

Time to Design Pride

"Do Ask, Do Tell" Is '97 Pride Fest Theme

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Organizers of Monterey's 1997 Gay Pride Festival are hungry for community input. Festival organizers Scott Steinman and Wes Kashiwagi will be holding a meeting in late-February to discuss what needs to be done and who wants to do it.

Building on Last Year

After the success of last year's festival, Steinman and Kashiwagi were deluged with offers from local lesbians and gays to assist with this year's events.

"We're calling in all of our favors," said Kashiwagi, who was in charge of the march on Lighthouse Ave. "It was a lot of fun last year, and we hope others will join us in '97. I should be a great party."

Attendance at the 1996 festival is estimated at 250 for the march and 800 at the festival and post-festival parties. Costs were covered by sell-

ing drinks donated by the After Dark, booth rentals, cash donations, small fundraisers, and last minute pick-up truck loans. "I'm not going to charge the whole event to my VISA like last year," said Kashiwagi, laughing.

March Meetings

The two-year old Monterey Pride Association (MPA) will meet in March to discuss this year's budget and the details of this year's festival. members voted and approved this year's theme, "Do Ask, Do Tell"—a reference to both the significant gay presence in the military and the continued efforts of community organizers to make our community more visible.

What's Needed

The MPA needs volunteers to assume responsibility for fundraising, applying for city permits, marketing, and rounding up entertainment for the festival.



Monterey's first gay pride march down Lighthouse Ave. in Monterey. Planning for this year's festival begins in March.