



MARTY DAVIS

recalled an incident on the Yellow MAX line to North Portland where he was taunted by a group of men calling him a "faggot" and harassing him to such a degree he didn't feel he could safely leave the train. After the men left, bystanders were quick to offer sympathy, despite their silence while the incident was taking place.

"What's interesting about both incidents is how many people witness things like that and don't do anything," Forkner said. "All it would have taken is to say something."

Forkner said he was most disturbed by the fact that bystanders on the bridge failed to respond to the attack, which took place while it was still light out.

"After, there was blood everywhere, all over Christopher, our clothes and the pavement," Forkner said. "Several people witnessed the attack—about six skateboarders and several people from on the bridge, looking over. Not a single person helped, yelled 'stop' or called the police."

Nothing could have been further from the truth the following Sunday as LGBTQ folks from all walks of life and their allies gathered to stand up against the violence far too many have experienced personally.

"Holding hands," BRO executive director Jeana Frazzini said at the waterfront, "is an act of love. It's an expression of affection and it's a symbol of faith in another human being. And tonight in this crowd, we're surrounding Brad and Christopher—and everyone who's been the victims of violence and oppression and hateful words because of who they love or who they are—with the love that is Portland, with the love that is Oregon and with the love that we can spread across this city, this state, this nation and the world."



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Frazzini also encouraged attendees to build on the momentum of the night's demonstration and consider getting involved in other ways, such as by volunteering for Q Patrol. Those who were unable to attend the event can still show their support by sending a photo of them holding hands to edominguez@cascadeaids.org to contribute to the "Holding Hands In Solidarity" photo album. ☐

Just Out will continue to follow this story as it develops. Detectives are asking for anyone with information to contact Detective Kevin Warren at 503-823-3761 or Kevin.Warren@portlandoregon.gov. Visit justout.com to view the complete gallery of photos from the event.



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