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NORTHWEST newsbriefs

PHOTO FLAP FOLLOW-UP

In mid-February, Rick Raymen and Steve Hansen's wedding photo was swiped from *The Portland Tribune's* Web site and used in a high-profile gay-bashing ad designed to drum up support for Social Security privatization. The Portland couple sent a cease-and-desist letter Feb. 28 that was answered in the press by its recipient, USA Next chairman Charlie Jarvis, as a "tempest in a teapot"—although he never addressed the men directly. Apparently, his lack

land homeowners, himself included, who do not have children in public school.

"There are people that have kids and people that don't have kids, and their lifestyles are very different, but that doesn't mean you don't care about what is essential for the future. These kids are your future neighbors, future employees, future people that will marry your nephews and nieces," says Ryan, an uncle of 14.

Ryan has a history of working on issues relevant to the queer community. "Working in gay, lesbian, bisexual civil rights is a big part of my history," he says.

He was formerly the development director of the Bailey-Boushay House, a health care facility for people living with AIDS in Seattle. He served as co-chairman of the Seattle Commission for Lesbians and Gays in the early '90s, when it passed domestic partnership registration.

Ryan also helped launch the Gay Straight Alliance at Roosevelt High School, his alma mater; helped train teachers about homophobia; and facilitated a monthly Freshman Forum discussing topics ranging from academic to social.

According to Ryan, all schools in Oregon face the challenge of securing funding to implement quality curriculum, train teachers and keep school doors open longer.

Other contenders for the Zone 4 seat, which includes Roosevelt and Jefferson neighborhood school clusters, are Steve Buel, a former school

board member and former middle school teacher, and Charles McGee, a 19-year-old Portland State University political science freshman and recent graduate of Franklin High School.

WASHINGTON SUPREME COURT WEIGHS MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Marriage equality was on the agenda for our neighbors to the north when the Washington Supreme Court heard arguments for same-sex marriage March 15.

The sideshow on the courthouse steps featured an estimated 5,000 flag-hating Christians



One year ago, Rick Raymen and Steve Hansen graced the cover of *Just Out* for the "Just Married" issue.

of response was a ploy to buy time. *The Portland Tribune* reported March 4 that USA Next had made below-board attempts to purchase the photo but that the newspaper had refused.

After admission of photo theft by the creator, advertiser and publisher of the ad, Raymen and Hansen announced March 9 that they are suing USA Next and the political consulting firm Mark Montini International for \$25 million. Their four-count suit, filed in federal court in Washington, D.C., alleges that the use of the couple's image without permission constituted an invasion of privacy, was libelous, violated their right of publicity and constituted an intentional infliction of emotional distress.

"Our privacy and personal integrity were violated when our wedding photo was stolen and used to portray us as treasonous, unpatriotic and a threat to American troops," Rick Raymen said. "When we get our judgment, we intend to donate to those who fight the kind of hate and homophobia that USA Next and Montini have demonstrated."

SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE EMERGES

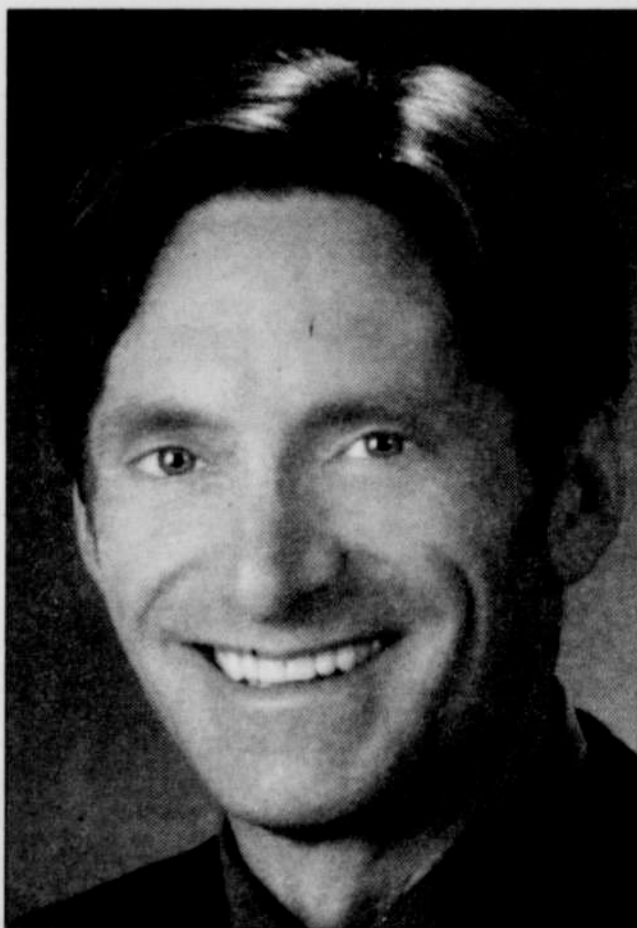
An openly gay candidate is challenging Derry Jackson's Zone 4 seat for the Portland Public Schools board.

Dan Ryan, development director for Portland State University, says the time is right to give back to his community.

"This is the right time for me to serve in this capacity. I have over 18 years of experience working in the nonprofit community, raising hard-earned dollars for critical services such as education and health care," says Ryan, jubilant after scoring an endorsement from former Oregon Gov. Barbara Roberts.

But considering his record of volunteering for various school, queer and health causes, investment in community is nothing new for him.

Ryan is trying to reach the majority of Port-



School board candidate Dan Ryan is reaching out to childless Portlanders who nonetheless care about public schools.