

Qview

northwest
Spokane Edition

Monthly newsmagazine
celebrating diversity
and dances of the
human spirit

**November
2008**

an interview with
Greg Baird

how fluid is
sexual
orientation?

h tales from an
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of
fathers and
daddies

what **Mitch** says

**Charity, Community and
the Court: ISCS**
making a difference



Qview northwest

SPOKANE EDITION
November 2008
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Monthly newsmagazine celebrating
diversity and dances of the human spirit

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About The Cover

Spokane photographer Steve Rodenbough of Northern Exposures Photography captured The Surreal Miss Frigid-Heir, Empress 37, and Tiffany Blaque Surreal, Imperial Crown Princess 37, of the ISCS at his studio on October 25th. They were good sports in posing together, simulating the body movements of gyrating a hula-hoop. Our plan was to graphically superimpose a large gyrating rainbow "Q" for the hula-hoop. However, we opted instead to allow their radiant glamor to shine unencumbered.



an interview with Greg Baird

by Joyce Crosby
photo provided

I hope to open hearts and minds to diversity and acceptance. I always ask people what kind of legacy are you going to leave; how do you want to be remembered?

Gay activist and lecturer Greg Baird has spoken out on behalf of the LGBTQ community at colleges and universities across America. Baird shared his experience in a presentation titled "Hear Me Out! Celebrating Diversity, Acceptance and Community" at Spokane Community College on Wednesday, October 14th.

Baird, a northern Michigan native said of growing up, "I always felt like the odd kid out. I was an overweight kid. The word nigger was used in my house a lot, and there were blond jokes, very republican, not a very liberal family at all. I didn't know anything about 'gay' " Baird said. As a teen Baird felt like he was the only gay person in his community and struggled with how to feel validated.

When Baird attended Central Michigan University he wasn't out yet. There was a club on campus, GLASS, gay lesbian alliance for student support. Baird stated, "I walked back and for the in the hallway out side the door. I was still dealing with my inner homophobia. I would stand out there horribly afraid to walk in." Eventually Baird did join GLASS and came out as a gay man but it wasn't until he taught at Interlock School for the Arts that he began

speaking out about LGBT issues. "I was surprised that there was no GSA for students at the school," Baird said, so he started one.

His first college lecture took place 17 years ago. While working as Director of Resident Life at Northern Michigan College Baird ran a lecture series on campus. It wasn't until he met and was inspired by Jeannie White, the mother of Ryan White who died of AIDS in 1990, that Baird began speaking at other colleges and universities.

The turning point in Baird's life came after a presentation when a student came up to him and thanked him for saving her life. She said that she attended his lecture a year before when her life was falling apart and had been planning to end her life the next day. Baird's lecture inspired her to give up the girlfriend that wasn't good for her, come out to her parents, and gave her hope that she could have a happy life and help others. Baird said, "I have a huge heart. What she said touched me in my soul. I knew what I was supposed to do as a career; to advocate for the gay community; to motivate people to be role models. So I made the decision to move to Chicago in 2003."

Baird was invited by the Spokane Community College Student Activities Council to speak on the subject of hate crimes. SCC Nursing Instructor and advisor for GLOBAL, SCC's gay straight alliance, Laurel Brink stated, "I believe Baird's message is very important in reminding people that hate crimes, like lynchings by the KKK, are not ancient history. It is crucial that we open people's eyes to the sad fact that the LGBT community is at risk and needs allies to fight along with us to defend our rights and liberty."

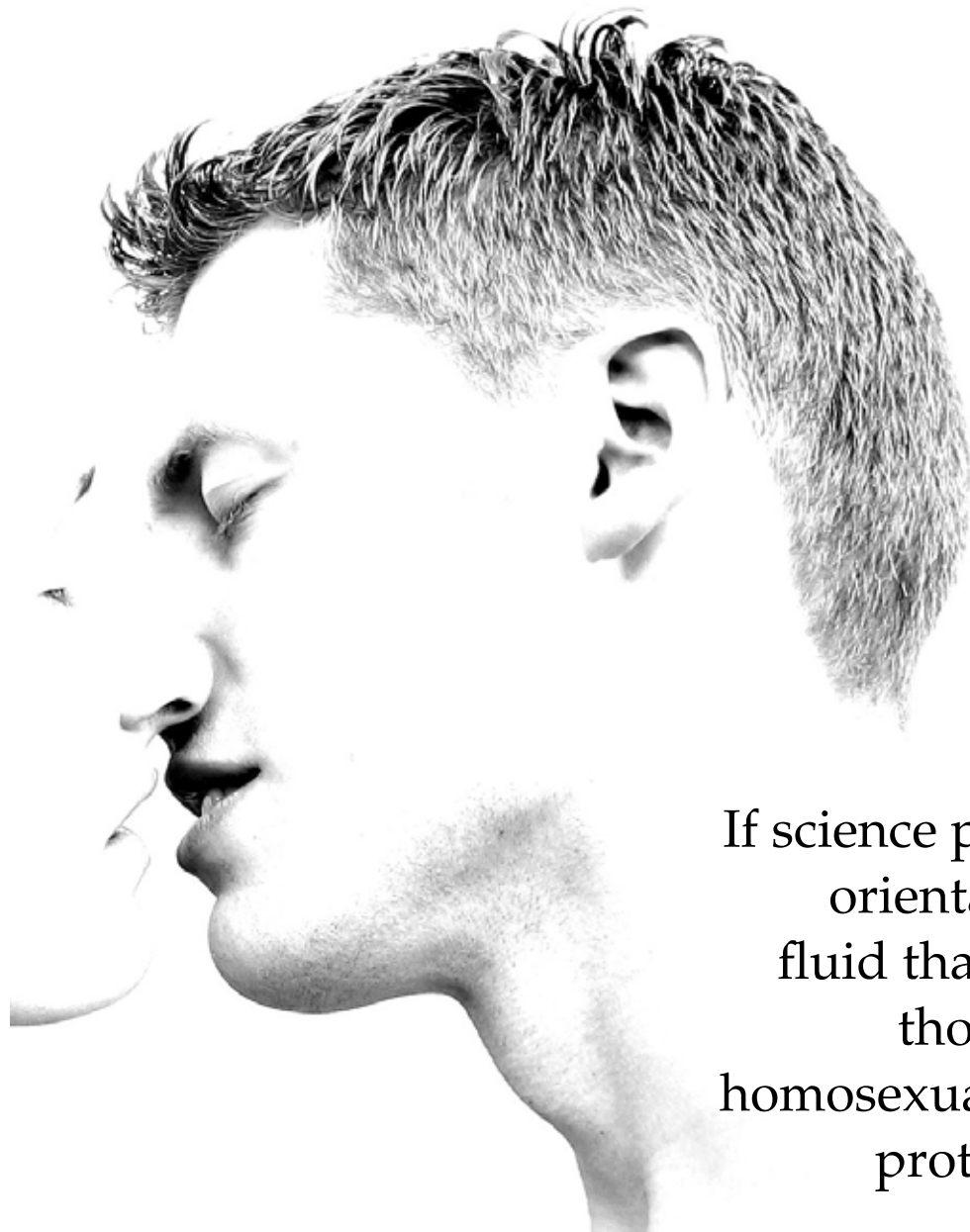
Through his lectures Baird said, "I hope to open hearts and minds to diversity and acceptance. I always ask people what kind of legacy are you going to leave; how do you want to be remembered?" Baird continued, "I don't have to worry about those in the front rows. I have to reach out to those in the back row or those lurking outside the door or parents who have questions. If I motivate one person to be inclusive, not just of gay people but of race, religion, gender, then I have been successful."

Of the approximately 75 people attending his presentation Baird stated, "Many of the audience members had questions after

Baird continued on Page 24

how fluid is sexual orientation?

by Joyce Crosby



If science proves sexual orientation is more fluid than previously thought, should homosexuality still be a protected status?

How important are sexual attraction, desire and love in shaping our identities? How fixed are our sexual identities? How much choice do we really have in establishing our sexual orientation?

According to Laura Asbell PhD., a psychologist practicing in Spokane, with regard to sexual orientation the fact is, "Humans are very complex. We don't know more than we do know."

Most queer people would agree that they did not choose to be gay, lesbian, bi, or trans. "Individuals do not experience sexual orientation as a choice. A person with an ambiguous sexual orientation might make a choice to block their attraction to people one gender or the other," Asbell stated.

However, one of the more interesting aspects of recent sexuality research is the idea of "fluidity" of sexual orientation. Beth House, a social worker in private practice in Spokane stated, "For some people, sexual orientation is continuous and fixed throughout their lives. For others, sexual orientation may be fluid and change over time. One way to think about sexual orientation is as a continuum that ranges from exclusive same-sex attraction to absolute opposite-sex attraction, with many points in between."

In her book *Sexual Fluidity*, University of Utah professor Lisa Diamond writes, "Our identities are not fixed. Falling in love

has always been unpredictable. Attitudes towards lesbian, gay, and bisexual women and men continue to change . . . I want to make it clear that just because some women exhibit fluid sexual attraction, it doesn't mean that sexual orientation is a 'lifestyle choice.' Sexual attraction is certainly not under our control."

"Simplistic" is the word Dr. Asbell used to describe the idea that sexual orientation is either heterosexual or homosexual "There are over 30 genes that play a role in determining gender and sexual orientation. Some are turned on and some are not," Dr. Asbell stated. "There is no such thing as a person who is 100% gay or 100% straight. There is no such thing as 100% male or 100% female. In some individuals sexual orientation is predetermined and strong. Most people fall somewhere on a continuum of flexibility that varies from time to time."

There is compelling evidence that choice does play a role in some expression of homosexuality. "Homosexuality carries a greater social stigma for men, so if they can overpower it, they do," Asbell said. In her experience, "Men who are in homosexual relationships identify as bisexual or gay. Women in same sex relationships are more likely to see themselves as straight, but in love with a

woman. You don't see that in men."

"As we mature, we explore and become comfortable with ourselves. We are able to see shades of gray. We become more self-accepting and more honest. Some men may have blocked their feelings. When they get older they may let gay or transgender feelings come into awareness, but those feelings were always there."

The gay rights movement has largely been based on the notion that homosexuality is innate. Many LGBTQ people feel that finding a gay gene or series of gay genes, might diminish homophobia because they feel that less discrimination and prejudice will result if their orientation is genetic or biologically determined – in essence, not a choice. However, this is a misconception. Proving biologic predetermination and that sexual orientation is fixed for a lifetime, will not guarantee society will "grant" us the rights we deserve.

Racism didn't stop even though we know that skin color is genetic. We know that sex is genetic, but misogyny still exists. Why shouldn't people's choices about whom they love and how they live their lives be respected just

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Charity, Community and the Court: **ISCS** making a difference



Megan from Canada performs in the Out Of Town show at Dempsey's Brass Rail Friday night, October 10th. The show is among various events traditionally encompassing the annual ISCS Coronation.

Photo by Dr. D. & Miss T.

by Blair Tellers

It's the third inning of a charity softball game. The batter hits a pop fly to second and takes off towards first base. Her teammates cheer her on, yelling, "Run!" Running, however, is no simple task. Not when you're wearing three-inch heels.

Certain stereotypes accompany the word "Drag Queen"—like "campy," for example. Are Drag Queens campy? To some. Are they gaudy? Well, that's half the fun. Are they beautiful? Some would say no. Others would say drag queens look more flawless than your average woman.

Stereotypes have a tendency to define, and at times hinder people from seeing the bigger picture.

The Drag Queens of the Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane have attitude. They have sass. And they also work their royal asses off to benefit the community of Spokane. When an Empress struts her stuff during a fundraiser at Dempsey's, lip-sinking to a re-mixed version of Rhianna's "Please Don't Stop the Music," it's more than a good time spent with good friends. It's one more scholarship. It's another food basket. It's the ability to assist a struggling individual with past-due bills.

"There aren't a lot of organizations that are able to jump right in and give direct money and direct benefits," says recently crowned Empress #37, Frigid-Heir. "With the economy people don't have money to pay for things like gas and electrical services. It makes sense that we would bring the help to them."

Originally founded in 1965, the Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane is one of the oldest known organizations providing support and concern for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Communities of Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho. There are various chapters in cities all across the United States, as well as overseas.

The organization consists of a court, with certain members elected to esteemed titles like "Empress," "Duke," "Princess" and so forth. The titleholders are responsible for organizing themed fundraisers throughout the year, and must meet a certain quota in terms of how much they raise. Despite occasional rejection of drag queens by the more conservative members within the GLBTQ community, fundraisers involving the glittering divas have proven to be not only the most popular, but the most lucrative as well.

"Drag Queen Softball always gets a great turnout. The drag queens play on one team, and then everybody who isn't a drag queen gets to play against the drag queens. It's a whole lot of leg-breaking scariness," says Empress Frigid-Heir. "It's a lot of fun, but it's hard to run in high heels! I broke one of my shoes during the game. Usually we make it halfway through, and then all the drag queens leave because we're losing at like, thirty-something to zero."

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Regent Imperial Prince19, the Leather Wing Dragon Prince Carl Lucian, of Everett WA, assists Empress XXXIII Courtney Cocks of Spokane, WA with her crown at Spokane's ISCS Coronation at the Red Lion Hotel on October 11th. | Photo by Dr. D. & Miss T.



Founder of the International Court System, Empress I Jose

history of the Imperial Court

The History starts in the 1940's as Jose Julio Sarria entered gay history when he began to cover for his then boyfriend Jimmy, a waiter at the Black Cat Bar on Montgomery Street in San Francisco. In Post WW II, an influx of gay and lesbian discharged veterans was swelling in the city's gay communities. While the Castro was still a primarily Hetero, blue collar neighborhood, the Black Cat had already developed an international reputation as a gay meeting place. One Day, while Jose was serving drinks and the pianist was playing Bizet's "Carmen", Sarria began to sing arias to the opera. Soon, he became a big hit and his reputation was born.

In the 1950's Gay men and women were arrested on a number of charges used to keep homosexuals in the closet and hidden. Against this oppression, Jose would change the lyrics of his arias to warn people of the entrapment practices of the police first coining the phrase "There is nothing wrong with being Gay, the crime is getting caught" and "United we stand, Divided they get us one by one".

Police pressures, entrapment schemes, and raids continued in the 50's when the gay bars developed an association to spread warnings about the oppression. In 1961, Jose became the very first openly gay candidate to run for public office, seeking the position as city supervisor, a position held 16 years later by an openly gay Harvey Milk. Although Sarria did not win in 1961, he did garner an impressive 5,600 votes and sparked a change in the voting laws allowing for votes by ward, not city wide. This allowed for minority candidates to win election, hence the arrival of Harvey Milk in 1977.

In early 1965, Sarria and various gay bar owners put on the first "Drag Ball" of which Sarria was named "Queen of the Ball". At this, "she" exclaimed

"Why be a QUEEN when I can be an EMPRESS?". So he proclaimed himself Empress of San Francisco. To further enhance the title, he drew upon the legend of Emperor Norton, the eccentric 19th century San Francisco miner and rice baron. During his lifetime, he dressed finely and proclaimed himself Emperor of the USA and Canada and protector of Mexico. Heir in spirit and not by law, Jose proclaimed himself "The Widow Norton" and began annual pilgrimages to Norton's grave in nearby Colma where he and accompanying drag queens would pay their respects with flowers to Sarria's departed "spouse". This tradition continues to this day.

Eventually the "Ball", now changed to "Coronation", sparked an annual event marking the election of Empress and Emperor. Jose developed bylaws and functions of the Imperial Court of San Francisco, a group that sought, through drag shows and other functions, to raise monies for gay charities.

By the early 70's, the Court System established by Sarria has been franchised to first Vancouver BC, and then Portland, and eventually Seattle, Tacoma, Bellingham, Everett, Vancouver and Spokane.

Over the next 30 years, individual courts, under the guidance of Widow Norton, "Mama" as she is called, have spread to over 70 areas, some cities, some entire states. While the courts avoid, by ruling, partisan politics, they funnel thousands and thousands of dollars into community charities, as a strong grassroots organization interlinked by monarchs attending the annual coronation balls of other courts and now expanding to the Internet. Jose remains active today, attending her "childrens" coronation and still resides in the San Francisco Bay Area. For more information about International Affiliates, please go to www.impcourt.org.

what the Imperial Court does locally

For decades, the Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane, or ISCS as it is known, has provided support for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning community of Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho.

A variety of Drag Shows, Fundraisers, Outings, Camping Trips, Raffles and Auctions are used to promote unity and raise funds. The ISCS goal is to seek out needs and provide for those needs as humanely, efficiently and as readily as possible.

ISCS is a registered non profit business entity with a Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, and a Board of Directors.

ISCS uses funds set aside in special accounts, all raised voluntarily by the community. The following are ways (not exclusive) in which funds are collected and distributed.

GENERAL FUND

This Fund provides for the operating costs of the ISCS. It is the responsibility of the Emperor and Empress titleholders to ensure that costs are within budget. This fund is used for advertising, promotion, and carrying out fundraising events. Under no circumstances is this fund used for personal use. Contrary to some public perception, this fund is not used for dresses, makeup and beads for the Drag Queens.

HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS

The ISCS works with several different organizations as well as the community itself in providing funds and food to those in need. Each holiday season, ISCS Thanksgiving and Christmas food drives provide for as many families and individuals as possible, regardless of sexual orientation. The entire budget in this account is provided to those proven to be in need.

ISCS EDUCATIONAL GIFT FUND

This Fund is provided to help in the advancement and is not exclusive to the GLBTQ Community.

Monies distributed are based on how much is raised throughout the year for this specific account and are awarded at each ISCS Coronation ceremonies in October. A minimum of \$1,000 is required to be raised each year, \$750 from the Emperor and Empress, \$250 from the Gay Spokane Titleholders.

TCA E.A.S.E. DISASTER FUND

This fund was established to provide for medical emergencies, acts of god, or any emergency beyond the requester's control. The ISCS Board of Directors are responsible for raising funds for this use. The Disaster Board carries its own Board of Directors appointed by the Emperor and Empress. Help is provided on a one time per year, per person basis to anyone requesting assistance limited to \$100 per incident. The Treasurer of the ISCS is the sole person with the personal details of the incident. Information is held in strictest confidence with only the members of the Disaster Board.

CHILDREN WITH AIDS FUND

This Fund is ISCS's single biggest fundraiser each year with over \$3,000 raised each reign. This money is provided to the Camp Star Light foundation, a retreat for Children living with HIV/AIDS to provide for hospice care of patients and to help in granting wishes to HIV/AIDS children. In the past, the ISCS has provided trips to Disneyland, Universal Studios, and even a pony and feed for one child years ago.

KENNY MEALER CANCER AWARENESS FUND

This fund was established in 1997, named after the ISCS 1st and 6th Emperor Ken, who passed away from cancer. Events connected with this fund raise monies for various cancer research and awareness causes to help those who may be susceptible, education for self checkups, research for possible cures and / or manageability, exams and training.

ISCS can be reached at www.iscsspokane.com.

tales from an Herbivore

by Jordy Byrd
photo by Steve Rodenbough



For most, their twenty first birthday signifies a painful accumulation of time through adolescence, puberty, and at last into early adulthood. For me, turning twenty one changed my life.

Hello, my name is Jordy and I'm a vegetarian. It's been about nine months since my last piece of meat. Dramatic as it sounds, my transition into the vegetarian lifestyle was all but mellow. My family ate meat. I mean, really ate meat. Bear, elk, venison, you name it. So long as it had four legs, feathers, or fur, my father thought it was edible and my mother knew a recipe for it. I on the other hand, never really liked the stuff. Needless to say, Betty Crocker's meat-filled cookbooks made childhood a nightmare.

Over the years I edited my eating habits, but it wasn't until my twenty first birthday that it all came together. The month of my birthday, I decided to cook rosemary chicken. Without thought, I bought a bird and headed home. Arduously following the recipe's directions, I unwrapped the chicken for a salt scrub.

Feeling a little uneasy, I managed to get the chicken, including the bags of organs, out and into the sink. This seems like a small accomplishment, but for me it was a culinary marathon. Naked chicken, hot water running and salt shaker ready, I began to cry.

Bawl, actually. You know the type, with gasps and panting. There was no more hiding it,

To some, I'm the dirty, environmental, un-American, hippy woman, single handedly trying to overthrow the government....with a carrot. But for me, being a vegetarian is reconnecting me to the food I want to eat, on the terms I want to eat it.

I couldn't wash the chicken. I couldn't wrap my mind around the fact that chicken does not come shaped as a breast or chicken strip. These animals have wings, legs and hearts; and at that moment I felt the weight of a once-live animal in my hands. Without thought or hesitation, I knew I would never eat meat again.

I bet you think I'm crazy. You think to this day, there is a dead, unwashed chicken in my kitchen sink. The truth is, the chicken was eaten by roommates... and yes I am crazy. For me, being a vegetarian is just an alternative lifestyle; a lifestyle that has simply and beautifully changed my life.

Now if you're feeling guilty about dripping your roast beef sandwich on my column, don't. By no means am I a judgmental, fake pigs' blood throwing vegetarian. Yes, I do have these thoughts...but no, I don't act on them. What you choose to put in your mouth makes no difference to me. What I'm surprised to discover, is that many people feel otherwise.

What I wasn't emotionally or verbally prepared for was the response from others. And despite countless Google

searches, I've yet to find a vegetarian support group. Is one necessary? Maybe not. Is it a bad idea? I don't think so. Since becoming a vegetarian I've been called everything from "one of those crazy environmental, dirty hippy types wanting to overthrow the government." Most creative prize goes to the man who called me un-American. As it turns out, being a vegetarian comes with connotations, and pounds of extra veggie-filled baggage. But I can handle dinner hosts, waitresses and even strangers. What continues to rub me the wrong way is that some of my closest friends and family regularly criticize my lifestyle. Unfortunately, I'm not entirely sure why my inability to eat, or not eat something upsets people.

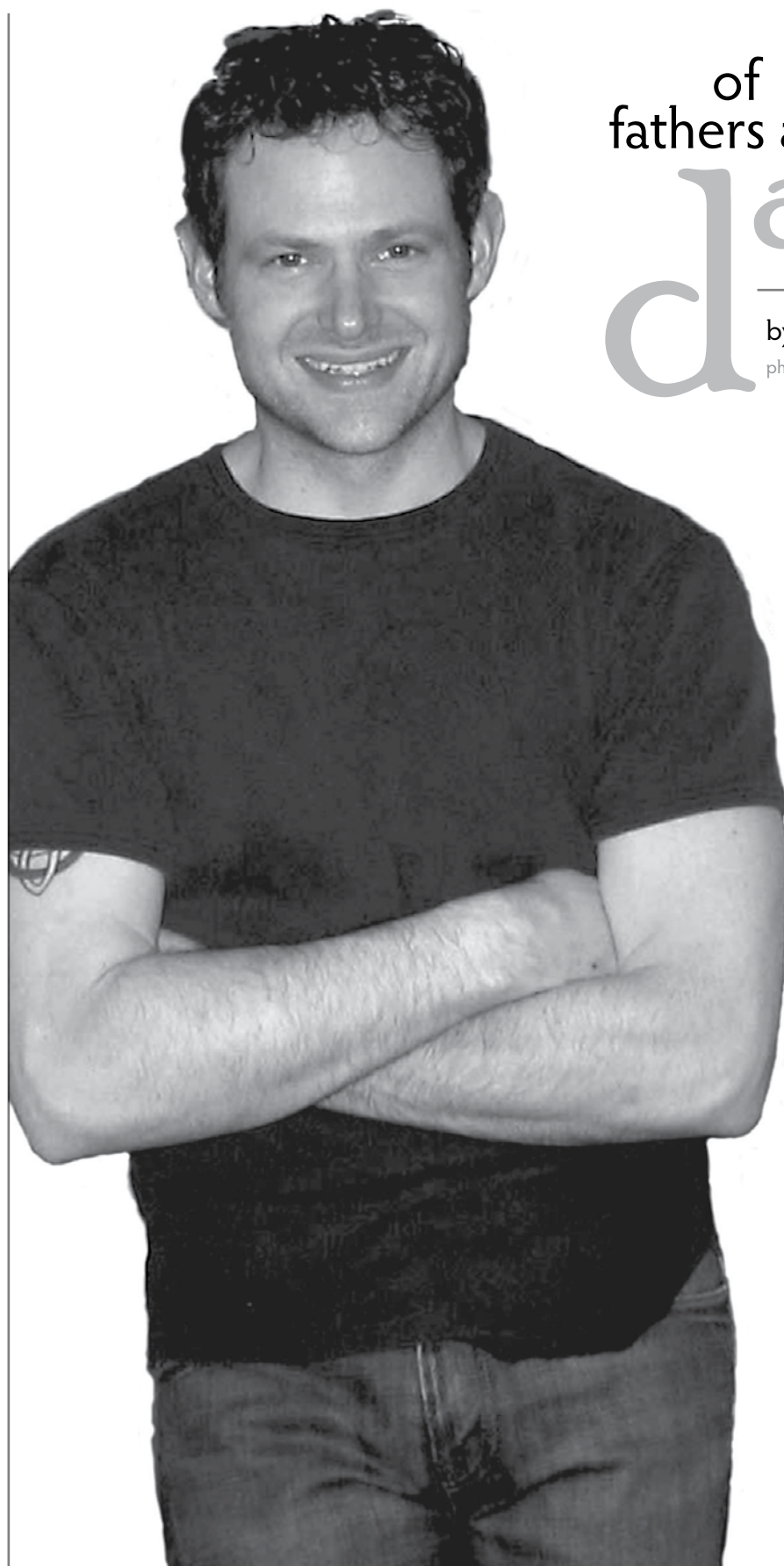
So long as I'm not forcing food or rhetoric down other people's throats, why do they care what I put in mine? The most logical explanation I've come up with is this: by not eating meat, it makes other people question their own eating behaviors. And this can be scary. So now, nine months later, here I am. The dirty, environmental, un-American, hippy woman, single handedly trying to overthrow the government....with a carrot.

As this is my first column I want to explain some things. The column's not here to teach you about food, health or praise the vegetarian lifestyle. It's simply about me; a young woman floating about in a meat-saturated world. Much more than that, it's about celebrating and respecting diversity of lifestyles. Diversity that comes in shape of sexuality, religion and even food preferences.

Food defines and binds us to one another as family members, ethnic beings and cultural creatures. Food is our tradition. It is the centerpiece at our foremost initiations, our rights of passage, and ultimate exit from life.

Regardless of individual tastes, we are connected and affected by what we eat and how we choose to eat it. For me, being a vegetarian is reconnecting me to the food I want to eat, on the terms I want to eat it. For once in my life, I feel accountable for the relationship between my hunger, my stomach, my hands and my mouth.

Jordy received her B.A. in Journalism from Washington State University, and is now in Spokane enjoying long seasons, good friends and family.



of fathers and daddies

by Travis Griffith

photo provided

When my son was born six years ago, I would have said that I knew exactly what it takes to be a daddy.

Turns out all I knew was how to become a father. The difference is surreal.

For years my perception of what it meant to be a father was to work hard and earn money for my family. That's a respectable commitment that is shared by millions of fathers.

It's not until an amazingly simple piece of advice helped me realize my priorities were not aligned with my true intent, and that I had become 'just' a father.

Since I worked so much, I missed many moments of my young children's lives. Events like school parties had become secondary, if not tertiary, because I knew my efforts at work were paying for their care and happiness while I was away.

My fatherhood had become passive and I took comfort in knowing other people were taking care of my kids. I was

I was given the advice to ask, every night at bedtime, what my children's favorite part of the day was. So simple. So incredibly earth shattering.

'just' a father, because that attitude began to transcend into my days at home too.

Getting my parents to watch the kids or calling the neighbor kids to come over and play were becoming subconscious ways for me to actually avoid interacting with my children.

I was a presence in their lives... but not an involved one.

And then something began to change. I was given some very simple guidance which over time has transformed my belief of what it means to have children and be a daddy to them... not just a father.

I was given the advice to ask, every night at bedtime, what my children's favorite part of the day was.

So simple.

So incredibly earth shattering.

The answers over two years have surprised me, humored me, enlightened me, fulfilled me and enriched me.

I'd bet that anyone who tries it will over time gain an insight

into the tiny lives of their children and begin to see, from their perspective, the very same world we adults live in; only vastly different.

I would have never guessed that my child's favorite part of the day would be watching the cookies bake at daycare.

I would have never realized how nervous my son was about riding a different bus to school than usual. Or that he was so concerned about being the only one wearing jammies at his school's pajama day.

By asking that same question every night I feel like I'm slowly connecting myself with the world of my children.

And even more profound, I've slowly learned that daddies make an effort to see and understand the beautiful simplicity of how their children's eyes view their surroundings.

I've learned that all daddies are fathers. But not all fathers are daddies.

The pinnacle for me so far came on a night when I told my son that he's my favorite

boy in the world and that there is no other boy I'd rather have. Ever.

In his tiny little voice he said, "Daddy, that makes me really happy."

But the smile on his face said more to me than just his words.

With that simple exchange, I went to bed feeling on top of the world because I knew my son was in his room, smiling just because I love him.

As I've thought about this, I've realized my situation is a microcosm of fatherhood in general. Straight dads, gay dads, we're all universally human and realizing that as we are becoming daddies...

...our children are becoming happier.

Spokane resident Travis Griffith recently left behind the corporate marketing world choosing family and writing instead. His children's book, **Your Father Forever**, was published in 2005 by Illumination Arts Publishing Company, Inc. and captures only a fraction of his passion for fatherhood. It is available at amazon.com and bookstores nationwide.



celebrate
*d*iversity

Friends of SAN 18th Annual Quarter Auction



A Friends of SAN Benefit

November 16, 2008
4 PM until the last prize is won



Dempsey's Brass Rail
909 W. First Avenue

ISCS continued from page 9

The ISCS has a goal of not only providing support for the GLBTQ community, but for anyone who has proven to be in need. A person's orientation will not dictate what kind of help they receive. There is no bias. ISCS helps everyone with a common goal of supporting members of the community, no matter what their sexual orientation. The primary objectives of ISCS are to provide education about diseases like AIDS and HIV, make available charity funds to those who need it and promote a sense of community for those in and out of the GLBTQ community.

"One dollar at a time we are able to make a difference," says Leonard Surreal, Prince #33 of the Imperial Court. "I've seen a lot of good come out of the ISCS—especially with the disaster fund we have. Last year an apartment

complex caught on fire, and the people were able to come to the court and ask for assistance. It may be a small amount that we are able to give, but it still helps. And there are no questions asked."

Car washes, a Christmas show, bake sales, camping trips, raffles and auctions are just a few of the ways ISCS raises monies for its charitable funds. Over the last 40 years, the court has raised over \$20 million internationally. "If you can think of it, we're not above doing it," says Empress Frigid-Heir. "My favorite fundraiser is a Christmas show. All of the past Emperors and Empress' come out and perform. It's like bringing out history; and the money they raise goes to food baskets. We've got everything from gay to lesbian, transgender to heterosexual. It's a huge grouping of people and just fantastic diversity."

Frigid-Heir has been with the ISCS for fifteen years, and says his favorite memory involves helping a person who needed a kidney transplant. The ISCS was able to raise enough money so the man could keep his apartment, along with the power. "So while all of his treatments were going on he was able to come home to his apartment and not have to relocate," says Frigid-Heir. "Which helped eliminate huge amounts of stress for him. It was probably the greatest thing to see his face when we were able to tell him what we could do for him. He had tears in his eyes."

Coronation is the pinnacle of all events within the ISCS. Not only are members of the court voted to special titles, but a large percentage of the profit collected from coronation provides funding for charity. Here an Empress, Emperor, Prince and Princess are

crowned—and they're all decked out in enough royal trappings to rival Princess Diana's on her wedding day—sceptors, crowns, medallions and all.

"I'm a little bit high maintenance and thought, 'I probably won't win!'" says Frigid-Heir. "I was a little surprised and very happy."

The coronation ceremonies of the Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane sport all the glitz and glamour of a high school prom—minus the narcissistic self-centeredness that generally accompanies the caste system of a teenage world. Here there are bigger things in the works besides social status and tiaras. At this pageant there are no promises of world peace muttered through blindingly white pairs of Vaseline-drenched teeth. There is action behind promise, and the ISCS delivers.

While Eastern Washington has become much more accepting of the GLBTQ community over the past decade, there is always room for improvement.

"I feel that the community no longer knows who we are, and what we are," says Prince Leonard Surreal of ISCS. We need to be educating more. We are a hidden entity, even in the gay community. For years people looked down in the ISCS and said, 'I don't want to be associated with drag queens.' Negativity started spreading, and it's time to get rid of it. We have acknowledged this in our court. It's time to be more open."

It's true, compassion can dissolve barriers. When a family enjoys a food basket at Thanksgiving or a college student receives a scholarship to help with tuition, people are grateful. No one is

going to ask questions about the orientation of the folks who offered to help—whether it is gay, hetero or transgender. What it comes down to is community, and the good that can come from working together and putting differences aside.



Blair Tellers is a recent graduate of Whitworth University with a BA in English Writing and Journalism. She embarks on a mission to prove that not all writers are starving. She hails from Cambria, CA, and enjoys surfing, hanging out with her guinea pig, reading poetry and learning as much as she can from everyone she meets.

Don't Worry, Dempsey's Has Your Week Planned.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
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Times of London gets it right on 'ex-gay' myth

By Wayne Besen

According to Exodus International, you are highly unlikely to “change,” but you might learn to love the fact you are sexually frustrated and lonely because it will please God.

In one of the best articles on the ex-gay myth in years, the Times of London captured the true essence of these dangerous programs when the newspaper went undercover at Exodus International's 2007 annual conference in Asheville, NC. The article cut through the spin, painted an accurate portrait of what Exodus is about and offered a genuine glimpse of the pain and suffering caused by sexual engineering programs.

Reporter Lucy Bannerman did her homework and rightfully highlighted the false advertising of Exodus that leads people to believe that they can pray away the gay. The counterfeit hope and unrealistic expectations are made clear when Exodus' leader Alan Chambers triumphantly appears at a pep rally.

“How many of you are in need of some hope here tonight?” A murmur passes through the dark auditorium, pleasing Chambers, the man with the microphone. Heads nod. “How many of you are at the end of your rope?” he continues. “How many are ready for an encounter with the Lord?”

Later in the expose, “an amazing week of breakthroughs, transformations and healings,” is promised. And, an Exodus sexual engineer tells the reporter that she will have a “very impactful” experience. The reporter also points out that an Exodus's affiliate in the United Kingdom, Re-alignment Ministries, uses the slogan “reinventing people.” Anyone who says that Exodus is not misleading people with pie-in-the-sky promises of heterosexuality is simply not telling the truth.

Of course, Chambers is careful to parse words so he can blame the victims when they ultimately don't become straight. He does this because of the astronomical failure rate and because his group refuses to offer refunds.

“The opposite of homosexuality is not heterosexuality,” says Chambers, sagely. “It's holiness.”

This word game simply means that once one becomes holy,

he is on the path to becoming straight. This is made clear by the way “successful” Exodus leaders shamelessly paraded their spouses as if they were trophies. According to Bannerman's report:

Each evening, a roll-call of “former homosexuals” hold up their husbands and wives like kitemarks of their newfound heterosexuality. We are told repeatedly that marriage is evidence of healing.

What I like about this story is that Bannerman gets to the heart of the matter by hanging these charlatans with their own words. After all the magical promises of healing, Chambers reveals that he is a gay man repressing his natural instincts.

“Am I in denial?” he asks. “Absolutely. I live a life of denial and I love it. I didn't choose my same-sex feelings but I do choose how I'm going to steward them. Freedom is possible.”

Essentially, Chambers is defining freedom – in cryptic ex-gay code – by saying that through his program you are highly unlikely to “change,” but you might learn to love the fact you are sexually frustrated and lonely because it will please God. While this formula may work for Chambers, most people at the conference would likely find this definition of freedom terribly maudlin and at odds with the bold and brazen promises of hope and healing that Exodus presents in its advertising. Surely, many of the conference attendees would not have shelled out \$600 to hear Chambers basically say they should celebrate the closet. These individuals could have embraced asceticism and crushing loneliness on their own time for free.

So, if Exodus can't make one straight, what is the point of the group's existence? If the goal is truly “holiness,” and not heterosexuality, why is there a need for Exodus when people can find an anti-gay version of holiness in thousands of churches? It seems like a lot of double talk and that Exodus has deeper identity issues than the people who are seeking their “help.”

Echoing my book, “Anything But Straight,” the Times article points out that the folks at the conference aren't typical gay people that handle life in a rational and thoughtful manner.

For example, Bannerman went to one seminar, “Walking Away from the Lesbian Mentality,” where the class leader was “an aggressively happy woman with a guitar who sings about hating her mother.” Nothing like right wing family values!

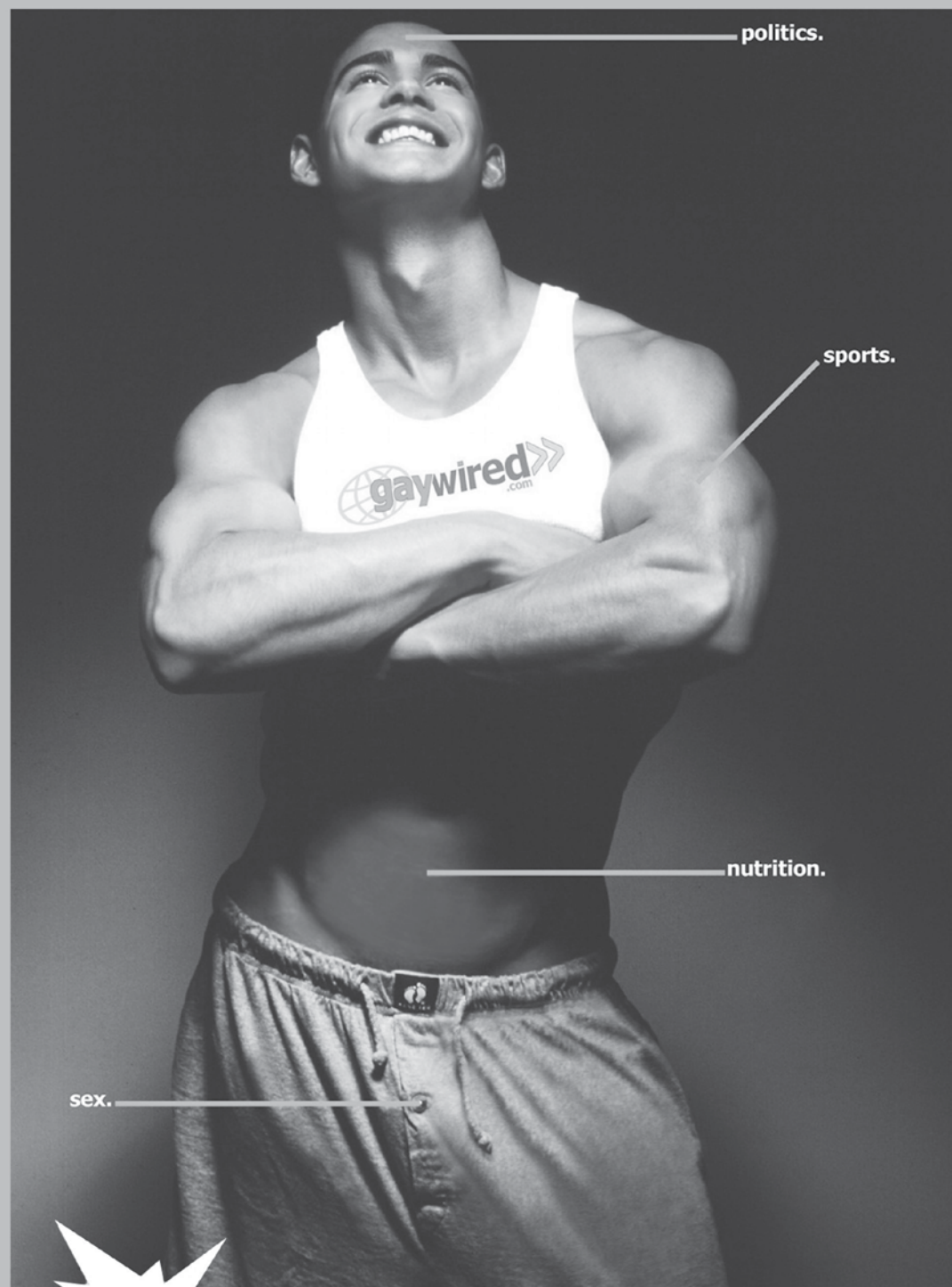
In another class, “Breaking the Myth of Masculinity,” Riccardo, a doctor from Illinois, explains that he has come to the program for “encouragement and moral support” after tiring of anonymous encounters with other men. Is this really a coherent way to handle a sex addiction issue? Do straight guys who sleep around try to curb the habit by going to a gay bar? Wouldn't it be easier for Riccardo to just ask a guy on a date before hopping in the sack? These are the type of common sense questions that never come up at Exodus conferences.

If the people attending the event are troubled, the techniques and “therapy” are just outright bizarre. In the “Journey Through Lesbianism” workshop, the instructor blames the media and being deprived of affection as a baby in a hospital incubator as possible causes for lesbianism. While they are making up causes out of thin air, why don't they just blame the Frisbee or the hula hoop?

In another class, a woman the Times describes as an Angela Lansbury look-alike, links her gay ex-husband's death from an AIDS-related illness to his father's links with the “Serbian mafia.” In the ex-gay world, these luminaries believe almost anything and everything makes one gay. As long as Exodus allows such pseudo-scientific quackery to be a key part of their sexual engineering program, they can't complain when ex-gays are spoofed or parodied on comedy shows.

Besen continued on Page 28

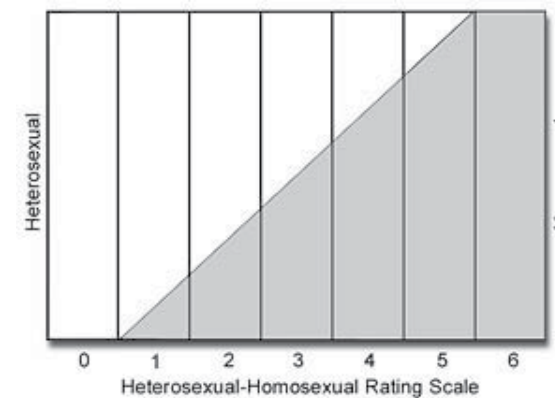
gaywired>>



**Must
Read:**

**The Hollywood
Celebrity Buzz**
(Friday)

**This Gay Week
in Television**
(Tuesday)



- 0- Exclusively heterosexual with no homosexual
- 1- Predominantly heterosexual, only incidentally homosexual
- 2- Predominantly heterosexual, but more than incidentally homosexual
- 3- Equally heterosexual and homosexual
- 4- Predominantly homosexual, but more than incidentally heterosexual
- 5- Predominantly homosexual, only incidentally heterosexual
- 6- Exclusively homosexual

The Kinsey Scale for Sexual Orientation

Kinsey, A., Pomeroy, W., Martin, C.. (1948) Sexual Behavior in the Human Male. Philadelphia, PA: W. B. Saunders.

fluid continued from page 7

as much as the selections made by their DNA? Religious beliefs are often choices, yet we tolerate and give protected legal status to religious diversity.

Do we really want civil and human rights afforded us based on "We can't help it, it's in our genes?" If research shows our DNA determines sexual orientation, it won't deter organizations that promote "reparative therapy," organizations such as NARTH and Exodus from trying to cure queerness. Rather than calling it a choice, they will simply attempt to reclassify homosexuality as a medical issue; maybe not as a mental illness, but as a defect to be "cured." Do we really want to base our rights on the biological basis of sexual orientation?

"As a society we protect children and the elderly based on age. We do not remain in these categories for life, but we do deserve protection while we are at these vulnerable stages," House stated. "People with mental illness or physical disabilities are also afforded protection from

discrimination, thought that disability may or may not be biologically based or permanent. Homosexuals deserve equal rights and protection. It doesn't matter if they were born gay or not."

Dr. Arnold Drake, former PFLAG National President, stated in his inauguration speech, "When Myrna and I learned our son was gay, I was very happy to learn that he did not have a choice in his sexual orientation . . . Our children and friends deserve our love and admiration and respect whether or not they have a choice. And they deserve the same civil rights as every other American, no matter whom they choose to love."

When asked, "If research shows that sexual orientation is more fluid and less fixed than we previously believed; will homosexuality still be a protected legal status?" Candace Camp MA, a former scientific researcher and licensed mental health counselor practicing in Spokane responded, "I think that in this homophobic, reductionistic, simplistic culture, in which science is God, hence science carries the power to

condone certain things, [a scientific basis for homosexuality] must be pursued in order to maintain that level of protection."

House carries legal protections one step further. She believes the nature/nurture debate is irrelevant. "The bottom line is protective status is still needed," House stated. "Affirmative action is needed at a time when [LGBTQ people] are still being treated as less than. We need affirmative action in employment and education to make the playing field level. Society needs to say, "We are going to make up for how we treated you.""

In regard to the struggle for LGBTQ rights as it applies to sexual orientation, Asbell stated, "It has nothing to do with fluidity. Individuals have the right to choice, to choose who they want to be with as a partner." The issue of choice is irrelevant. It doesn't matter why we are queer; whether we were born that way, or that we became queer later in life. What matters is that we are accepted for who we are and our desire to love without repercussion and respected by society.



Greg Baird shared his experience in a presentation titled "Hear Me Out! Celebrating Diversity, Acceptance and Community" at Spokane Community College on Wednesday, October 14th, 2008.

Baird continued from page 5

regarding my film project, coming out issues and hate crimes. One mother in the audience shared with me and others attending that her son, who is straight, was attacked with two of his gay friends in Spokane this past summer, by a couple of males yelling anti-gay hate slurs. She said that the police did not pursue it as a hate crime as he son was not gay."

Baird, who had heard that Spokane is a conservative place, stated, "I found that to be true, but I also found that people were open to listening to new and different ideas that would improve their lives and the

community. One young man in my lecture was moved to tears and thanked me for being there. He said he realized in my lecture how important it is to be out and honest who you are. He said he was going to now be the voice of change in his life to make a difference. That touched my heart...to the core of who I am."

Baird is the executive producer of a documentary to be released this spring about the murder of Matthew Shepard and the changes that have taken place in the ten years since the hate crime occurred outside Laramie, Wyoming. The film focuses on hate crime legislation that ensued after the murder and interviews with those effected by the crime.

Matthew's death affected him on a deeply personal level. Baird said, "I'm from a rural area so it hit home. It was such a painful incident."

"Fear is what drives the anger. Hate crimes not only affect the individual, but the whole community," Baird said. We learn hate within our families and a people who participate in hate groups feel a sense of belonging. "Matthew Shepard's murder moved many people to rethink their opinion of gays and lesbians. Life is easier if we are more concerned about our neighbor. So many people are not being heard. We need to start talking."

Greg Baird can be reached at www.northernvoice.com

what Mitch says

by Mandy Iverson
part 1 of 2



Mitch likes to tease me that I have an unhealthy obsession with gay people. He's my best friend, so he thinks he knows things like this about me. He isn't really wrong. I have a bad habit of putting people of homosexual orientation on a pedestal, regardless of whether or not it's earned. In this way, I suppose I box them up the same way people who think they're sex fanatics or void of the Lord do. But it's hard for me to help it. All the same-sex lovers I've come across in my lifetime have been ridiculously cool, and I can't help but think it's more than just coincidence. And as a straight woman whose best friends happen to largely be gay men and women, it's hard not to feel a little inferior, a little boring.

For as much as Mitch teases me about this, it is largely his fault. Mitch is dangerously bisexual. I say dangerously so because he wears it so well. No one is safe from his prowess. We're both drawn to large hairy men, and I had to sit Mitch down once and make him promise that he'll never steal one from me. *So you mean there are some things best friends can't share?* he taunted, but I was serious. I've lost count of how many "straight men" have "changed their mind" because of Mitch. In the seven years I've known him, I've seen his advances fail once. Mitch makes many advances.

Mitch continued on next page

Photo above: Mandy and Mitch pose August 16, 2008 while attending the wedding of a friend. Photo by John DiGilio.

Mitch continued from previous page

He winks. Mitch is a winker and he winks at both men and women, it does not matter much to him. He wears thrift store blazers—or other assorted attire of corduroy or wool—paired with jeans and flip flops. Because he can, I suppose. Mitch is strangely fascinated with kung fu, although he does not participate, but he might, he sometimes supposes, if given the chance. And Mitch most likely will be given the chance because if he should ever stumble across a kung fu master, Mr. or Ms. Kung Fu Master would surely fall in love with Mitch. After all, he is a winker. They would surely have hot hi-yah! sex, or what ever other kind of sex kung fu masters have—I don't really know, I'm in the dark about these kinds of things.

It's simple math, really: if you can love both men and women your chances of finding someone are doubled. Mitch is at less risk for loneliness. And sometimes, it seems, we're affirmed by how many people we've loved, how many people have loved us back. But I don't just envy the two-birds-with-one-stone. There's more to it than that.

Mitch's roommate is Kim. Kim rarely bathes and this is okay because she has dreadlocks. She is sleeping with another girl who rarely bathes for the same reason. They say "queer" rather than "lesbian" and put colorful beads in one another's hair. For me, this alone validates jealousy, but Kim's vocabulary is also delicious. One of her many blogs states, "I enjoy challenging words

and the heft of them on my tongue," and I know this is true because she uses words my tongue has never tried. Kim is the kind of girl who wears skirts for their twirling function. She will twirl and twirl, her skirt opening like a fist or a flower, and not be afraid of the dizziness or any amused passerby.

These people are my friends, although if you were to compare us they are undoubtedly cooler. Deny it if you want to. But I couldn't stop crying the day we learned division in third grade, and would never dare to dance in the streets unless there were gallons of alcohol involved. I didn't smoke pot until I was twenty, which was the same year I got dreadlocks, but they didn't last long. I don't even know what sorts of things a kung fu master would say during sex—what kind of person am I?

Mitch says part of the reason I find gay people so intriguing is because they're willing to act strange, willing to try new things. Like twirling. Coming out of the closet is a pretty difficult feat, he tells me, and once you jump that hoop nothing else seems that scary. A large percentage of the population already thinks you're weird or hell-bound—why not take advantage of it?

So I try to find my own hoops to jump through. The general population doesn't find me innately weird, so it seems the least I can do. I achieve this by finding areas of my life where I can feel like a minority.

I'm the loud kind of feminist. My homepage on my computer

is the Feminist Majority Foundation. Sometimes I like to get angry when I see pro-life bumper stickers. I pass these cars real fast and then cut in front of them so they'll get the idea that I'm a woman and capable of road rage. I use inclusive language forcefully. I once lowered a student's grade because I felt like his paper kept yelling "he" at me.

I take any opportunity that comes my way to wave a flag that I am somehow oppressed. I embrace the fact that I'm a redhead and verbalize my disgust that the heroines in movies are always blondes or brunettes. People assume that I burn easily, so I spend as much time as possible in the sun out of spite; I freckle to



Truth Wins OUT (TWO) is a non-profit think tank and educational organization that counters right-wing misinformation campaigns, debunks the ex-gay myth, and provides accurate information about the lives of GLBT people.

TWO's mission:

- **Provide opposition research on the ex-gay industry**
- **Discredit right wing propaganda**
- **Educate America about the GLBT community**

www.TruthWinsOut.org

prove a point. I keep waiting for someone to notice that I am not only a redhead, but a tan one. There are less of those. I enjoy telling people at parties that redheads are a dying breed, soon to be extinct. *Really?* the last girl I told asked incredulously. I hope she'll spread the word. I hope that counted as a hoop.

The book *Generation X* by Douglass Coupland says that if you're middle class you have to live with the fact that history can never champion your causes or feel sorry for you, that this is the price to pay for day to day comfort. This translates as truth for white people, surely, but it only makes sense that it translates for straight people as well. I succeed in spite of nothing. My failures are self-inflicted. My life, along with millions of others, is the center line of the rat race. So create addictions,

disadvantages, challenges? Maybe. Become a smoker, get indignant a lot, want to be gay? Perhaps.

Mitch told me once that it could just be that gay people tend to be more openly sexual, and that I'm the sort of person who finds such a trait admirable. I scrunched my face at him. *Sensuality is attractive*, he said, *it's like confidence and elegance tied into one*. I wondered if that could be it. I made a note to act more sensual. I figured it probably involves things like pouting my lips and maybe licking them a lot. But any time I think about acting sensual I remember the one time I tried out for a school play and the director—some British guy with big black glasses—told us to perform the monologue we'd memorized in a "sexy way." Let's just say it was about as bad as third grade

division day, except I saved the crying for until I got home. Trying to act sexy in front of an auditorium full of people felt about as natural to me as wearing a sweatshirt in a swimming pool.

Gay people are more open to trying things—you know, in bed, Mitch told me one time in the car. *They tend not to be in shells, like some straight people are*. I began to imagine gay people breaking out of the shells that me and my straight companions are sleeping in, and stepping into colorful, sexier shells, where there's funky music playing and a loud echoing of orgasms. It was enticing.

Part 2 CONTINUED in the December 2008 issue of Q View Northwest

Mandy Iverson recently completed her MFA in Creative Nonfiction at Eastern Washington University. She continues to live and teach in Spokane, WA.

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A black and white photograph of two women posing for a photo. One woman is standing and leaning against the other, who is sitting on the ground. They are both wearing casual clothing and looking towards the camera.

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Besen continued from Page 21

A mainstay of ex-gay programs is confusing stereotypes with science. In the past, “ex-gay” guys were encouraged play football, drink Gatorade and call friends “dude” to become more masculine. In an updated version of this charade, Bannerman now says that Exodus offers “war games in the woods.” Women are not spared Exodus’ idiocy. Christine Sneeringer, a ministry leader from Florida, says that she has given up car mechanics because “it trashes my nails.”

For all the focus on behavior modification, the gay keeps gushing out at unexpected times. Exodus vice-president Randy Thomas, who has been celibate for 16 years, told the crowd, “Just because I stopped being gay 16 years ago doesn’t mean I can’t be fabulous.” Exodus’ fire and brimstone rhetoric and Thomas’ campy presentation were so incongruous that the reporter wryly commented, “Clearly, gaydar has yet to be invented on planet Exodus.”

What’s tragic is that young people are forced into this insanity and filled with the very guilt and shame that has made older conference attendees so neurotic and unhealthy. During one classroom exercise, a “handsome youth with an American smile sticks the word ‘defiled’ to his polo shirt.” He is then taught that he is “sexually broken.” One can only guess how many thousands of dollars of legitimate therapy this young man will one day have to spend to undo this psychological damage.

It is heartbreaking when Bannerman speaks of “a boy of no more than 16” who is forced to step onstage with his head hanging. Once up there, he receives applause and as he returns from the stage, “his stony-faced father nods in approval. His mother weeps.” The article also mentions “a teenager shaking in the corner.”

At one class, “Smooth Transitions: Life after the Conference,” Joe, a

Latino man from Miami, speaks proudly of leaving his boyfriend and changing his friends, his address, his job and his gym after leaving his first conference.

“It’s about doing what’s uncomfortable,” he tells the class, describing how he forced himself to watch baseball with macho sportsmen at parties, and to wear looser shorts when walking his Chihuahua.

He then encourages a 17-year-old to let Exodus take such cult-like control of his life and urged him to dump his boyfriend.

What is revealing is that none of the professional sexual engineers seem to have made any progress. The seminar, “Overcoming Guilt and Shame”, was led by a “sad, wearied and overweight woman named Bonnie who used to be a probation officer.”

“I still have same-sex attraction,” Bonnie sighs at one point, “but it’s like elevator music to me now. I just don’t pay attention to it.”

In the real world, this is called denial. Exodus’ Chambers desperately defends his program by insincerely pointing to a deeply flawed and non-peer-reviewed 2007 study conducted through faculty at Wheaton College and Regent University – the latter headed by Pat Robertson, a man who links homosexuality to hurricanes and meteors. Instead of bolstering his case, Chambers shows intellectual bankruptcy and hostility towards science.

Chambers further defends Exodus with what appears to be poll-tested slogans and non-sequiturs designed to obscure the issue.

“There are many who do not share our beliefs, nor are they in conflict living as homosexuals,” said Chambers. “We respect this human right to self-determination. In the spirit of tolerance and diversity, we ask only for the same as well.”

Chambers is dishonest on so many fronts that it is difficult

to know where to begin. First, the societal hostility groups like Exodus create make life more difficult for all gay people, regardless of whether they share Chambers’ beliefs. Second, the very failure of Exodus to sexually engineer people, combined with the conclusions of modern science, shows that people do not determine their sexual orientation. It is determined for them before birth or at a very early age - and a \$600 non-refundable hoax in the North Carolina woods does not change this fact. Third, Chambers disingenuously plays the victim card, when he is actually the victimizer. What he conveniently failed to tell Bannerman, was that he was scheduled to campaign against same-sex marriage in California only months after this conference. So much for the spirit of tolerance and diversity that he trumpets!

It was refreshing to see a report from a writer who accurately observed the nuttiness and tragedy of ex-gay programs. These groups offer nothing more than an illogical hodgepodge of loony ideas lifted from pop psychology and fused with a judgmental version of religion. The result is often grave damage and harm done to people who are so desperate to fit in that they are willing to trust con artists and quacks with their lives.

The more people know about the ex-gay myth, the less support these programs inevitably receive. I hope this fantastic piece of journalism is replicated by journalists throughout the world.

****Note:** In the article, Lucy Bannerman described me as an “ex-ex” gay. I am not. She must have thought so because I described my experience of my parents buying me an ex-gay tape as a teenager, after I came out to them.

Wayne Besen is the Founding Executive Director of Truth Wins Out and author of “Anything But Straight: Unmasking the Scandals and Lies Behind the Ex-Gay Myth” (Haworth, 2003). He can be reached at www.truthwinsout.org.

Pacific Inland Northwest

Calendar

Nov 1 - Dec 15 2008

We're pleased to share non-profit events on this calendar of interest to the GLBTQA community. Think an event should be added? Drop us a line: mail@qviewnorthwest.com

RECURRING EVENTS

WEEKLY

Tue

WSU GLBTA - Pullman
7pm – 8pm The Center, Smith Gym, WSU Campus, Pullman, WA. Coordinates much of the social programming for the campus community such as BBQ's, camping trips, National Coming Out Day, and Homecoming parade

Wed

Alcoholics Anonymous-LGBT 6:30pm – 8:30pm At Bethany Presbyterian Church, 310 S Freya St, Spokane, WA

Thur

QueerSounds 6pm – 8pm
KYRS FM 92.3 or 89.9 Online at www.live365.com, search for KYRS Inland NW's only radio show dedicated to playing music by and for LGBTQ people. Music, interviews, community events. Hosted by DJ Irey and “bob”.

Sat

SNO-Saturday Night Out - 5pm – 1am MCC Diversity Pride Center (Gettman Hall), 2626 W Bruneau Pl, Kennewick, WA Alcohol-free environment, GLBTQI & S friendly, Kid friendly, couple & single friendly, \$2 donation at the door requested to help cover expenses. Movies, snacks, dancing, games, and people to meet.

Sun

Westminster Congregational UCC
8:30am – 9:30am Early Worship
10:30am – 11:30am Traditional Worship
No matter who you are or where you are in your faith journey, all are welcome. Westminster is an Open & Affirming congregation in the United Church of Christ. Welcoming Christian worship service for all. Communion served weekly.

EMCC Worship 5:00pm Worship (weekly) 301 S Freya (509) 838-0085 www.emccspokane.org

SEMI-MONTHLY

First & Third Tue

OutSpokane Meeting
7:15pm – 9:00pm Robert H Cooke Building, 503 East 2nd Avenue. Open meeting for planning and coordinating Pride and Fall into Pride events.

MONTHLY

First Sat

Potluck - LGBTQ Family and Friends
6pm – 8pm Westminster Congregational UCC, 411 S Washington, Spokane, WA. Family-friendly non-alcoholic potluck to celebrate being with LGBTQA community. All are welcome. Sponsored by the Inland Northwest LGBT Center and the Westminster Congregational UCC. For more info: Westminster Congregational UCC 624-1366 or Inland Northwest LGBT Center 489-1914 www.thelgbtcenter.org

First Sun

Bowling! LGBT & Friends
10:30am – 12:30pm
North Bowl, 125 W. Sinto Ave. LGBT & Friends Northbowl Lanes Address: 125 W. Sinto Avenue \$10.00 covers 3 games, shoes and ball. No RSVP required but lanes are limited! Contact: www.inwgb.org or Mark at 509 879-8747

Second Mon

Inland NW LGBT Center Board Meeting
6pm – 8pm (monthly) Location TBA Meetings of the board of the Inland Northwest LGBT Center are open to the public. www.thelgbtcenter.org

Third Mon

Pride Foundation Inland NW Steering Committee Meeting
7:30pm – 8:30pm (monthly) Courtyard Office Center - Conference Room, 827 W 1st Ave, Spokane WA.

First Tue

Gay & Lesbian Book Group
7:30pm Auntie's Bookstore - 402 W Main St, Spokane, WA

Second Wed

INBA Luncheon
11:30am – 1:00pm at Dempseys Brass Rail. Senator Lisa Brown will be this month's guest speaker. Great opportunity to network with other business people in the area. www.inba-spokane.org

Vista Youth Center Board Meeting - Kennewick
5:30pm – 7:30pm Vista Youth Center, 2625 W Bruneau Pl, Ste E, Kennewick, WA`

Last Thur

Tri-Cities PFLAG Meeting
7pm – 9pm (monthly, last Thur of the month) Gettman Hall, 2625 W Bruneau Pl, Kennewick, WA www.tcpflag.org

NON-RECURRING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

Sun 2

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

ISCS Board Meeting 5:30pm at Dempsey's with the Court Meeting following at 6:30pm. The annual election of board members is held at this court meeting.

ISCS Investitures for the 2008-2009 reign
“A Royal Night of Just Desserts” 7:30pm at Dempsey's

Elegant sit-down dinner hosted by Mr. David Ball at his home, by reservation only. A benefit for OutSpokane. 5pm – 8pm Call 534-8369 to reserve your place. Visit OutSpokane website for more info www.outspokane.com

Tue 4

ELECTION DAY

Tue 11

VETERAN'S DAY

Sun 16

Friends of SAN 18th Annual Quarter Auction A benefit for SAN 4pm until the last prize is won. Dempseys Brass Rail. 909 W 1st Ave, Spokane, WA

Sat 22

ISCS Fundraiser Show at Dempseys. Line up at 7:00pm, Show at 8:00pm

Thur 27

THANKSGIVING

DECEMBER

Wed 3

“Reconciling Faith and Sexual Orientation”
Compassion, grace and love, a panel discussion of clergy of diverse faiths in acceptance and nurturing of GLBT parishioners. Sponsored by the Gonzaga GLBT Resource Center. Contact Ian Sullivan at 509-313-5847 for more information.

Pacific Inland Northwest Resources

SPOKANE AREA

BiNet Spokane

A social support group for bisexual men and women.

Call: (509) 217-1271

Eastern Washington University SAFE Students' Alliance for Equality

Weekly meetings for students, faculty and staff.

Call: (509) 359-4253

EMCC – Emmanuel Metropolitan Community Church

Christian church with outreach to the GLBT community.

Call: (509) 838-0085

Web site: www.emccspokane.org

Friends of SAN

Fundraising organization for people living with HIV/AIDS to improve the quality of their lives.

Write: 1212 E. Front Ave. Spokane, WA 99202

Gay/Lesbian Info Line

Call: (509) 489-2266

Immediate Crisis: (509) 838-4428

GLBT Book Group

Discusses selected works at Auntie's Bookstore at 7 p.m. the first Tuesday each month.

Call: (509) 838-0206

Web site: www.auntiesbooks.com/

Gonzaga University GLBT Resource Center

For information and to contact resource organizations on the GU campus, September-May.

HERO (Helping Educate Regarding Orientation) gay-straight alliance.

SODA (Sexual Orientation Diversity Alliance) law school support group.

Call: (509) 323-5847

Hospice of Spokane

Physical, emotional and spiritual care for the terminally ill and loved ones; bereavement support and HIV/AIDS counselling services.

Call: (509) 456-0438

ISCS – Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane

PO Box 65, Spokane, WA 99210-0065

Web site: www.iscspokane.org

INBA – Inland Northwest Business Alliance

A Professional GLBTQ/Allied Business Alliance. Monthly luncheon meetings and annual community resource directory.

PO Box 20163, Spokane, WA 99204

Voice mail: (509) 455-3699

E-mail: info@inbaspokane.org

Web site: www.inbaspokane.org

Inland Northwest LGBT Center

Formerly Rainbow Regional Community Center

Support services for LGBT community and individuals exploring their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

Web site: www.thelgbtcenter.org

Inland Northwest Men's Experience

(IN MX) Formerly Lilac City Men's Project

IN MX is a funded program that uses the MPowerment Project model to build the gay and bi men's community through sponsored social events and activities. Spokane's MPowerment Project has been named the Inland Northwest Men's Experience and has been adapted to include the entire GLBTQ community for the large social events, and for men 18 to 29 for the smaller events and wellness groups.

Web site: www.itheinmx.com

Integrity

Gay and lesbian Episcopalians meet monthly for communion and simple meal.

Call: Chuck: (509) 326-7707 or Ann: (509) 624-6671

Lilac City Men's Project

Please see Inland Northwest Men's Project

Lutheran Community Services-SafeT Response Center

Call: (509) 747-8224

Crisis line (509) 624-7273

Odyssey Youth Center

Our mission is to work with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth and their allies to provide a safe place, education and advocacy to promote positive growth and self empowerment.

1121 S Perry, Spokane WA 99202

Call: (509) 325-3637

Web site: www.odysseyyouth.org

OutSpokane

Committee organizes annual Pride march and celebration and other community events.

Web site: www.OutSpokane.com

Papillon

Social support group for the transgender community.

Call: (509) 292-8852

PFLAG - Spokane – Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays

Support group for parents, family, friends and members of the GLBT community.

Call: (509): 624-6671

Web site: www.pflagspokane.org

PJALS – Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane

Independent, membership organization building foundations for a just and nonviolent world.

Call: (509) 838-7870

Web site: www.pjals.net

Planned Parenthood of The Inland Northwest

HIV antibody testing and counseling.

Call: Clinic for Appt.: (800) 788-9128

Administration: (509) 326-6292

Pride Foundation/Inland Northwest

The Pride Foundation connects, inspires and strengthens the Pacific Northwest GLBTQ community in pursuit of equality by awarding grants and scholarships and cultivating leaders.

Call: Spokane office (509) 327-8377 or (888) 575-7717

E-mail: outreach@pridefoundation.org

Website: www.pridefoundation.org

Rainbow Regional Community Center

Please see Inland Northwest LGBT Center

Ryan White CARE Consortium

HIV care education and planning group.

Call: (509) 444-8200

SAN – Spokane AIDS Network

905 S Monroe St, Spokane, WA

Call: (509) 455-8993

Web site: www.san-nw.org

Spokane County Domestic Violence Consortium

A private, nonprofit organization with members from a variety of professions who have come together to end intimate partner violence.

Call: (509) 487-6783

Spokane Falls Community College - The Alliance

GLBT and allies group to provide a safe space; to educate our community.

Call: (509) 533-4507

Spokane Human Rights Commission

Call: Equity Office: (509) 625-6263

Spokane Regional Health District

Providing health services and referrals for the public. HIV testing.

Call: (509) 324-1542 or 1-800-456-3236

Web site: www.srhdc.org/

Stonewall News Northwest

Flagship publication for the gay and lesbian community and the Inland Northwest.

Web site: www.stonewallnews.net

Unitarian Universalist Church

Gay, lesbian resource committee.

Call: (509) 325-6383

Web site: www.uuchurchofspokane.org

Westminster Congregational UCC

An Open and Affirming Congregation of faith in downtown Spokane. Informal worship at 8:30am, traditional worship at 10:30am. 411 S Washington St, Spokane, WA

Call: (509) 624-1366

Web site: <http://wcunited.qwestoffice.net/>

Women and Friends

Women-only activities and events in the Spokane area.

Call: (509) 458-4709

IDAHO

Idaho for Basic Rights

Citizen action group to work for civil and legal equality on basis of sexual orientation.

Call: (208) 343-7402

NIAC – North Idaho AIDS Coalition

HIV/AIDS prevention, education and assistance for people infected with, affected by HIV.

410 Sherman Avenue Suite 215, Coeur d'Alene, ID

Call: (208) 665-1448 or (866) 609-1774

Web site: www.northidahoaidscoalition.org

NIGMA -

North Idaho Gay Men's Association

Creating community by providing real time social activities for gay men in the Moscow/Pullman area, visitors, and allies.

E-mail: NIGMA@yahoogroups.com

Panhandle Health District

STD/HIV testing, condoms, and other methods of birth control, physical exams, shots, cancer screening, resource nurse voucher program, referrals to area resources and education. All services are confidential.

• Kootenai County Call: (208) 667-3481

• Boundary County Call: (208) 267-5558

• Shoshone County Call: (208) 786-7474

• Bonner County Call: (208) 263-5159

• Benewah County Call: (208) 245-4556

PFLAG - Sandpoint

Support, education and advocacy group for Sandpoint gay people, parents, family and friends.

Call: (208) 263-6699

Planned Parenthood of The Inland Northwest

HIV antibody testing and counseling.

Call: Clinic for Appt.: (800) 788-9128

Administration: (509) 326-6292

LEWISTON/CLARKSTON

PFLAG - Lewis-Clark

Support, education and advocacy group for Lewis-Clark gay people, parents, family and friends. Meets in Lewiston.

Call: (509) 758-6437

MOSES LAKE

AACW – Alternative Alliance of Central Washington

A social and support group to help bring together people in the GLBT community.

Write: P.O. Box 1282, Moses Lake, WA 98837

PULLMAN/MOSCOW

Planned Parenthood of The Inland Northwest

HIV antibody testing and counseling.

Call: Clinic for Appt.: (800) 788-9128

Administration: (509) 326-6292

Washington State University Gender Identity/Expression and Sexual Orientation Resource Center

Provides education, advocacy, and support for the WSU community.

Call: (509)335-6388

E-mail: giesorc@wsu.edu

Web site: www.thecenter.wsu.edu

Associated Students of Washington State University GLBTA

Socializing and educational outreach for WSU students.

Call: (509) 335-4311

E-mail: glbta.aswsu@wsu.edu

Web site: <http://glbta.wsu.edu>

Out There

Sponsored by Whitman County Health and WSU, Out There is a social and educational program for college-aged men who have sex with men.

Call: (509) 335-6428

University of Idaho Gay-Straight Alliance

Promoting a fabulous, positive and inclusive environment for all people on campus and encouraging individual growth and understanding by developing

outreach programs, improving visibility and recognition of queer issues and history.

Call: (208) 885-2691

TRI-CITIES

Benton-Franklin District Health Department

Confidential and anonymous HIV testing, case management, educational and referral services.

Call: (Pasco) (509) 547-9737, ext. 234

Confidential voice mail also.

River of Life Metropolitan Community Church

Christian church celebrating diversity and affirming GLBTQ people. Sunday services at 10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

2625 W Bruneau Pl, Kennewick, WA

Call: (509) 628-4047

E-mail: info@riveroflifemcc.org

Web site: www.riveroflifemcc.org

Tri-Cities Chaplaincy/Tri-Cities CARES

Columbia AIDS relief, education and support. Survivor support group and HIV/PWA support group.

Call: (509) 783-7416

WALLA WALLA

Blue Mountain Heart to Heart

AIDS prevention education, support and services.

Call: (509) 529-4744

Toll Free: (888) 875-2233 (pin #4744)

Spanish: (509) 529-2174

PFLAG – Walla Walla

Support, education and advocacy group for parents, family, friends and members of the GLBTQ community. Promoting the health and well-being of GLBTQ individuals, their families and friends.

Call: (509) 529-5320

Write: 527 E. Oak

Walla Walla, WA 99362-1248

E-mail: pflag_walla2wash@hotmail.com

WENATCHEE

SHINE

An organization that strives to eliminate all forms of prejudice and discrimination by promoting awareness, education, and self-empowerment through the use of the arts.

Call: (509) 860-7354

E-mail: shine_org@yahoo.com

YAKIMA

PFLAG - Yakima/Yakima Valley

Promotes the health and well-being of GLBT individuals, their families and friends.

Call: (509) 576-9625

Rainbow Cathedral Metropolitan Community Church

An MCC Seattle parish extension.

Call: (509) 457-6454

MONTANA

Flathead Valley Alliance

Northwest Montana information and referral services.

PO Box 2815, Kalispell MT

Call: (406) 758-6707

Web site: www.flatheadvalleyalliance.org

Lesbian Avengers

A direct action group focused on issues vital to lesbian survival and visibility.

Call: (406) 523-6608

PFLAG Billings

Meets monthly Sept. - May.

Call: (406) 255-7609

PRIDE!

Statewide lesbigaytrans civil rights advocacy group.

Call: (406) 442-9322

or, in Montana: (800) 610-9322

PRIDE Celebration

Group in charge of annual Montana June PRIDE celebrations.

Call: (406) 442-9322

Western Montana Gay & Lesbian Community Center

127 North Higgins, Suite 202

Missoula, MT 59802

(406) 543-2224

E-mail: wmgccc@gaymontana.org

Web: www.gaymontana.org

WASHINGTON

Bi MEN Group

Bi and bi-curious men and gay men who enjoy and support bisexual men.

Web site: www.egroups.com/group/bi-men-west

Equal Rights Washington

Fighting for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality.

Call: (206) 324-2570

Web site: www.equalrightswashington.org

GLSEN Washington State

The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network

E-mail: mail@glsenwa.org

Web site: www.glsenwa.org

Legal Marriage Alliance

Working to achieve the right of same-sex couples to marry legally in Washington.

support diversity
and your bottom line



Over 10,000 readers a month
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qviewnorthwest.com

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