

GLBT Pride/Twin Cities



# Pride Release Press

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Gay Pride Boat Cruise & Pageant Next Wednesday, June 16

MINNEAPOLIS, MN - GLBT Pride/Twin Cities, the organizer of the Twin Cities Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual-Transgender Pride Celebration will host the annual Pride Boat Cruise and Pageant next Wednesday, June 16 at Saint Paul's Harriet Island Docks. This will be the first of six major events comprising the 2004 Pride Celebration, and will be followed in subsequent days and weeks by the Pride Picnic @ Como Zoo, Pride Art Show, Pride Block Party featuring The Psychedelic Furs & Sandra Bernhard, the Pride Festival in Loring Park and, finally, the Ashley Rukes GLBT Pride Parade.

Tickets for the Boat Cruise are \$30 and are available online through Pride's website at [tcpride.org](http://tcpride.org), as well as at Amazon Books (4432 Chicago Ave, Mpls), Over the Rainbow (719 North Dale, St. Paul) and Rainbow Road (109 West Grant, Mpls). Both a hot and cold food buffet will be provided as well as several cash bars.

This year's cruise will feature twice the fun, with two boats, the Betsy Northrup and the Anson Northrup. The vessels will be tethered together and traverse the Mississippi River together; guests will be able to pass from boat to boat at will during the cruise.

One of the boats, the Betsy Northrup, will feature the final round of the 2004 Pride Pageant. Contestants have been competing at preliminary rounds throughout the past month to win the right to compete on the cruise. The other boat, the Anson Northrup, will feature a disco with dancing. Each boat will offer a food buffet, one with hot food, the other with cold food. Each boat provides both enclosed and open-air space for socializing and relaxing with friends, new and old. The first deck of each boat will be ADA/wheelchair-accessible.

Boarding will take place at Saint Paul's Harriet Island Docks, just across the Mississippi River from downtown Saint Paul, and will begin at 7:30pm, with an 8:00pm departure time. The cruise will last until approximately 11pm, and follows a scenic route up the Mississippi River along Saint Paul's beautiful bluffs.

Pride President Jim Kelley said, "The boat cruise is three parties in one. If you've been a bit bored and need to get out for some music, mingling and dancing, we've got the disco with a DJ spinning great mixes. Or, if you're looking for a little gender twist, the drag pageant provides wonderful entertainment. With drag being the new 'in' thing, here is your chance to be out in front on the fashion curve. You get big hair, torch songs and

extravagant costumes.” Kelley continued, “If your daily life is just too hectic, take some time out to enjoy the summer with a leisurely cruise on the river. The people are great and you get the scenery of the St. Paul bluffs on a beautiful summer night.”

Celebrating its 32<sup>nd</sup> year in 2004, GLBT Pride/Twin Cities, the organizer of the Twin Cities Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual-Transgender (GLBT) Pride Celebration, began in 1972 with a small group of activists meeting for a picnic in Minneapolis’ Loring Park and a short march down Nicollet Mall. Over the intervening years, the Twin Cities Pride Celebration has grown to be the largest GLBT Pride in the region and 3<sup>rd</sup> largest in the United States, with an estimated combined attendance in excess of 400,000 people at seven events. GLBT Pride/Twin Cities is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization.

It is the mission of GLBT Pride/Twin Cities to commemorate and celebrate our diverse heritage, to inspire the achievement of equality and challenge discrimination.

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