, and Calvo whipped one together at the Egyptian Room).

And let's just get this out in the open: She's a Latina lesbian transwoman in her 50s. She's also the recipient of this year's Spirit of Pride Award—Pride Northwest's top honor—and is looking forward to riding on the stagecoach during the Pride Parade.

How'd Calvo become such a local leader? Rewind 30-some-odd years to the '70s when she was living full time as a man in her hometown, San Francisco. She finished her high-school diploma at a community college and was attracted to the stability and discipline of law enforcement.

"It'd be something I could cling to," Calvo says. "I was looking outside of myself to identify myself rather than being true to myself."

At the time, she was too young to become a cop and emergency medicine was a

developing field with openings. She quickly became a paramedic and worked during one of the most tumultuous times in San Francisco's history. She operated one of the city's 11 ambulances during the Harvey Milk campaign and was on duty both when he was assassinated and when Dan White was convicted on the "Twinkie defense."

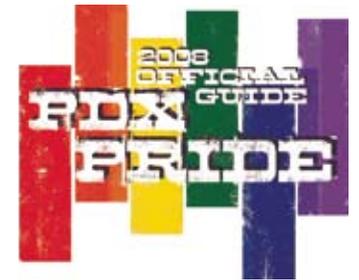
There were massive riots, and things just kept getting more and more crazy on the job, while simultaneously her conflicted feelings of gender identity were becoming more and more pronounced. "I felt like a stretched-out sweater that didn't quite go back to the way it should fit," she says. Her solution was to relocate.

She had a friend who'd moved up to Grants Pass, Oregon, and after visiting him Calvo decided to stay. The Rogue Valley offered the solution she thought she was looking for: peace, quiet, and trees.

She began to build her seemingly perfect life. Within a month of moving, she was hired by the Josephine County Sheriff's Office. Over the next 16 years she kept moving up and up in her job. "I was on the SWAT team; worked in narcotics; I did pretty much everything for the sheriff's office there was for me to do," she pauses and smiles. "I was Deputy of the Year one year."

Despite her professional success, her true identity kept eating away at her. She began to "cope" with it by cross-dressing in secret and went as far as renting a storage unit (in another county, no less) for her female identity. Then the shit hit the fan.

A police dog attacked her (she still has hellacious scars on her leg to prove it) and her storage unit was broken into. Her feminine



belongings were stolen. She was still healing from her accident when her property was recovered. Within that property were some photos and other identifying objects that revealed Calvo's secret femininity. That was enough information for the sheriff's office to determine she was unfit to return to work. She was forced into early retirement in 1995.

The next few years were some of Calvo's lowest. She struggled with depression and alcoholism, and there was no legal recourse for what she had been through.

Then Basic Rights Oregon called. They had heard her story and asked if she'd be interested in testifying in front of the Oregon legislature in support of the antidiscrimination Senate Bill 786.

"That's when I first met her," says Thorpe, "and even though she'd never told her story publicly before, there wasn't a dry eye in the hearing room—she was so powerful and so courageous."

"I was the only transperson who testified," Calvo remembers. That's when the political light really turned on. She recalls thinking to herself: "You know, we really need to get more people involved in this!"

The barn doors were kicked open that day, and haven't closed since.

"I'm advocating for people to respect each other. Every day I wake up and there's more work to be done," she says. On her list of goals right now? Campaigning for Jeff Merkley, spurring "political activism by trans people," and vying to be a delegate at the Democratic National Convention.

And that's how she does it. ■



Bring on the Pride Coaching the Next Generation

by Kathryn Martini

My three daughters didn't choose their lesbian mother—they weren't even born into a lesbian household. My three daughters "came out" as children of a lesbian woman when I came out myself—the girls were seven, nine, and 11—and I was 35. It is safe to say that the western suburbs of Portland are not known for great diversity, and my girls' previous exposure, knowledge, and contact with anyone gay was minimal to none; we had no gay relatives, no gay neighbors, and only one set of gay friends. Despite this obstacle, the girls accepted the news with ease and saw it through the innocent and nonjudgmental lens of modern young ladies.

Our collective coming-out experience did not happen overnight—it was gradual and natural with no drama or sudden realizations that required serious conversations or professional intervention. Only when I became serious about dating my now-wife did it seem appropriate to bring my sexuality into the forefront of their thinking. I would never hide who I was, and I didn't intend on hiding my relationship from my children or anyone else. And the timing was right.

One day, while driving them home from school, I explained to them that I wanted to start dating someone and asked them how they felt about this. I then asked how they would feel if the person I started dating was a woman. They all looked at me with a confused

expression and my oldest daughter answered, "Why would we care about that?" This answer brought more relief than surprise; they needed no coaching—their united attitude was the ultimate example of teamwork.

My relationship grew and soon we discussed blending our family and building a life together—all five of us. My daughters again rose to the occasion, accepting and loving my partner as if she has always been a part of our lives, never once expressing anything but affection and admiration for her. Suddenly, over a short span of time, my children who were once part of a quintessential nuclear, suburban family were now the epitome of divergence.

The context of marriage for them was very normal and they referred to us in this way; I would explain to them that we aren't allowed to get married and why. When it looked as though we would be given the right to domestic partnership in Oregon we were all excited for this recognition of our union and our family. When that was ripped away from us at the 11th hour—we were all ready to stand up in protest.

The five of us trudged down to Terry Schunk Plaza in the cold and in the rain on January 30, 2008 to Rally to Defend Equality. It was game time—and we were there to have our voices heard and our presence known. "My Family Deserves Basic Fairness," stated

our signs; the girls carried them, holding them high and proud for everyone to see. They cheered for equality, they cheered for their lesbian mother, and they cheered for their family and other families like ours.

When our small town faced a middle school controversy—one involving a banned play, in which there was a character presumed to be gay—we were once again called into action. I honestly explained to them the reasons that certain people were bothered by the content. They answered, "That's just stupid." They watched as I did my duty to both of my communities—the suburban community in which I lived and the GLBTQ community to which I belonged. I wrote letters, fielded phone calls, and attended school board meetings in an attempt to bridge the two together.

I almost cried when my daughter, a student at the middle school, came home to tell me that she spoke to the school counselor and asked how she and a few of her friends could start a diversity group. Since then, support has come in from many organizations, including Portland Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays and Oregon Safe Schools to help start a Gay-Straight Alliance in Sherwood. My daughter will have a lot of strength behind her when the time comes to fight the next battle.

It has never been my goal to turn my three daughters into activists, but it has always been



KATHRYN MARTINI

my goal to teach them to think critically and stand up for the values of acceptance, kindness, justice, and equality. I attempt to guide them to information while acknowledging my bias in order to give them the opportunity to decide what their young minds are able to discern. Sometimes my bias is very heavy and very loud—but my respect for them and their individual thinking is just as fervent.

Whether we realize it or not, we are all examples to the next generation; they observe us and assimilate our teaching. They watch what we say and what we do, our tone and the manner in which we perform, our kindness to others and how we stand for what is just and what is right. They are being trained for the games that will be played in the next season.

We are coaching the cheerleaders of the future, and in their cheering us, we see a better world. ■



GILT

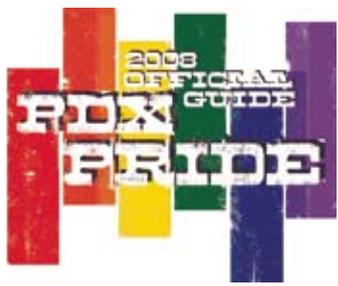


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The Anti-Gay Squad Will Oregon's Haters Show Some Pride?

by Bryan Boyd

As Portland's gay pride festivities loom on the horizon, and a large portion of our community plans to come together—be it only for a few days—what about Oregon's anti-gay crowd? What are their plans for Pride?

"I respectfully decline the offer to be interviewed for your publication," Representative Kim Thatcher, co-sponsor of an initiative that would repeal Oregon's new anti-discrimination law, wrote in response to my email inquiry.

After many attempts to talk to those in charge of recent efforts to deny essential humanity to Oregon's GLBT folks, no calls were returned, so we're left to speculate on the whereabouts of the anti-gay cheerleaders during Pride. My best guess is they'll be at church on that fine Sunday. (Though with all the gays at Pride, one has to wonder who will be singing in their choirs.)

While I can pretty much promise we won't see the likes of anti-gay spearheads like former State Senator Marilyn Shannon or Restore America's David Crowe at the waterfront, you never know. After all, their number-one individual financial contributor, Glenn Zirkle, said, "Every time my life brushes up against someone else's, I have an opportunity to leave the fragrance of Christ."

Pride certainly provides plenty of opportunities to "brush up" against someone. I have a feeling his "fragrance of Christ" smells like Drakar Noir. So if you smell it at Pride, run quick—that may not be the Jesus you had in mind.

Maybe the anti-gay squad will make a surprise appearance on the Fantasy Video float? They seem to have a fanciful notion that they're going to have the chance to rip apart the legal rights of Oregon's gay and lesbian families. With three initiative petitions attempting to put Oregon's domestic partnership and anti-discrimination laws on the November 2008 ballot currently hung up in Oregon's Supreme Court (as



JACK POLLLOCK

the signature-gathering deadline looms), their chances of a queer-free utopia are dwindling each and every day.

When Oregon's gay haters fail at collecting enough signatures yet again, at least they will be in the good company of former Oregon GOP Party Chair Kevin Mannix—who just scored his fifth failed attempt at public office. Maybe then they will get the hint that running on divisive principles simply doesn't fly here in Oregon.

Though my calls and emails to the crazies may have gone unreturned—and those folks may be spending the day at church listening to sermons about the gays destroying civilization, and celebrating exaggerated memoirs from self-loathing so-called ex-gays—we can take comfort in a reminder from Restore America's David Crowe, sent out over his always-good-for-a-laugh email list. He says we gays are in good company with the "Oregon House controlled by Democrats who sold out to the sodomite community [and] embraced the pathetic with indiscriminate compassion." Maybe if we're lucky, Crowe will send us a little email to get our Pride day started right, to go with our cup of coffee and sodomites.

See you all at Pride as we—to paraphrase Crowe—hop aboard "the gay train to moral nowhere." Whoot! Whoot! ■

What Is This "It," Exactly? And Where it Should be Brought

by Dan Savage

Of all the stupid things that have fallen out of George W. Bush's mouth over the last eight years, "Bring 'em on" was perhaps the most idiotic.

When I heard that the theme for this year's Pride festivities in Portland was "Bring it On," I didn't flash on that camp cheerleading movie. I flashed on Bush and the disastrous war in Iraq and all the insurgents that accepted the president's gracious 2003 invitation and brought it. I flashed on Iraq even though you're bringing "it on" over Pride weekend in Portland, and not "em on," as in Baghdad.

Now I realize that serving on the committee that organizes parades and arranges for portapottys and selects themes is a thankless task—I've served on one and I have the emotional scars to prove it—so I don't want to seem like an ingrate or one of those Pride-Sunday-morning quarterbacks. But the theme "Bring it On" is... well, it couldn't possibly have consequences nearly so disastrous as "bring 'em on" (let's hope), but it seems just about as idiotic.

What is this "it," exactly, that we're being encouraged to bring over Pride weekend? Bring our asses back to Pride? Bring our drag queens out into the daylight? Bring our substance abuse problems—the booze, the cigarettes, the drugs—down to the waterfront?

Or is "it" something more?

Pride should be colorful and Pride should be

a party and Pride should be a celebration. But if we've learned anything over the last few decades it should be this: Pride parades, T-shirts, jewelry, windsocks, and flags just aren't enough. Like a Catholic that only makes it to mass on Christmas Eve, the queer that only makes it to the Pride Parade once a year may feel like he's doing his bit, but he isn't.

You wanna bring it, Portland?

You brought it to city hall—congrats, Sam—but you gotta bring it over to Salem and down to California for the gay marriage fight this fall and to the ballot box this November to put an end to the right-wing war on gay and lesbians rights. Then you gotta send some of it—in the form of money and moral support—to the beleaguered queers in Russia, where gays and lesbians can't march without being beaten in the streets, and to Jamaica, where gays and lesbians are lynched with impunity, and to Gambia, where the president is threatening to behead homosexuals (and two Spanish men, accused of being gay, were arrested last weekend).

Pride parades are great—I love 'em, maybe I'll see you there. But let's not fool ourselves: Pride should celebrate the work we did last year and the work we plan to do this year. You want to bring something to Pride? Bring results. Bring your checkbook. Bring a commitment to getting involved.

Are you listening? Will you bring it? ■

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Pride



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FRIDAY, 6/13
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SATURDAY, 6/14
Fez: **90's POP VIDEO Dance Party** Picture this—all the 90's wonders you love to dance to, video beat mixed on 9 foot screens so you can shake it up and shake it down.
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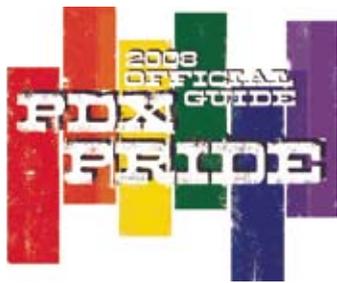
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It's a Gay-Off!

A (Very) Scientific Experiment Answers the Question: Who Is the Most Gayest?

by Will Gardner

In fitting with this year's Pride theme, the *Mercury* decided to have two employees—Editor-in-Chief **Wm. Steven Humphrey** and Office Manager **Brad Buckner**—“bring it.” Who is gayer: Brad, a disheveled homosexual from Lincoln, Nebraska, or Steve, a flamboyant husband (to a lady) and father (not by artificial insemination) from Gadsden, Alabama? Read on...

HYPOTHESIS

Even if you are (like me) an expert on “homosexuality,” a referee enters all contests with preconceived notions about the competitors (as we all witnessed during the 1983 Stanley Cup finals). Thus, since I've known both competitors for years, I figured I had these two fags pegged (so to speak).

Brad, essentially a slob with his untucked shirt and untrimmed goatee, is so not-gay that he's flaming. On the other hand, Steve is so faggy you'd think he'd sprung from Judy Garland's loins. My prediction: Steve is so gay, he's not gay. While Steve is busy pastelling everything from his new Miata to his meticulously mowed ear hair, how can he possibly find time to lick other men's assholes? Thus, I will prove that **Brad** is more of a knob-gobbler.

SCIENTIFIC PROCESS

The competition hinged on four different “events”: a comparison of the participants' record collections, assessments of their workspaces, an evaluation of their (hand-selected) gayest underwear, and a homo quiz. Should a tie arise, the decision would be made via a “Tossed Salad-Off,” officiated, of course, by yours truly.

THE TESTS

With the exception of the homo quiz, very little of the experiment involved interaction with the subjects. Rather, I simply observed their behavior, assessed their surroundings, and scrolled through their iPods.

The first test involved an examination of their music collections. Brad received gayness points on his inclusion of Aimee Mann, Amy Winehouse, Edith Piaf, and Of Montreal. As it turned out, though, Steve swept Brad off his light loafers. Trouncing his adversary by eight gay points, Steve

scored high for Extreme *and* Color Me Badd (not to mention the Backstreet Boys and Alicia Keys). **Current Score: Steve: 1, Brad: 0.**

The following test compared the office spaces of the two. Steve did well in this category, achieving high marks for his posters of Zac Efron and Ashlee Simpson, not to mention a black-and-white photo of himself on his bulletin board. Having painted his office walls a bluish sea-foam ranked high, but it wasn't enough to topple Brad's numbers. Although somewhat disorganized, Brad's space was gay gay gay. Immediately, I noticed three publications: a newspaper folded to bring attention to an ad for the Blue Man Group, a *Portland Monthly* magazine opened to a review of a “wine bistro,” and a Crate & Barrel catalog. Further, a male's phone number tacked to one of his walls *and* a magenta mouse pad on Brad's desk overwhelmed the framed photo of David Hasselhoff behind Steve's desk. **Current Score: Steve: 1, Brad: 1.**

Then came the underwear exam. Brad's collection included briefs from American Apparel—in light blue and dark blue—as well as numerous boxer briefs. Steve, favored in this category, easily triumphed. Not only were all of his pieces tight pastel-y nylon briefs, but featured homoerotic phrases on the front (such as “Home of the Whopper”) and on the back (“Fools Rush In... So Why Don't You?”). **Current Score: Steve: 2, Brad: 1.**

It all came down to the quiz. I formulated a two-part written test, compiled from my vast knowledge of Homo Language and Literature (Vassar College, MA, '74). The first part dealt with traditional gay culture: Cher, Spice Girls, and *America's Next Top Model*. The second, also traditionally gay culture: facial hair, rim jobs, and sports teams. (Turn to page 15 and take the test for yourself!) Damn, this one was a squeaker (or squealer?), coming down to one point. And, with a score of 24 to 23, **Steve** emerged victoriously on this test. Moreover, he extended his lead over Brad in the whole gay scheme of things.

Final Score: Steve: 3, Brad: 1.

CONCLUSION

As it turns out, things *are* how they seem. Steve's limp wrist and his high-pitched twang *do* translate to being more flaming than the Hindenburg. Furthermore, as is commonly known, Steve's über-gayness also translates into his dick being considerably larger than Brad's. In conclusion, although my hypothesis was incorrect, I thankfully never had to endure the “Tossed Salad-Off.” (Unless, of course, the *Mercury's* adorable art director, Mark, would like to participate?) ■



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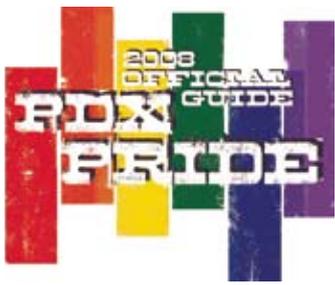
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Queer Quiz

Who is *REALLY* the Gayest of them all?

by Will Gardner

The following test (the same one taken by both Brad and Steve) is in two parts. The first consists of "factual" queries involving subjects that gays should be familiar with. For each, only one answer is correct. The second (also multiple choice) contains questions about your own gay life. No answer in this section is incorrect, though each answer carries a different weight on the faggotry scale. Good luck, you big 'mo!

SECTION ONE

1. Which Cher song contains the following line: "Both sides were against me since the day I was born."

- a. "Dark Lady"
- b. "Gypsies, Tramps, and Thieves"
- c. "Half Breed"
- d. "Just like Jesse James"

2. Which actress has won the fewest Academy Awards?

- a. Glenda Jackson
- b. Shirley MacLaine
- c. Shelley Winters
- d. Jessica Lange

3. Which songstress has more US Billboard number-one singles?

- a. Christina Aguilera
- b. Britney Spears
- c. Kelly Clarkson
- d. Pink

4. Which of these was NEVER named the winner of America's Next Top Model?

- a. Eva
- b. CariDee
- c. Toccara
- d. Yoanna

5. Which Spice Girl is the oldest?

- a. Sporty
- b. Posh
- c. Ginger
- d. Scary

SECTION TWO

1. Which male athletic team is most often in your fantasies?

- a. Football
- b. Basketball
- c. Wrestling
- d. Water polo

2. Which part of the United States are you from?

- a. Northeast/Great Lakes
- b. South/Southeast
- c. Midwest
- d. West

3. Which facial hair pattern most resembles yours?

- a. Gene Shalit
- b. Paul Bunyan
- c. Colonel Sanders
- d. Haley Joel Osment

4. Which cocktail would you most likely order at a bar?

- a. Rum and coke
- b. Jell-O shot
- c. Peppermint patty
- d. Bourbon on the rocks

5. Whose ass would you rather have on/in your face?

- a. Taye Diggs
- b. Forest Whitaker
- c. Leo DiCaprio
- d. Christopher Meloni

6. How many times (since your 20th birthday) has a human male's cock been in your mouth?

- a. Fewer than 10 times
- b. 11-25
- c. 26-50
- d. More than 50

7. Add one point for each time you have attended a figure-skating competition, a cheerleading competition, or a high school musical (when you weren't in high school).

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Scoring Your Queer Quiz!

SECTION ONE
(3) a. four points; b. four points; c. four points; d. four points
(4) a. two points; b. one point; c. four points; d. three points
(5) a. two points; b. four points; c. one point; d. one point
(6) a. one point; b. two points; c. three points; d. four points
(7) This one is self-explanatory.

SECTION TWO
(1) a. three points; b. four points; c. two points; d. one point
(2) a. one point; b. three points; c. four points; d. two points
(3) a. Christina Aguilera. "The Ag" has four US Billboard Hot 100 number one singles (including "Lady Marmalade"); Britney: one; Kelly: one; Pink: zero
(4) c. Toccara. Eva won Cycle Three; CariDee won Cycle Seven; Yoanna won Cycle Two
(5) c. Ginger. Ginger was born in 1972; Posh, 1974; Scary, 1975; Sporty, 1974
(6) a. one point and I'm substantially (though to licking Stanley Tucci's taint. Bourbon on the rocks is what I order and I'm substantially (though not entirely) homosexual. Thus, three points.
(7) a. two points; b. four points; c. one point; d. three points
Obviously, a male water polo team is the hottest to eat Forest Whitaker's ass means that you REALLY like to eat men's asses. DiCaprio's ass isn't really male; an answer of Taye Diggs, though his ass is so sweet, is somewhat predictable (which fags ain't). If there were a "correct" answer to this question, it would most definitely be "d."
(8) a. one point; b. two points; c. three points; d. four points
I originally believed that "c" should earn more than "d." "More than 50" seems to me like the answer of a show-off (which fags ain't). However, "scientific-ity" outweighs "displaced aggression" in this case.
(9) a. one point; b. two points; c. three points; d. four points
repression makes one's sphincter quiver for cock.

2008 OFFICIAL GUIDE

PDX PRIDE

Portland Pride 2008 Information

Parade: Steps off from the North Park Blocks at 11 am, Sunday, June 15. Parade continues east on NW Davis, south on NW and SW Broadway, east on SW Taylor, and north on SW Naito, ending at Tom McCall Waterfront Park.

Grand Marshal: Basic Rights Oregon

Festival Hours: Saturday, June 14, noon to 11 pm; Sunday, June 15, noon to 6 pm.

Entrances: Please enter the festivities at Tom McCall Waterfront Park at SW Pine or under the Morrison Bridge.

Suggested donation: \$5. Donations of non-perishable food items for Our House of Portland are also encouraged.

Smoke-free policy: Smoking is prohibited on the festival grounds, except in designated smoking areas (see the map, below).

Pride Northwest, Inc. Participant Conduct Policy: Pride Northwest, Inc. produces the Lesbian/Gay/Bi/Trans/Queer (LGBTQ) Pride Festival and is the sole permit holder for the festival site from Friday through Monday of Pride Weekend, inclusive. The festival site is Tom McCall Waterfront Park between the Mast and the Morrison Bridge.

Pride Northwest, Inc. endeavors to ensure that all participants may enjoy its celebrations in a safe, welcoming environment. Therefore, all persons at the festival site must observe and maintain the following code of conduct:

- No person shall violate any federal, state, county, or city law, ordinance, rule, or regulation.
- No person shall take, deface, damage, or destroy any personal, private, or public property located at the festival site, other

than their own personal possessions.

- No person shall engage in conduct that disrupts or interferes with the normal operations of the festival, its participants, exhibitors, vendors, performances, or engage in conduct that disturbs volunteers, contractors, participants, or public visitors.
- No person shall engage in conduct that creates unreasonable conduct that consists of loud, boisterous physical behavior; disruptive behavior that causes other participants annoyance or alarm; or the use of abusive, threatening, foul, and/or loud language or gestures.

- No person shall be under the influence of or in possession of illegal or controlled substances at the festival site.
- No person shall bring alcohol into, or onto, the festival site.

- No person shall bring weapons to the festival site.

- Dogs must be restrained by a leash of five feet or less. Animal care is the responsibility of the handler.
- All waste must be properly disposed of in a designated container.

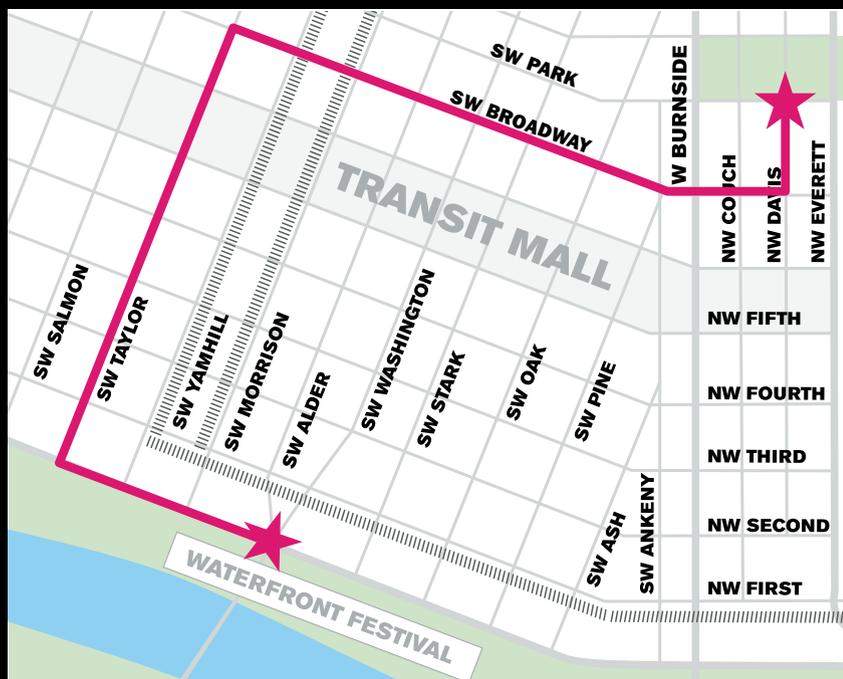
- No sound enhancement or generation devices are allowed except those specifically authorized in writing by Pride Northwest, Inc.

- No person may physically or verbally harass, abuse, threaten, or intimidate another person.

- No person shall refuse to comply with a reasonable directive of Pride Northwest, Inc., its designated volunteers, or authorized contractors.

- We reserve the right to turn away any participant at our discretion.

The Parade Route



Waterfront Map



Waterfront Entertainment



Lady Miss Kier

Best known as the kickass gal in the zip-up catsuit fronting Deee-Lite and belting "Groove Is in the Heart" with wild abandon, the Lady Miss Kier has since built a solid solo career DJing and making club-friendly ass rockers. (And if that ain't enough, she's also a staunch activist, speaking out against the war in Iraq, and sticking up for the environment and gay rights.) Check out her performance at Pride, and marvel at how her sexy clubby dance singles will still make your booty fly into motion. Swear to god, you're gonna gay-gasm! WSH

Scream Club

I'll say it: Scream Club are the original genderqueer hiphop-punk rock duo, whose rough but glam style has since been copied all over the place. But these two—Cindy Wonderful and Sarah Adorable, of Olympia—did it first, and they do it best. "We sound like what would happen if Peaches and Mike D had a love child," as they say themselves, and they are so right. They've spent the spring touring the US; give them a big welcome as they bring it back home to the Northwest. AJR



MAIN STAGE

Saturday, June 14th

12:30-1:30pm	Pet Parade
1:30-1:55pm	Japanese Taiko Band
1:55-2:10pm	Speaker: SMYRC
2:10-3:15pm	Fleetwood Mac Tribute
3:15-3:30pm	Speaker: OUR HOUSE
3:30-4:30pm	Soul Vax
4:30-4:45pm	Speaker: BLACK PRIDE
4:45-5:45pm	Rose City Sirens
5:45-6:00pm	Marcy Kraft as Bette Middler
6:00-7:00pm	The Big Package
7:00-7:15pm	Speaker: Q CENTER
7:15-8:15pm	3 Leg Torso
8:15-8:30pm	Sahara Dunes
8:30-10:00pm	The Lady Miss Kier

EMCEES

12:30-1:30pm	Pet Parade (Emcee TBD)
3:00-6:00pm	Poison Waters
6:00-10:00pm	Courtenay Hameister

Sunday, June 15th

1:00-1:20pm	Portland Gay Men's Chorus
1:20-1:35pm	Speaker: QUEER YOUTH AWARDS
1:35-2:30pm	Kate Neal-Kritik
2:30-2:45pm	Speaker: BASIC RIGHTS OREGON
2:45-3:45pm	Eskimo and Sons
3:45-4:00pm	Speaker: PORTLAND LATINO GAY PRIDE
4:00-4:45pm	Dirty Martini
4:45-5:00pm	Sabel Scities
5:00-6:00pm	Scream Club

EMCEES

1:00-3:00pm	Sossity Chiricuzio
3:00-6:00pm	Sabel Scities

CAFE STAGE

Saturday, June 14th

1:00-2:00pm	Onyx
2:15-3:15pm	Nikki Jauron
3:30-4:30pm	Candy Strippers
4:45-5:45pm	Emily Herring

EMCEES

1:00-5:45pm	Splendor
-------------	----------

Sunday, June 15th

1:00-2:00pm	Ken and Dan
2:15-3:15pm	Ryan Mintz
3:30-4:30pm	Sophie Lux
4:45-5:45pm	Malcolm Rollick

EMCEES

1:00-5:45pm	Splendor
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SPECIAL PRIDE WEEKEND EVENT

Saturday, June 14 | 3-4:30pm | Mega-Bingo with Miss Mylar

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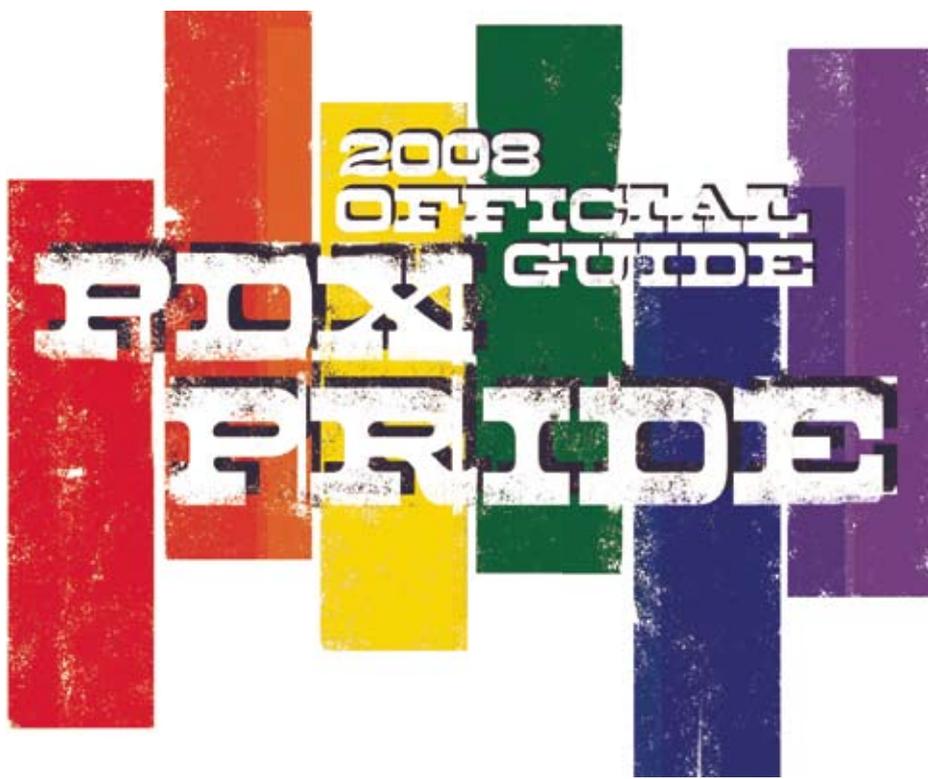
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Pride Festival Entertainment

3 LEG TORSO

(Main Stage) Thanks to a certain god-given endowment, "3 Leg Torso" was my nickname in high school, but it looks like some band ripped it off for their name. (They ripped off my nickname, that is, not, you know... *it*.) According to their website, 3 Leg Torso performs an "eclectic synthesis of chamber music, tango, klezmer, Latin, and world music," and while I know what you're thinking ("Oh, fuck-'eclectic'? Oh, no! 'World music'? SHIT!"), 3 Leg Torso isn't half bad—think of a jazzy sort of Gogol Bordello, minus Eugene Hütz and plus a few bottles of NyQuil, and you're pretty much there. ERIK HENRIKSEN

THE BIG PACKAGE

(Main Stage) If you're looking for a special invitation to open the Big Package—and grind yourself all over it—here it is. So pull that ribbon and tear it open! Jump, jive, and wait to the swing blues of this party band, who hustle and groove original material and cover songs. You'll hear Chicago blues, Latin salsa, vintage swing, and brassy jazz in a retro-minded set that's part sass, part swank, part faux, part fur, and all fabulous. NED LANNAMANN

CANDY STRIPPERS

(Café Stage) According to the internet, the Candy Strippers don't exist. (No MySpace page, guys? Come on!) So your guess is as good as ours. Naughty nurses handing out Red Vines and Kit Kat bars? A girl can dream! AH

COURTENAY HAMEISTER

(Main Stage Emcee) Congrats to the Pride Committee for making Portland's own Courtenay Hameister a main stage emcee. Why? Because she's packing the gay juice, baby! As the delightful host/associate producer/head writer of *Live Wire!*, she not only interviews world-famous guests with wit and aplomb (attributes which gay folk know are a *must*), but she's also an accomplished singer/performer, AND funnier than a dog running down the street with a ham in its mouth (which gay people think is the funniest thing in the world). WM. STEVEN HUMPHREY

DIRTY MARTINI

(Main Stage) "A blissful union of three of the Pacific Northwest's finest singer/songwriters, Lara Michell, Stephanie Schneiderman, and McKinley," Dirty Martini is exactly the sort of band my mom would flip her shit over. A bit of background: My mom likes Billy Joel and Bonnie Raitt and I think I saw her with a Melissa

Etheridge CD at one point, and god, I know that doesn't bode well—WHAT KIND OF UNHOLY TRINITY IS THAT—but when I say my mom would dig Dirty Martini, it's not really a slam. If you gave Aimee Mann a backbone, this is what she might sound like; the best tracks off of their latest album, 2006's *Tea and Revenge* (which was produced by Dave Allen), feel like punchy folk, with smart guitars and harmonized vocals that're at once pretty and intense. They also sell their CDs online, and... oh, shit. When's Mother's Day again? EH

EMILY HERRING

(Café Stage) "Has Country Gone to Hell?" asks Emily Herring, attacking the bible-thumping conservatism that's afflicted not only the current state of country music but of the country in general. Herring twangs, plucks, and warbles like country singers of yore, gun-slingin' her guitar with a clear-headed progressive attitude and the "don't-mess-with-me" swagger of a true outlaw. Her brand of homegrown country pickin' defines America not just for the Red Staters, but for every single one of us. NL

ESKIMO AND SONS

(Main Stage) The delicate, gossamer folk of Eskimo and Sons offers more than initially meets the ear. Danielle Sullivan's vocals are even more crystalline than the Innocence Mission's Karen Peris, and the band's arrangements are inventively varied, allowing each song to gain muscle and potency as it progresses. Exploring emotional, physical, and musical landscapes with subtlety and confidence, Eskimo and Sons are one of Portland's best up-and-coming bands, and their gorgeous music possesses a true sense of hope and adventure—perfect for a celebration that embodies both of those qualities. NL

FLEETWOOD MAC TRIBUTE

(Main Stage) This cover band's success depends on (a) how hot the Stevie Nicks impersonator is and (b) how hot the Stevie Nicks impersonator is. Also, I guess, (c) whether they'll be playing "Stand Back," "Dreams," "Go Your Own Way," "Say You Love Me," "Never Going Back Again," "Rhiannon," "Stop Draggin' My Heart Around," "Gold Dust Woman," and "Landslide." Since this band is more about musical tribute than it is about appearances, there's no actual Stevie Nicks impersonator, hence (a) and (b) are basically fucked. Let's just hope they can pull off (c) without acting like sourpusses. Seriously: No Stevie Nicks impersonator?! Sheesh. MATT DAVIS

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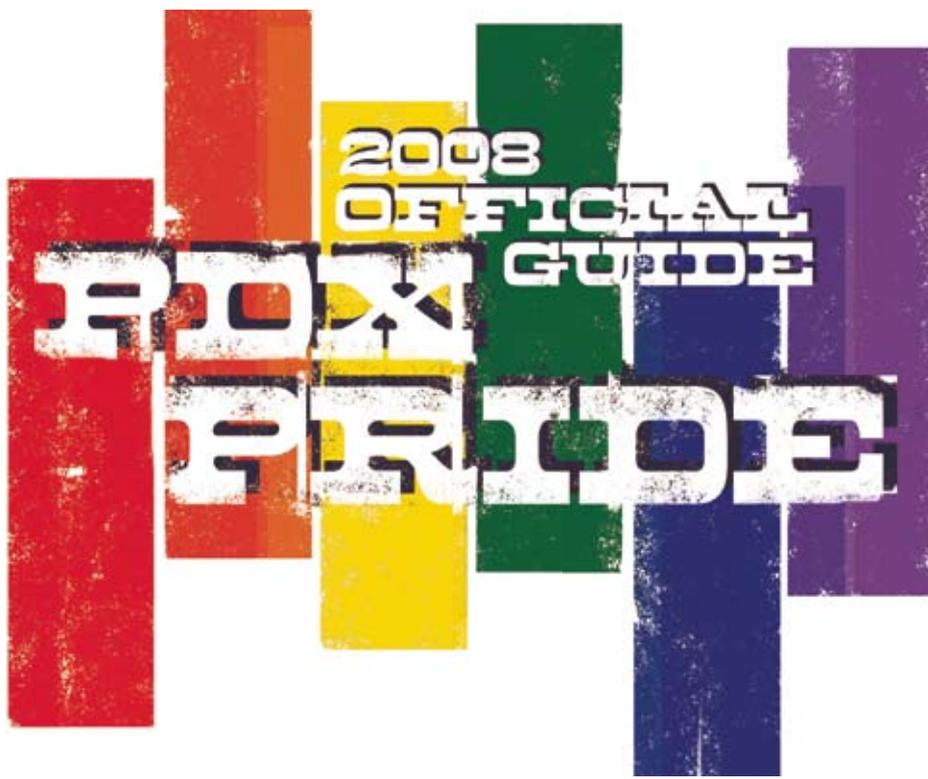
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Pride Festival Entertainment continued...

KEN AND DAN

(Café Stage) Dan Gaynor is a young'un—he's in his late 20s—but that hasn't stopped him from becoming one of the area's most notable jazz pianists. And Ken Ollis has an equally solid rep as a jazz drummer. Both play in the rhythm section of the Portland Jazz Orchestra, and both will be jazzing up (get it?) the Café Stage on Sunday morning, as folks flood in from the parade. Trust me, a little bit of jazz will be soothing after you went clubbing last night, and took that 'mo from out of town home with you (bonus: if that sleepover pal is still on your arm, and you'd rather they weren't, I bet feigning a profound love of jazz will take care of the problem). AMY J. RUIZ

KRITIK

(Main Stage) One of the best things about Pride is all that freaky barrier breaking. Queerness does not recognize fences, whether they are those of gender, sex, race, or genre. That's right—genre. Regard the proud, bombastic Kritik. Hailing from Boise, Idaho, she is a hard-drinkin', rhyme-flowin', lesbian emcee. You might think that would be enough to set Kritik apart, but add on the fact that she is a white emcee and you have a barrier-breaking performer to top all barrier-breaking performers. Her beats are phat, her rhymes are unapologetic, and she's an inspiration for you to break your own damn barriers. PATRICK ALAN COLEMAN

LADY MISS KIER

(Main Stage) See pg. 17

MALCOLM ROLLICK

(Café Stage) Malcolm Rollick is a wearer of silly hats and a player of folk ballads that are nice and un-boring. And she's cute in a way that only folk singers can be cute. DREW GEMMER

MARCY KRAFT-BETTE MIDLER IMPERSONATOR

(Main Stage) The divine Miss Marcy Kraft may be a native of Portland, but she's taken her drag impersonation of the also divine Miss M (Bette Midler) around the world—and even had a seven-year residency in the famed "An Evening at La Cage" in Las Vegas' Riviera Casino. Now she's back in PDX, and knockin' 'em dead at Darcelle XV's on Friday and Saturday nights, but here's your chance to see the drag queen voted "Best Bette Midler Impersonator in Vegas" for free! For those who like their entertainment hot as a firecracker, Marcy will be the wind beneath your wings. WSH

NIKKI JAURON

(Café Stage) Nikki Jauron, AKA Majesty, has been attacking the stages of Portland's queer scene for some time now. Occasionally tearing up the boards, Tom Jones style, as Cayman Dahottness, and sometimes shredding though heartfelt and honest emo-tinted folk-rock, Jauron has everything you'd like to have in a queer performer. Her songs encompass politics, love, and identity with lyrical longing and tons of energy. There's no telling what her performance might entail, but it is sure to be a hell of a lot of fun for everyone. PAC

ONYX

(Café Stage) Not to be confused with the Queens rap outfit that produced *Bacdafucup*, Onyx is in fact a 19-year-old drag performer from Beaverton, specializing in lip-synching and dancing around the place to Lil' Kim, Britney Spears, Shakira, and the like. Our Onyx also boasts flamboyant outfits and a "bob your heads to this, faggots" attitude that would probably make most hiphop artists proud (except, of course, they haven't "reclaimed" the f-word). Bacdafaggotup! Sorry...that doesn't really work. But I hope you can see where Onyx might well be going with it. MD

PET PARADE

(Main Stage) Like Portland residents need another excuse to dress up their pets: Pets on Parade happens the day before the regular parade, and it was huge last year. So bring Fifi on down to the waterfront, where everybody can use that "What kind of dog is he?" line as an excuse to hit on you. DG

POISON WATERS

(Main Stage Emcee) One of the better known (or notorious if you're nasty) drag performers, Poison Waters is Kevin Cook by day, and at night glitters across the city juggling numerous emcee and hosting gigs with regular appearances at that local hallmark of drag cabaret, Darcelle XV, where she is known for being particularly exuberant in her costumes (if you're standing out for your exuberant costumes among drag queens, you are holding it *down*). A familiar fixture at Pride and Peacock in the Park, Poison Waters is said to be responsible for the origin of the old saying, "Everyone west of the Mississippi loves poison." MARJORIE SKINNER

PORTLAND GAY MEN'S CHORUS

(Main Stage) Founded in 1980 and still going strong, the Portland Gay Men's Chorus combines a foundation of social activism and outreach with the harmonious sounds of more than 100 sod-

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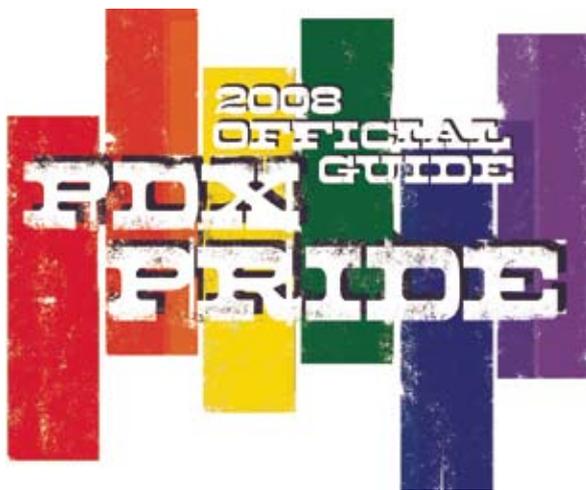
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Pride Festival Entertainment continued...

omites singing in sweet, sweet unison. With a mission statement that pledges to “honor and uplift the gay community and affirm the worth of all people” (including women, who are welcome to participate in the organization), the PGMC is one local institution that well deserves all the love and support P-Town can spare. ALISON HALLETT

PORTLAND TAIKO

(Main Stage) Taiko drums have been revered and beloved in Japan for hundreds of years, and taiko ensembles have flourished worldwide since the 1950s. As to why Portland Taiko is part of this year’s Pride festivities—as they were last year—one can only imagine it’s because the exhilarating, epic beats that only synchronized taiko drumming can provide supply the requisite grandiose enthusiasm for the excitement of being queer! Right? Eh? Anyone? Ah, screw it. I’ll be damned if I know what Portland Taiko’s doing here. All I know is I saw a *Reading Rainbow* once about taiko, and LeVar? He totally seemed to dig it! And I wholeheartedly trust that guy. Hey, speaking of queer pride and LeVar Burton, there’s gotta be some gay fanfic about Geordi La Forge out there somewhere, yeah? Excuse me for a moment. EH

ROSE CITY SIRENS

(Main Stage) The Rose City Sirens are an all-female, all-queer local burlesque troupe who know how to move and aren’t afraid to show a little skin. In fact, they’re not afraid to show a lot of skin. For two years they’ve been heating up the E-Room with their popular choreographed burlesque/vaudeville routines, and tonight they’ll slink, saunter, and strut their way across the Pride main stage. I’m pretty sure it’s okay to stare. AH

RYAN MINTZ

(Café Stage) If Pride starts to get too crazy with all the partying and free love, and you’re feeling like you need some quiet time, head to the café stage for Ryan Mintz, a singer/songwriter out of Boulder, Colorado, whose influences include Jewel, and whose record is titled *Monkeys and Ice Cream*. Awww... actually, some of his songs are quite funny, like my favorite, “Open Relationship” (“You and your open relationship/you’re free and so modern and all that shit”) and other slices of honesty delivered through a voice that is oft compared to that of folkie great Cat Stevens. MS

SABEL SCITIES

(Main Stage) If you frequent the local drag performance scene, there’s a fairly good chance that you’ve come across Sabel Scities, who’s performed frequently at spots like Embers, where her tastes run from Janet Jackson numbers to a particularly energetic routine set to Jimmy James’ “Fashionista.” With a giant plume of bright red hair and frenetic diva dance floor moves, Scities, who aspires to someday be crowned Miss Gay America, knows how to light up the night and get the party started—so if you’re looking for a good time, get in Sabel Scities’ zone. MS

SAHARA DUNES

(Main Stage) Sahara Dunes describes herself as a “burlesque performer,” which means queer stripper, with more feathers and less clothes taken off than the girls at Sassy’s. Dunes generally removes elaborate, Southern-style outfits to the likes of Shirley Bassey, Eartha Kitt, and Amy Winehouse, right down to a pair of nipple tassels. But fear not: She’s crowd friendly, rather than wince inducing, unless you happen to be remarkably prudish. MD

SCREAM CLUB

(Main Stage) See pg. 17

SOPHE LUX

(Café Stage) Sophe Lux’s lead singer Gwyneth Haynes has created a Tim Burtonesque stage persona that can’t help but force people to compare her to the seminal female scarester vocalist, PJ Harvey. Except Haynes is more playful. Scratch that. She’s younger. That’s all I mean. And her band has embraced all the accordion-playing cabaret irony (with synthesizers) of our confused latter years, complete with Nietzsche references and reflections on God. Like PJ Harvey was in the ‘90s, it’s music to stand in front of and smoke and look clever, yet sufficiently fun, fashion-conscious, and self-effacing to possibly have sex with afterward. What a difficult balance for Sophe Lux to strike. MD

SOSSITY CHIRICUZIO

(Main Stage Emcee) Sossity Chircuzio is on top of the scene when it comes to queer Portland. An outspoken lady who is *very* comfortable in leather, she likes to think of herself as a “Diesel Femme,” which is also the name of her one-of-a-kind clothing line. She also hosts and produces an X-rated open mic called Dirty Queer—which should give you a sense of her emcee style. You’ve been warned! DG

SOUL VACCINATION

(Main Stage) Northwest jazz and funk troupe Soul Vaccination are fronted by the awesome powerhouse voice of Jeannine “GiGi” Wiggins, who leads the brassy, swinging band through numbers that mine familiar subject matter (“Love Maker”) as well as more serious modern crises (“Only So Much Oil”). It’s the kind of easily danceable music that has a universal appeal whether you’re busy getting down to the jams or pleasantly swaying to it over a glass of beer. Many of the band members have long resumes in the scene, and their confidence with the material translates to polished live performances that buzz with good vibes. MS

SPLENDORA

(Café Stage Emcee) Splendor was the anarchic front-queen for the Sissyboys before they disbanded last year. But you know that. You also know that watching Splendor emcee is like watching a beautiful car crash: a Mary Kay cosmetics truck repeatedly rear-ending a cement mixer full of glitter. Yeah, something like that. I am equal parts terrified and elated by Splendor. Terrified because I don’t want to fall under the wicked spell of her eyes and elated that I just might give in to her. With Splendor at the microphone, the stage will be on fire. PAC

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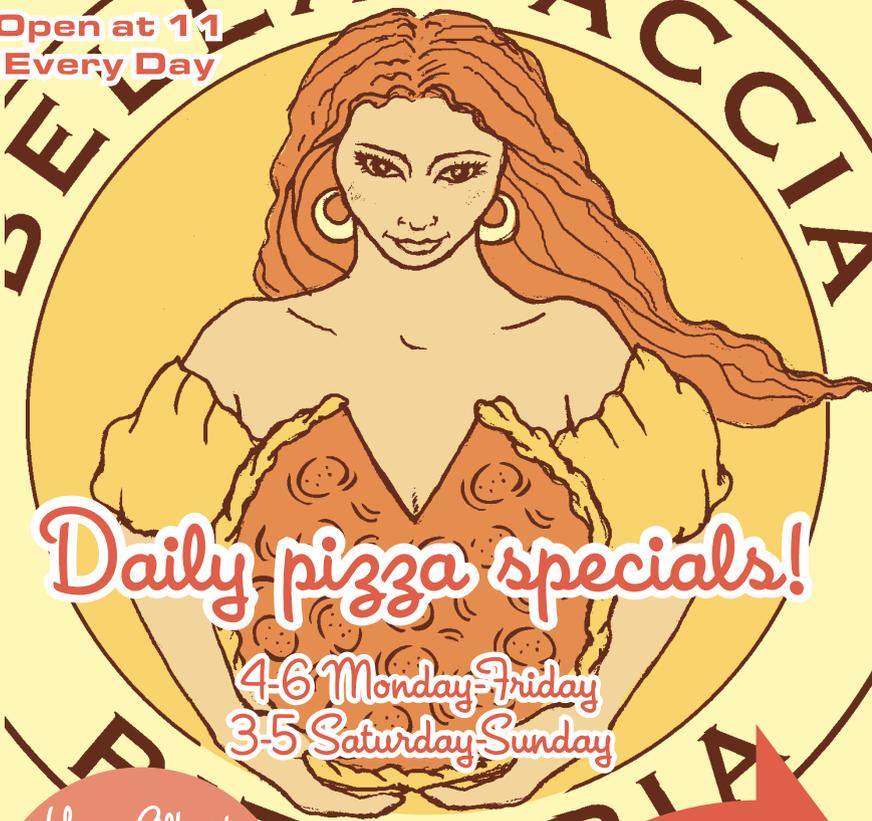
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2008 OFFICIAL GUIDE PDX PRIDE

Other Pride Events

6/5

Portland Latino Gay Pride 2008 Kick-Off

Kicking off Portland's Latino Gay Pride celebration, Dan Guerrero—actor and writer behind the documentary *Lalo Guerrero: The Original Chicano*—is in the house, and will screen his film.

Jupiter Hotel, 800 E Burnside, 7 pm, latinogaypridepdx.com

Queer Bait

A tribute to Siouxsie Sioux, hosted by Splendora and Ignora, “with Fannie Mae Darling at the door.”

Eagle PDX Underground, 27 NW 6th, \$5, portlandeagle.com

Third Annual City Hall Pride Art Show

Featuring artwork by Horace Long, Romaine Harris, Linda Kliewer, Paul Kliewer, Paul Fukui, Max Drake, and Paul Dahlquist. Open to the public.

City Hall, 1221 SW 4th, 5-7 pm, free

6/6

¡Gaytino!

Writer and performer Dan Guerrero brings his autobiographical one-man show to Portland, where he'll take the stage to chronicle his life: “From East LA in the '50s to New York's Great White Way in the '60s and '70s and back to Hollywood.”

Miracle Theatre, 525 SE Stark, 8 pm, \$22-28, 236-7253, latinogaypridepdx.com

Idols and Icons Opening Reception

A collaboration between artists Chris Haberman and Richard Schemmerer.

Q Center, 69 SE Taylor, 6 pm, free, pdxqcenter.org

Papis Dance Party

A “muy caliente” dance party featuring Seattle's DJ Luis spinning latin, hiphop, and dance music. Event organizers instruct you to “wear your papi underwear.”

Boxxes, 1035 SW Stark, 10 pm, latinogaypridepdx.com

6/7

Chicas Who Brunch

A scrumptious champagne brunch, with a Latin flavor, in celebration of Latino Pride.

Crush, 1400 SE Morrison, 11 am, crushbar.com

Gay Pride Pageant

Fez Ballroom, 316 SW 11th, 221-7262 fezballroom.com

¡Gaytino!

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Miracle Theatre, 525 SE Stark, 8 pm, \$22-28, 236-7253, latinogaypridepdx.com

Pleasure Boys

With DJ Nightschool, DJ Girlfriends, and Dee Jay Jack.

Eagle PDX Underground, 27 NW 6th, free, 241-0105, portlandeagle.com

QueerCore Youth Awards

The Pride Foundation and the Equity Foundation honor youth leaders. Plus: food and performances!

Q Center, 69 SE Taylor, 2 pm, free, pdxqcenter.org

SMYRC's Queer Youth Prom

The Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center (SMYRC) annual prom is a don't miss event for the 23-and-under set. This year's theme is “Best of Goodwill”—which means a costume contest, and prizes for the “most outrageous” thrift store ensembles.

Q Center, 69 SE Taylor, 8 pm, 872-9664, smyrc.org

6/8

All-Ages Talent Show

Hosted by Maria and Poison Waters, and benefiting the Audra M. Edwards Scholarship Fund.

Darcelle XV Showplace, 208 NW 3rd, 7 pm, \$5 darcellexv.com

Family Pride

Music, games, crafts, and more—bring a light-colored T-shirt for decorating! This event is free and open to all families!

Q Center, 69 SE Taylor, 2-4 pm, free

Pop Tart

Featuring a set from the Gay Deceivers, plus spinning by DJ Equestrian vs. DJ Automaton (Swan Island). Also, performances by the Rose City Sirens (Portland's favorite all-queer female burlesque troupe) and the River City Riders (the NW's newest drag king troupe), and a guest star performance from Sarah Adorable of Scream Club.

Holocene, 1001 SE Morrison, 7 pm, \$5

Portland Latino Gay Pride Festival

Food, drinks, singers, dancers, and community leaders (and elected officials!) cap off a weekend of Latino Gay Pride. Dance party starts at 8 pm.

Jupiter Hotel, 800 E Burnside, 3 pm, latinogaypridepdx.com

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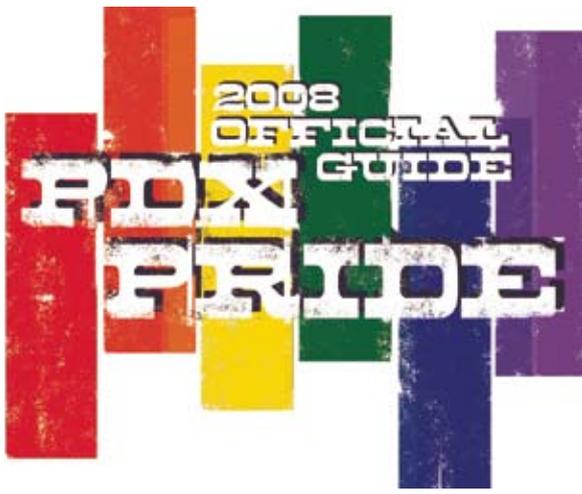
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Other Pride Events continued...

6/9

Gay Skate

Join *Just Out* for a special Pride edition of their monthly skate night. Bonus: Wear your best rainbow-hued gear to compete for prizes. Oaks Park Skating Rink, 1 SE Spokane, 7 pm, \$6 plus two nonperishable food items
justout.com

6/10

Lipstick and Dipstick

Lesbian advice columnists Lipstick and Dipstick (AKA Gina Daggett and Kathy Belge) will read from their *Essential Guide to Lesbian Relationships*. Broadway Books, 1714 NE Broadway, 6 pm, free

6/11

Q Literati!

The kick-off of a new monthly LGBTQ reading series, featuring Marc Acito, author of *Attack of the Theater People*, plus lesbian advice gurus Lipstick and Dipstick (AKA Gina Daggett and Kathy Belge). Q Center, 69 SE Taylor, 7 pm, free, pdxqcenter.org

6/12

Hot Flash Dance Party

Dance party for seasoned lesbians (mid-30s and beyond) and the women who love them! Featuring '70s and '80s music by DJ Lauren, plus oldies and today's best dance music from DJ WildFire. Barracuda, 9 NW 2nd, 3-9 pm, \$8, hotflashdances.com

Shake It!

DJ Brad spins house jams all night at Boxxes, while DJ Catalyst and Jason Wann spin '80s hits next door at Red Cap Garage. Kick off Pride Weekend!

Boxxes, 1035 SW Stark, boxxes.com

Speak Up! Speak Out! Poetry Slam!

Portland's Black Pride kicks off with "Speak Up! Speak Out! Poetry Slam!" The evening will feature a collection of artists from Seattle's Voices Rising and Fire & Ink, including the Lambda Literary Award nominee Marvin K. White. There will also be an open mic, so bring your poetry to share with the audience! Powell's City of Books, 1005 W Burnside, 7-10 pm, \$5 donation

Wig Out!

An evening of coifs, costumes, wine, and dancing, with prizes awarded for "Best Themed Wig," "Biggest Bouffant," and more. Come with your best hairdo, or wigs and accessories are available for purchase at the event from the Lippmann Company. Q Center, 69 SE Taylor, 7-10 pm, free, pdxqcenter.org

6/13

Dirty Queer X-Rated Open Mic

Hosted by Sossity Chiricuzio, this X-rated open mic promises to be dirty. In Other Words, 8 NE Killingsworth, \$1-5, 6:30 pm, dirtyqueer.com

Filthy Friday

Kick off Pride weekend with a dance party featuring DJ Robb, and special guest Jen Folker.

CC Slaughter's, 200 NW 3rd, free, ccslaughterspdx.com

Gaycation

Dance party! Holocene, 1001 SE Morrison, 9 pm, \$3, myspace.com/gaycation

Overflow

Special Pride edition of the weekly hiphop show, with DJs FSO and Adam West. Red Cap Garage, 1035 SW Stark

Pride Kick-Off Party

Pride gear giveaways, and a "brand-new, full-length show" by the Rose City Sirens, sponsored by Babeland. Egyptian Club, 3701 SE Division, 9 pm, \$7-10, eroompx.com

Queer Pressure

Variety show with Splendor and the Gender Fluids, CJ and the Dolls, Burlesquire, DJ Stormy, and more.

Wonder Ballroom, 128 NE Russell, 9 pm, \$10-13

The Well of Horniness

A nine-person, high-camp, low-brow Sapphic murder mystery with one corpse, lusty lesbians, murderous dykes, and mysterious women, in the cliff-hanging style of an old-time radio show. Part soap opera, part dyke noir, all silliness. Wine and pastries at the pre-performance fundraiser! (Fundraiser starts at 7 pm.)

Q Center, 69 SE Taylor, 8 pm, \$10-20

UnderU4Men Fashion Show

Hot fashions! Hot models! Hot hot hot! Invite VIP party starts at 9 pm, general admission at 10 pm. Music by DJ Harmonix.

Boxxes, 1035 SW Stark, 10 pm, boxxes.com

6/14

'90s Pop Video Dance Party

Nine-foot screens and the best booty-shakin' videos from the '90s.

Fez Ballroom, 316 SW 11th

Beach Party '08

DJ Alex Hollywood and Diva Bolivia Carmichaels entertain you for the first night of CC Slaughters' Beach Party Weekend. Plus, it's Cyndi Lauper's *Bring Ya to the Brink* CD release party!

CC Slaughter's, 200 NW 3rd, 9 pm, free, ccslaughterspdx.com

Black Pride Block Party and BBQ

Crush is closing down the street and opening a beer garden to celebrate Black Pride. There will be break dancing, and a performance by Brooklyn's KIN. At 10 pm, the party moves inside, and keeps going all night with Kutz D. Kutz and Seoul Brother #1.

Crush, 1400 SE Morrison, 4 pm, free,

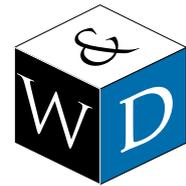
Blowpony

DJ Airick, DJ Kinetic, DJ Darkcloud, DJ Trans-fat, DJ Ehren Adams, and DJ Mr Charming will be "rockin the beats" with punk, disco, new wave, and more.

Eagle PDX Underground, 27 NW 6th, \$3, portlandeagle.com



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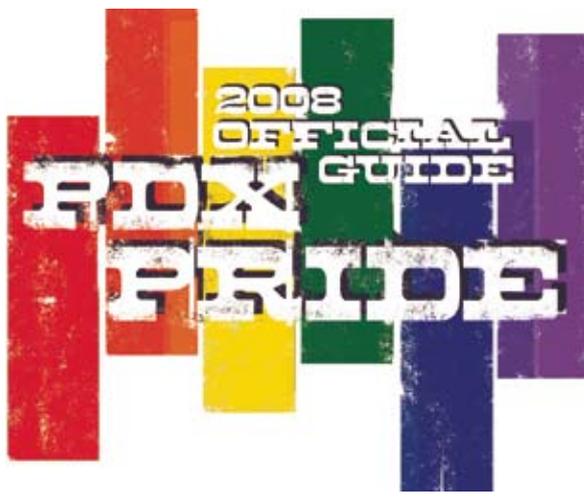
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Other Pride Events continued...

DykeMarch 2008

This one's for the ladies (biological and otherwise): Tonight, dykes flood downtown with banners and noisemakers to show their pride (right alongside the TransMarch). Gather at 6 pm, march starts at 7 pm.

North Park Blocks, NW Park & Davis, 6 pm, free, dykemarchportland.com

Fluid

Hot tracks and hot boys. Featuring Aden and Jordan Jaric and Tyler Saint dancing in the showers while you tear up the dance floor Red Cap Garage, 1035 SW Stark

Gender Bender Variety Show

Performances by E Kings, Rose City Sirens, River City Riders, and Burlesquire.

Egyptian Club, 3701 SE Division, 9 pm, \$5, eroompx.com

Girl4GIRL

The hottest all-woman dance event around. DJ Beyonda, Pride beads, go-go dancers, and more!

Wonder Ballroom, 128 NE Russell, 9 pm, \$10-12, girl4girlseattle.com

L4L.PDX

A non-smoking dance party for the 35-plus lesbian set, with music from the '50s through '80s. Embers, 110 NW Broadway, 5 pm, \$6, home.comcast.net/~l4l.pdx

Mega-Bingo with Miss Mylar

What makes it mega? Food, drinks, giveaways, and "all your favorite safe-sex fare." Men's Wellness Center, 928 SW Stark, 3 pm, 445-7699, cascadeaids.org

Out Like That

Portland Pride's Hottest Party for Women sounds about right—Tribe and Dingo's have put together a "dream tent" party with Vicci Martinez, the Rose City Sirens, DJ Mel, DJ Lady Adie, DJ Keys, Malice, go-go and fire dancers, and more. Plus, check out the Mexican food and the tequila bar.

Jupiter Hotel, 800 E Burnside, 7 pm, \$10-12, 877-800-0004, dingosonline.com/OTT.shtml

Photo Scavenger Hunt

Bring your camera for an outdoor adventure! Prizes and refreshments. Dogs welcome. RSVP to pdxlesbiannet@yahoo.com; check-in starts at 8:30 am.

1000 Acres Park, Sandy River Delta, 9 am, \$10

Platinum Party

Silverado, 318 W 3rd, 224-4493, silveradopdx.com

Pride 2008 Family Fun Run/Walk

Join Portland's most ambitious gays (and their friends) for a morning fun run or walk that loops around downtown's bridges. The fun kicks off at Waterfront Park, under the Morrison Bridge. Participants get a water bottle, a T-shirt, and a post-run breakfast.

Tom McCall Waterfront Park, 1020 SW Naito, 11 am, \$15-25, pridenw.org

Pride Dance 2008

This is "the Big One"! DJs Zita and Nova, Rose City Sirens, Lollipop Karaoke, go-go girls, and breakfast at 2:30 am. The party

doesn't stop until 4 am!

Egyptian Club, 3701 SE Division, 9 pm, \$5-10, eroompx.com

Rose City Softball Association vs. Cops Softball Game & Picnic

A charity softball game with the Rose City Softball All-Stars vs. the Portland Police Bureau.

Farragut Park, N Kerby & Farragut, 11:30 am, \$5 donation, rosecitysoftball.org

Stark Raving Mad

Billed as "The Original Stark Street Block Party," this one is a benefit for the Cascade AIDS Project Men's Wellness Center. Today, check out a BBQ and "Cirque Du SoGay atmosphere," with DJ Duane, DJ Robb, and Jen Folker of Dahlia.

Scandals, 1125 SW Stark, 8 pm, scandalspx.com

TransMarch 2008

Now in its second year, the boisterous TransMarch—concurrent with the dyke march—gets ready at 6 pm, and starts marching through downtown at 7 pm.

North Park Blocks, NW Park & Davis, 6 pm

6/15

Beach Party '08 2

An all-day dance party with DJ Alex Hollywood and DJ Robb, featuring Superstar Divas Pride Show at 8 pm.

CC Slaughter's, 200 NW 3rd, 10 am, free, ccslaughterspx.com

Beer Bust

Beer (and grilling) on the patio.

Eagle Portland, 835 N Lombard, 4 pm, eagleportland.com

It's Not Over 'Til I Say It's Over

A post-parade party with a body-painting contest and karaoke!

Egyptian Club, 3701 SE Division, 9 pm, free

Pride Parade Preshow

Watch the parade pass by from Embers' grandstand, and enjoy the "old school parade hostesses."

Embers, 110 NW Broadway, 10:30 am, free, emberspx.net

Stark Raving Mad

Billed as "The Original Stark Street Block Party," this one is a benefit for the Cascade AIDS Project Men's Wellness Center. Today, there's a Stoli Bloody Mary bar, Scandals' Patrick Bunch, Sneakin' Out, and a Pride fetish show.

Scandals, 1125 SW Stark, noon, scandalspx.com

Stark Street Pride Block Party

The party of the year, with Stacey Q, Kevin Aviance, the Wet Spots, the D-Word, Rose City Sirens and Burlesquire dance troupes, FSO DJ, Harmonix, DJE, Seth Hutton with Alvin Black, and your host Heklina of San Francisco's Trannyshack!

Red Cap Garage, 1035 SW Stark, 2 pm, \$5, boxxes.com

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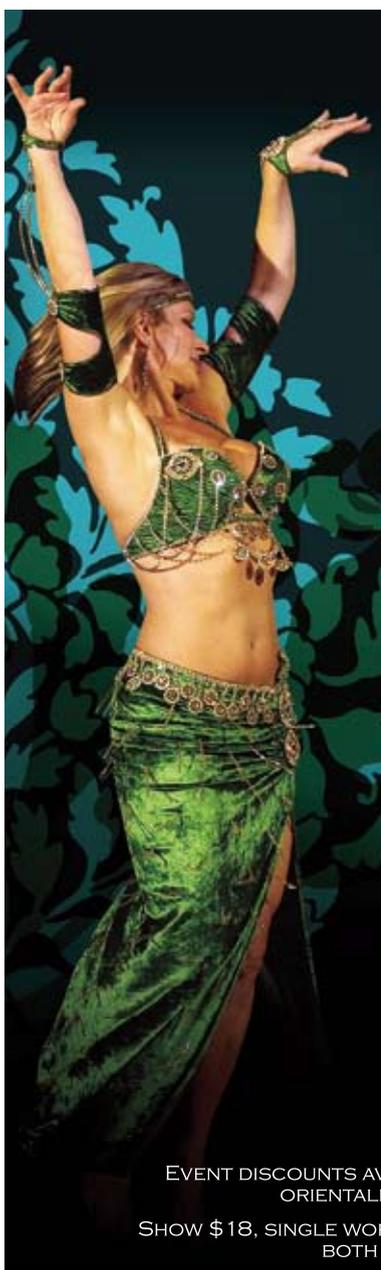
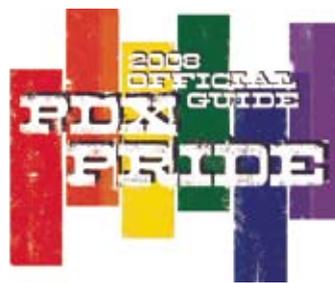
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It's Already Been Broughten

Please Leave Us Alone, Annoying Gay Celebrities

by Erik Henriksen

There was a time when brave, trailblazing gay celebrities introduced the ideals of diversity and tolerance to even the backwoodsiest of big-ots. But let's face it: Thanks to several decades of queer-soaked pop culture, more than a few gay celebrities have worn out their welcomes. (Case in point: Ellen DeGeneres—who once made international headlines by coming out on her sitcom—hasn't made anyone laugh since she wouldn't stop crying about a dog.) We aren't saying these gay celebs need to go back into the closet, exactly, but getting the hell offstage would be a step in the right direction.

George Takei—Lieutenant Sulu was possibly the least useful person on the bridge of the *Enterprise*, a dubious role that George Takei has shamelessly exploited for like 40 years. I mean, at least R2-D2 and C-3PO are still getting work. Takei? He just sits around prank calling William Shatner.

Rosie O'Donnell—I wrote a big explanation for this one before realizing it was totally unnecessary.

Anyone and Everyone from Will & Grace—They say they're not gay. They are.

Rip Taylor—I'll let trusty ol' Wikipedia handle this one for me: "Taylor is known for his high-voiced yells, zany hair (which is a toupee), and bushy handlebar moustache over a perpetual toothy grin. He always enters a venue tossing handfuls of confetti from a paper bag onto his audience and laughing hysterically, while the band plays his theme song, 'Happy Days Are Here Again.'" JESUS FUCKING CHRIST!!!

Cynthia Nixon—Author Chuck Klosterman wrote that every time he tried to watch *Sex and the City*, "all I saw were four peculiar-looking women pretending to talk like gay guys"—a statement that's at once dead-on and kind of confusing, and only got more muddled once Cynthia Nixon came out of the closet. Actually, I should admit something—the only reason Cynthia Nixon's on this list is because I want all the cast members of *Sex and the City* to disappear forever. That's legit, right?

Tila Tequila—I've never even seen this chick's MTV show and still I want to send her off to wherever the hell Downtown Julie Brown currently is.

Steven "Cojo" Cojocar—*Entertainment Tonight's* freakishly Botoxed "fashion consultant" is a Frankensteinian combination of a scalp stolen from Jennifer Aniston and teeth torn from the mouths of four different Osmonds. He also orgasms whenever any C-rate celebrity passes within 20 yards of him. I have an unfortunate habit of throwing my TV out a window anytime "Cojo" darkens its screen; since 2003, I have been forced to buy 247 new televisions.

Albus Dumbledore—The only thing gayer than a gay wizard at a gay magic school is a gay wizard who insists on assembling a gay fellowship of bearish dwarves and twinkish hobbits. (SORT-OF BUT NOT REALLY RELATED DWEEB FACT: Just *pretending* to be Gandalf the Grey turned Ian McKellan gay.)

Larry Craig—Dude, I'm only in here to take a leak. Seriously. *Back off.* ■

Phat Girls

Say Hello to Portland's Coolest Cheer Squad

by Will Gardner

FATASS (Fat Action Troupe Allstar Spirit Squad), a Portland-based group of radical cheerleaders, are unique in the cheerleading arena. No less beautiful than your standard cheer squad (if not more beautiful—I mean, isn't everyone completely over the stereotypical wiry blonde cheerleader?), FATASS certainly aren't run of the mill. Their appearances in *Marie Claire*, *Bust*, and even on German television corroborate that statement. Recently, I spoke with Chelsea Lincoln, who has been with FATASS since its fatass inception, about the group in general—and, of course, *Bring it On*.

MERCURY: Tell me how FATASS began.

CHELSEA LINCOLN: It started in February 2003, shortly before FatGirl Speaks [a size-positive annual event in Portland]. Krissy, one of our members, came up with the idea of cheerleading fat girls. Everyone was really excited about it—you know, it's kind of cliché, the fat girl who wanted to be a cheerleader but wasn't accepted. It's all about "taking back the pom poms" and cheering about fat acceptance.

Is it only women in your group? And only fat women?

It's not that we don't allow men. It just happens to be all women. Even though every person is affected by fat discrimination, women definitely feel it the most. So, the idea of being a fat cheerleader is more appealing to a woman trying to take that power back and cheer about it. Further, all our members identify as fat. We've never had any men or anyone thin approach us to perform, but we do have many fat allies that support us.

Are there any other groups doing what you do, either locally or globally?

I haven't heard of any other troupes starting up after we did. But, at some point, Marilyn

Wann [author of the book *Fat! So?: Because You Don't Have to Apologize for Your Size*] had a cheerleading troupe as well, before FATASS.

What's the queer-to-straight ratio of the group?

At least half the troupe identifies as queer, so there's going to be that natural undertone. Plus, we perform in a lot of queer venues—like when we did the Queer Pride Party at the Meow Meow awhile back. We've also performed at sKeRvY. But we cheer to everyone. In fact, one of my favorite lyrics is in the cheer "Be Progressive": "Let's start a revolution/It's easy if you try/Don't judge yourselves on color/preferences or size!"

That lyric brings together everything we're talking about—not just a movement of fat acceptance, but acceptance of all people.

So, the group is currently on hiatus? What does that mean?

We aren't currently active, but part of what we do is about education. We've appeared in various magazines, on the radio, and even the Rock 'n' Roll Camp for Girls. We want to spread the message of body image not only through our cheers, but also through our words.

Have you ever all gotten together to watch *Bring it On*?

We've talked about it, but never followed through. But we're definitely fans of the movie and quote lines during our practices.

There's definitely a prevalence of lesbian cheerleader porn on the internet. Any thoughts?

(Laughs) Oh, we don't partake in that.

For more information (and more cheers—my favorite being "Gastric Bypass March"), visit fatasspdx.com. ■



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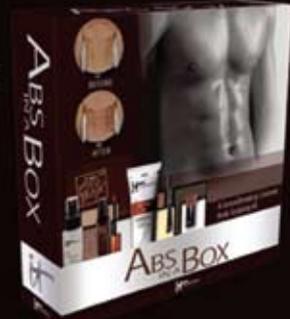
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