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NORTHWEST news

ENDS WELL

Gay Life Health Network's *Tunnel of Love* drew a crowd of 600—a success with no ifs or ands but plenty of butts by Jonathan Kipp

Amid preshow criticism and some trepidation, Rimmo the Clown and Dr. Cornhole did make their scheduled appearance at the *Tunnel of Love* earlier this month at Portland State University.

The safer-sex event, using a circus theme and provocative promotional materials to garner attention, attracted nearly 600 men—double what organizers expected.

Dean Sidwell, a member of Gay Life Health Network, which sponsored the event, says some thought the gathering would be "disgusting and too graphic" and that the event would put "ammunition into the hands of the OCA and other groups."

But the community must do something to help relieve the shame gay men have about their

"Gay men have been asking for more graphic information," Moon says about the controversy surrounding the event.

But some participants didn't see or hear anything they considered new or very provocative.

"It was kind of the same old thing," says Gordon, who attended the event with his partner.

The men, in their 30s, say they attended because they thought the event would be entertaining and "something different" to do. Both were surprised by the size of the crowd, however: "I expected a dozen people," Gordon says.

While the event was planned and staged mainly for gay and bisexual men, many women did attend. During a question-and-answer session, the night's most interesting question was posed by a female. "What are the risks of rim-



With her trusty enema bag, Nurse Loosey (community health nurse Dave Christensen) was rather popular



PHOTOS BY MARTY DAVIS

bodies, he adds. Sidwell thinks talking frankly about sex will help.

Sidwell and other health advocates believe prevention messages have not entirely worked and that, as a result, gay men remain at high risk for HIV transmission. The event's intent was to discuss the pleasures and pitfalls of anal sex and to provide information about prevention of sexually transmitted diseases.

Before the event, Doug Moon, a community health advocate for Multnomah County, passed out packets filled with condoms, lubricants and literature about the services provided by his office.

ming for lesbians?" she inquired. (Her answer did not come until minutes later, when someone insisted that her question be answered.)

Rumors had circulated that the Oregon Citizens Alliance would protest the event, but picketers did not show up. Sidwell says Gay Life was alerted by KOIN television that the OCA had called the station's news department.

PSU's Queers and Allies, which arranged to

Project Quest presents a Healthy Sexuality Workshop for Gay/ Bi Men in Washington County starting in June.

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