

Qview

northwest
Spokane Edition

Monthly newsmagazine
celebrating diversity
and dances of the
human spirit

**December
2008**

how fluid is
sexual
orientation?

The
**French
Quarter**

Law & Wine

sodomy and
Civil Rights

tales from an
herbivore

Queer Goggles

what **Mitch** says

World AIDS Day
1988 - 2008

**"Oy Vey!
My Son Is Gay!"**

on the set with
filmmaker

**Evgeny
Afineevsky**

Qview northwest

SPOKANE EDITION
December 2008
Vol. 2 Issue 4

Monthly newsmagazine celebrating
diversity and dances of the human spirit

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on the set with filmmaker

Evgeny Afineevsky

by Blair Tellers



Society is becoming more open and accepting. I am trying to show both sides in my movie, gay and straight communities. I think that Americans need to study Europeans to be more open and understanding towards all other people. In Canada, they accept gay marriages and it's not a big issue for them because at the end of the day in front of God, everybody is equal.

Evgeny Afineevsky was born October 21, 1972 in Kazan, Tatarstan, Russia. Evgeny is one of the youngest and most successful impresarios in Israel and abroad. He has coordinated over 30 musicals in Israel, produced numerous television productions and films and received myriad awards for his work. He is currently filming a screenplay six years in the making entitled "Oy Vey! My Son Is Gay!" which was the recipient of Best Original Comedy Screenplay Gold Remi Award in 2008. Evgeny is currently filming his movie in Spokane.

Q View: What was it like to receive First Prize for Best Documentary of the largest Republics in Russia at such a young age?

Evgeny: It was pretty big because when I did that movie I did it by myself. I wrote it on my own, edited it on my own and spliced it in old-time fashion. So it was a big deal, even for a small, short movie.

Q View: You are only 36. When you look back on all that you have accomplished, does your life just seem like a whirlwind? Where

to do you find piece of mind to balance the stress of what you do?

Evgeny: I feel that I do need to have movies in my life, I do need to have some kind of stuff that moves me, moves around me. I don't like to sit in an office. I love the action happening; when things are happening you're feeling that you're living and you need to go towards some goals. I'm never looking back. I still think I have a lot to achieve.

Q View: And the finding peace of mind? Where does that fit in?

Evgeny: It is stressful. But it is something that I choose; it is an every day job that has its minuses and pluses. I choose what I am doing, and I am enjoying it because I am bringing a beautiful artistic thing to life. Movies are a kind of sculpture. When you have more and more new media stuff like DVD's coming out, movies are the things that can still live throughout the centuries. It's a beautiful sculpture you've created and it will live long after your life.

Q View: Where did the idea for the screenplay "Oy Vey, My Son is Gay?" come from?

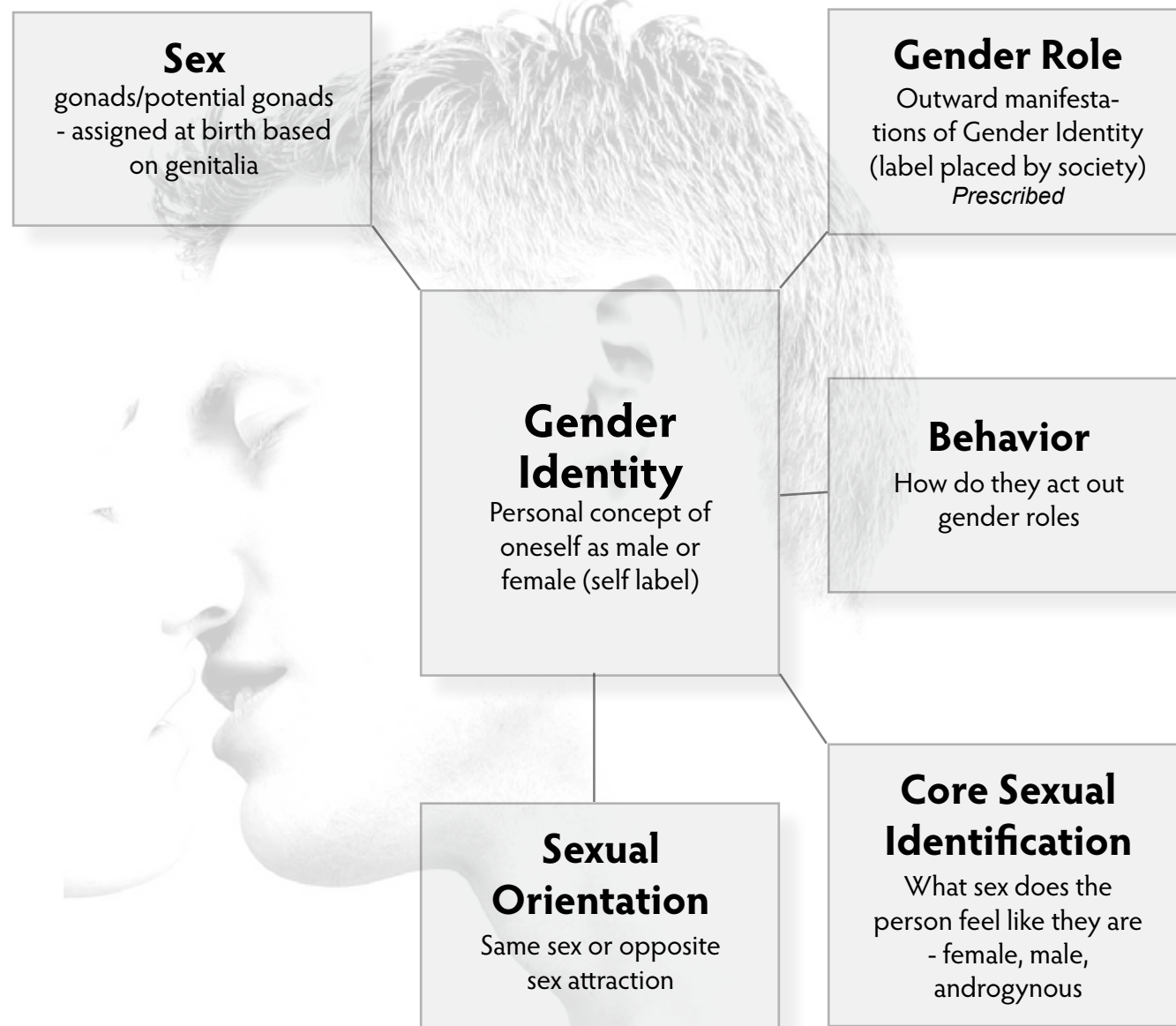
Evgeny: It came from a lot of different arguments and messages. When I first saw the screenplay in 2000 I fell in love with it. I realized that in order to accomplish this movie I needed to direct it myself, produce it myself and re-write it myself. In 2004 I took over all the writing and took the job of director. Now that it's actually happening it is very timely. Given all that is going on with Proposition Eight and all the economical issues I think people would like to see comedies, and all this timeliness makes the movie perfect for the moment. I polished the script and re-wrote a lot. I can't say I wrote the whole thing but the last version is 40 percent different from the original 2000 copy.

Q View: Your career is extremely dynamic and has spanned many categories. Do you have any particular project that you would consider your favorite? Or one that left a major impact on you either personally or professionally?

Evgeny: I think that right now, obviously each project for me is like my baby. This is what it

Oy Vey! continued on Page 18

how fluid is sexual orientation?



by Joyce Crosby

Continuing her *How Fluid Is Sexual Orientation?* article from the November 2008 issue of *Q View Northwest*, Joyce Crosby talks with local mental health professional Sharon O'Brien.

a conversation with Sharon O'Brien

Although psychologists agree that homosexuality is not a choice for many people, little is known about the factors that lead individuals to identify as queer. Research has shown that homosexuality has a genetic component to it, yet environment plays a role as well. One of the more interesting aspects of recent sexuality research is the idea of "fluidity" of sexual orientation. Many young people in their teens or 20's feel their sexual identity is "fluid" and not "fixed." In other words, a 16 year old may have previously had a crush on a straight or bisexual boy, but currently she prefers to be with her female girlfriend.

Q View: Can science provide the answers to the basis of sexual orientation?

O'Brien: Only to a limited degree. Although there may be a genetic basis to sexual orientation, the genetic components are influenced by the way our environment interacts with those components.

Q View: What determines sexual orientation?

O'Brien: There are many theories, some maybe more plausible than others, but few without problems. See attached chart.

Q View: Are we able to choose any part of our orientation? Are we able to change it at will?



Mental health professional Sharon O'Brien

O'Brien: I personally do not believe that we choose the genetic component that predisposes our sexual orientation. I also believe that we do not choose many of the environmental factors that nurture and guide us towards a certain orientation. I do believe that some people have chosen not to act on same-sex orientation because of family, religious, societal, or personal reasons. These people either remain celibate or enter into intimate relationships that fill their needs in many other ways and can be quite satisfying for a lifetime.

Q View: Is sexual orientation fixed for some people?

O'Brien: It's a continuum.

Q View: Is sexual orientation

constant across a continuum or is it categorical? Is it spread evenly across a continuum?

O'Brien: I don't know. Because of the number of factors going into sexual orientation an estimate is the best anyone can make at this time.

Q View: There seems to be a perception in the LGBT community that there are three sexual orientations: homosexual, heterosexual, and confused. What about bisexuals? Is this truly a sexual orientation or is it a stage people go through when dealing with homophobia?

O'Brien: Confused is not a sexual orientation. In my experience, there has been historically, a tendency to look at bisexuals as just "confused" or immature. Has that been helpful? However, I think it makes dating much more problematic for both gays and straights if you cannot tell what side of the fence a person sits on. It is hard enough asking a person out without having to risk shock and rejection on orientation issues. So, this brings about a need to label.

Q View: How likely is it that someone's sexual orientation will change in their lifetime? How likely is it that it will reverse itself or change again?

O'Brien: Relationships go through ups and downs, no matter what sexual orientation,

O'Brien continued on Page 22



Stacey Blowers,
DeVerne Augustus and
Dana Mathews in
The French Quarter

The French Quarter

by Blair Tellers
photos by Steve Rodenbough

There are some things in life you can live without, like Spencer Pratt from The Hills and junk mail.

And then are the things many of us would prefer not to live without—like cheese, chocolate, wine and therapeutic massage.

Through a series of changes and twists, Dana Mathews, DeVerne Augustus and Stacey Blowers have found themselves at the head of an eclectic entrepreneurship that provides several of those comforting luxuries people make a beeline for at the end of a long week.

And the best part? You can find it all under one roof.

What started as Studio One Hair & Body Salon has expanded into a venture just as unbound and open to possibility as its creators. Located in Carnegie Square downtown near Brown's addition, the salon has grown to include a gourmet boutique called the French Quarter.

Mathews and Augustus own the salon, and the boutique is owned by Augustus and Blowers. Blowers is also the skin care therapist for Studio One.

Studio One and the French Quarter have blossomed into a fantastic little nook where clients can discover a delightful juxtaposition of goods and services.

One of the main attractions of the French Quarter are the hand rolled truffles made completely from scratch by Augustus, who started making his own chocolates more than a decade ago.

The secret behind Augustus' intensely rich and flavorful truffles is the direct infusion of fresh, top of the line ingredients to his truffle base. "I only infuse," he says. "There are no chunks, as opposed to inclusion."

Cloves, nutmeg, allspice and cinnamon are the elements used to create an authentic pumpkin truffle. The malted honeycomb brittle ganache—a white chocolate base with malted chocolate barley syrup and honey comb brittle with ganache rolled up inside—is life altering.

Then there's the caramel sea salt truffle, which makes you feel like a kid again. It's made with caramel and cream, then enrobed

French Quarter continued on page 14

Law & Wine

by **Albert Coke Roth, III, Esq.**

Attorney and international wine judge Coke Roth blends personality with GLBT legal insight & wine recommendations

Law

I could detail the virtues and short comings of the Washington Domestic Partnership Law, but the two brochures available on the web* succinctly summarize our 2008 legislature's best efforts to award rights to GLBT relationships – marriage, without legalizing marriage. In short, qualified same-sex cohabitants can publically register with the Washington Secretary of State and thereby are entitled to several preferences allowed to married folks; like the ability to direct medical care for a partner, handle post-mortem details, inherit property acquired during the domestic partnership and . . . experience the pleasure of divorce (family) court when they move on! Please do not misunderstand me; I greatly applaud our legislature for this extremely positive move. However, legal entitlement to marriage still requires people to seek legal advice for relationship planning, planning for incapacity and post-mortem planning.

And, do I have news for you! Remember that actor, Lee Marvin? Well, he cohabitated with a woman and when they parted company, she sued for part of his property and won. This principle, called the "Meretricious Relationship Doctrine" took firm hold in Washington and was extended to same-sex couples in 2004. So,

regardless of sexual orientation, anyone that cohabitates while romantically involved runs the risk of compelled sharing without pre-relationship planning; for different sex couples, a pre-nuptial agreement, and for same-sex couples, a Relationship Agreement of some sort (Cohabitation Agreement, Meretricious Relationship Agreement, Domestic Partnership Agreement, etc.). These contracts define what each partner (or spouse) enters the relationship with, what they contribute, and what they are entitled to if the relationship fizzles - it is literally agreeing to liquidated divorce damages. So, before you register as a domestic partner, seek legal advice from a lawyer who focuses on estate planning, and strongly consider getting a relationship agreement, even if you register.

Accordingly, as married folks get wills and durable powers of attorney, so should members of the QLBT set. Wills give away your property after you die. If you do not have a will, the state has one for you. As a side-bar, our laws of descent and distribution were created during medieval times, so if you die without a will, called "intestate," you can smile with the comforting thought that your money and possessions will be sprinkled to your heirs under the oversight of the state administering laws created about 1,000 years ago... less than desirable.

Picking the right Personal Representative (f.k.a. Executor/ Executrix), agents for health care

and financial matters and other fiduciaries and their successors need to be defined; your partner might get hit by the same milk truck, so then who? Your sibling who doesn't understand your orientation or doesn't like your friends?

Let me conclude with these suggestions: First, look up the law for yourself; the analysis at the sources listed below* are very user friendly. Secondly, go see a lawyer to see if domestic partnership registration is what you need and have your lawyer advise whether a relationship agreement is necessary. Third, have a lawyer draft estate planning documents for you; wills and everything else you may need. There is no substitution for these very necessary instruments, GLBT or otherwise.

Wine

It is only coincidence that this article discusses GLBT relationships and pink wines :-), as pink wines are so delicious with holiday foods and occasions. Commonly called "Rosé" or "Blush" wines, pink wines are sometimes the result of a white wine base augmented with a splash of red. The noblest of pink wines are made with the lightly pigmented juice of red wine varieties, sometimes even named after the variety, like "Syrah Rosé" and proprietary names are also in vogue. The sweetness variable produces a degree of difficulty in zeroing in on which pink wine

suits your fancy, so check with the producer website, purveyor, or a wine periodical**. For me, very few wines transcend wine/food or wine/occasion pairings like pink wines; they have a broad range. Holiday foods vary in complexity, and lightly sweet, savory, and spicy side dishes and condiments make juicy pink wines the perfect date.

Here are some of my favorites:

Domaine Ste. Michelle Blanc de Noir - Bubblemaster, Rick Casquero, makes a sparkling pink wine that allows you to fest with your feast. Delicious light cherry hue and matching flavors are great from the start to the finish of holiday fare . . . \$12 everywhere.

Tagaris Rhon-za - Frank Roth, Tagaris Winemaker, made this juicy ham and turkey wine to perfectly suit his father's taste (me!). From Syrah, Mourvedré, Couniose and two Grenache clones - killer strawberry Rainier Cherry flavors and dashing balance . . . \$15 at selected outlets or from the Winery.

Maryhill Rosé of Sangiovese. This Rosé takes the heavy metal at competitions because of its undaunting spicy acidity and racy strawberry/rhubarb fruit. Don't miss out . . . \$15.

Columbia Crest Vineyard 10 Rosé. Don't get me started. My buddy, Ray Einberger, made some pink to splash in your holiday glass. Quaffable cherries and

strawberries with a refreshing finish. . . \$8

Alexandra Nichole Cabernet Franc Back Room Rosé. Ali and Jerrod Boyle do Rosé right . . . Floral notes accompany lively strawberry jam flavors . . . crisp and fun . . . \$14

* Washington Secretary of State (www.secstate.wa.gov) and Lambda Legal (www.lamdalegal.org).

** Wine Press Northwest (www.winepressnw.com) is a dandy.



Albert Coke Roth, III is the Principal of the Roth*Coleman Law Office in Kennewick, WA and is licensed to practice law in Washington and Oregon, practicing law in the areas of Estate and Relationship Planning, Business and Business Succession Planning and matters of Real Estate. You can contact Coke at (509) 783-0220 or coke@rothcoleman.com, or visit www.rothcoleman.com. Coke is also an international wine judge, winery consultant, and a panelist for WinePress Northwest Magazine.



tales from an Herbivore

by **Jordy Byrd**
photo by **Steve Rodenbough**

One of the most common things I'm asked as a vegetarian is "what do you eat?" Being the sweetheart I am, I tell them food and run away. Why do I run? First, because I can, and second because this question is never easy to understand.

Case in point. Last winter I traveled to Germany. Having informed my hosts I was a vegetarian, I thought things would run smoothly. Yet again, my naivety overcame me. Throughout my trip I was served meat. One host said, "you're a vegetarian, oh I'll make duck." Another so kindly explained that it was ok because she "made me a little piece of schnitzel (fried pork) for me instead." I understand that cultural factors affected my encounters; and yet this misunderstanding happens continually at home.

The question after all, is legitimate, as there are many types of vegetarians. But before I delve into the ins and outs of being a veggie tale (my pet name for vegetarians), I have one forewarning. These titles are not to be given or labeled by others. Rather, it is up to each individual to determine if, and how they want to be identified. Now, here are

generalized variations of vegetarian diets.

- **Pescatarians:** Individuals who don't eat any meat except fish and other sea creatures.
- **Vegetarian:** Individuals who don't eat any meat. However, there are several variations. Lacto-ovo-vegetarians incorporate eggs and dairy products into their diets. Lacto- vegetarians do not eat eggs, but eat dairy products. Finally, ovo-vegetarians eat dairy products, but do not eat eggs. If this seems difficult, it's because it is. As a cheat sheet, remember the Latin root. Lacto means milk and ovo means egg.
- **Vegan:** Individuals who don't eat meat, but also refrain from eating all dairy products including animal-derived ingredients like gelatin.
- **Raw vegan / fruititarians:** Individuals who eat no meat or dairy and generally eat

unprocessed food, heated to a temperature less than 105 degrees. Fruititarians only eat fruits, nuts and seeds (no plant roots, i.e. carrots and potatoes).

That's as basic as it gets. Currently, I am a lacto-ovo-vegetarian that eats eggs and dairy products. Although it requires no explanation, I'm giving you one. I eat eggs, because it's possible to eat unfertilized eggs, never capable of hatching into chickens. Moreover, the dairy products I eat are organic and come from free-range cows. If you're lost on the lingo, don't sweat it. I'll discuss these topics later. If you're wondering what a meatless meal tastes like, just try one. If worst comes to worse, you can just add chicken. It goes with everything right?

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

Vegetarian Holiday Recipes

Cider Glazed Root Vegetables and Cranberries

Ingredients

900g mixture of carrots, turnip and sweet potato, cut into 2cm chunks
1250ml cider or apple juice
100g brown sugar
50g vegan margarine
½ tsp ground nutmeg
½ tsp ground allspice
75g cranberries to taste

Lightly steam the vegetables until part cooked. Combine the cider, sugar, margarine, nutmeg and spices in a non-stick saucepan and bring to the boil, stirring frequently. Add steamed vegetables and simmer for 5 minutes. Add cranberries (or redcurrants) and continue cooking until liquid is reduced to a syrupy glaze and vegetables are tender. If syrup becomes too thick before vegetables are cooked, thin with a small amount of cider. When vegetables are cooked, transfer to a serving dish using a slotted spoon. Season to taste and pour glaze over top. Serve immediately.

Butternut Squash and Ginger Soup

Ingredients

1 medium onion, peeled and chopped
2 cloves garlic, crushed
15g/½ oz butter or 15ml/1 tbsp vegetable oil*
700g/1½lb butternut squash, peeled and chopped
10 ml/2tsp freshly grated ginger root juice
900ml/1½ pts light vegetable stock
To taste salt and black pepper

Sauté the onion and garlic in the butter or oil for 5 minutes covered, without browning. Add the butternut squash, ginger juice, nutmeg and a little seasoning. Cover and continue to cook for a further 10 minutes stirring occasionally to prevent browning. Add the stock, bring to the boil and simmer for 20 minutes or until the squash is tender. Puree the soup in a blender or processor. Reheat to serve and garnish with a swirl of cream, creme fraiche or concentrated soy milk.

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French Quarter
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in dark chocolate. And unlike other caramels, this one retains a welcoming softness instead of a candied-hardness.

"It's so rare to find products that use fresh, natural ingredients," says Blowers. "With DeVerne's chocolates it's like being in a garden—pinching off the herbs and smelling and tasting and feeling everything, and it's amazing."

Items like rosemary and fennel, organic Valencia orange, chai spice, jasmine flowers, ginger, tarragon with candied, Texas ruby red grapefruit, basil, coconut and chipotle chile are just a few of the items Augustus uses. His truffles retain the essence of all these ingredients, without being overpowered by excessive flavor.

Especially decadent is the Brix truffle, which is made with a 20-year tawny port, and the Key Lime truffle, which is so reminiscent of the real thing it catches you off guard with its authenticity.

"I use fresh lime juice and graham cracker crusts for that one," says Augustus. "I take all of my inspirations and realize them with the least amount of added sugars and fats. I figure out my sugar recipes without inverting the sugar separation into the basic glucose sucrose."

Also very popular with clients and friends are the wine tastings every Friday from 5pm-8pm. Augustus, Blowers and Mathews go out of their way to select wines from single vineyard estates, run by folks who do everything on their own from start to finish.

"These wines are from people

who are handpicking their grapes, working their soil, creating their crop and turning it into a finished product," says Augustus. "And that's what we are doing—making our own products. We use local, sustainable goods that we produced from our gardens, the best possible chocolate sources and wines from worldwide."

French Quarter carries wines from a broad spectrum, including Europe, Oregon and Washington. Many are smaller vintages with a story behind it. "A lot of the wineries that we are patronizing happen to be out testing their own soils and working the land," says Augustus. "Those are the real sort of farmers and vintners we're looking for, to support their efforts."

And of course where there is wine, it's only fitting the savory equivalent of chocolate should be present as well. French Quarter carries cheese curds in flavors like tomato basil, garlic herb, dill and fiery pepper ranch—and these curds are significantly tastier than the ones you'll find at Beechers in Seattle. Some of French Quarter's cheeses come from the Ballard Family Cheese Farm, a small artisan operation out of Idaho who handles everything from start to finish.

A vision of turning French Quarter into a sort of boho, shop 'n socialize neighborhood stop doesn't end with wine, cheese and chocolate. Blowers is looking at bringing in small batches of artisan pasta. Mathews wants to offer fresh picked herbs straight from an adjoining green house.

"It's great to have a salon combined with a retail place," he says. "We want it to be a groovy little shop where we not only do hair but offer other cool stuff, like

fresh herbs picked that morning, great wine, pasta, cheese, preserves and recipes for different meals."

Mathews and Augustus met when Mathews was bartending at Dempseys. After living and working together for eight years, they still enjoy working side by side and attribute each other's different personalities as the element that strikes a balance in their shared, professional environment.

"Even though we work in the same space we have two separate clientele and energies going. We see each other and we are in two different worlds. We are together 24/7 and it just works out great," says Mathews. "DeVerne is very business structured, while I am social and giggly."

Mathews is originally from Spokane, while Augustus hails from Minnesota. Both have lived in their share of different places but have come to love Spokane as their permanent home.

"Part of the secret to living in Spokane is getting out once in awhile and getting your injections of sunlight," says Mathews.

Salon One and French Quarter have been well received by the community from the start. Augustus and Mathews have established a family-like circle of clientele, and Blowers, who is newer to Spokane, says the gatherings at French Quarter make her feel very at home.

"People are eating and living and finding their entertainment closer to home. We just want to tie into that and get away from the big

French Quarter
continued on page 17

World AIDS Day

1988 - 2008

by Joan Opyr

December 1, 2008 marks the 20th anniversary of World AIDS Day. Founded by the World Health Organization to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS and to help stop the spread of the disease, World AIDS Day has global significance as the HIV infection rate now approaches 39 million. On World AIDS Day, communities are encouraged to raise awareness, to educate, to continue the fight for a cure, and to remember and honor those we have lost.

While HIV/AIDS disproportionately affects those living in the developing world, the disease continues to ravage marginalized populations in the United States as well. Women, particularly women of color, young gay men, at risk youth, the homeless, the poor, and poverty-stricken populations generally have a disproportionate rate of infection. Given the current state of our health care system, these are the populations least likely to receive adequate education and appropriate care.

But HIV/AIDS can and does affect anyone. The disease does not discriminate, and neither should we. That's the point of World AIDS Day – those who are living with HIV/AIDS deserve the best possible care, the full support of the community, and an end to the ongoing prejudice and ignorance that many patients continue to face. We are talking about our friends, our neighbors, or, in some cases, ourselves. The Centers for Disease Control estimates that around 56,000

people in the United States are newly diagnosed with HIV each year. In Spokane, an estimated 750 to 1250 people are living with HIV and/or AIDS and, sadly, since the virus was first identified, approximately 6,500 people in the state of Washington have died.

There is good news for the Spokane community. A new HIV Clinic has opened at Internal Medicine Residency Spokane (IMRS). The clinic will provide superior medical care for people with HIV/AIDS, and it will offer training and experience for graduate Physicians in Internal Medicine specializing in HIV/AIDS. The new HIV Clinic at IMRS will be working with community partners Spokane AIDS Network (SAN) and the Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD), both of which have identified a need for greater patient care in the Inland Northwest.

Twenty years after the first World AIDS Day, there are reasons both to hope and to worry. Patients

with HIV/AIDS are living longer, and while this is as yet no cure for HIV, research continues in earnest. As Victoria Carding at the Spokane Regional Health District notes, "Medications are becoming available that make living with HIV easier, but they can still have difficult side effects such as nausea and diarrhea. There has seemed to be a rise in young people becoming infected. It is unclear as to why – whether people are testing more or having unprotected sex – but this diagnosis at such a young age of course impacts the person severely."

In Spokane, World AIDS Day will be commemorated at The Community Building on Monday, December 1st from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Mayor Mary Verner will deliver the opening remarks. The catered event will feature music, and art by local HIV-positive artists will be on display. Spokane's World AIDS Day will culminate with an outdoor candlelight vigil.



PHOTO ABOVE:

Delicacies featured on the plate

White "**Ginger**" truffles with fresh ginger infused into the dark chocolate ganache.

"**Tarragon with candied grapefruit**" Chocolate with the essence of tarragon and a garnish with a nice bright citrus punch.

"**Key Lime Pie Noir**" Includes garnish of real graham cracker crust with the crust wrapped around the ganache center.

"**Caramel fleur de sel**" A dark cocoa ganache laced with salted caramel and a fleur de sel sprinkled on top.

"**Dark Peppermint**" Dark chocolate infused with intense peppermint.

Wines featured around the plate

Chardonnay by A to Z, Fallegro by Gagliardo, an Italian import with a great effervescence.

A sparkling red Italian wine **Brachetto d'aqui**, only available during the holidays.

Excellent and affordable **Sav. Blanc** \$10.75 a bottle.

Oregon **Pinot Gris, Adelshein**. The artwork on the bottle is crafted by the wine maker's wife, a scene of the vineyard with a portrait of a winery worker. The label changes yearly.

The **Fallegro** and the **Brachetto** are single vineyard estate wines. All the grapes in the bottle are grown on one plot of land. The wine makers work the soil, tend the vines, harvest the fruit, make the wine, all with what they produce. They don't purchase grapes from other vineyards, nor do they sell theirs to other wineries.

French Quarter continued from page 14

box stores," says Mathews. "I would love to see French Quarter become one of the names who are part of the business of downtown Spokane."

The emotional drive behind this small business's mantra consists of humility and customer appreciation. Every guest who walks through the door is treated like family. The owners of Studio One and French Quarter are grateful towards their customers, and it shows.

"As the economy is going into the dumps, the only thing that will keep us going is the customer

service," says Mathews.

"We are taking care of each other, and people like that flavor," says Blowers. "We aren't trying to impress any upper crust in Spokane. We are just doing what makes us feel great."

Hopefully, entrepreneurs like Augustus, Blowers and Mathews will be around for a long time, continuing to define the unique makeup of business owners and creative venturists responsible for giving downtown Spokane a face and a personality.

"We like taking care of people and making them feel good and happy," says Augustus.



A Gourmet Boutique

1311 W Sprague,
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www.myfrenchquarter.com

Grand Opening

Friday, Nov 28, 10am - 8pm
Saturday, Nov 29, 10am - 6pm
Sunday, Nov 30, 12noon - 6pm

Wine tasting each day with specialty sipping chocolates, and festive hand made shortbread sandwich cookies. Samplings of Truffles and cheeses, too!



Dana Mathews, Stacey Blowers, and DeVerne Augustus in front of The French Quarter and Studio One Salon in Carnegie Square of downtown Spokane.

Oy Vey! continued from page 5

means for a real filmmaker—it is like a baby. So I think this film, right now, after six years of hard work it is basically something that right now I am giving all of my attention to. But you love all of your projects. They are like family. This is my favorite thing right now—six years of hard work.

Q View: Do you expect/intend “Oy Vey” to appeal to a wide range of audiences, or is it the kind of piece that was created for a narrower audience?

Evgeny: I am not concentrating on my gay characters in the movie. I am concentrating on the parents, their dilemma and their confusion. The message of the movie is “love is love.” Basically what is happening here is I am trying to bring out the normal, simple family oriented film that is qualified to reach the general audience. It’s not for the niche audience. At the end of the day you have a lot of movies that are having these subjects, but are still movies for the general audience. This is my goal—concentration on the dilemma of the parents; the parents discovering a ‘new’ America. My main goal is to entertain people, and through the language of jokes to send messages. Jokes and comedy are the most powerful form of language—not the demonstrations, not the fights, prop eight on the streets or police. Disturbance brings aggravation. At the end of the day we are filmmakers; the most powerful people who can deliver this message in a very powerful way to the brain.

Q View: Would you describe Nelson [one of the characters who comes out in the film] as the gay, male version of Toula in “My Big Fat Greek Wedding?”

Evgeny: No. Not exactly. Because in “My Big Fat Greek Wedding” Toula was the main character. My movie is about the mother and the father. The two of these characters are discovering new goals for themselves. It’s something they need to discover, need to adjust to, need to go find in their minds. It’s a game, it’s understanding, it’s acceptance. We are taking that tragic spin of and making it a comedy of arrows and showing the audience it is nothing other than normal people who deserve to love and be loved.

Q View: In “Oy Vey” I love when the fathers of Nelson and Angelo meet, and start blaming each other as being the “genetic cause” of their sons’ homosexuality. I can’t help from pegging this is as a wise and subtle parody of the fact that some people blame homosexuality on genetics. Would you care to comment on this?

Evgeny: In order to deliver this message properly, you need to take all possible notions that can happen in our days between parents and you need to show it. In the same way parents blame each other I am giving different scenarios. I have a scene where both fathers are blaming each other for having the homosexual genes in the family. I have another scene where one of the fathers tries to ask the playboy bunny Sybil (Carmen Electra) to seduce his son Nelson. It is wrong, and I am showing this moment in particular because it is so comical.

Q View: On a more personal note, what do you fear in life?

Evgeny: It’s hard to say, but I have good friends, I have good family. I am single and my fear is that I’m getting older and I am still looking for my second half. A lot of people in Hollywood are progressing their careers, achieving goals and growing but in their love and personal life they are lonely and alone. It’s a big thing a lot of celebrities are facing. Otherwise the people next to me are my sister and my brother, who have spent this life around me, so I do have people who are supporting me emotionally.

Q View: What are the social contrasts in gay/equal rights between the places that you’ve lived?

Evgeny: Obviously far, far and great. Basically in Russia there are a lot of elements that are happening there, like parades for gay rights. In the Ukraine the community is becoming more and more open. In terms of equal rights, Europeans and Canada are in first place. Americans still needs to study from Europeans in terms of being more open, and see that people are equal in front of God, and that love is love.

Q View: What do you think about America and it’s handling of gay/equal rights?

Evgeny: American society still has a couple steps to go and study how the people can live equally and love each other again. America still needs to

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Queer Goggles

by Joan Opyr

When I’m not writing gay novels of literary genius that sell for vast sums of cash, or however that lie was supposed to go, I work for a small and impoverished non-profit. This, my day job, is housed in a single room on the second floor of an old house, the K House. We’re kind of on the edge of campus, stuck between the fraternity houses and the wilder bars, but I like it over here. I run a one-woman office, and that suits me. If I want to take my shoes off or sing along to the fabulous repertoire of Pink, I do. The down side of my job is that I’m often the only person in the building. All of the other residents are campus ministers.

Yes, in case you were wondering, I get along fine with the ministers. This is a liberal place, and none of them seem to mind that I’m as queer as Dick’s hatband. If only all ministers were like this, California wouldn’t have a Proposition 8, but I’m trying to forget all of that and be funny, so quit reminding me.

On to my story. A few days ago, I arrived at work at 8 a.m., unlocked the building, went upstairs to my office, flipped on the light switch, and found a strange woman standing in the middle of the room. Oddly, I wasn’t startled by this. I was puzzled.

I said, “Can I help you?”

“No, I’m just looking around.” She said this casually, like she was at WalMart, and I was a sales associate.

“And you are?” I asked.

“Chris,” she said. She scratched herself and looked around.

“Can I help you, Chris?”

“No.” A long pause. Then she said, “I’m going to be leaving now.”

I didn’t argue with her. Her tone was getting nasty, and Chris was pretty nasty physically. Dark, dirty hair, large coat over what looked like a backpack, tennis shoes, and the damndest socks I’ve ever seen. They were teal colored with pockets knit into the back. She also had that meth-head look – cracked, red skin, bad teeth, twitching from her eyes to her ears.

And so she left. Writer that I am, of course, I’d been noting important details about my surroundings. Shall I list them? Yeah. I’d noticed nothing. It wasn’t until this woman had left the building that I realized my desk was a wreck, that she’d drunk half a case of Coke and tossed the cans on the floor, that she’d raided the K House kitchen and made herself an impromptu quesadilla out of six corn tortillas and a can of spray cheese, and that she’d left the remnants of her dinner stuck to my coffee table. There was a pile of books next to the sofa, and, because her hair was pretty greasy, I could see that she’d been lying there, reading. I looked through the books. She’d gotten spray cheese all over my copy of *The Bourne Identity*.

I saw all of these things and still I wasn’t thinking. I was born and raised an urban queer – in the popular imagination, that’s the only kind of gay person there is – but I was missing something. I stopped and closed my eyes. What had happened? I came in at 8 a.m. The woman was already in my office. I’d unlocked the

building. The woman was already in my office.

Holy hell! The woman had broken in and slept in my office! And she drank my Coke, and read my books, and went through my desk, and . . . it was just like Psycho only without the big knife and the taxidermied mother. Okay, it was nothing like Psycho. You know, the problem with being a lesbian is that we love dyke drama, but we’re crap at being drama queens.

Here’s the real problem. I write murder mysteries. I study police procedure. But what did I do? I cleaned up my office before I called the cops. I had to! It stank of spray cheese and unwashed burglar. I vacuumed it, I put my desk back in order, and I made look like home again. That’s what we do, isn’t it, when we’ve had a shock? We try to make things normal. But I tell you what – if this big butch lesbian ever happens upon another burglar in the act, I’m going to bend my knees, clench my fists, and run like Marion Jones.



Joan Opyr is a gigantic crank. Her life is frequently weird, and she enjoys writing and talking about that. She’s a transplanted Southerner who dreams of golden beaches, sweet iced tea, and sunny skies. She believes that Eva Cassidy should be beatified. Oh, and she’s also an award-winning novelist.

Oy Vey! continued from page 18

study from Europeans.

Q View: How do Israel, Russia and other countries you have lived in or are familiar with handle gay/equal rights?

Evgeny: In terms of gay society, Tel Aviv is the most open town and most progressive. Jerusalem has its own character because it's a religious town and you don't have too much gay life. I left Israel almost ten or nine years ago, but by this time I think some progressive things have happened there. In Europe, it is a big step that Israel is starting to look at all people on an equal scale. Discrimination, transgender—all those elements—I know that in different countries these things are a big issue. Society is becoming more and more open and accepting. I am trying to show both of the sides in my movie, gay and straight communities. I think that Americans need to

study Europeans to be more open and understanding towards all other people. In Canada, they accept gay marriages and it's not a big issue for them because at the end of the day in front of God, everybody is equal.

Q View: What do you think of Spokane and it's gay community?

Evgeny: I really love it. It's one of the reasons I came back. I do need support and again I think I've got a lot of attention and hope and support from the gay community here. I feel very supported by Spokane, by the community and by different individuals and organizations in Spokane. One of the elements that brought me to Spokane is the real support of the gay community.

Q View: "Oy Vey" is a story about "how far we have come, and that we still have a ways to go." The film is an ironic comedy, but do you hope it will strike deeper cords?

Evgeny: I think that humor and jokes are very important and very helpful. With the economy down and the recession, people are losing money and houses. It is the right time to have some entertainment.



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.

Would you like to be in the movie?

"Oy Vey! My Son Is Gay!" is currently in production and looking for volunteers to be background extras in several scenes supporting the gay community and gay rights.

Scene: Protest about gay parents adopting.

We would like 500 people if possible!

Date: Sunday, December 7th, 2008

Time: 8:30 am-ish in downtown Spokane

Duration: 2-3 hours or as long as you can stay, up to 8 hrs.

Scene: Guests at a gay wedding of 2 men

Date: Monday, December 8th, 2008

Time: 8:00am to dark (or as long as you can stay)

Duration: 6 - 8 hours.

Scene: Patrons at a gay bar

Date: Saturday, December 13th, 2008

Time: To be confirmed (maybe mid-morning to mid-afternoon) in Spokane.

You are welcome to come to all 3 days. If you can't make these dates, there are others. Just let us know when you are available and we'll let you know what we have.

~ Interested? ~

Bring activities to keep you occupied during the down times. You will be asked to sign a release allowing us to film or photograph you. If you are under 18, we'll need a guardian's signature too.

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sodomy and Civil Rights

by David R. Weiss

Sodomy, understood biblically, is the sin of creating social structures that systematically isolate those already at the margins of society.

This country has a sodomy problem. And until we have the wisdom and the courage to be honest about what that means we're not going to resolve the question of civil rights for homosexuals. We need to be clear about why sodomy is such a threat to the common good of civil society, why it undermines the family, and why it is such an evil when afoot in faith communities. It's not going to be easy. But it needs to be done.

The word "sodomy" comes from a biblical text (Genesis 19) where the ancient city of Sodom is marked out for divine destruction because its evil ways so angered God. Sodomy names those who act like the inhabitants of Sodom.

Fine. But listen carefully. Not in this text—nor in any other biblical text—is there a condemnation of committed same-sex relationships. Not one. Not anywhere. There are a small handful of texts that

condemn same-sex prostitution in pagan temples, and perhaps military rape and pederasty. But nowhere in the Bible is there a single word that condemns committed same-sex relationships.

To vote on Proposition 8 in California, or on any of the other state initiatives seeking to ban same-sex marriage, based on the Bible is the moral equivalent of using biblical texts to support slavery or apartheid. It is obscene.

So having cleared that up, let's talk about the real problem here: sodomy. Acting like the inhabitants of Sodom.

The prophet Isaiah (1:10-17; 3:9-15) knew something about the reputation of those who lived in Sodom. He says they despised justice, especially for widows and orphans—those at the edges of family structures in the ancient world. And he says they built an economy that stole

the goods of the poor. Likewise, the prophet Ezekiel (16:49) was also acquainted with the sodomy "lifestyle." He rails against them because in the midst of their abundance they were indifferent to the needy.

Even Jesus, some 2000 years after its destruction, can employ a reference to Sodom with full effect. Twice (Matthew 11:19-24 and Luke 10:12) he invokes the memory of Sodom as a city condemned for its treatment of the marginalized and its lack of hospitality to sojourners.

For both the Hebrew prophets and the Christian Messiah sodomy is not about acting on same-sex attraction; it is clearly and unequivocally about social injustice and horrendous breeches of hospitality, of which the attempted gang rape of Lot's guests is simply one final bit of damning evidence.

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and there are never any guarantees. Perhaps that same-sex relationship was what the person needed at the time. Perhaps they were just in love with the person, but that person is no longer enough to deny their authentic self. Whatever the reason, as the person matures it is more likely they are moving towards their authentic self and reversal is less likely – not to say it cannot happen, but unless there are extenuating factors it is less likely.

Q View: If science proves sexual orientation is more fluid than we've been led to believe, can homosexuality still be a protected status? How so?

O'Brien: As a society we have always had to provide protection for the outliers on any line of continuum. It is illegal to discriminate based on physical characteristics, health, age, color, race, religion etc. It used to be illegal for a person of color to marry a "white" person, yet now we know that is nonsense. I believe that research will show that homosexuality is a normal variant within the human species, much like what color eyes we have or the length of our toes. Until humans can learn to appreciate the rich diversity that comes with being human, then protections are valid.

Q View: How does tolerance for homosexuals relate to religious tolerance?

O'Brien: Religion evolved into a way of reinforcing patriarchal beliefs; man, woman, child, in that order. God the father is seen as the head of the church and those beliefs have been translated into family life as well. The man is the head of the family and, until quite recently, the wife and children are his property. Those norms are challenged in man/man or woman/woman relationships.

Q View: How does environment influence sexual orientation or precipitate a change in sexual orientation?

O'Brien: Males in a prison setting are a prime example of how homosexual activity increases when females are not available. Such activity is about power and control and meeting physical urges. However, research shows that the prisoners do not consider themselves homosexual and will return to heterosexual relationships after leaving prison. Likewise, some research is showing that homosexuality increases in rat populations where the numbers of rats have created an over-crowded environment.

Q View: How many of us are 100% heterosexual or 100% homosexual?

O'Brien: As a species, humans are not 100% anything. Sexual orientation is a line of continuum and at any point in our lives the point on the continuum can shift due to external stimuli. It is unproductive to label ourselves 100% anything because when a shift happens we can feel confused.

Q View: Is sexual orientation more fluid or changeable in women than men? If so, do we have any ideas as to why?

O'Brien: Men appear to be more hardwired in their orientation, meaning the biological influence seems more apparent early in life. Women appear to become aware of their orientation later in life, perhaps because sexuality for women has, until recently, been heavily influenced by social norms and expectations. Women also have a tendency to place more value on the relationship and less on the sex, making it unnecessary to take on the lesbian label. Additionally, until recently both men and women faced the prospect of never having children if they did not commit to a male/female relationship. This was

quite an influence to get women to marry.

Q View: Does sexual orientation become more flexible with age? If so, why?

O'Brien: I think that as people age they seek to become their best self. They look towards who they are as a person and it becomes important to be authentic. This can lead to more exploring of the continuum until they fully understand it and this can provide an understanding of how flexible orientation is.

Q View: Are there ex-straight? Or just straight people in same-sex relationships?

O'Brien: If a straight woman were raped, it may influence her to choose a partner without a penis as a way of being in relationship, without the trigger. Does that mean she is a damaged straight person or does it mean that she has moved across the continuum and found healing in relationship? It is a basic human need to be in a relationship with others. However, it also appears that some people fall in love with the person, not the sex, and orientation is just another societal label that has little meaning in this context.

Q View: Are there ex-gays as well? Or just people who are closeted or celibate because of personal beliefs or circumstances?

O'Brien: Again, it is a continuum that people move back and forth on all the time. Picture it like a pendulum. Some people will swing back and forth until they come to rest in the center position – whatever that center position might be for them. Something might come along and start the pendulum swinging again and a slightly different center point might be achieved when the pendulum comes to rest this time based on that time and place. However, someone cannot be "cured" of homosexuality, as it is not an illness.

Q View: If sexuality is fluid, then won't 'reparative therapy' work to turn gay people straight?

O'Brien: No, because it is imposing someone else's continuum onto you. Some people believe that all humans are actually a blank slate and that it is social norms and religion that shape orientation. This thought makes heterosexual relationships the norm and all other orientations deviant. In this context, reparative therapy is used to "correct" and reprogram a person who does not "get it." However, another more plausible theory is that humans are all born bisexual and the many different variants in biology, environment, and social norms all interact to achieve the fluidity that is actually the norm.

Q View: Wouldn't 'acceptance therapy' turn heterosexuals into homosexuals?

O'Brien: No. There will always be people who want to try out the latest fad, but eventually everyone will settle into their own orientation.

Q View: Is the LGBT community accepting of individuals whose sexual orientation changes? Why or why not?

O'Brien: Whether gay or straight, no one wants to feel duped. A straight person who is just "trying out" the gay lifestyle is pain waiting to happen. That makes gays/lesbians leery of people who are in transition. Likewise, a gay person who "goes straight" brings up a lot of internalized homophobia for the queer community.

Q View: What can be done to bring about greater understanding of this issue within the community?

O'Brien: Help them to understand how many factors go into sexual orientation and gender identity.

Sodomy happens when any group uses their majority or their power to abuse and marginalize another group.

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Sodomy, understood biblically, is the sin of creating social structures that systematically isolate those already at the margins of society. It is roundly condemned by the prophets and by Jesus. And for good reason.

It destroys the fabric of families by teaching even the youngest children to dehumanize persons simply because of difference. It undermines the common good of society by scape-goating a minority in ways that contradict the very ideals we claim to hold in a democracy. And it is simply an unforgiveable evil in faith communities where it betrays the very messages of justice, mercy, and compassion that are at the heart of religious faith.

So let's be clear: the desire to close off the protections afforded by marriage to persons living in committed same-sex relationships (and to their children) is itself an act of sodomy and it has no place in civil society or in communities of faith.

Further, when African-Americans and Hispanics vote in large numbers alongside conservative white Christians to ban same-sex marriage they ally themselves with the same strand of Christianity that in the past quoted other biblical texts just as effectively to justify genocidal policies toward Native Americans, xenophobic laws toward immigrants, and abominations like slavery, Jim Crow, and apartheid.

So, yes, this country has a sodomy problem. But so long as we think it has anything to do with gay sex we've missed the point of God's outrage. Sodomy happens when any group uses their majority or their power to abuse and marginalize another group. That's what happened in California, Arizona, Florida, and Arkansas on November 4. And it's time for us, as citizens and as Christians, to stop acting like the inhabitants of Sodom.



David R. Weiss is a theologian, writer, poet and hymnist committed to doing "public theology" around issues of sexuality, justice, diversity, and peace. His first book is *To the Tune of a Welcoming God: Lyrical reflections on sexuality, spirituality and the wideness of God's welcome* (2008 / www.davidrweiss.com). A lifelong Lutheran, David is a graduate of Wartburg College, Wartburg Seminary, and the University of Notre Dame. He has taught religion and theology at the University of Notre Dame, Luther College, Augsburg College, and Hamline University. Beyond his professional work, David has been active in local peace work and both locally and nationally as an ally for GLBT persons in faith communities. He lives with his wife and children in St. Paul, MN.

what Mitch says

by Mandy Iverson
part 2 of 2



Part 2 CONTINUED from the
November 2008 issue of
QView Northwest

Mitch has been trying to help me work through this for quite sometime—this condition of mine where I think I'd be more interesting if I were gay. I have been taking careful mental notes. Mitch knows I wouldn't be any better or worse if I dug chicks, but it's an idea I've had difficulty buying. The hoops I'm jumping through don't seem enough; I'm still at the center of the rat race. That's probably why when I met Lissy Goralnik, I hoped she could be that big one—the monster hoola hoop that would take me to the other side.

My first year out of college I was states and states away from my hometown and Mitch, in a graduate writing program that I dropped out of after a semester. Nobody really liked me, and I didn't really like anyone, but we were willing to party together a lot. Most of them liked to snort different things up their noses and get real wild. I was fresh out of college, fresh out of the Midwest, terrified of shooting things into my nasal cavity, and the youngest person in the program.

One of the parties I went to was called the "Mustache Bash," where all of the guys, who had been growing out their facial hair for months, had shaved their faces into

mustaches of all shapes and levels of bushiness. There were people snorting blue Adderall in the bedroom and someone decided that spin the bottle might be a good idea. I had just had my first essay published, was holding a cheap bottle of champagne—three fourths empty—and so everything sounded like a good idea to me. We sat in a circle and the rules were laid out. Kiss who the bottle lands on. Easy enough. Kiss whomever the bottle lands on. And I was mostly okay with that, except for the married guy sitting two people over from me, with blue Adderall dust forgotten in his beard, but no one else seemed to be questioning his presence so I decided to play it cool.

On my first spin it landed on Lissy Goralnik. Lissy Goralnik of long brown hair and pretty fiction lines. She was too drunk to look at me with two eyes, and she kinda swayed as she crawled to the middle of the circle. I think I said something creepy like, "I'm gonna rock your world, Lissy Goralnik," because it felt important to be into it. Other people in the circle said things like, "Ooh," and I was sure they must have thought I sweat pure sex.

Mitch once warned me about girls who think it's hot to play gay, warned me about the lesbian-until-graduation phenomena, but I wasn't thinking about that then. I was thinking about breaking out of my shell and wobbling into a much sexier one. I was

Mitch continued on page 28

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

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A black and white portrait of Wayne Besen, a man with dark hair, wearing a dark shirt, resting his chin on his hand in a thoughtful pose.

Winds of Change

By Wayne Besen

There has been a paradigm shift in the movement following marriage defeats in California, Florida and Arizona. From seemingly out of nowhere, people who have sat on the sidelines are now making headlines at rallies across America.

Up until just weeks ago, major GLBT groups instructed people to write a check and then essentially instructed donors to check their activism at the door. Sometimes, one was asked to take their commitment a step further by sending e-mail or attending a dinner. I think the recent protests mark the end of the Passive Era of gay politics.

Few people at the three Proposition 8 protest rallies I attended -- two in New York and one in Chicago -- were familiar. The ones I recognized were the hardcore advocates and tireless workhorses who have long carried the GLBT movement. However, these semi-spontaneous rallies had a different flavor. There was an injection of raw energy and an infusion of new inspiration that has eluded our movement for more than a decade. I peered into the great expanse and saw a wide-eyed sea of fresh new faces -- neophytes who needed help to complete the old chant, Hey, hey, Ho Ho...(Homophobia's got to go).

There has been a paradigm shift in the movement following marriage defeats in California, Florida and Arizona -- as well as an anti-gay adoption measure passing in Arkansas. From seemingly out of nowhere, people who have sat on the sidelines are now making headlines at rallies across America.

The leaders of what is being billed as Stonewall 2.0 are not coming from large, established organizations, but Internet savvy activists who can use a mouse to mobilize the masses. While Internet activism is nothing new, the fact that this huge outpouring of organic outrage is not being channeled through official organizational channels has enormous implications.

Up until just weeks ago, major GLBT groups instructed people to write a check and then essentially instructed donors to check their activism at the door. Sometimes, one was asked to take their commitment a step further by sending e-mail or attending a dinner. I think the recent protests mark the end of the Passive Era of gay politics. A sign at protests, "No More Mr. Nice Gay", highlighted this monumental change.

Now, don't get me wrong, the

Passive Era served its purpose. By the mid 1990's exhaustion had beset the movement. Many leading activists had either died from AIDS or were worn out from fighting the culture wars. People felt deflated by the early Clinton years and dispirited after Newt Gingrich wrested control of Congress. Most of the tangible results during this period occurred in the courts, which produced historic victories, but relegated most GLBT people to cheering bystanders.

At this moment of malaise, technology afforded people the ability to engage in activism without leaving the house. While these notable advances have greatly aided the GLBT movement, they also allowed many people to be anesthetized by the Internet. It soon became a movement of elite movers and shakers, with little room for direct action.

The upside to the Passive Era was that aspiring gay insiders actually did sometimes get inside the halls of power and have a voice in the political process. Our organizations became more professional, better organized and institutionalized, which meant that they were not always on the brink of bankruptcy and had the ability to plan for the future.

But, make no mistake - we are not the same movement we were prior to Nov. 4. Having our marriage rights stripped away by a slim majority in California was a transformational experience for many gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals. I have lost count of those who have approached me to say that they never thought they were the political type -- until now. These people will bring new ideas, untapped energy and significantly strengthen our work.

It is still unclear how this influx of fiery emotion will specifically change the movement. But, I will make the bold prediction

that those organizations that do not adjust to this new reality will wither and die. Newer, sleeker models will replace those that remain stodgy and continue to fight by fax, without incorporating the heat on the street. The new activism is a hybrid of direct action and digital activism. It is evolving, mutating and morphing by the day. And, whichever groups figure out how to be a conduit for this anger -- and effectively turn it into a force -- will lead the movement in the coming years.

This is a rare moment where the pain of Proposition 8 meets the possibility represented by Barack Obama. A great many people can now see that passion can lead to real progress -- and they demand a role in creating change.

Lastly, the rules of the Mormon, Catholic and Evangelical churches are now enshrined into civil law. We are all unofficial members of these religious institutions and captive to their narrow, sectarian rules. They have effectively hijacked the state and now govern our personal relationships and private lives -- whether we like it or not. I think people are finally awakened to this existential threat and willing to fight back.

On Nov. 8, I stood in freezing weather with hundreds of Chicagoans. Last week in Washington, 900 protesters braved a tornado watch to rally in front of the Capitol. Far from a victory, anti-gay forces unleashed a ferocious storm with powerful winds of change that will only end with the sound of wedding bells.

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.

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thinking that I really did want to rock Lissy Goralnik’s world. Because if I did, and if she rocked mine, suddenly I might be interesting.

Lissy Goralnik placed her hands on my face, and even though I was trying hard for it not to, it was annoying me the way her hands were on my face. So I decided to put my hands on Lissy Goralnik’s face, and there we sat, hands on one another’s faces, looking at each other, waiting for magic.

The moment before we started was my favorite moment. Because in that moment, with hands on faces and the married man with the blue Adderall beard and all the rest staring at us, I could pretend that I might love Lissy Goralnik. That she could be the one to float through the sky in gondolas with me, that for the rest of my days I would watch the sheets dance with her breath, that I would want her fingers to touch the small of my back.

But that moment, that moment before we started when we sat with our hands on each other’s faces, couldn’t last forever. The room was filled with blue Adderall and the kisses we weren’t having. And so I gave Lissy Goralnik’s cheeks a little squeeze with my hands, squeezing her lips into a forced pucker, closed my eyes, and hoped I could find her mouth on the other side of the darkness.

I couldn’t tell what Lissy Goralnik was feeling, but I knew that to me the kiss felt like crying. And it wasn’t because her mouth tasted like

stale gin and I was scared that when we were done she’d be too drunk to reopen her eyes, although both of these were true. And it wasn’t because the married man with the blue Aderol beard had started applauding, although that was true as well. And it wasn’t because I was being just another straight girl who thinks it’s hot to play gay—which Mitch warned me about but I’d forgotten. It wasn’t because Lissy Goralnik’s hands were still on my face, which was annoying me even though I didn’t want it to. It wasn’t even because the forced pucker felt bad. Kissing is fun; I don’t care who you are. It was because I knew in that moment that I didn’t want gondola rides with Lissy Goralnik, or any other member of the estrogen gang. It was because that kiss, which could have been a grand salute to the glorious possibilities of love in this country, had given me the most boring of multiple choice options.

Mitch told me after that maybe Lissy Goralnik is just a bad kisser. He likes to say that he could see me having a passionate tryst with a woman—if the right woman came around. Mitch thinks there’s a sliding continuum of sexuality: some people are straight but a little gay. Some are gay but a little straight. Maybe that’s true. Even though Mitch considers himself bi, he does tend to lean more towards the hairy men. Maybe we don’t have to be able to define ourselves by a check mark in a box. Maybe being a straight person with a strange fascination with homosexuals is enough to make me a minority.

A few weeks ago a friend of mine told me that when we first met he thought I was a lesbian. Many would take offense to such a statement, but I accepted the compliment sincerely. Maybe surrounding myself by the people I do has made me a little more unique, the kind of person who can’t be easily defined. Mitch likes to tell me I’m an honorary member of the gay community. *Not a fag hag*, he assures me, *those girls are ugly*. But I don’t care about the name. I know classifications like that are rarely correct.

Mitch says the world would be a better place if people allowed themselves to acknowledge his continuum, if they were more willing to slide closer to the middle. I tease him that he’s just trying to turn the rest of the world gay, but there might be some truth to that. Even though I’ve come to terms with my heterosexuality, I think just contemplating sexuality has made me a little fuller, as has being an honorary member of Mitch’s community. It comes down to one of the simplest of lessons: I have gained something from being surrounded by people unlike me.

I used to almost feel my brain rattle under the weight of all the lives I wasn’t living. Then I walked out my front door, pushed those lives onto my own, until I could feel the weight of them indent my skin.

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

Pacific Inland Northwest

Calendar

Dec 1 - Jan 15 2009

We’re pleased to share non-profit events on this calendar of interest to the GLBTQA community. Additional calendar events and updated listings can be found on the online Q View Northwest calendar at www.qviewnorthwest.com. 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.inwglb.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

DECEMBER

Mon 1

WORLD AIDS DAY

World AIDS Day Commemoration At The Community Building. 5:30pm – 7:30pm
Spokane Mayor Mary Verner will deliver the opening remarks. The catered event will feature music, and art by local HIV-positive artists will be on display. Spokane’s World AIDS Day will culminate with an outdoor candlelight vigil.

Wed 3

“Reconciling Faith and Sexual Orientation”
7pm - 10pm at Gonzaga University, Jepson School of Business – Wolff Auditorium. 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 or visit the Q View Northwest online calendar at www.qviewnortheast.com for more information.

Wed 10

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

INBA Annual Holiday Lunch is our chance to thank members for supporting the organization during the past 12 months, share this year’s milestones and talk about INBA’s plans for 2009.

Sat 20

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

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

Thur 25

CHRISTMAS

JANUARY
BISEXUAL AWARENESS MONTH

Thur 1

NEW YEAR’S DAY

Wed 14

INBA Luncheon Connie Watts from Equal Rights Washington will be this month’s guest providing a legislative preview. Great opportunity to network with other business people in the area.

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 – (Updated Oct 2008)

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 (Updated Oct 2008)

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 counseling services.

Call: (509) 456-0438

ISCS – (Updated Nov 2008)

Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane

The Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane (ISCS) and Eastern Washington is a licensed non-profit and the oldest organization of its kind in the Spokane area to provide support for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning communities of Eastern Washington. A variety of shows, Drag Shows, Fundraisers, Outings, Camping Trips, Raffles and Auctions are used to promote unity as wells as scholarships and other financial assistance.

PO Box 65, Spokane, WA 99210-0065

Web site: www.easternwashingtoncourt.com

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.theinmx.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 Communtiy 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 – (Updated Oct 2008)

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 – (Updated Oct 2008)

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

(Updated Oct 2008)

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

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

Web site: www.srhd.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

(Updated Oct 2008)

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 – (Updated Oct 2008)

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

Associated Students of Washington State University GLBTA

(Updated Oct 2008)
Socializing and educational outreach for WSU students.

Call: (509) 335-4311

E-mail: glbta.aswsu@wsu.edu

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

Inland Oasis (Added Oct 2008)

The mission of Inland Oasis is to develop and maintain a community center in which to conduct and support educational, social and health programming for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and allied communities on the Palouse, Southeastern Washington and North Central Idaho.

1912 Center: Friendship Hall, 412 East 3rd Street

Moscow, ID 83843

Call: (206) 428-7104

E-mail: Info@InlandOasis.org

Web site: www.inlandoasis.org

Out There (Updated Oct 2008)

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

Planned Parenthood of The Inland Northwest

HIV antibody testing and counseling.

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

Administration: (509) 326-6292

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

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

(Updated Oct 2008)
Provides education, advocacy, and support for the WSU community.

Call: (509)335-6388

E-mail: giesorc@wsu.edu

Web site: www.thecenter.wsu.edu

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

(Updated Oct 2008)
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

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 (Updated Oct 2008)

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

Pacific NW Gay Rodeo Association

(Updated Oct 2008)

For people who enjoy the country & western lifestyle.

1012 Four Mile Road • St. Regis, MT

Call: (206) 428-7104

E-mail: info@PNWGRA.org

Web site: www.pacificnwgra.org

PFLAG Billings

Meets monthly Sept. - May.

Call: (406) 255-7609

PRIDE Celebration

Group in charge of annual Montana June PRIDE celebrations.

Call: (406) 442-9322

Western Montana Gay & Lesbian Community Center (Updated Oct 2008)

127 North Higgins, Suite 202

Missoula, MT 59802

(406) 543-2224

E-mail: wmgfcc@gaymontana.org

Web: www.gaymontana.org

NEW YEARS CELEBRATION

DEMPSEY'S PRESENTS A BURLESQUE CABARET EXTRAVAGANZA

December 31
\$25 Cover

(Sorry, No Reservations)

First 200 Receive Party Hats and Horns

Dancing Upstairs: 8 PM – 4 AM

Light Appetizers: 8 PM – 10 PM

Cabaret Performance: 10:30 PM



DEMPSEY'S
BRASS RAIL

909 West First Avenue
Spokane, Washington