

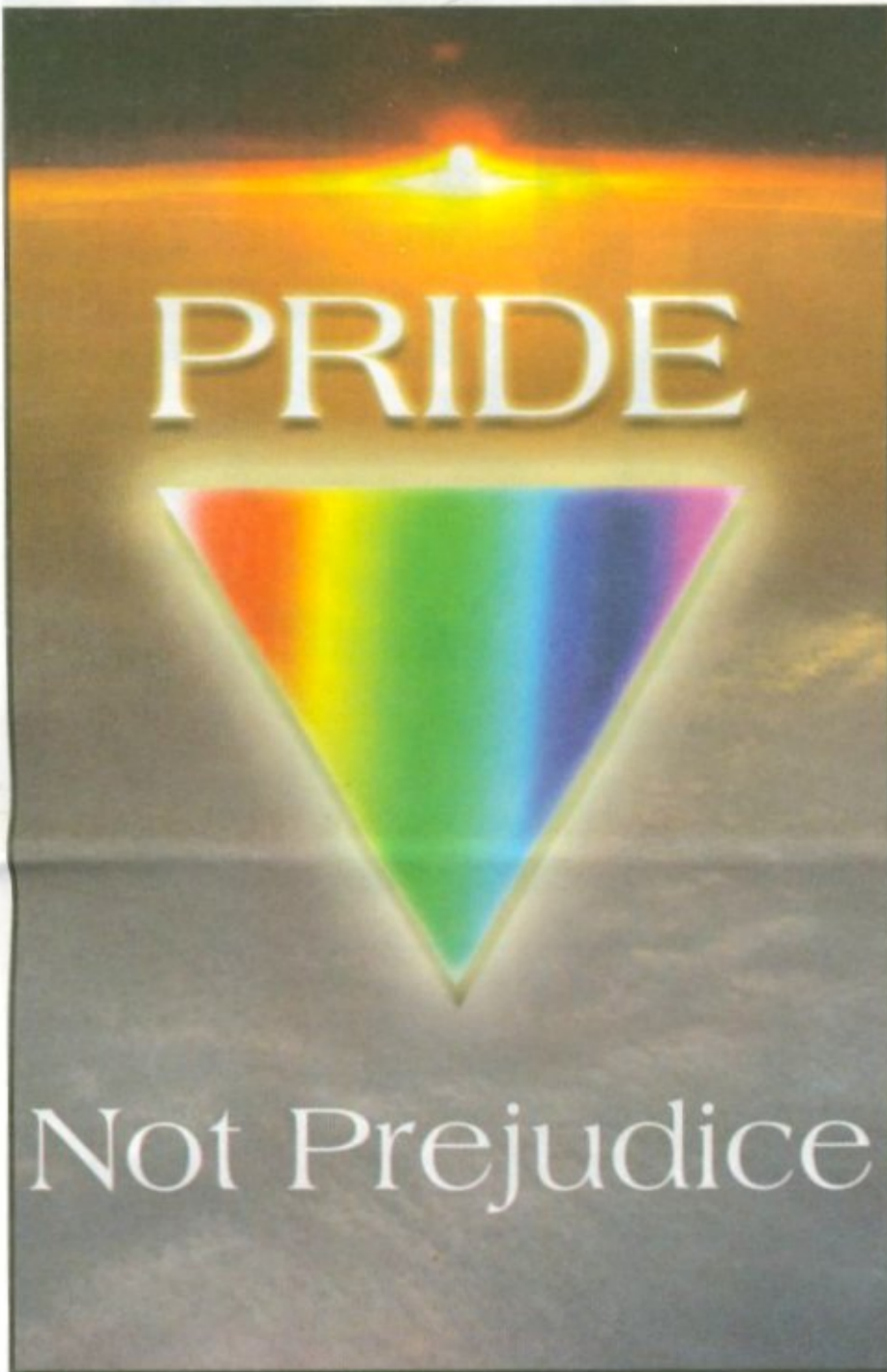
# OUTBOUND NEWS

Wisconsin's LGBT News Source

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**W**ith the announcement of the national pride theme for 2006 "Pride Not

Prejudice," I started thinking about what it meant. Does it mean that we should show pride in spite of all the

prejudices against us? Or does it mean we should show pride and overcome our prejudices within our own ranks? We like to say that we are the most diverse minority group in America, yet we separate ourselves within our own community in so many ways. So how do we overcome these prejudices in our community?

We can start by changing our attitudes towards each other. For example, a disturbing conversation I had this past spring when I was organizing the Pride Parade. I went up to a person whom I thought of as a friend and asked if he was going to participate in the parade. This person claims to be an avid community activist. He told me that he would not have anything to do with the parade because he was ashamed to be put in a group of people he considered to be "FREAKS." I have to tell you, I was taken back by his comment. I thought, how can he judge anyone as being a FREAK?

Another example is when I was informed by members of PrideFest that there are people in our community who will not support the parade unless the parade route is changed to go to the Pridefest grounds. I understand they have the right to their feelings, I feel it is sad that they feel they have to make a choice between supporting PrideFest or the Parade. Why can't we all support both? Both venues are here for the LGBT community.

I thought we were all in this together! So why are we so separated? I wish I had the answers but I don't.

These attitudes are very common among members of the LGBT Community across the country. Our community has so many different lifestyles and we tend to separate ourselves based on what we like or dislike. I understand that we are all different. I understand that we have different interests and backgrounds. But we have to recognize our differences as a community. We cannot judge each other on those differences or we will surely lose our battle for equality. The LGBT community spans every religion, race, age and social background. More than any other minority group. We need to join together and show the world that we as a community can and will overcome these prejudices. So rather you are black, white, hispanic, male, female, transgender, bisexual, jewish, christian, hindu, muslim, rich, poor, democrat or republican. Rather you are into drag, leather, sports, art or rock and roll. You are a vital part of the LGBT community. You are what makes our community great! So let's all celebrate pride 2006 with our heads held high and our minds open to each others lifestyles. We do not have to like everyone we encounter and we may not agree with each others views. But know that we are a strong 10% of America. We will win equal rights if we stand together as one.

We have seven months before the 2006 Pride celebration. Let's make Pride 2006 the year that we, members of the LGBT community, put aside our differences and truly stand proud of who we are. Let's Show our Pride, not our Prejudices in 2006 and beyond.



## PrideFest Retires Debt from 2003

PrideFest held their town hall meeting on October 20th to announce the net income of \$90,000 from the 2005 festival, and the retirement of the debt endured in 2003. About thirty people were in attendance at the meeting. The 2005 town hall meeting was held off until after the audit was completed, but no financial report was made available.

Scott Gunkel, President of PrideFest announced that a new stand-alone Board of Directors of 10 or 12 would be established this year, mostly consisting of

Karen Gotziers, Transition Advisory Development Committee. This was a recommendation that was made in 2003.

In addition it was announced that the Cream City Foundation (C.C.F.) would no longer be acting as fiscal agent for PrideFest now that the debt has been satisfied.

Future plans by the existing PrideFest committee/board is the possibility of merging with the LGBT Community Center to become a 501 C-3 tax-exempt organization.

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**OUR FINAL ISSUE**