



Cherrell Edwards of Portland appears on MTV for the network's 'Think HIV' campaign.

## Activist Addresses Health

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ages 25 to 34.

"I'm a consumer, and I haven't found a place that delivers culturally-specific services," Edwards said.

Collective Care Services helps women by referring them to health agencies, education and training workshops, childcare, job skills building and food resources.

She draws on personal experience to help women build their self-esteem and understand the nature of their risks.

"So many times women don't think they're at risk because they are in a monogamous relationship," she said. Often we leave the responsibility up to our partners to protect us, and I think it's important for women to realize sometimes we have to teach our

men. We say 'He'll provide the condom,' but who teaches him how to use it, check the expiration date and when to get another one?"

Collective Care is dedicated to black women, but as Edwards has spent time in the community, especially while filming a documentary over the summer, she has redeveloped the organization to include families.

"I've seen equal needs for women, men and youth," she said.

Forher, educating the black community hinges on a cultural application, and she believes the approach should be rooted in social and spiritual support.

"It starts with the church, a place of refuge," she said. "That is the foundation of the family."

Beyond social help, Edwards provides mental support to indi-

viduals with HIV.

"When a person becomes HIV positive it's easy for them to lose hope," she said.

"Mentally they suffer before they even have physical symptoms. Depression sets in...they don't think they can lead a normal life, and they can. Our goal is to help them become self-sufficient without being dependent on the system."

Edwards is currently operating Collective Care Services out of her home, but she is looking for an office and volunteers to help with recruitment, childcare, literacy skills building, public relations and marketing and administrative work.

You can find more about her program, and contact information, at [www.collectivecareservices.org](http://www.collectivecareservices.org).

## HIV Awareness Weekend at PCC

Eshé means life, and a celebration promoting health in the black community takes place Saturday, Jan. 20 from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 21 at Portland Community College Cascade Campus.

The event location has moved from the Center for Self Enhancement to the PCC Student Services

building.

Participants can engage in a series of free workshops for HIV awareness and prevention and attend health screenings and a teen summit. A complimentary soul food luncheon will be served, with entertainment from the SEI Drum Line.

Ages 13 and up are welcome, and an arts and crafts room will be

available for small children.

Eshé Weekend sponsors include Brother to Brother, African American AIDS Awareness Action Alliance (A6), Multnomah County Health Department, Portland Chapter of the Links, and SEI among many others.

For more information contact M. Yvonne Williams at 503-284-9485.

## Anti-Affirmative Action Group

continued ▲ from Front

not affect their services.

"We set up our program to buffer against this sort of thing," Wolley said.

"We don't have hard numerical target goals, but we have aspirational goals and companies are not penalized if they don't reach certain goals."

David Fidanque is executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon. Fidanque said that because it is so easy to get initiatives on our state ballots, the ACLU has had extensive experience in fighting the interests of wealthy, out of state individuals, including a key player in the American Civil Rights Coalition chairman, Ward Connerly of Sacramento.

"The caution I'd give to Mr. Connerly is to think twice about coming to Oregon," Fidanque said. "Folks who put up big money for initiatives in this past cycle didn't do well, and I'm confident there'd

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be a strong and broad coalition to oppose the type of initiative he has proposed elsewhere."

Fidanque is referring to recently defeated ballot measures that would impose term limits on state legislatures, limit state spending and require parental notification for teenage abortions.

"We haven't won them all," Fidanque said.

"But on this issue we'd look to the business community to step up, and I think they would because they understand importance of having a well-educated and diverse workforce."

When asked about Michigan ballot measure, Fidanque said his ACLU counterparts in that state have not had as much experience fighting out of state initiatives.

There's no question [our experience] puts us in a much stronger position to fend off this kind of attack of policy," he said.

"The clear result of measures in other states has been to increase discrimination against those who are most vulnerable in our society. I think the majority of Oregonians understand when you attack one group, you attack the fabric of this state."

## Firefighters Strong Arm Heckler

Man forced to ground, kicked

(AP)—Firefighters forced a 48-year-old Portland man to the ground and kicked him during a downtown confrontation captured on surveillance tapes.

The tapes, recorded from cameras placed in the lobby of the Fairfield Apartments in southwest Portland, show a tenant, Terry DeGeorge, arguing with firefighters and paramedics before being wrestled to the ground.

While he was being held down by two firefighters and a paramedic,

another firefighter kicked him three times.

DeGeorge said he suffered a swollen wrist, a bruised forearm and abrasions on his face. "It was animalistic behavior," said DeGeorge, whose apartment manager provided him with a copy of the video.

The video does not include sound. Lt. Allen Oswalt, a spokesman for the Portland Fire Bureau, said there would be a more complete picture of what happened if viewers could hear DeGeorge scream profanities.

"He was being very aggressive, in your face kind of stuff," Oswalt

told The Oregonian. "Our firefighters felt threatened."

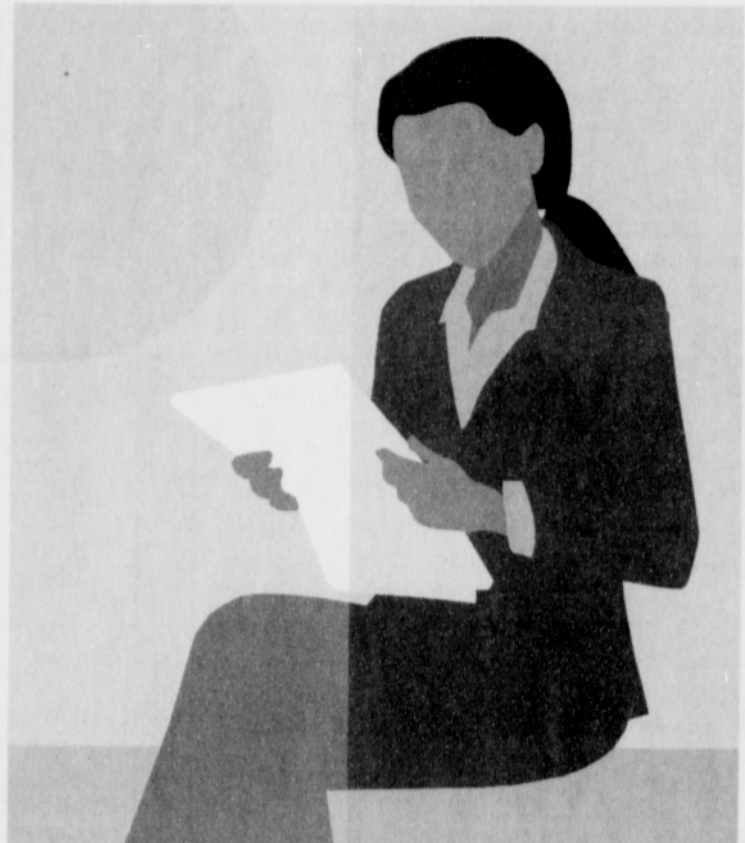
DeGeorge said he was angry because he was awakened by a commotion in the lobby of the apartment that is home to roughly 80 low-income residents.

"I spoke loudly," DeGeorge said. "I was in a negative state. My vibes were not good."

But DeGeorge said firefighters should not have gotten rough. "Two wrongs don't make a right," he said. "Instead of trying to calm me down by talking to me, they jumped me."

DeGeorge said he's not sure if he will file a complaint.


TAKE YOUR SMALL BUSINESS TO THE NEXT LEVEL!



Inspiring in Portland's Future



**Event:** Doing Business with Local Public Agencies  
**Where:** PCC Central Campus, 1626 SE Water Ave, Portland  
**When:** Tuesday, January 23, 2007, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
**Who should attend:** Minority, Women & Emerging Small Business Owners  
**Information:** Greg Wolley, 503.823.6860, [gwwolley@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:gwwolley@ci.portland.or.us)  
**To register:** Gale Hussey, 503.823.5057, [ghussey@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:ghussey@ci.portland.or.us)

Do you drive, ride, walk or bike across the  Bridge?

Help decide your future ride

### Talk with us at an Open House

It is decision time. We're looking for your input on proposed bridge, transit and highway improvements for I-5.

**Wednesday, January 17**  
**5:30 – 7:30 pm**

Battle Ground Police Department  
 507 SW 1st Street  
 Battle Ground, WA  
 C-TRAN Bus #173

**Thursday, January 25**  
**4:30 – 7:30 pm**

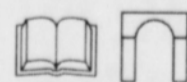
Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs (OAME)  
 4134 N Vancouver Avenue  
 Portland, OR  
 TriMet Bus #40 or #6

**Saturday, January 20**  
**9:30 am – 1:00 pm**

Lincoln Elementary School  
 4200 NW Daniels Street  
 Vancouver, WA  
 C-TRAN Bus #2 Lincoln

**Tuesday, January 30**  
**6:30 pm – 8:30 pm**

Former Hayden Island Yacht Club  
 12050 N. Jantzen Drive  
 Portland, OR  
 TriMet Bus #6



**FUN FOR ALL AGES!** Storytelling by Maureen Pedone on 1/20. Bridge building activities for kids with Sharon Wood Wortman on 1/20, 1/25 and 1/30.

Columbia River CROSSING

WEB [www.ColumbiaRiverCrossing.org](http://www.ColumbiaRiverCrossing.org)  
 PHONE 360-737-2726 or 503-256-2726

Russian, Spanish, Vietnamese and American Sign Language translators are available if requested three business days before each event.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information: Individuals requiring reasonable accommodations may request written material in alternative formats by calling the Columbia River Crossing Project Office at 360-737-2726 or 503-256-2726. For individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, call the Washington State TTY at 1-800-833-6388 or Oregon State TTY at 1-800-735-2900.