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## northwest

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for people who happen to be gay or care about those issues. The focus has been too small. Black women have cried out for a need," said Simmons, who is a black lesbian.

Simmons said she is excited to expand the political influence of the service organization.

"The real exciting news is we are expanding the organization to deal with more social justice issues pertinent to the LGBT community. We haven't had a PAC of any kind, but we are moving toward social change," said an exhilarated Simmons.

Moch hopes his legacy at the organization will be increasing its visibility as a go-to organization for all things black- and gay-related.

"I'm most proud that the organization is known," he said. "I think people believe that we can do the work that we say we can do."

Moch cited a multitude of the organization's accomplishments, including holding blunt dialogues about racism and homophobia internally and in the larger community, partnering with immigrant communities, speaking at schools and counseling clients with personal problems. Brother to Brother also produces Black Pride in June.

"The organization needed somebody whose life is to be out and who doesn't mind saying what needs to be said, challenging people when there's racism or homophobia going on. They needed someone to be present and active," Moch said. "That's what they hired, that's what they got."

No new programs have been solidified since Simmons began the six-month stint July 23. The board met July 26 to discuss a name change.

### Drag Queens Break World Record

Sunday afternoon at Pioneer Courthouse Square began with a light gray overcast and the occasional bursts of sun rays July 22. A crowd was growing in the core of our queer city's center, and confused onlookers were greeted by the steady arrival of cross-dressing, male-bodied individuals.

Dozens of elegantly dressed drag queens turned the public space into a gala of gender-bending camaraderie.

Participants were spotted hiking up strapless dresses, fixing glittery platinum wigs and adjusting tube-sock breasts.

"Only six more drag queens until we break the

world record" for the longest drag queen chorus line, proclaimed an announcement from the top of the small stage.

Michelle Rose, a blonde in a black dress smoking a cigar, helped raise \$80 from her sponsors to donate to the Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center. She has been dressing in women's clothes since age 5. To her, this event meant greater solidarity in the trans community.

"Wearing a dress does not determine sexual preference," she said. "Many drag queens are actually heterosexual, married men with kids."

Sable Sciticy—a drag queen for two years with eyelashes to die for—was excited about the chorus line. She felt that an event like this only promotes tolerance and hopes this becomes an annual celebration.

The crowd went wild when it was announced that the record had already been broken. This only inspired more men to participate in this rare occasion. Wanting to hold a world record and to assist a worthy cause, they signed up at the registration desk and quickly morphed into their feminine selves at the gender-transformation tent provided.

The highly respected Darcelle XV was the grand marshal of the day's festivities. She delighted everyone by playing with dainty bubbles blowing in the wind and shared stories of Portland's fabulous and daring queer past.

The mistress of this most colorful ceremony was the wonderfully fun Jinx M. Dubois, wearing a deep red corset and a frilly skirt layered in bouncy\*appeal. Jinx has been continually helping SMYRC achieve recognition and support. She hosted Pajamas, Pillow Fights & Pandemonium in May at The Escape and has performed at the resource center's open mike night, held every last Friday. Jinx told *Just Out*, "I am eternally thankful to have been born in a city where an event like this is possible."

When the time arrived for 69 drag queens to form a line, the sun emerged from behind the clouds and illuminated the diverse environment like a spotlight. The chorus line raised \$1,500 for SMYRC.

"Although we did not reach our financial goal, we did break the world record, and everyone involved had a great time," said program manager Jonathan Weedman. "It is my hope that the gay and lesbian community realize how important it is to support our youth and continue to help SMYRC



Men in drag raise money for SMYRC on July 22 at Pioneer Courthouse Square.

MARTY DAVIS