



BARON HARRIS/TORONTO STAR

Todd Kirsch and Mandy Goodhandy pose for publicity shots by photographer Adam John. The sex club co-owners agreed to be this year's Pride Parade grand marshals in an effort to mend fences within a queer community divided over a ban on the phrase "Israel Apartheid". Story, 64

about his son Ibrahim, his message of tolerance, and about families dealing with homosexuality.

When Brian Burke burst onto the Toronto scene as president and general manager of the Maple Leafs, those who knew him understood change was coming with him. They can be forgiven if they were thinking "change" would be limited to the team because even Burke didn't see what was in the offing.

Although homosexuality has gone mainstream almost everywhere in North American culture — fashion, music, television and movies — pro sports has remained largely a safe-

BURKE continued on 64

THREE DECADES

Pride and protest



BOB GUTTEN/STAR FILE PHOTO

Toronto's Pride began in 1981, after violent bathhouse raids that winter.



BOB GUTTEN/TORONTO STAR FILE PHOTO

More than 400,000 people attended last year's Pride parade, where participants of all backgrounds were free to display their true colours.



BERNARD LASTER/TORONTO STAR FILE PHOTO

In stark contrast to the 1981 raids, police officers now join in the fun.

Thirty years of celebration, politics, anxiety and activism

PAUL GALLANT
WRITER, *The Star*

In the 1980s, the thought of naked men walking in Toronto's Pride parade made Michael McGarraghy squirm.

He was co-chair of the 1996 and 1997 events, which had grown from

two exposed gay walkies.

"I was completely opposed to it. I felt that male genitalia in the parade did the community a disservice," says McGarraghy. "Now, I know I was totally wrong. Now I admire those men for being so daring."

This year's debate over the participation of the group Queers Against Israel Apartheid (QAI) in the Pride parade is not the first time Toronto queers — and the city they call home — have grappled with what should and should not be in-

In the beginning, homosexuality itself was the prevailing anxiety. For gay and lesbian people to identify themselves as such in the bright light of a summer day — that was enough to make the 1981 Pride celebration thrilling.

That February, Toronto police had raided four bathhouses, arresting more than 500 men and smearing the businesses beyond recognition. Thousands filled the streets in protests during the winter. By summer, a handful of organizers decided that

na Weir, one of the 1986 founders and now a sociology professor at York University. "About 10,000 of us stood outside 52 Division protesting. I was certainly on the political side of things, but it was also nice to sit in a laid-back public space after a year of confinement and non-stop organizing."

If "Gay and Proud" and "No More Stab" were the simple chants of the early years, the messages gradually grew more complex. Participants declared themselves to be mothers,

"die-ins" to the parade, with chalk drawings around bodies on the street representing those who had died of the disease.

"People didn't want the die-ins because they thought it would scare the children," recalls McGarraghy. "But I thought that if they didn't want their children to see that, they could leave them home."

Elio Flanders, a Jewish lesbian filmmaker who is leading the charge against Pride for banning the phrase "Israel Apartheid" from

Pride Week

WORLDWIDE NEWS

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HOMEGROWN STARS TAKE CENTRE STAGE

Toronto's **Jully Black** and
Ivana Santilli are headlining
together on Saturday night, **M6**

MENDING THE RIFT



COMMUNITY

SEXUAL OUTLAWS TO THE FRONT OF THE LINE

Klink and Goodhandy on being Pride grand marshals

Matt Mills

MANDY GOODHANDY AND TODD KLINK, owners of Goodhandy's nightclub, are the 2010 Pride grand marshals. They were runners-up in the grand marshals competition earlier this year and were advised when Alan Li withdrew after Pride Toronto passed a resolution to cancel the term "Toronto apartheid" from this year's parade. Klink and Goodhandy took some heat for stepping in when so many others were pulling out. They started about it with *Strait's* Matt Mills on June 23.

Matt Mills: Do you find you were fighting odds for criticism?

Todd Klink: I guess we could still be, but maybe those who had something to say have already said it. All we're getting now is support. There were some strong voices saying, "You must do this, you must do that." But Facebook is a great medium now because you can communicate with people quite quickly.

Mills: How did you choose the people and groups you decided to march with you?

TK: It's all the events and promoters who are directly involved with the club. It's the Northwood Irish people, the TONY and the people, the burlesque ladies, parties like Sodom and Fifty Gray Party. We're going to be representing the decriminalization of sex work at the very beginning of the parade.

Mandy Goodhandy: Goodhandy's is not just a nightclub, it's a community that's very welcoming. We've been working with sex workers for a long time, and Todd and I are both on-sex workers ourselves. We're 100 percent in favour of decriminalization. It's just about time.

But to what you asked about the criticism, I may end up writing until after the parade until I start slapping people, but I think some people really need to learn what activism means. I didn't like the initial reaction when we were announced as grand marshals — people just jumped to conclusions.



Mandy Goodhandy and Todd Klink are grand marshals of the 2010 Toronto Pride parade. *PHOTO BY MATT MILLS*

Activists don't point fingers at each other. They don't use hateful terms. They certainly make sure they find out where the other people are coming from before they jump.

Todd is out there speaking his opinion constantly, doing articles in newspapers constantly. Nobody has been

more honest. He has the guts to do it. This isn't fair — it's personal.

Mills: There are some who are wondering if Pride Toronto got behind you guys for tactical reasons, as a way to be a community of sexual outlaws. It doesn't have the enthusiasm about in past years.

MK: We never would have accepted in a million years unless we were sure our message was going to get out there. But let's face it, we would never be asked to be Pride Toronto marshals in a million years, otherwise. Everything happens for a reason. This worked out perfectly for our cause. In doing that, we have no intention of ignoring the freedom of speech issue.

Mills: I think there's a distinction to be drawn between the directors and management of Pride Toronto and Pride as an institution. I think you guys made a deliberate, clear — and likely smart — decision to stand behind Pride as an institution, even as Pride Toronto unraveled. Is that a fair assessment?

MK: I think that's a fair assessment. I think that's what it comes down to. When Todd and I were discussing a lot was, Let's get out there and have that parade. The parade has got to go on, otherwise the message doesn't get out there. It's not just about decriminalization, prostitution, but have our community come together and how we've reacted.

Check out Goodhandy's nightclub at goodhandys.com.