Memorial Day Musings

May 25, 2009 By Shawn Decker

The recent issue of Poz features my former AIDS Walk NY rival, Kenneth Cole, on the cover. Ah, last year, it was so much fun fake feuding with him, and this year it was kind of odd not walking the Walk after spending the last few doing so with Team Supersnack.

Don't worry- I'm not giving up on AIDS. It's never given up on me, unfortunately. Anyway, Team Supersnack is gearing up for the AIDS Walk Washington in October. Maybe I'll invite a conservative politician to walk with us, then when they don't respond I'll claim they hate me for having AIDS? I'm sure I'll come up with something to make my fundraising blogs fun to read...

I'm always open to suggestions.

The last two weeks I've been spending my time writing and speaking to area high school students. The last talk is this week, and it's been great getting the word out. I really wish Gwenn and I could speak at high schools the way we do with colleges, outside of the area. It's an issue of funding, schools that are struggling to keep their Music class doors open can't really fly in two people to talk about sex for an hour.

Still, I'm sure there's a way. Bill Gates, if you've been quietly following this blog for years drop me an email.

In some ways, I feel like I have a time clock that's ticking- perhaps it's a youth/relatability concern combined with my own thoughts about how many more years the idea of traveling will appeal to me. Thankfully, none of the concerns have anything to do with my health or commitment to speaking out, and I feel like my best years of educating are ahead of me.

I'm in an interesting position as an educator. I have a history with HIV that holds a lot of educational value- from discrimination (kicked out of elementary school, original godparents bailed) to dating issues and sex. Being a straight dude with a hot, smart HIV educator partner affords a great opportunity to open eyes to safer sex. Basically, I want to do everything I can to get the word out about prevention and compassion for people living with HIV/AIDS.

OK, that was deep. Back to watching Keyboard Cat videos with me. And thank you to all the men and women who have served in the military, and the families that love, miss and support them.

Positively Yours,
Shawn

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