

The teachers booked Michael Johnston, described by the group as a former gay man who has AIDS, to speak Oct. 7 at the Portland Conference Center, according to *The Oregonian*. A week later, the newspaper reports, a second workshop will feature a representative from the National Association of Research and Therapy of Homosexuality, an organization that espouses psychological treatment for gays and lesbians.

The teachers insist Portland's schools don't give students the truth about homosexuality. In response, the workshops are designed to provide evidence that homosexuality is a choice and can be changed.

The teachers, also known as the Committee of Concerned Educators, say they have no formal relationship with the Oregon Citizens Alliance, Lon Mabon or the Yes on 9 Campaign. In e-mail correspondence with *Just Out*, the group attempted to clarify its stance:

"We are not asking that anyone participate in any form of therapy. If they wish to try and change their orientation, as many thousands have, they should have the right to do so. They should not censor the studies that demonstrate that change is truly possible. The schools should not censor the scientific studies, as they have, that could demonstrate to schoolchildren who are feeling same-sex attraction that they can indeed change. Everyone needs to know that it has in no way been shown that there is any 'gay gene.' The common myth is that homosexuality is genetically predetermined. This is simply scientifically false. People need to know this, and you should let them know after you have checked out the studies."

The e-mail's author refused to identify him or herself but was speaking on behalf of the group. The teachers, who weeks earlier asked their colleagues to come out of hiding and stand up to the school district, also declined to be interviewed in person by *Just Out*.

Contact the Committee of Concerned Educators at measure9info@yahoo.com.

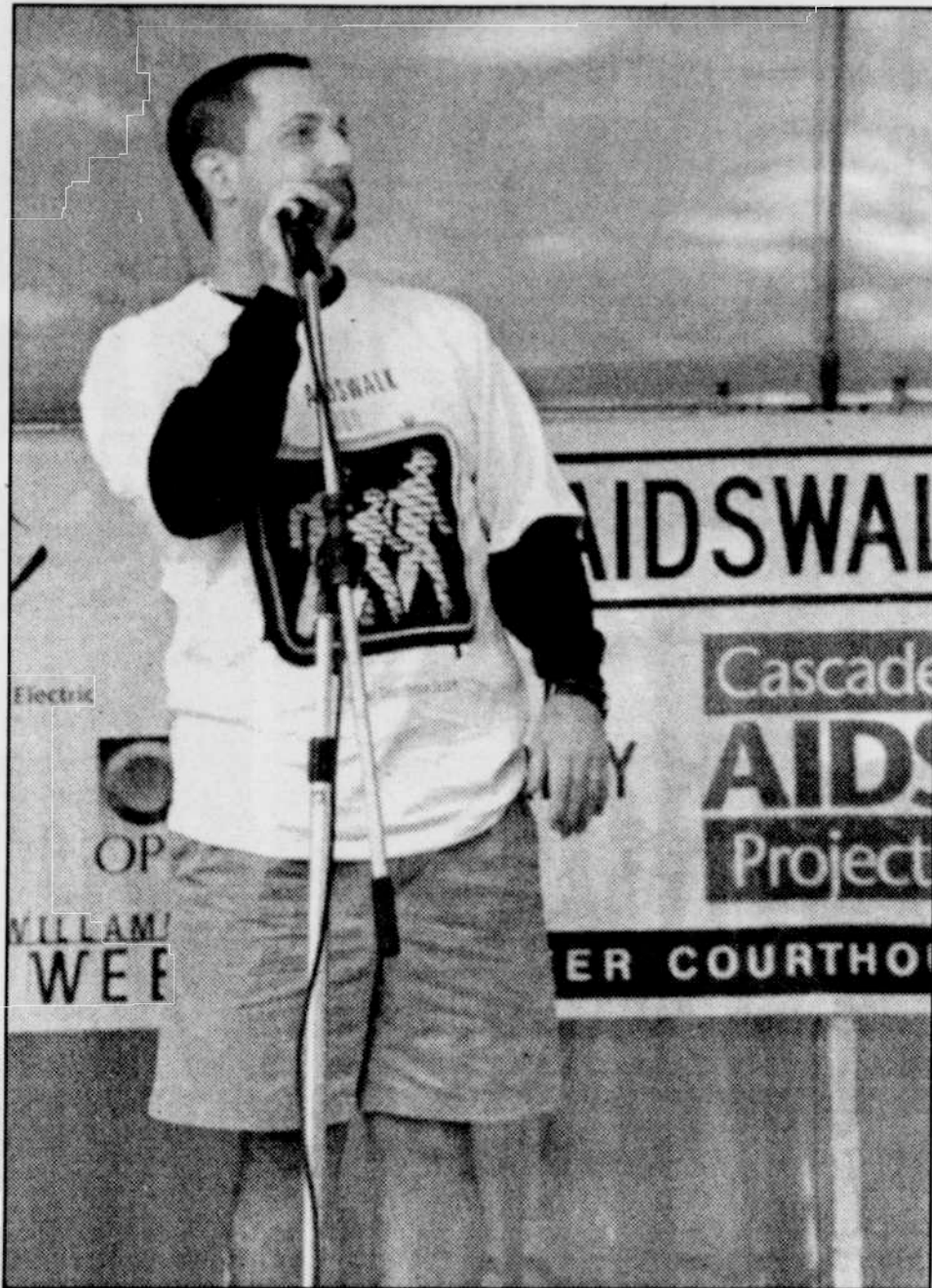
DOMESTIC PARTNER DOCUMENT ACCEPTED AT SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE

Two Portland women used their new domestic partnership registry document to officially change their last name and get new Social Security cards.

Berdell and Casey Moffett-Chaney were the sixth couple to register as domestic partners with Multnomah County. The new registry for unmarried couples, including same-sex partners, was launched Sept. 1.

Although the Social Security office personnel were unsure if their federal colleagues would accept the document as a legal means for changing their name, the Portland office submitted the document. Typically, certificates of marriage or divorce are utilized.

Within one week, the couple received new



Thomas Bruner, Cascade AIDS Project executive director, addresses the crowd during the 14th annual AIDS Walk on Sept. 23 at Pioneer Courthouse Square.

Social Security cards in the mail. "I didn't think it would make that big of a difference to register and change names," Casey Moffett-Chaney said.

But it did change her feelings. "I can't believe how different I feel," she added.

The couple will celebrate their 18th anniversary next spring and will celebrate with a large wedding.

14TH AIDS WALK AN ENORMOUS SUCCESS

Cascade AIDS Project not only raised a lot of money at its 14th annual AIDS Walk on Sept. 23, it set a record.


More than 3,500 people took part in the event. Although CAP's goal was set at \$175,000, a spokesman said \$200,000 in cash and in-kind donations was raised by corporate sponsors, teams and individuals.

The walk's expenses completely were underwritten by 16 corporate sponsors, said Thomas Bruner, the organization's executive director. The 5K and 10K walk started and ended at Portland's Pioneer Courthouse Square, where walkers socialized, visited booths, ate and enjoyed entertainers under sunny skies.

AIDS QUILT ON DISPLAY

The First Congregational United Church of Christ is displaying a portion of the AIDS Memorial Quilt through Oct. 28 at 1126 S.W. Park Ave.

Most of the 128 panels memorialize Portland citizens—among them *Just Out* co-founder Jay Brown. A "memorial banner" from the Portland Gay Men's Chorus also is on display.

The church will be open most days and evenings for the public to view the quilt. However, visitors should call 503-228-7219 to confirm the hours. 

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