

speak out

just asking Will you be participating in Cascade AIDS Project's AIDSWalk02? Why or why not?



PHOTO BY MARTIN DAVIS

No, I will not participate in Cascade AIDS Project's walk because CAP is 95 percent bureaucracy and 5 percent service.

Because I live off Supplemental Security Income, the only service they are able to provide is a \$5 monthly gas certificate. Now in order to qualify for this, I've had to go to several interviews and fill out many forms, and I receive a letter about once a month saying that the transportation program is facing yet more cuts and that I will have to reapply and have yet another interview with the program director—in their newly remodeled office downtown. I've finally just not responded anymore because I assume that every time I walk in the door I am just another number for their very well-kept statistics of how many people they "serve."

So for me, I am not interested in AIDS Inc. CAP Project. As far as I am concerned—and obviously many others in the community—CAP is no longer the organization born in that living room so many years ago. It has crossed the line into becoming more focused on keeping itself alive and being its own entity than being a service to the community it is intended to serve.

CURT KNUDSON
Portland

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I will participate in the walk this year. I am satisfied that Cascade AIDS Project has made significant positive changes for the better since the '90s.

I don't see any other organization of this size holding fund-raisers or offering all the services they do to all people—gay or straight, male or

often and never can get a straight answer. Maybe a not-so-straight answer will explain it better.

APRIL M. LASAGE
Portland

Way to go, Ohio

TO THE EDITOR:

As a gay alumnus of Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio, recent gay-friendly and anti-gay letters to the alumni magazine gave me a renewed interest in my participation in the university.

To my delight I found that there was a small but thriving Gay Straight Alliance on campus and that the majority of the faculty and administration were moderately to enthusiastically in support of this group and its mission. Consequently, I have been asked to serve as the alumni adviser to the GSA, a role I happily accepted. I am writing today to all GLBT newspapers

female. I hope people can see what the important thing is here: It's not just raising money for one organization but also keeping public awareness alive by holding a walk in the middle of downtown Portland.

MIKE BARBER
Portland

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Honestly, I have been in the community for years and never volunteered to help with anything. On Sept. 15 through my firm I walked the Portland Race for the Cure and found it to be a life-affirming event.

I thought if that event could so move me, then AIDSWalk02, which hits closer to home, would be just as life-affirming. Every little bit helps, I figure, so therefore I might as well take part and make my voice heard as well. Act up; fight AIDS.

MICHAEL LAMONT
Portland

next issue Portland Mayor Vera Katz defends her decision to proclaim Leather Pride Week: Are you glad she stuck to her guns, or do you feel she handed Christian conservatives more ammunition to use against us? (Please see related item on Page 7.) Respond at www.justout.com. (Don't forget to include your name, city and daytime telephone number.)

nationwide to invite Wittenberg's gay, lesbian, bi and trans alumni and their friends, family, spouses and partners to this year's homecoming. Ironically, homecoming will be held on and around the weekend of Oct. 11, which is National Coming Out Day! I, along with the help of Wittenberg's administrators, faculty and GSA, will play host to a reception for our gay alumni and their guests in the student union the morning of Oct. 12 before the parade and game festivities.

This is the first time in the history of the university that Wittenberg has openly acknowledged its gay alumni. Please give strong consideration to proudly attending this year's homecoming and our reception, either by yourself or with family and friends. For more information feel free to contact me directly at 800-265-8402 or mriggle@CMRinc.com or visit the Internet site www.FriendsofWittGSA.com.

MALCOLM RIGGLE
Columbus, Ohio

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