

# Seattle Post-Intelligencer

[http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/lifestyle/368569\\_pride27.html](http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/lifestyle/368569_pride27.html)



Expect an array of colorful costumes at the Seattle Pride Parade. Two years ago Leo Quiroz went as an angel. (P-I File / 2006)

## Gay community is all in step with PrideFest

**No competing parades or festivals this year**

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**By MOLLY MULLEN**  
P-I REPORTER

Bring out the balloons, feather boas and colorful costumes. Pride Week is in full swing.

And the highlight of the annual celebration of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community is the Seattle Pride Parade, which starts Sunday at Union Street and Fourth Avenue and proceeds north on Fourth to Denny Way.

The parade will feature 169 organizations, floats and costumes. Gov. Chris Gregoire is one of three grand marshals this year, the first time a sitting governor has marched in the parade, said Troy Campbell, public relations manager for Seattle Out and Proud.

"She has been very helpful to the LGBT community," Campbell said. "Beyond the balloons and banners, this is still a political march, it's still a free-speech march, so it's nice having politicians involved in the parade."

Mayor Greg Nickels also will be there. The other grand marshals are Seattle Storm co-owner (and former deputy mayor) Anne Levinson, and the Safe Schools Coalition.

Sunday's parade starts at 11 a.m. and will be limited to about 2 1/2 hours. After the parade, Seattle PrideFest goes into high gear at Seattle Center, with Nickels scheduled to speak at 1:35 p.m.

Last year, someone celebrating Pride Week had a choice to make. There were competing festivals and parades. Not this year. PrideFest is the only LGBT festival this year, with 150 booths, restaurants, sponsors and thousands of spectators. The festival runs from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Seattle Center's Fisher Green.

This year's theme -- "We're all the same, a little bit different" -- was festival director Egan Orion's attempt at finding commonality among everyone involved.

"I made sure we have a really balanced lineup of entertainment from trans performers, lesbians, gays," he said, "and I'm pretty sure we have bisexuals represented as well."

When he took on the job of director in June 2007, he said he planned on starting small. Last year, the festival drew 15,000 people, and he said the festival space has doubled this year, and perhaps so will the crowd.

"PrideFest has always been an activist- and nonprofit-oriented event," Orion said. "I'm trying to gear it more toward an artists' and cultural event."

The activist attitude remains a large part, with Lifelong AIDS Alliance and other nonprofit organizations filling out some of the 100 booths at Seattle Center, but there also will be arts and crafts, beer gardens and local restaurants offering samples from their menus.

Pride events are held in June to commemorate the Stonewall Rebellion of June 28, 1969, when patrons of the Stonewall Inn in New York City clashed with police.

## PRIDEFEST

Events begin at 10:30 a.m. Friday and continue through the weekend. A parade is at 11 a.m. Sunday on Fourth Avenue from Union Street to Denny. Details: [seattlepride.org](http://seattlepride.org)

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