



PHOTO BY JIM RADOSTA

Kevin Jennings says Oregon policymakers have failed to give schools the support they need to curb anti-gay bullying and harassment

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• Creating a television public service advertising campaign focused on questions about breast cancer and where to get accurate information.

"This award is a wonderful tribute to the thousands of women and men locally who give their time and dollars to support the Komen mission," affiliate president Tina Foster said. "It inspires us to keep working on this important cause."

The affiliate has organized the Portland Komen Race for the Cure since 1992. This year's fund-raiser will be held Sept. 19, beginning and ending at Waterfront Park.

Team captains can attend a registration kickoff meeting from noon to 1:30 p.m. July 10 at the Old Spaghetti Factory, 730 S.E. 160th Ave. in Vancouver, Wash. Refreshments and door prizes will be provided.

For more information call 503-553-3680 or visit [www.komenoregon.org](http://www.komenoregon.org).

### LEAVING A LEGACY, WITHOUT THE TAXES

Lesbian financial adviser Floreid Walker and her business partner, Greg Look, have a service to offer queer couples that Walker says no one else is doing.

Walker and Look will hold two evening seminars this month to teach same-sex couples how to set up "Stretch IRA" and "Stretch Legacy" accounts that allow money to be transferred tax-free in the event of a domestic partner's death. Recent changes in tax laws make it possible for queer couples to achieve this benefit, which used to apply only to spouses in federally recognized marriages.

"I'm excited...to help our community," Walker told *Just Out*. The 61-year-old has been a financial adviser for nearly two decades. She worked at Waddell & Reed in Portland for 16 years before recently co-founding Willamette Financial Group with colleagues.

The seminars will teach people how to set up their individual retirement accounts so that assets can be passed on, tax-free, to nonspouse beneficiaries such as domestic partners, children and friends. Walker and Look will also instruct people on how to leave nonretirement accounts to these same beneficiaries.

Walker says the seminars will be of interest to legally married same-sex partners as well.

"They may think they automatically have benefits that they don't."

The free seminars will take place from 6 to 7:30 p.m. July 14 and 22 at McMenamins Kennedy School, 5736 N.E. 33rd Ave.

To register call Floreid Walker at 503-445-9390 or Greg Look at 503-566-7266.

### OREGON FLUNKS GLSEN TEST

Oregon has received an F on a scorecard summarizing state laws that ensure the safety of all students, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

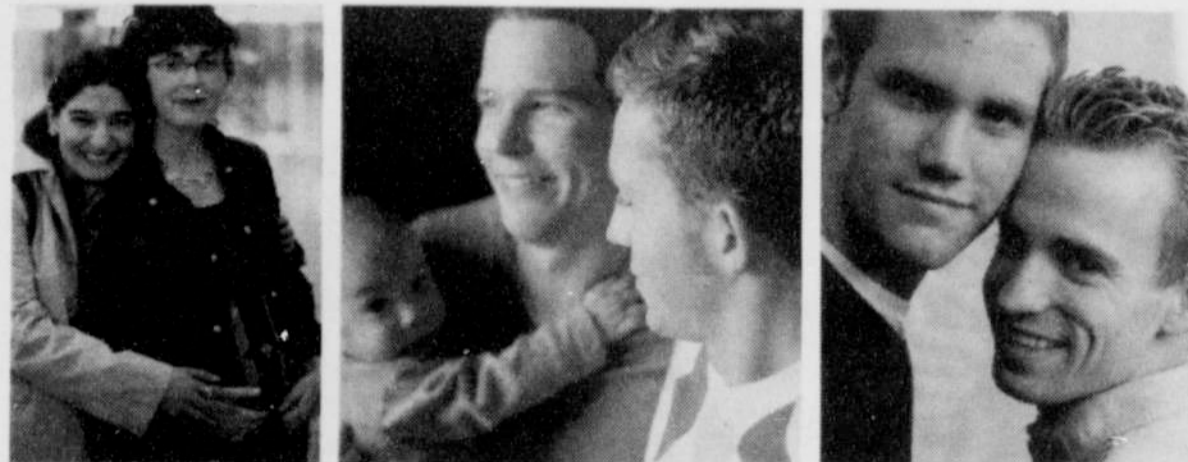
The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network announced the release of the 2004 *State of the States* report June 28. It represents the first systematic measurement and comprehensive analysis of policies affecting school environments for queer students.

Oregon, which ranked 29th, was one of 42 states to receive failing grades in the report. New Jersey was ranked first with a score of 95 and one of only two A's on the list. Mississippi was at the bottom of the list and the only state with fewer than zero points, with a score of -3.

All 50 states and the District of Columbia were given letter grades based on points granted in six categories, including statewide safe schools laws, statewide nondiscrimination laws, support for education on sexual health and sexuality, local safe schools policies, general education issues (student/teacher ratios and graduation rates, for example) and laws stigmatizing queers.

"This report highlights what many safe schools advocates have feared—that our nation's policymakers have failed to give schools the policies and programmatic support they need to change environments where bullying and harassment based on sexual orientation and gender identity are the rule and not the exception," said Kevin Jennings, GLSEN executive director. "In classrooms where 'faggot' is heard more often than the Pledge of Allegiance and 39 percent of LGBT students report being physically assaulted because of their sexual orientation, our schools and the states that govern them are failing." □

Compiled by JIM RADOSTA and MEG DALY



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