



Bryce Hughes

SPOKANE – A new campus organization headed by Bryce Hughes offers Gonzaga University students a convenient, one-stop-shopping source for information on gay studies, organizations and events.

SPOKANE – The projectionist is set to “roll-’em” for the 6th annual Gay/Lesbian Film Festival weekend at Riverpoint early this month. *Page 16.*

SPOKANE – Quest Director Ryan Oelrich and members of his youth group for gay and bisexual men will join with Odyssey Youth Group as special guests of PFLAG this month. *Page 5.*



Ryan Oelrich



Jerry Davis

SPOKANE – It’s a *Beautiful Thing* what Jerry Davis and fellow board members at CenterStage have created for the local gay community. *Page 17.*

SPOKANE – Music director Dan Keberle will lead the Spokane Jazz Orchestra in Duke Ellington’s captivating *Nutcracker Suite* the first Saturday in December. *Page 16.*



Dan Keberle

COEUR D’ALENE and WALLA WALLA – Staff members and volunteers at AIDS agencies in North Idaho and Southwest Washington are finalizing plans to commemorate World AIDS Day on Dec. 1. *Page 8.*

SANTA BARBARA – Gay men and women are now allowed to serve openly in California’s state militia. *Page 11.*

LOS ANGELES – Jasmyne Cannick sees internalized homophobia and more in a man who claims to represent black gay Republicans. *Page 2.*

NEW YORK – What may come as a surprise to many, gay male escorts are leaders in safer-sex education. *Page 10.*

NOVA SCOTIA – With Nova Scotia legalizing marriage for gays, 82 percent of Canadians now live in jurisdictions with equal marriage rights for same-sex couples. *Page 12.*

Gay pols rate local, state races

Spokane, Seattle groups endorse candidates

The two gay political rating groups in Washington state recently announced their endorsements of candidates for public office. While they share the same interest – to support office-seekers who favor gay issues – they approach candidate canvassing and evaluations quite differently.

Spokane’s Outside the Lines, dormant for the past four years, reconstituted itself this fall and polled local candidates by questionnaire. Candidates were asked whether they supported domestic partner benefits for government employees, the Federal Marriage Amendment, the state or federal Defense of Marriage acts, comprehensive sex education in public schools, and basic nondiscrimination policies for gay men, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered individuals.

Outside the Lines did not furnish completed questionnaires, nor copies, to Stonewall News Northwest, nor did it make public how each of the candidates responded to the questions. Don Barbieri and Timm Ormsby did not return questionnaires but gained Out-



staff photo

Individuals, couples and clusters of gay men and women were joined by others in support of marriage equality for same-sex couples at a rally outside the Spokane Arena Oct. 10. The rally countered a Mayday for Marriage prayer-in event sponsored by some area churches and quasi-religious organizations. In the foreground above, among the nearly 100 demonstrators along Howard Street leading to the Arena entrance, were, from left, Shilo Reed, Brandon Fletcher, Matthew Johnson and Kirk Duval. More photos on page 7.

side the Lines’ endorsement nonetheless.

The Seattle Metropolitan Elections Committee for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered (SEAMEC) is in its 28th year as a civic organization that rates political and judicial offices in a complex grading system

that includes, whenever possible, face-to-face interviews.

The groups’ recommendations follow, first the local races, then the state-wide offices.

Outside the Lines recommends voting for the following:

■ Don Barbieri, D, Representative, 5th Congressional District.

Continued on page 14

Spain OKs marriage for same-sex couples

Equal benefits program to take effect next year

MADRID – The Spanish government has approved a bill to legalize same-sex marriage, which will make it the third country in Europe to condone marriage for gay couples.

The plan, pending parliamentary approval, would take effect in 2005, but has been fiercely opposed by Spain’s Roman Catholic Church, whose influence remains high, if declining.

The legislation authorized in October recognizes “all rights for homosexuals,” including the right to adopt, qualifying for a pension, administer-

ing an estate, asking for a loan and authorizing surgery for a partner, said cabinet spokeswoman Maria Teresa Fernandez de la Vega.

“Spain,” de la Vega said, “is in the forefront of Europe and of the world in the struggle against centuries of discrimination.”

Some 14 articles of the civil code will be altered. “Man and woman” and “father and mother” will be replaced by “partners” or “parents.”

A statement issued by Roman Catholic Church following Spain’s announcement decried the move, saying, “Society cannot remain indiffer-

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Voices

Forget about Uncle Tom, now we have Uncle Abe

by Jasmyne Cannick

Some people just have too much time on their hands. This is obviously the case with Don Sneed and the Abe Lincoln Black Republican Caucus (ALBRC) in Dallas, who recently issued a press release announcing their new DVD, *The Emancipation of the Homosexual – The End of the Gay and Lesbian Rights Movement*.

First, I knew something wasn't right when this same group turned around and announced its support for the reelection of President Bush shortly after the Log Cabin Republicans voted against endorsing Bush for reelection. Let me break that down for you. The white gay Republicans are not supporting President Bush for reelection. However, the black gay Republicans are. Go figure?

My second clue came from the title of their new DVD. Now how many gays and lesbians do you know refer to themselves as homosexuals? That term is usually reserved for those people who don't

get out much into the real world. In addition, the same people who use



Jasmyne Cannick

the term homosexual probably still refer to blacks as colored. Internalized oppression, homophobia and a computer with Internet access are obviously tools of disaster when placed in the wrong hands.

In my 27 years on this planet as a lesbian, I have never known the gay civil rights movement to put forth an agenda for new gender classification. In fact, I am asking ALBRC to produce facts to back that statement up.

"The video has been met with astonishing silence from leaders of America's homosexual community," said ALBRC cofounder and

DVD executive producer Don Sneed.

Yes, that is probably the one statement in the entire release that is true, considering nobody ever heard of this group before a few months ago.

African Americans currently represent most of the newly re-

Continued on page 26

Letters

Spare Parts comes with a thank you

Thank you so much for sending us a copy of the October Stonewall News in which a review of Spare Parts appears. We really appreciate your following up and making the effort to get us a copy – and, of course, we're thrilled by the positive review!

We wish you all the best, and, again, many thanks.

Scott Pomfret and Scott Whittier,
aka Scott & Scott,
www.romentics.com, Boston

Do You Remember?

Stonewall News Northwest in November

Last Year – What was Spokane's longest established address for a gay bar passes into history when Another Sinn, at 415 W. Sprague, is sold to a trio of entrepreneurs who plan to remodel the club for wider patronage. The Human Rights Commission announces it is fine tuning a proposal to place before the City Council that would extend domestic partnership benefits to city employees.

Mark Surreal and Selena Blaque are crowned the new emperor and empress of the Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane at coronation at the downtown Double Tree Hotel. Producer Barb Lee says the Gay and Lesbian Film Festival weekend has been expanded to include a Saturday matinee. Minneapolis folk singer Ellis, named Best Musician in a Twin Cities reader poll, performs at The Shop.

5 Years Ago – Spokane Mayor John Talbott becomes only the second mayor in history to attend an

ISCS coronation and wins a standing ovation for his public commendation of the court for its "generous and unsolicited assistance" to further significant civic programs in the city.

Dean Lynch, cochair for the No on Discrimination campaign, says volunteers are going door-to-door to encourage voters to say "no" to Proposition 4, which is intended to repeal equal rights guarantees for gay men and lesbians that were authorized in a Human Rights Ordinance by the City Council at the first of the year. In a related event organized by Churches Against Racism, nearly 2,000 people join a Walk Against Hate along Grand Blvd.

Rumors regarding the sale of Hour Place, 415 W. Sprague, to Ron Beck and Larry Cieszowski are said to be false by bar manager and corporate vice president Rob Ingram, who said the two life partners never signed legal papers with the current owners. Spokane AIDS Network's Friend-to-Friend program presents *Unzipped*

Spokane, a parody on *Politically Incorrect*, in the City Council chambers. SAN's 9th annual *Walk for Life* nets \$12,000, up 70 percent than the year before.

Ten Years Ago – Odyssey Youth Group acquires a drop-in center on North Monroe for its 100 or so members. PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) sponsors a booth at Family-a-Fair held at the Convention Center.

Shannon Morse returns to Mead from the Northwest Gay Rodeo Association national finals in Denver with a second place in bareback competition. Tim Bocook returns to Spokane from basketball competition with Team Seattle in the Gay Games in New York with hopes of organizing gay basketball and volleyball teams here.

Roger D. Yongue and Donal B. Stanislawski announce their holy union.

This paper proudly dedicates itself to the spirit of the
Stonewall Patriots
who, on May 5, 1967,
courageously committed themselves to the achievement of Freedom and Liberty and Justice for all people of the City of Spokane
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Dean Lynch ❖ Bill Nourse ❖ Ella Hartson
Dennis Davis ❖ Jay Castro ❖ Janice Marx
the Reverend Linda J. Laster
Marianne Hurmence-Dawson

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Letters Policy

Stonewall News Northwest welcomes letters and e-mails. All submissions will be considered for publication. They should be typed and 250 words or less. Each submission may be edited for length and/or coherence. Full name, address, and phone number must be included, and if written, signature of the author is required. Names withheld by request only. Submissions will not be returned.



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Spokane

AIDS Day events and ceremonies set at MAC

Spokane's observance next month of World AIDS Day is expected to take a prominence it was once accorded in the early days of the disease. Events for the Wednesday program on Dec. 1 will be held at the Browne's Addition campus of the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture (MAC), organizers announced.

Principal planners Russ Hemphill and Yvonne Lopez Morton said events are scheduled throughout the day beginning at 11 a.m. Hemphill, with Spokane AIDS Network, and the museum's Morton are being assisted by representatives affiliated with Spokane Regional Health District, Planned Parenthood of the Inland Northwest and Unity Church of Truth.

A series of HIV-related videos will run continuously in the Memorial Au-

ditorium of the Cheney Cowles Center from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., allowing visitors to view the films as individual schedules allow. A brown bag panel discussion will provide a noontime break in the video schedule.

At 4:30 p.m., the museum's Exhibition and Education Center will open for a viewing of AIDS masks and quilts before the official program begins at 5.



Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture

The agenda includes a welcome by representatives of SAN and the health district followed by remarks from representatives of organizations participating in the planning committee. Youth personally associated with HIV will offer testimonials.

Washington state Sen. Lisa Brown, recipient of the special Rainbow Ally Award during Pride Week, will be featured guest speaker.

At 5:30, participants will move to the outdoor amphitheatre for a ceremony to include the lighting of candles, a blessing and special comments and music.

All World AIDS Day events are free. The featured quilts and masks will remain on display at the museum for the balance of the month, Lopez Morton said.

Cabaret, circus combo to benefit Pride Day

by Christopher Lawrence

First-time event organizer Seymore Fairies has enlisted the experienced hosting services of Selena Blaque to assist him in presenting a brand new event that is somewhere between a cabaret extravaganza and a circus.

Fairies' event – a fundraiser to help finance next year's Pride Day – is scheduled Sunday, Nov. 7 at 8 p.m. in The Dancing Place, at 39 W. Pacific Ave.

Said Seymore, "I wanted to help the Pride March, so I decided to hold the 2004 Fairie Awards fundraiser and throw a party that will be inclusive of the whole gay and allied community."

It appears he is doing just that.

Adapting the theme of the Wizard of Oz, the Seymore and Selena merrymakers will present an amazingly diverse variety show. Add to that a series of raffles, door prizes

and the Fairie Awards from Seymore's group.

With a cast of some 35 performing artists, there will be a plethora of acts.

Singer Stephen Kaye, The Fly in the Windly band, Silver Spurs dancers, Inland Native Dancers, Seymore's Studs (go-go), the Vine Sisters, the current titleholders from the Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane, and Gabe Rosman and Beth from Simply Dance and the Dancing Place, among other surprises, will entertain and amuse.

Prizes valued at more than \$3,000 have been donated, some of which will be door prizes, many of which will be raffled. Even Seymore's mother, Grandma Angel, got into the act by donating many of the door prizes, he said.

Various Spokane groups and agencies will host tables. A video documentary will be filmed to commemorate the event and Seymore even expects local television stations to cover the show.

Conference at EWU to confront hate issues

Overcoming hate will be the focus of a one-day conference at Eastern Washington University on Nov. 5.

Sponsored jointly by the university and the Institute for Action Against Hate, the conference agenda will involve interactive workshops on racism, sexism, homophobia and violence in schools. While it is designed for EWU students, faculty and staff, the public is invited to attend.

Tone for the conference will be set with the morning screening of the award-winning documentary *Journey to a Hate Free Millennium* followed by a talk by one of the first police officers to arrive on the shooting scene at Columbine High School.

Dr. Raymond Reyes, a vice president for diversity affairs at Gonzaga University, will lead discussions on the origins of hate, explore how hate crimes impact everyday lives and encourage participants to develop action plans on what they can do,

individually, to make the world a more inclusive and accepting place.

The powerful *Journey to a Hate Free Millennium* centers around true stories taken from the national headlines, including the student shooting at Columbine; the dragging death of James Byrd Jr., an African American man, and the brutal beating death of Matthew Shepard, a gay student at the University of Wyoming in Laramie.

Sessions will be held in the Pence Union Building. Breakfast and lunch are included with registration, \$30 for the general public.

For questions or more information, telephone Jim Mohr at 359-4711.

Next Stonewall due out on Dec. 3

Typically distributed the last Friday of the month, the staff at Stonewall News Northwest opted to publish the next issue on Dec. 3 rather than the day after Thanksgiving. "It will be the first time I can remember that we can enjoy the holiday without slaving to put a December issue together," said Production Editor Mark W. Southwick.

The deadline for display advertising will be Nov. 19. Classified ads and news stories will be received before Thanksgiving Day.

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Developing a brotherhood



staff photo by Christopher Lawrence

Celebrating the one-year anniversary of Quest, a youth group for gay and bisexual men ages 18 to 25, are, from left, Quest Director Ryan Oelrich, Johnathon Ferguson and Adam Forcier.

Two-bit affair raises bucks for funding AIDS agency

It's quarter plunkin' time again, folks. For anyone new to Spokane, that signals the season for the annual Friends of SAN Quarter Auction, where two-bits tossed in a coffee can buys a ton of fun or a raffle ticket for a 60-pound basket of chocolates.

Party-time, all in the name of charity, is set for Sunday, Nov. 14, at Dempseys beginning at 3 p.m. Every quarter taken in – and all the nickels, dimes, 50-cent pieces and bills, too – will go to Spokane AIDS Network.

A lucky flip of the wrist that catapults a quarter in the cup could reward the winner with any variety of goodies

on the auction block, like trendy jewelry, framed artwork or merchant gift certificates. Also up for grabs are videos, DVDs, power tools, home appliances and housewares.

So boisterous is the affair that it requires a trio of voices to outlast and outshout the customers. This year's hostesses include the incomparable Dame Edwina, showgirl BlowMe Bubbles and, rat-a-tat-tat, a special guest appearance by Miss Mylar, formerly of Spokane, of recent of Portland.

Guests don't have to arrive with pockets sagging from the weight of quarters. Friends of SAN bankers gladly exchange all large bills for coins.

Bar patrons aid in arrest of brawlers

by SNN staff

Alert patrons at Dempseys are credited with action that led to the quick arrest of two men who may have instigated as many as four bar brawls on Oct. 24.

Police officers were said to have remarked that "Someone had the presence of mind to get the description of the car and the license plate number" and that "the physical descriptions of the perpetrators were excellent from several of the witnesses in the bar who also verified that the criminals were shouting 'faggots' during the attack."

Dick Cottam, media liaison for the Spokane Police Department, said a 20-page report on the incident indicated that the fracas at Dempseys began shortly after 10 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 24, when two black men and one woman entered the bar but refused to leave when they denied a request to show valid ID.

According to the report, Cottam said, the men became belligerent when

asked to leave and began hitting people, although the woman urged them to leave and attempted to pull them toward the door. One of the men, according to the report, said, "Looky at all the cute faggots here!"

Several, possibly as many as four Dempseys patrons reportedly were injured during the melee. One man sustained a three-inch cut above one eye and was rushed to the hospital, where he received 17 stitches, friends said. Other injuries, the report noted, appeared to be slight. Names of the victims were not released.

According to Cottam, a detailed, all-points bulletin led to the detention and arrest of the alleged assailants near the intersection of Second and Coleman in Spokane Valley.

Police identified the two arrested as Ronald L. Tramell, 24, of Agency-Loop Road No. 9, and Todd E. Bridges, 22, of 6203 N. Wiscomb. The men were handcuffed and taken to Spokane County Jail on charges of second degree assault and malicious harassment,

Cottam said, under the category of a hate crime bias.

Dempseys owner Larry Brown said the Police Department's response "was immediate and supportive of patrons in the bar. Yes, the police response was admirable."

Brown said witnesses told him they suspected the assailants were "crack heads" who came to the bar "spoiling for a fight." Brown said it was conjecture whether the men were "high on drugs," but added, "It's unfortunate that the minorities don't get along."

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WE SUPPORT THE ARTS

Like grass, picnic tables apt to cost more for Pride Day

INPride's next meet called for Nov. 22

The city's current budget shortfall that translates to laying off employees and curtailing or eliminating programs may impact Inland Northwest Pride's plans for Pride Day in 2005.

INPride chair Bridget Potter said managers for Riverfront Park, site of all 13 of the community's previous Pride Days, have notified her that the price of admission, as an event host, may be increased.

A rate increase not only would impact INPride but, just as likely, the ven-

dors who purchase booth space and tables for the Business Fair.

Pride Day options will be discussed at the next committee meeting, which Potter called for the Rainbow Regional Community Center on Monday, Nov. 22 at 6:30 p.m. A meeting announced for October was cancelled when Potter was suddenly incapacitated by a virus or the flu.

Riverfront Park Director Craig W. Butz wrote Potter that the recreation and entertainment magnet in the heart of the city "will need to take on a more busi-

ness-like approach with everything we do."

Butz said that translates to assuring that "costs associated with events are covered directly by fees. We may need to tamper slightly with fee structures and services, but not to the extent of scaring away existing events such as yours."

Potter said the park's expression to keep INPride as a customer was reassuring, but the idea of a fee increase for an organization already scratching for every dollar is a somewhat unsettling.

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES (STDs)

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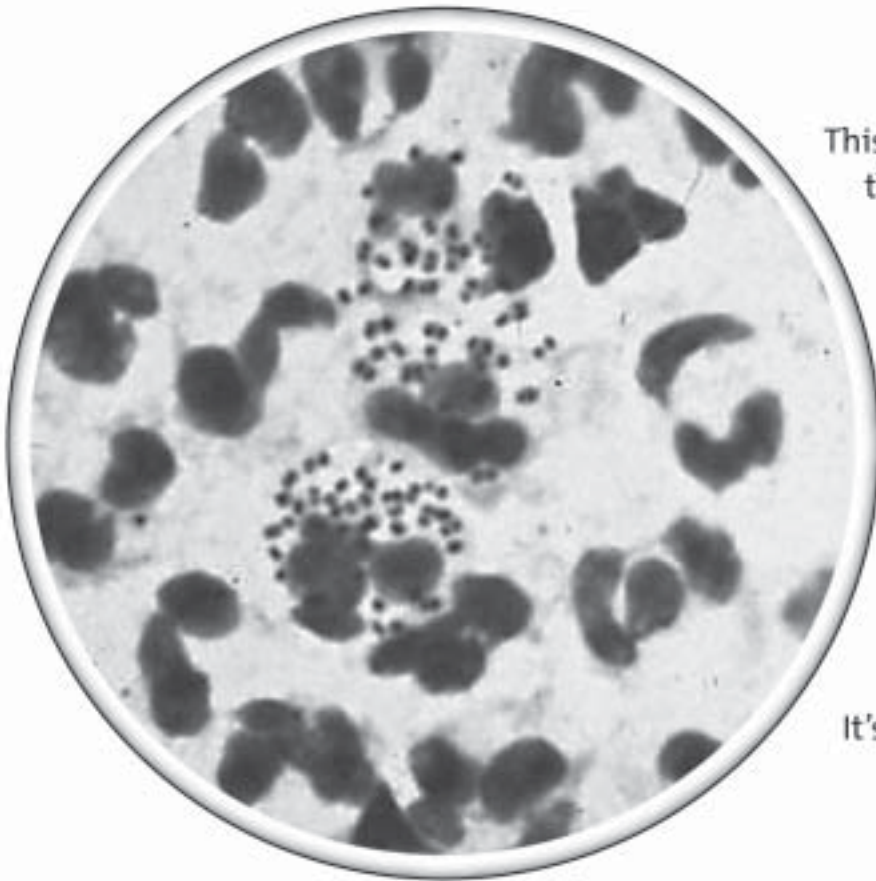
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The Spokane Regional Health District Clinic offers testing for these sexually transmitted diseases: chlamydia, gonorrhea, herpes, HIV, HPV (genital warts), syphilis. Hepatitis A and B vaccines are also available. Costs vary depending on the type of testing and your income. Clients are invited to ask if they qualify for no-cost, anonymous HIV testing, which is offered in conjunction with the HIV/AIDS program.

Type of STD tests available at the Spokane Regional Health District Clinic:

Chlamydia – Urine sample or urethral, rectal or oral swab.

Gonorrhea – Urine sample or urethral, rectal or oral swab.

HIV – Blooddraw or oral fluid. Limited Rapid Testing available only up.

Herpes – Direct swab test to lesions within the first 2 or 3 days of onset.

HPV (Genital Warts) – Men: Visual identification of warts-no other testing is available.

HPV (Genital Warts) – Women: Visual identification or PAP smear if no warts are seen.

Syphilis – Blooddraw.

Equality is for everyone



staff photos

In photo above, Anthony Wilbourne and Jessica Haight joined scores of gay people and friends rallying at the Spokane Arena Oct. 10 to counter a demonstration by religious groups that staunchly defend a literal translation of the Bible, depending on which particular "Thou shalt not" passage is selected for interpretation. Others rallying for marriage equality included, in right photo, Corinna Verdugo, left, and Julie Amo.



Proponents for visible gay community to meet

Gay district planning workshop set Nov. 20

by Christopher Lawrence

Complacency is taking a back seat to inquiry about greater possibilities for our community in Spokane. In October, the Vision Committee of the Inland Northwest Business Alliance invited GLBTQ (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning) activist Candace Gingrich of the Human Rights Campaign in Washington, D.C., to begin this conversation with the greater community.

An estimated 75 people attended the event and came away with feelings of comfort and peace of mind. Gingrich told the audience that "the importance of a visible community is the validation of being GLBTQ in Spokane whether you live in the gay section of town or not."

During the general conversation that concluded Gingrich's talk, the interaction was vibrant and alive. Communication was active and everyone there, including the represented youth, felt empowered. Barrie Ryan, president of the board of Spokane AIDS Network

said, "I was so moved by the discussion. As I sat there I thought of a dozen people I wished I had brought with me."

What would a visible gay community look like in Spokane? Participants will search for the answer to this question at the first community workshop planned by the Vision Committee. This series of workshops is the result of an INBA survey taken during Pride Day suggesting there is enough interest from the gay and allied community to begin groundwork and explore the potential. The workshop will be held Saturday, Nov. 20, at the Phase 1 Classroom Auditorium at the WSU Spokane Riverpoint Campus from 1 to 3 p.m.

Input from the community is essential in providing ideas and shaping its development to be successful in planning a gay district for Spokane. This is the opportunity to start our community discussion and help both the gay and straight communities understand how and why a gay district can be an asset for Spokane.

The workshops are patterned after those held by city planners for the University District. This first two-hour

workshop will provide survey results and information about city projects and goals that indicate this is an ideal time to start the planning of a visible gay community. Participants can share ideas and help identify opportunities for the gay community. Those who are interested in the committee's bi-weekly core planning meetings are welcome to join the ongoing conversation.



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Regional

Benefit adds a whopping 10 grand for AIDS battle

The months ahead appear a little brighter for the North Idaho AIDS Coalition. That's the effect. The cause is attributable to last month's fundraiser.

NIAC's *Wine Taste and Auction*, at the Clark House on Hayden Lake, produced \$10,000 to bolster the programs administered by the Coeur d'Alene-based AIDS agency. While the total was \$1,000 less than the amount raised last year, it was still well ahead of the previous high of \$7,000 in 2002.

Results of the fundraiser, attended by 150 people, largest crowd in the 14-year history of the event, elevated the spirits of NIAC Executive Director Keith Wolter.

"Ten thousand is a good chunk of cash for NIAC," Wolter said. "We had a wonderful crowd and lots of food. We really appreciate the work of our volunteers and all the terrific people who responded. It was a huge success."

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World AIDS Day events planned for Walla Walla, Coeur d'Alene

Plans to commemorate the memories of those who have been claimed by AIDS are well underway in North Idaho and Southwest Washington.

Special programs to coincide with the international observance of World AIDS Day on Wednesday, Dec. 1, are being finalized by the North Idaho AIDS Coalition in Coeur d'Alene and in Walla Walla by Blue Mountain Heart to Heart.

Keith Wolter, executive director of the North Idaho AIDS Coalition, said NIAC will present a tribute that will feature a blending of music, readings and reflections. The program will take place at the Harding Family Center, 411 N. 15th St., beginning at 6 p.m.

Walla Walla's World AIDS Day program will begin with an open house at Blue Mountain Heart to Heart, said the agency's Executive Director Adam Kirtley. Tours of the AIDS service facility will be conducted from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., with wine and cheese to compliment the social gathering.

Following the open house, Kirtley said people will gather at the Memorial Building at Whitman College at 7 p.m. for a candlelight walk to a memorial service scheduled at First Congregational Church, at the corner of Palouse and Alder.

Dr. Susan Shaw, director of women's studies at Oregon State University, will be keynote speaker for the memorial program. Kirtley credited Shaw with a long history of involvement in AIDS resources in the state of Oregon.

People who might wish to volunteer their assistance in the World AIDS Day programs may contact NIAC by call-

Area food and drink establishments set special holiday hours

Not everyone gets to enjoy a day off work on Thanksgiving. Like many retail businesses, gay-owned food and drink establishments in Spokane and vicinity have established special holiday hours for their staff and patrons:

Dempseys, 909 W. 1st Ave., will open Thanksgiving Day at 6 p.m.

The Loft, 410 W. Sprague Ave., will open at 2 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day and continue its tradition of serving a holiday dinner, at about 5:30 or 6 p.m., to those who have gone without.

The Merq, 706 N. Monroe St., will open Thanksgiving Day at 6 p.m.

Top Notch Cafe, 825 N. Monroe St., will be closed on Thanksgiving Day and the day after, reopening for breakfast and lunch on Saturday, Nov. 27 at 7 a.m.

Elsewhere in the region:

In Coeur d'Alene, **Mik-n-Mac's**, 406 N. 4th St., will announce its holiday plans in November.

In Pasco, the **Out & About Restaurant and Lounge**, 327 W. Lewis, will open at 8 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day.

In Prichard, a short drive from I-90 Exit 43 at Kingston, not only will the **Y Tavern** be open, but will serve free Thanksgiving dinners beginning at 3 p.m. Who said you can't go home again, over the river and through the woods?

ing (208) 665-1448. Blue Mountain Heart to Heart may be reached by telephoning (509) 529-4744 or, outside the local calling area, at (888) 875-2233, pin 4744.

Regional Calendar

November events:

■ Nov. 2 – *General Election Day.*

■ Nov. 4-14 – Pacific Northwest Ballet's *All Balanchine*, McCaw Hall at **Seattle Center**, (206) 292-2787.

■ Nov. 13 – Seattle Opera's *Young Artists in Concert* presented by Opera Plus!, First Presbyterian Church, **Coeur d'Alene**, 7 p.m., \$15, (208) 777-8083.

▼ Nov. 14 – PFLAG-**Sandpoint** meets, United Methodist Church, 2 p.m., (208) 263-6699.

■ Nov. 25 – *Thanksgiving Day. Free Thanksgiving Dinner*, Y Tavern, **Prichard**, 3 p.m., (208) 682-4036.

Plan ahead for December:

▼ Dec. 1 – *World AIDS Day.*

Walla Walla: *Open House*, Blue Mountain Heart to Heart, 5:30 p.m.; *Candlelight Walk* from Memorial Building, Whitman College, 7 p.m.; *Memorial Service*, First Congregational Church, Palouse and Alder, 7:30 p.m., (509) 529-4744.

Coeur d'Alene: North Idaho AIDS Coalition program of *Music, Readings and Reflection*, Harding Family Center, 411 N. 15th St., 6 p.m., (208) 665-1448.

▼ Dec. 12 – PFLAG-**Sandpoint** meets, United Methodist Church, 2 p.m., (208) 263-6699.

▼ Dec. 31 – New Year's Eve party, Mik-n-Mac's, **Coeur d'Alene**, (208) 667-4858; New Year's Eve *Pink Party*, Red Lion Hotel, **Butte**, (406) 494-7800 info, (800) 443-1806 reservations.

▼ special interest ■ general interest

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Emmanuel MCC Moving Into a New Season

by Len Mace, Lay Pastor,
Emmanuel MCC

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

A time to be born, and a time to die;
A time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;

A time to kill, and a time to heal;
A time to break down, and a time to build up;

A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
A time to mourn, and a time to dance;

A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

A time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

A time to get, and a time to lose;
A time to keep, and a time to cast away;

A time to reap, and a time to sow;
A time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

A time to love, and a time to hate;
A time of war, and a time of peace.

What profit has he that works in that where he labors?

I have seen the travail, which God has given to the children of humankind to be exercised in it.

God has made everything beautiful in God's time; also God has set the world in our hearts, so that no one can find out the work that God makes from the beginning to the end."

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

We serve a God of season. We see it in creation. God created the four seasons that are based upon the rotation of the Earth as it orbits the Sun. The seasons change as the earth moves, but the sun in our planetary system remains constant, and everything revolves around it.

In many ways we see the signature of the same artist in our lives. Much like the earth, our lives should revolve around the SON, Jesus Christ. Our lives will change, and we will enter and exit many seasons, but the SON remains constant yesterday, today and forever.

At Emmanuel MCC, we have just stepped forward into a new season; it is called the season of Emmanuel: God Be With Us! A season of our church where no one is in control except the Holy Spirit and a season where every one of us will be encouraged and challenged to use our Spiritual Gifts, as together we move forward in service to God, to the community and to one another.

It is our goal, within the coming year, to reevaluate "who we are" and to reestablish connections and build relationships with organizations within the greater GLBTQ community.

For those of you who have not recently attended a service at Emmanuel, or if you have never attended, but are on a personal quest for Spiritual growth, I invite you to come visit with us. Emmanuel may not be right for everyone, but it might just be right for those of you seeking a safe haven, a peaceful place of "worship" to God The Creator, where ALL are welcome and the message of God's "unconditional love" is frequently spoken.

Emmanuel MCC is stepping forward into a new season where we will KNOW that we have not only been to church – we ARE the church!

Our new season is upon us. Our season is here. There is a fresh anointing flowing our way and we are ALL champions in the ongoing ministry of the place many of us call home: Emmanuel MCC.

Our Wine Tasting and Auction in October was a huge success!

To our family, friends and loved ones – the North Idaho AIDS Coalition board, staff, volunteers and clients thank you for your generous outpouring of support.

Thanks also to Monty and Mark and the wonderful staff of the Clark House.

Hats off to the Wine Tasting Committee – Cyndi, Carole, Barbara, Linda and Lucien.

Over \$10,000 was raised for prevention, care and advocacy services in North Idaho.



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National

Lambda: equality also belongs at country club

SAN DIEGO – Same-sex couples in California should have full and equal benefits at country clubs and other businesses, Lambda Legal said in a brief filed Oct. 25 with the California Supreme Court. Lambda Legal represents a lesbian couple whose San Diego country club refused to treat them like other committed couples.

Same-sex couples currently cannot marry under California law, but, “By adopting policies that only give privileges to married couples, the country club automatically discriminates against its lesbian and gay members,” said Jon Davidson, senior counsel in Lambda’s Western Regional Office.

“We’re asking the California Supreme Court to require country clubs and similar businesses to treat all couples equally and stop charging lesbian and gay couples more for the same services.”

Survey: Male escorts educate about safe sex

NEW YORK – Male escorts who solicit sex on the Internet have adopted the role of safe-sex educators with their clients, according to a study published in the journal *AIDS Care* by Hunter College psychology professor Jeffrey T. Parsons.

Parsons, director of Hunter’s Center for HIV/AIDS Educational Studies and Training, authored the study with two doctoral students in social personality psychology at the CUNY Graduate Center. The research team interviewed 46 gay and bisexual male escorts about their personal lives and sexual behavior with clients, according to information released Oct. 20.

“We were concerned with the stereotypes surrounding male sex workers, since a lot of publications attribute the spread of HIV to them,” Parsons said. “Many of those studies were conducted with male sex workers on the streets, so we looked at the increase in Internet-based sex workers instead. We found quite the opposite: these men were not being unsafe but were actually educating their male clients about safe sex.”

The findings suggest that male escorts are “vectors of safer sex education.” That, Parsons said, is especially important for nongay men who utilize sex workers, generally considered a more difficult group to reach concerning safer sex education.

Parsons found that most of the men didn’t choose to be escorts for survival (food, drugs and shelter in return for sex), but to accrue funds for graduate school tuition, housing, gym memberships and vacations.

Philly will honor 40 gay pioneers on anniversary

PHILADELPHIA – Four years before the Stonewall Rebellion in New York, 40 activists marched for gay rights at Independence Hall in Philadelphia.

Next year, on the 40th anniversary of the watershed event, Equality Forum of Philadelphia will honor the gay pioneers and their courage with a special anniversary celebration at Independence National Historical Park on May 1. The event will serve as a rousing send-up of the city’s weeklong Equality Forum, scheduled to begin April 25.



Barbara Gittings, one of the Philadelphia Forty.

“On July 4, 1965, in front of Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell, 40 courageous activists demonstrated for gay and lesbian civil rights. These pioneers cracked the cocoon of invisibility and started a national and international civil rights movement,” said Sally Susman, national cochair of the 40th anniversary celebration.

“On Sunday, May 1, 2005, with Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell Pavilion as the backdrop, we will honor 40 heroes who, over the past 40 years, have made a defining difference for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered (GLBT) civil rights movement,” said celebration cochair Jonathan Capehart.

Susman and Capehart said the celebration will include entertainers,

speakers and programs on Independence Mall, a large street festival, continuous screenings of the film *Gay Pioneers*, 40 Equality Forum rainbow flags along Independence Mall and a closing concert.

School guide for gender expression wins plaudits

WASHINGTON – New guidelines giving school administrators practical advice on dealing with students’ gender identity and expression – including dress guidelines – has drawn praise from the Gender Public Advocacy Coalition (GenderPAC).

Released in October by the National School Boards Association, *Dealing with Legal Matters Surrounding Students’ Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity* advises that there is no legal justification for a restriction on boys wearing dresses to school if doing so does not cause major disruption. The guide also recommends that schools with sex-specific dress codes make an exception for transgender students.

“Youth should be able to be themselves, without fearing that they’ll be attacked by a fellow student or disciplined by school administrators. These guidelines are a step in the right direction, and we hope they’re widely adopted. There’s no age limit for the right to personal expression,” said Kristin Effland, GenderPAC Youth Program Coordinator.

Gender stereotyping and homophobia can affect many types of students, said GenderPAC. In 2002, graduating Florida senior Nikki Youngblood was evicted from her yearbook photo session for refusing to wear a low-cut dress. Recent research has shown that 80 percent of students who are harassed with gender-based taunts identify as heterosexual.

Gay media company PlanetOut goes public

SAN FRANCISCO – PlanetOut announced Oct. 14 the initial public offering of 4,650,000 shares of common stock at a price of \$9 per share. The online company specifically targeting the gay community also granted underwriters an option to purchase an additional 697,500 shares of common stock to cover any over-allotments.

PlanetOut trades on Nasdaq under the ticker symbol “LGBT.”

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Student attitudes about gay people shaped by friends who are gay

NEW YORK – Results from a recent nationwide poll of high school students indicate that approximately five percent of America's high school students identify as lesbian or gay.

The poll of 9th through 12th grade students also disclosed that 16 percent of the students have a gay or lesbian family member and 72 percent know someone who is gay or lesbian.

The national poll conducted for GLSEN (the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network) by Widmeyer Research and Polling in conjunction with Penn, Schoen & Berland Associates,

asked the students about sexual orientation, name-calling and general attitudes towards lesbian and gay people in schools.

"The findings suggest that, on average, every classroom in America has at least one student who identifies as lesbian or gay and that a majority of those students know at least one gay or lesbian person, whether it be a teacher, a classmate or a family member," noted Kevin Jennings, GLSEN executive director.

Key findings from the Oct. 7 poll include:

■ Anti-gay language is rampant: 66 percent of students report using homophobic language, such as "that's so gay" to describe something that is wrong, bad or stupid; and 81 percent report hearing homophobic language in their schools frequently or often.

■ Nearly three-fourths of high school students know a gay or lesbian person and almost half (48 percent) know a lesbian or gay classmate. Thirty percent have a close lesbian or gay friend and 11 percent know a lesbian or gay teacher.

■ Parents, friends and family influence students' attitudes most. Two of every three students (65 percent) identify their personal experiences with gay people as an important factor in shaping their attitudes about gay people; 58 percent note the important role their parents play, and 28 percent acknowledge the important role of television with gay characters.

Gays OK to serve in California militia

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. – Military analysts say new legislation in California will allow a small number of gay men and lesbians to serve openly in the state militia. The bill, which was signed into law by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, applies to members of the State Military Reserve but not the National Guard. The reserve unit is not part of the U.S. military and, therefore, not governed by the "don't ask, don't tell" ban on openly-gay service members in the armed forces.

The new law says that "members of the militia of the state shall not be discriminated against in enlistments, promotions or commissions" on the basis of sexual orientation.

Members of the State Military Reserve, perhaps 1,000 strong, serve largely in volunteer positions to help with training and support for state defense. They are not a combat force but could be called up for "police-like duty and homeland security," said Bridget Wilson, an attorney and expert on the legal status of U.S. military personnel.

Lambda wants specific mention of gay groups

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Saying that the Bush Administration is focused on protecting the Boy Scouts' access to public schools while ignoring the rights of gay student groups whose equal rights are often violated, Lambda Legal urged the U.S. Department of Education to add inclusive language to policy regulations that were made public in October and will go into effect within the next couple of months.

The proposed regulations, which require a 45-day period of public comment before going into effect, guide schools on making sure Boy Scouts groups have access to schools for meetings, recruitment and other activities.

Lambda Legal, which just launched a long-term national campaign on students' rights in public schools, said today that gay-straight alliance groups should be specified in the new regulations as one kind of youth group that also has a right to meet in public schools.

"The Bush Administration wants to add thousands of words about the Boy Scouts to federal rules that don't say one word about gay student groups even though they're both protected by federal law and gay-straight alliances are unlawfully denied school access on a regular basis," said Kevin Cathcart, executive director of Lambda Legal.

"The Boy Scouts need no help getting access to schools but they're the focus of the federal government's attention, while gay youth are routinely ignored and left to fend for themselves when their rights aren't respected," Cathcart charged.

The new regulations, in several references, say the Boy Scouts should receive the same access to school facilities as "other groups." Cathcart said Lambda Legal is urging the Department of Education to specify the kinds of "other groups" that have legal access to schools, and to include gay-straight alliances among the specific examples.

ACLU, Lambda team up to strike anti-gay law

LINCOLN, Neb. – The American Civil Liberties Union and Lambda Legal are asking the federal court in Nebraska to strike down a constitutional amendment that bars the state and cities from ever granting any type of legal recognition for same-sex couples.

"Nebraska's law treats loving, committed same-sex couples like strangers and blocks them from even advocating for basic protections for their families," said David Buckel, senior staff attorney at Lambda Legal. "This lawsuit isn't seeking marriage for same-sex couples, it's seeking a level playing field so that all Nebraskans are full and equal citizens, regardless of whether they're gay or straight."

ACLU-Nebraska and Lambda filed their opening trial brief Oct. 15.

"We're not saying that Nebraskans shouldn't have broad discretion in determining what types of laws to pass," said Tim Butz, executive director of ACLU-Nebraska. "But that discretion crosses the line when the core principles of fairness and equality at the heart of our Constitution are ignored."

Cincinnati Pride Festival organizers disband

CINCINNATI – Citing burnout and a decrease in volunteer help, members of the Cincinnati Pride Committee have voted to dissolve the organization that plans the city's annual weekend Pride parade and festival. Event organizers told the Gay People's Chronicle that membership had dwindled to less than 10.

"People look for a few to do the event year after year and don't get involved, leading to burnout," explained Harold Keutzer, head of the gay community center. Keutzer said he would

organize an effort to revitalize planning for Pride in 2005. The Chronicle noted that Cincinnati's Pride Parade was re-introduced in 2000 after a five-year hiatus.

Hewlett Packard, PG&E, Kaiser win Outie honors

TEMPE, Ariz. – Kaiser Permanente and Pacific Gas and Electric Co. shared the prestigious Workplace Excellence award recently presented by Out and Equal. It marked the first time in the history of the awards that two corporations tied, and each received an Outie Award for advancing safe and equal workplaces for gay professionals.

Hewlett Packard picked up an Outie for significant achievement.

Other recipients at the 14th annual Outie Awards Oct. 1 included Robert Burrell of Ford Motor Co., Laura Brooks of Eastman Kodak, and The Lambda Network at Eastman Kodak.



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International

Fifth province legalizes marriage for gay couples

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia – Nova Scotia is now the fifth Canadian province where same-sex marriage is legal. The provincial Supreme Court ruled Sept. 24 that denying same-sex couples the right to marry was a violation of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Nova Scotia Premier John Hamm said he would abide by the court's ruling.

The case was brought by three Nova Scotia same-sex couples. After the case was launched, a fourth province, Manitoba, also ruled in favor of same-sex couples.

The ban on gay marriage in Canada began to crumble last year when Ontario's highest court ruled that preventing same-sex couples from marrying was unconstitutional. British Columbia followed soon after and, several months later, Quebec.

"With Nova Scotia, 82 percent of Canadians now live in jurisdictions with equal marriage," said Laurie Arron, director of advocacy of Canada's national gay rights group Egale.

"Gay and lesbian people in the remaining jurisdictions are feeling increasingly left behind," Arron said. "We've been contacted by same-sex couples in four of the remaining jurisdictions who want to launch challenges of their own."

Gay marriage is still not permitted in the provinces of Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Alberta and Saskatchewan, plus the North West Territories and the territory of Nunavut.

Outgames, Gay Games in head-butts for '06

BERLIN – Two prestigious international sporting events for gay athletes in 2006 – separated by one week and 500 miles – are creating a rift an ocean away.

Team Berlin, which formed the largest European contingency to compete in the Gay Games in Sydney and Amsterdam, would like to bid on the next world event. Its team members scored numerous outstanding personal bests in medal performances but are divided by the competition between Montreal and Chicago.

Montreal rejected the Gay Games and opted to hold its own event, Rendezvous Montreal. To authenticate its sports festival for sponsors, organizers formed the Gay and Lesbian International Sports Association (GLISA) and morphed Rendezvous Montreal into the Outgames.

Now, the calendar for 2006 features Gay Games VII in Chicago, July 15-22, and Montreal's Outgames between July 29 and Aug. 5. Both host cities have snagged important sponsorships.

GLISA, an initiative of several individuals, mainly in Europe and Canada, intends to represent sports clubs and groups indirectly through continental associations. But the newly-formed group must gain broad international support for its success.

Some prominent sports figures, sports clubs and business people in Berlin are pushing for the city to bid for Outgames in 2009. Others, who remain staunchly loyal to Gay Games,

are convinced that a bid for Outgames would deepen the rift in the gay sports community and damage its reputation in the media and to potential sponsors.

Montreal has invested heavily in the creation of GLISA and the organization's survival hinges on the success of Outgames. Even if the first event proves successful, it's uncertain that the formula could be repeated three years later in Berlin.

While the organizational and financial concepts advanced by the FGG for its Gay Games have provoked some criticism in the past, the federation modified its game plan to reduce costs and more realistically estimate participation without infringing on the sporting value of its tournaments.

Berliners who support the Gay Games say it would be "tragic" for two rival entities to compete for legitimacy, support and participation. "It should be clear that only one organization and its event can hope to survive," spokesmen said, and point to the limited number of qualified cities willing to take on the responsibilities of hosting such an event.

Gay Games proponents in Berlin see the financial strength of Americans in the United States as the key to FGG surviving the crisis.

"It is likely that a majority of U.S.-American participants will side with the FGG and opt for the Gay Games because of its long tradition and greater familiarity. Without the support and participation of the numerous American athletes, however, no event in Berlin could hope to be a success," they said in announcing their intention to call for a bid from Berlin for the Gay Games in 2010.

Sperm donor sues for visitation rights

MONTREAL – A man who helped a Montreal-area lesbian couple have a child is suing for visitation rights. The man, who was a friend of the couple, provided the sperm so one of the women could impregnate herself. An earlier court ruling temporarily gave the father the right to visit the girl three times a week. Now he wants to make that permanent. None of the parties in the case may be named.

The women claim he was only a sperm donor. The man says it had been agreed that he would be a part of the child's life. In addition to visitation

rights, the man also wants to be listed as the father on the child's birth certificate. The baby is now one year old and the certificate of birth names both women.

A lawyer with a Quebec gay rights groups said it is important that when people seek a third party to help conceive a baby that they have a firm agreement in writing beforehand.

EU cans Italian minister for bigotry, sexism

BRUSSELS – A key European Union Parliament committee voted against Italian Rocco Buttiglione as justice and security chief because of remarks he made regarding gays and marriage, according to Reuters.

Buttiglione, a devout Roman Catholic who currently serves as Italy's European affairs minister, told the parliament Oct. 11 that homosexuality is a sin and that the family exists to allow a woman to have children and to be protected by her husband, according to Reuters. Buttiglione said he would oppose legislation that does not match his moral beliefs, Reuters said.

Giusto Catania, a community deputy and member of the EU legislative committee, said nominating Buttiglione was a mistake. "Today Buttiglione lost and the Italian government lost," he told Reuters. Parliament, he stated, "does not want Buttiglione as European commissioner."

SPAIN OKS MARRIAGE

Continued from page 1

ent to this attack" on its traditional values. An association of Christian fringe groups and the archbishopric of Barcelona also pledged to campaign against the move.

Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, whose crusade to liberalize social policy includes facilitating divorce, said, "I deeply respect the opinions of the Catholic Church even if they are very critical of the government. I ask them to show the same respect."

Recent opinion polls in Spain point to an electorate in step with the government. In July, a poll indicated 66.2 percent of the citizens support same-sex marriages, although the figure fell to 48.2 percent for adoptions by gay couples.

Currently in Europe, gay marriages are legal in Belgium and the Netherlands, although only the Netherlands allows gay couples to adopt. Similar unions are legal in six Canadian provinces and the state of Massachusetts in the United States.



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Political

Gay GOP group refrains from Bush endorsement

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The nationwide organization for Republican gay men and lesbians, which typically endorses the GOP candidate for president, has broken from tradition. While not going so far as to endorse Sen. John Kerry on the Democratic ticket, the gay Log Cabin Republicans' recent vote to not endorse President Bush has drawn praise from the Human Rights Campaign.

Regarding the Log Cabin Republicans' decision to withhold its endorsement from President Bush, also chief advocate of the discriminatory Federal Marriage Amendment, HRC President Cheryl Jacques said, "This is a bold statement against discrimination. American values like freedom and equality should not be forfeited to partisan politics. The Log Cabin Republicans understand this and we're proud to call them allies in the fight for equality."

Said Terry McAuliffe, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, "Four years ago, President Bush promised us that he would be a 'Uniter, Not a Divider,' a president who would work to protect the rights of all Americans. Now, four years later, after countless attacks on gay and lesbian Americans, it is crystal clear that Bush has misled the American people. Instead of working to unite all Americans, the President has divided our country."

Dems thwart SSA plan to allow discrimination

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Democrats claimed a major victory on behalf of gay Americans when, according to recent press reports, the Social Security Administration (SSA) halted its attempts to remove sexual orientation from the administration's nondiscrimination policy. The head of the agency abruptly halted SSA's proposed discrimination within one day of Democratic National Committee Chairman Terry McAuliffe's public statement condemning the move.

"This is a victory for the Democratic Party, but more importantly a victory for gay and lesbian Americans against discrimination," McAuliffe said upon receiving the news.

Bush-appointed SSA administrators had proposed to rollback gay rights by striking a protection based on sexual orientation from a contract with union workers. Had the plan sneaked by, it would have allowed discrimination, including job termination, based solely on sexual orientation.

You be the judge

by Cheryl Jacques, president of the Human Rights Campaign, and Kevin Cathcart, executive director of Lambda Legal

"A State cannot so deem a class of persons a stranger to its laws. Amendment 2 violates the Equal Protection Clause, and the judgment of the Supreme Court of Colorado is affirmed."

– Justice Anthony Kennedy, writing for the majority in *Romer vs. Evans*, which invalidated a discriminatory Colorado law.

"What can explain the Court majority's decision? Only the newly faddish approval of homosexual conduct among the elite classes from which the Justices come and to which most of them respond."

– Judge Robert Bork on *Romer*

*** **

Reading these two passages, it's hard to believe that each was written by a nominee for the same spot on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Justice Anthony Kennedy, who was ultimately confirmed, would later affirm the equality of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered

community in the landmark cases of *Romer vs. Evans*, which declared that Colorado could not disadvantage gay people in its political system, and *Lawrence vs. Texas*, which struck down state sodomy laws.

Robert Bork, President Reagan's first pick for this position on the Supreme Court who was denied confirmation in the Senate, probably would have come to very different conclusions. An outspoken opponent of gay rights, Bork was critical of the *Romer* and *Lawrence* decisions.

As leaders of two of the nation's most significant gay advocacy groups, we know that the selection of judges has a profound effect on our community.

But too many people in the gay community don't know that when we vote for candidates, we're also helping to shape the judiciary for years to come. In other words, when we choose to stay at home on Election Day, we're choosing to let someone else put together a branch of our government that will directly affect our lives.

Our votes for president and senators directly affect the composi-

tion of the courts which, in turn, can make the difference between equal justice under law, as exemplified by *Lawrence*, and being branded as criminals, the shameful legacy of *Bowers vs. Hardwick* that *Lawrence* put to rest.

Since Lambda Legal's heroic victory in *Lawrence*, we've seen unprecedented attacks on the courts by anti-gay forces. They are advocating for the appointment of extremists who will not recognize, as Justice Kennedy did, our basic rights as citizens.

They are pushing the unprecedented and unconstitutional Marriage Protection Act, which would close the courts to our community by preventing federal court challenges to the so-called Defense of Marriage Act.

They are even attacking the judges themselves. On Sept. 8, anti-gay forces in California requested the recall of Judge Loren McMaster, who upheld California's domestic partnership law over the objections of the extremists who sued to have it invalidated.

This last effort – in which the anti-gay forces were actually asking a judge to strike down popular legislation – exposes the truth about

Continued on page 24

Montana, Oregon, 9 other states to vote on marriage or civil union acts

Voters in Montana and Oregon will vote on proposed amendments which explicitly mention only marriage, but which could still jeopardize other basic protections for gay families, say election watchers. Mississippi voters also will vote on a same-sex marriage issue.

The three are among 11 states that include Nov. 2 ballot initiatives that would enact constitutional bans on civil unions and/or equal marriage rights for same-sex couples.

On Nov. 2, voters in Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma and Utah will consider state constitutional amendments that would ban civil unions, marriage equality and, in some cases, any and all legal protections for gay and lesbian families and, potentially, other families as well, according to the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

The full scope of the amendments briefly captured national attention on Oct. 5, when a Louisiana district court struck down the anti-gay amendment approved in September by that state's voters. The amendment – designed to prohibit not only equal marriage rights but also civil unions and any legal recognition for same-sex couples – was struck down because Louisiana's constitution requires that amendments be confined to a single objective.

Continued on page 24

Outed GOP officers seen as turncoats to gay community

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Two high level officials with the Republican National Committee acknowledged they are gay after becoming the latest GOP targets in an outing campaign by D.C. gay activist Michael Rogers, according to the gay weekly *Washington Blade*.

Jay Banning, the RNC's chief financial officer and director of administration, and Daniel Gurley, the RNC's national field director and deputy political director, each confirmed they are gay in telephone conversations that Rogers recorded and released to the media in October, the *Blade* reported.

Rogers said he targeted to the two RNC officials after learning about them from reliable sources who knew them, including sources within the Republican Party.

"(Banning and Gurley) are gay while they are working to oppress gay people," said Rogers, who has said his aim is to expose gay members of Congress and their staffs, as well as others involved in politics, if it can be shown that their actions harm gay rights advances.

Rogers said Banning and Gurley were "guilty" of helping to advance RNC's election year efforts to use gay Americans and gay civil rights as a wedge issue. He pointed to a recent mailing the RNC sent to households in West Virginia and Arkansas linking "liberal politicians" to efforts to ban Bibles while allowing same-sex marriages.

Continued on page 24

Let's give it a try to read Mary's mind

by Paul Varnell

Note: During an unusually intense aromatherapy session last week – French Vanilla with a hint of Bayberry – I suddenly seemed to be receiving the following impressions from someone else's mind.

Ish! Can you believe this? What's a daughter to do? I signed up to manage Dad's reelection campaign and suddenly I become a campaign poster child – for the opposition. That was *not* supposed to happen. My being gay was supposed to be a subtle indicator we could trot out when our side wanted to, to assure Republican moderates that their party was not going to go all homophobic; but that didn't give Kerry and Edwards the right to use me too.

It didn't even have to happen: it's not as if any of them – George, Kerry, Dad or Edwards – has said a word in favor of my right to marry Heather, so gay marriage is not an issue. And none of them has said he opposes some sort of partner benefits. Even George told Larry King that if states wanted to offer partner benefits that would be OK. He may not have meant it – oh, who knows what dumb George means? – but he said it.

Green candidate true to gay issues

ATLANTA – Coming of age in a rural shrimping village in Texas, David Cobb recognized early on the difference between those with and without power, and became determined to end the exploitation of the latter by the former.

“Growing up in a house without a flushing toilet, in genuine, grinding poverty, lets you see up close and personal economic oppression,” Cobb, the Green Party's nominee for president, said during a campaign stop here in October.

“As a poor person – even being straight, white and male – I have learned and observed that all oppression must be struggled against,” said Cobb, 41.

That includes marriage equality for gay couples, Cobb said, adding that the gay civil rights struggle is the “functional equivalent” of the civil rights movement for black Americans.

Equally troubling as the tone of the debate over gay civil rights is the lack of support gays have received from traditional political allies, Cobb said.

“I don't think the two national parties are talking about the right thing

But then at that last debate Bob Schieffer had to go and ask if Kerry and George thought being gay was a choice. George spent 3 seconds saying “You know, Bob, I just don't know. I just don't know,” then launched into his routine about saving marriage from Heather and me. Well, if he doesn't know if being gay is a choice or not, he could have asked me. Or he could have asked one of the Austin 12 – if any of them are still speaking to him. But even if George realizes it isn't a choice, he can't say so because that would offend Karl's precious evangelicals who believe it is a choice.

But the real surprise came when Kerry said, “I think if you were to talk to Dick Cheney's daughter, who is a lesbian, she would tell you that she's being who she is. She's who she was born as. If you talk to anybody, it's not a choice.” I sat straight up in my chair and yelled “I can't believe he said that.”

Well, I mean, no, of course, it isn't a choice – Kerry was right. And Kerry sure was right when he said we should have legal rights. But I don't want to be a poster child, especially for the opposing campaign. Nobody would.

And, come on, Kerry was doing more than just saying it wasn't a choice. He could have made his case just fine, and went on to do so, and left me out entirely. But when he reminded 50 million television viewers that I'm gay, he was also

at all when it comes to gay marriage because they are not talking about it as an issue of fundamental human rights,” Cobb said. “That's what's at stake here.

“I think it's shameful that you've got George W. Bush leading the charge of hate against same-sex (couples), and equally shameful that John Kerry and the Democratic Party is not providing leadership,” Cobb said. “They are embarrassed by their position.”

Cobb said Democrats have shown they are willing to abandon gay rights during tough political times. He noted that the Green Party has included support for same-sex marriage in its party platform for the past decade.

“The Green Party has been providing that leadership for a long time, and not because it's the politically correct thing to do, but because, damn it all, it's the right thing to do,” Cobb said.

Cobb said he “completely supports” the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would add sexual orientation and gender identity to the list of categories protected from workplace bias under federal law.

Under a Cobb administration, the military's “Don't Ask, Don't Tell” policy, which bans openly gay soldiers from serving, would be repealed.

pointing out to people – especially Karl's precious evangelicals who think being gay is shameful so you should keep quiet about it – that my presence means there is no unanimity in George's campaign about whether being gay is shameful. Well, duh! But we don't get votes by having people point that out.

GAYS POL RATES RACES

Continued from front page

■ Lisa Brown, D, Senator, 3rd Legislative District.

■ Alex Wood, D, Representative, 3rd Legislative District, Position 1.

■ Timm Ormsby, D, Representative, 3rd Legislative District, Position 2.

■ Jim Peck, D, Representative, 4th Legislative District, Position 1.

■ Ed Foote, D, Representative, 4th Legislative District, Position 2.

■ Laurie Dolan, D, Senator, 6th Legislative District.

■ Douglas Dobbins, D, Representative, 6th Legislative District, Position 2.

■ Jack Miller, D, Representative, 7th Legislative District, Position 1.

■ Gail Rowland, D, Senator, 9th Legislative District.

■ Linda Wolverson, D, County Commissioner, District 1.

■ Bill Burke, D, County Commissioner, District 2.

It is not widely known that one of the candidates for governor, Ruth Bennett, the Libertarian candidate, also is a lesbian. Bennett initiated a call to Stonewall News for an interview during a recent campaign swing through Spokane, but her appointment sched-

Edwards did the same thing in his debate with Dad when he unctuously congratulated Dad for loving and accepting his daughter. But Edwards got away with it because moderator Gwen Ifill, not Edwards, brought up Dad's earlier comments in Daven-

Continued on page 24

ule and Stonewall's did not mesh the two days the candidate was in town.

Bennett was graduated from Washington State University with a bachelor's in anthropology, but not before her final term was thrown into turmoil by the death of her mother.



Ruth Bennett

On her Web site, Bennett says she voted Libertarian for the first time in 1976. The Libertarian principles of individual choice and responsibility resonated with her, she noted, and still do. Her life partner of six years is Dee Elliott, a nurse with Hospice of Seattle.

While Bennett scored well under SEAMEC scrutiny, the Democratic candidate for governor won the group's endorsement from a higher evaluation.

Following are SEAMEC choices for state offices:

- Christine Gregoire, D, Governor.
- Deborah Senn, D, Attorney General.
- Judith Billings, nonpartisan, Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- Vote No, Referendum 55.



Leadership Experience Integrity

Continued on page 24

Senator Lisa Brown gets things done for children, families, and Spokane!

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

**Popcorn?
Ticket please.
Cut the lights.
And ...**

Roll 'em!

by Christopher Lawrence

Fourteen queer films for \$15! Show up early for a prime seat. Spokane's 6th annual Gay/Lesbian Film Festival is a bargain.

Once again, festival producer Barb Lee presents us with a great collection of movies to enjoy. With popcorn available and a noticeable absence of bar trappings, the festival promises something for everyone. Opening night offers leather, orgasmic deception, terror, hope, hilarity and Texas state law. Invite some friends

Sixth Annual Gay/Lesbian Film Festival

When: Friday, Nov. 5 at 7 p.m.;
Saturday, Nov. 6 at 3 and 7 p.m.

Where: Eastern Washington
University Auditorium at the
Riverpoint campus.

Tickets: \$8 for evening pro-
grams; \$5 for matinee. \$15 for
complete festival.

Parking: Free lot adjacent to
auditorium.

for a great night of cuddling in the dark while watching the silver screen ... and have someone pack the smelling salts.

For Saturday's matinee, grab your Guccis and clutch those Donna Karans, because we are to learn about fashion from high profile lesbians. Also featured are local celebs and a tour of queer history and romance on a

faraway continent.

For the Saturday finale, get ready for a roller coaster ride of fun with whimsical and glittering musical

fantasy, dramatic poetry, the birth of queer rights, and a campy supernatural-horror-mystery yarn, all topped off with fresh, revealing insight into the damaging snare of gender identification.

Friday at 7 p.m.

Just For Leather – This is Michael's first time in a leather bar.



Night Shadows plays Friday, Nov. 5 at 7 p.m.

When a leather stud picks him up, both are in for an unexpected surprise. (5 min.)

You Fake – What do real women do in bed? After a bad one-night stand, Morgon looks for solace from her best friend only to be confronted with self-righteousness. Their disagreement results in a high-stakes bet to find out how many dykes fake it. (6 min.)

Night Shadows – Matthew Coburn is an attractive young man who would

like nothing more than to stay young and attractive. On the eve of his 30th birthday, he invites David, who he met on an Internet chatroom, to his home. In the middle of the night, Matthew awakens alone. Soon he begins to realize that he may not be alone in his house. This is a film in the horror genre. (16 min.)

One Wedding and a Revolution

– On Feb. 12, the mayor of San Francisco decided to stop discriminating against gay couples by instructing city and county officials to allow them to get married. A behind-the-scenes look at the frantic days leading up to a momentous ceremony. (19 min.)

Drag Queen Heist – From the director of last year's Audience Choice winner, *Masturbation: Putting the Fun Into Self-Loving*, comes a new action comedy film. Jared conjures a plan for his boyfriend to join him in robbing the 2nd Fidelity Bank ... as women. (20 min.)

Dildo Diaries – Many believe the law against sex toys in Texas is highly

Continued on page 19

SJO brings jazz singer for holiday show at Met

by Christopher Lawrence

The Spokane Jazz Orchestra will perform Duke Ellington's ingenious arrangement of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite* and showcase the singing of Seattle's Charlotte Carruthers for its annual musical salute to the holidays in early December.

A natural-born jazz singer, Carruthers joins the talented SJO instrumentalists as her busy schedule permits, and she is featured with them on their new CD *It's About Time* (Reviews&Previews page 21). Carruthers' expression and style come straight from her heart and she will treat concertgoers to the likes of *I'll be Home for Christmas*, *The Christ-*

mas Song and *Walkin' in a Winter Wonderland*, among many others.

Ellington's jazz is noted for its colors and personalities. Each member of his band had a distinct voice and he used of them as soloists and in extremely unique combinations. Although he is easily recognized for his big band jazz in the traditional "shout chorus" style, much of his music was chamber-like in quality and sound. His *Nutcracker* is a masterpiece in the chamber music style.

In *Nutcracker*, Ellington made masterful use of a variety of solo performances in key moments of the work. Hard driving and swinging movements such as the *Arabian Dance* and the



SJO Music Director Dan Keberle

Dance of the Floreadores are contrasted with serene interpretations of *Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairies* and the *Chinese Dance*. Ellington's inge-

nious arrangement of the *Nutcracker* in a jazz context will grab the listener by the ears to say "Merry Christmas."

SJO's holiday concert, under the creative direction of Dan Keberle, promises to be one of the very best ever, enriching souls with some of the greatest holiday melodies in unique jazz arrangements ever written.

Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington was 75 when he died, the year Spokane hosted Expo 74, but the music created by the pianist and orchestra leader – the most prolific composer in jazz history – lives on.

SJO's revival of the Ellington legacy is scheduled at the Met on Saturday, Dec. 4 at 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$24.50, with discounts for seniors, students and members of the military. They are available, with a service charge, through all TicketsWest locations and by telephoning 325-SEAT.

CenterStage reserves 3rd Tuesdays for gay movies

by SNN staff

The building is vintage “Oh you kid,” but its operation is strictly “Rad, man, way cool.”

When the once-lodge hall morphed into a community theatre venue barely a year ago, the new managers vowed that CenterStage would not be your run-of-the-mill playhouse. Their early presentation of *Menopositive* should have been proof.

The three-story dinner theatre followed with musicals, dramas and one-man shows that spotlighted local talent and introduced Spokane audiences to entertainment from around the world. The UpStage Supper Club, now Ella's, invites after-work relaxation and showcases top jazz groups from the area and beyond.

Charles Smaltz, a former director for the Inland Northwest Business Alliance and the Inland Northwest AIDS Coalition, chose the DownStage Ballroom to introduce the public to his new board game *Politics*.

Now, on the heels of introducing *The Worst Midnight Movie Series Ever* on Saturdays, complete with installments from the *Flash Gordon* serial, CenterStage has launched *Gay Movie Night* on the third Tuesday of every month.

The novel concept, especially for Spokane, is the brainchild of Jerry Davis, a prominent gay attorney who

also volunteers his time and talents as a member of the theatre's board of directors.

The idea for screening gay-themed movies, Davis said, “just came to me because we have a beautiful venue at CenterStage that all of Spokane needs to experience.

“I realized that the gay community needed more events for bonding and socializing and then just made it hap-



staff photo by Christopher Lewis

CenterStage board members Jerry Davis and Leslie Ann Grove conferred on the introduction of Gay Movie Night.

pen with the help of (managing director) Tim Behrens and (board member) Leslie Ann Grove. They are special people and more than accommodating.”

Davis suggested, “Everyone needs to experience all of the venues, while supporting the arts. These alternative social gatherings help (those in the gay community) to concentrate on our similarities and not our differences.”

CenterStage launched *Gay Movie Night* in October with the 1995's *Jefrey*. Davis said 36 people attended.

On Nov 16, the theatre will feature *Beautiful Thing*, Jonathan Harvey's heart-warming story of two young men coming to grips with their sexuality and the effect it has on the people in their lives.

Doors open at 7 p.m., the movie starts at 8. Tickets are \$3, at the door, and include free popcorn. Beer, wine and candy are available at the concession. CenterStage is one block west of Dempseys at 1017 W. 1st Ave.

Play within a play heads Interplayers holiday fare

Actors portraying actors involved in staging a play for the holiday season is Interplayers' comedic send-up for the holiday season in Spokane. If that sounds a little convoluted, it is. But that's what *Inspecting Carol* is all about.

Here's a snapshot of the impending mayhem: Company members of a small regional theater mistake a neophyte (and very bad) actor as an inspector from the National Endowment for the Arts. Desperate to hold onto their funding, they rationalize the solution is to cast him in their production of *A Christmas Carol*. Subsequently, they let him rewrite large sections of the story to keep him

happy – and it may be charitable to assess the end result as the worst production ever of the time-honored Dickens classic.

Inspecting Carol – now you get the title – was written by Daniel Sullivan and The Seattle Repertory Company. The Interplayers production will feature Troy Nickerson with local performers Jone Campbell Bryan, Kathie Doyle-Lipe, Stephanie Brush, Alycia Delmore, Wes Deitrick, Barrie MacConnell and Damon Mentzer. Nikè Imoru directs.

This holiday comedy is scheduled Nov. 18 through Dec 18. Weekday shows begin at 7:30 p.m., 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and at 2 p.m. for Saturday matinees.

Tickets range from \$16 to \$20, with discounts for seniors and students. Reservations are available at the theatre box office, by calling 455-PLAY or online at www.interplayers.com.



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At Interplayers:

Renfield gives Dracula bite

by Christopher Lawrence

If you still have not seen Interplayers' Halloween-appropriate production of *Dracula*, you still have time, and the play proves to be a commendable effort. The actors are obviously well trained and bring much experience for us to savor.

For the most part, the style of acting that harkens to the late 1920s and early '30s is melodramatic and a bit campy. The sets were simple and efficient and the special effects of ghostly rolling mist and lighting on the thrust stage served the production well.

Director Niké Imoru utilized ghostly music to accompany the slowed motion of the actors, creating a hypnotic and otherworldly effect in certain

scenes to emphasize the entrances and supernatural, sinister powers of the King of Vampires. Thankfully, I had chosen to wear a thick and protective turtleneck sweater.

Michael Maher's portrayal of Dracula was slippery. He oozed his way across the stage, delivering an alternately powerful and foppish characterization that was ultimately unsettling, yet appropriate. The smooth, sliding gait he attempted did not, however, give us the true impression he was gliding on air. That might have required him to be a bit slimmer, as has been more typical in portrayals of the legendary creature of darkness.

David Seitz, as Van Helsing, winningly portrayed the determined vampire killer in a physical manner striking

me as more contemporary than the rest of the cast. His casual sophistication and relish of a sharp and self-congratu-



photo by Kate Vander Wende

David Seitz, left, Kate Parker and Michael Maher breathe life into Dracula, continuing at Interplayers Nov. 2-6.

latory introspection seemed, at times, to override the formality of speaking style in the script. It was not jarring, but slightly inconsistent.

Kate Parker, as the object of Count Dracula's lust, was striking, both visually and energetically. Her better moments emerged as she became more compelled by the evil Count's influence.

Todd Wallace exhibited the proper stuffiness as Dr. Steward, the bitten Lucy's father, although his physical presence seemed to lack focus during a few scenes.

John Ulman's Johnathan Harker, betrothed to the punctured Lucy, was more than just the typical cardboard cutout of the young love-struck hero. He presented a gallantry and refreshing vulnerability I could not recall from seeing this production several years ago.

Damon Abdallah offered a stupendous turn as the fly- and spider-eating miscreant in the truly standout part of Renfield. Delivering lines with flashes of intelligent awareness amidst the sea of madness, from which he ranted and raved, obviously savored this plum role, as did the audience.

Caryn Hoaglund, the maid, and Craig Dingle, as Butterworth, the attendant, rounded out the cast convincingly with performances in the grand style of put-upon servants.

These players are on their game. Be sure to catch one of the remaining performances before Dracula retreats to his casket, more-or-less permanently, after Nov 6. Call 455-PLAY for tickets.

Good Opportunities to Enjoy ...

November in Spokane

"Spokane. Near nature. Near perfect."

Start the month off on a high note by exercising your personal commitment to vote on Tuesday, Nov. 2nd.

We've all enjoyed our share of movie marathons, but the **Gay/Lesbian Film Festival** weekend of Nov. 5th and 6th is truly special.

A round of applause for **Seymore Fairies** and the variety show he's presenting at **The Dancing Place** on Sunday, Nov. 7th at 8 pm to benefit Spokane's **Pride Week**.

Friends of SAN will host the wild-n-wacky **Quarter Auction** to benefit **Spokane AIDS Network** on Sunday, Nov. 14th at 3 pm at **Dempseys**.

Kudos to the management and staff at **CenterStage** for initiating **Gay Movie Night**. This month's film, **Beautiful Thing**, will be shown Tuesday, Nov. 16th at 8 pm.

The **Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture (MAC)** will host Spokane's observance of **World AIDS Day** on Wednesday, Dec. 1st.



"A Dickens of a giggle."
- Seattle Weekly

INSPECTING CAROL

DANIEL SULLIVAN +
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NOV 18 - DEC 18

DIRECTED BY NIKÉ IMORU

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FILM FESTIVAL – ROLL 'EM

Continued from page 16

illogical, as this insightful and amusing film portrays. In all the states where dildos are illegal, guns are legal. In Texas, they can even be concealed. But, as a woman from the film stated, "Who has even been killed with a dildo?" (60 min.)

Saturday at 3 p.m.

Lesbian Fashion? – Is there such a thing as lesbian fashion? Get the opinion of Ellen DeGeneres and Kate Clinton, among others. (3 min.)

The Lyons: A Real Family – Susan and Tonya Lyons, a Spokane couple, spent four years trying to conceive a family. Their persistence paid off in triplets. Local amateur filmmaker Frank Hays (October, Stonewall News Northwest) felt so inspired by their story and determination he was moved to make this documentary. (30 min.)

Road to Love – Slow-burning and smart, French director Rémi Lange brings us a romantic tale of self-discovery that also offers a fascinating historical take on homosexuality in northern Africa. (70 min.)

Saturday at 7 p.m.

Fairies – A musical fantasy come true. Homophobic classmates bully Timothy at his all-boys high school. While studying *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, he imagines a world where he can fit in. Helped by his quirky teacher, a spectacular musical dream and tons of glitter, he creates a way to belong. (20 min.)

Shake the Rain – Poet Tennessee Jones performs a powerful and dramatic reading of her poem of Southern childhood. (13 min.)

Gay Pioneers – Think Stonewall was the beginning? Think again. Here is the story of the first organized "homosexual" civil rights demonstrations. On July 4, 1965, when few would publicly identify themselves as gay, 40 brave pioneers carried signs in front of Independence Hall supporting gay emancipation. Directed by PBS award-winning documentary filmmaker Glenn Holsten. (30 min.)

The Night Life – In this animated short, private eye Dick Gumshoe is hired by a blond muscle-boy for a missing-person case. Before long, vampires, zombies, mummies and trolls are thrown together for a tasteful and restrained splatterfest of carnage. (8 min.)

Have No Fear – For 52 years, Nicole McRory's body has been foreign to her, she has lived her life trapped within both the societal expectations of gender and her own unrealized dreams. Physically, Nicole is male. This uplifting story was shot on location in Berkeley, San Francisco and Bangkok, Thailand. (50 min.)



Tell Trinity

Dumping versus breaking up

Hello Trinity,

For years now, I have loved your advice on "dumping" someone and/or "breaking up," but what is the difference?

Sincerely,
Stickler for Words
Boise

Hello Stickler,

When you use integrity, patience and support to dissolve a romantic interest, then you are "breaking up with someone." But when you: a) suddenly just announce one sunny day that "it's over," b) stop communicating whatsoever, or c) try to slip away without some solid or clear explanation, then you are "dumping someone." And the only time dumping someone is OK is if you are being stalked or have desperately tried to break up without success. Then you may also have to incorporate another strategy, called "9-1-1."

Kisses, Trinity

Dear Trinity,

My boyfriend has constant emotional problems and I am not always in the mood to listen. Am I unkind for not wanting to play his therapist all the time?

Yours truly, Tired Eardrums
New Haven, Conn.

Dear Tired Eardrums,

While it's nice – and important – to listen to someone's problems, it is equally important to keep good boundaries, practical time limits and to keep your own needs in mind. Having your ears held prisoner is not an absolute requirement for a healthy relationship but, unfortunately, it is a part of one. So let your boyfriend know you are not always in the mood, not a

trained psychotherapist and, if he doesn't get his act together soon, he will be buying you both a vacation at separate mental health clinics!



Dating Dilemma No. 96

Dearest Trinity,

After dating someone for a few weeks now he finally told me he has HIV. We haven't had sex yet but I'm confused as to how to deal with this.

Thanks, Health Concerns
Sacramento, Calif.

Dearest Health Concerns,

First, rather than being fearful and paranoid, simply be careful and practical. Second, seek support about dating someone with HIV from your local AIDS services. Third, be open-minded about dealing with health concerns rather than fantasizing that "everything will always be fine." And lastly, dating someone with HIV is definitely different – emotionally and spiritually – than dating someone without HIV. So, if you choose to stay with this person, it may prove to be more enlightening and adventurous, plus teach you more about love and life than you could've ever imagined!

Good Luck, Trinity

Dear Trinity,

I am going to meet my girlfriend's parents for the first time. Any advice?

Sincerely, Parent Trap
Honolulu

Dear Parent Trap,

Do I have any advice on meeting someone parents? Well, does Victoria's Secret sell fabulous bras and lingerie," Pumpkin? Here are:

Trinity's Polite Tips for Meeting Someone's Parents for the First Time

1. Don't wear too much makeup, dress too sexy or in street clothing, and never look like you "just don't care."

2. Let them interview you! Don't (appear to) interview them.

3. As for your tattoos, your huge religious jewelry or your plunging neckline, why not cover it up just for this first meeting.

4. So you like to eat with your hands and not act all proper or "typical." Well, not tonight, honey!

5. Now I know you have deep political and social ideals, but, just this once, can you tone down the Ani DiFranco/Harvey Fierstein poetic comebacks!

6. If you're lacto/carnivorous intolerant who's allergic to everything under the sun ... then don't meet them for dinner, please!

7. Always find things to compliment! Never suggest how anyone should cook, clean, decorate or dress better, especially the first time you meet them!

8. Try not to be too helpful, too polite, too talkative or too affectionate! And never get too drunk!

9. But do feel free to be yourself, especially when you're on your best behavior!

10. Lastly, it's easy to feel defensive when you're being interrogated, but it's their baby you want to take away from them, so be very understanding!

Reverend Trinity has a masters of divinity and hosts the weekly radio drama Spiritually Speaking. She also performs globally. To "Tell Trinity," send e-mail to Trinity@telltrinity.com or a letter to Tell Trinity, P.O. Box 1362, Provincetown, MA 02657-5362.

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REVIEWS & PREVIEWS

BOOKS

Beauty and the Bodyguard

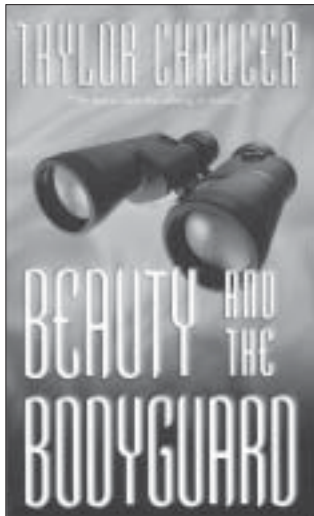
Taylor Chaucer

Torrid Romance, personalized, \$44.99

Want to spice up your love life? In need of new ways to create fantasies with your partner? *Torrid Romance* presents a series of three romance novels that can be customized to any same-sex couple's specifications.

You and your lover or partner can be the stars in this romance, which is filled with torrid passion, adventure, humor and sensual pleasures. Your personal pictures can be included on the cover and the stories will use the personal names, hair color, cologne, favorite drinks, place of work, etc. that you choose.

Imagine: A sexy supermodel is admired by all but is stalked by a crazed fan who will stop at nothing. Hesitant at first, our gorgeous supermodel agrees to the protection of a bodyguard, who just happens to be stubborn



and irritatingly smug but who also oozes lethal amounts of sexuality. Which one is you and which is your paramour? Formulaic, perhaps, but fantasies can be an exploration.

Two other titles available include *Taming the Tycoon* and *Strangers in Paris*. I waded through as much of the hot, boiling, purple prose as I could tolerate before coming to the conclusion that this, indeed, could be an adventurous and original gift to give someone you care about.

Presentation of a gift of this nature is important and you will be pleased to note that your personal novels will arrive in a burgundy box with cream ribbon and the *Torrid Romance* emblem. Samples we received were elegantly appointed. The publisher has a seven-day turnaround time for completing your novel and including a personalized dedication. Books will be available for orders on Dec 1. Think of it as your personalized trashy fantasy at a not-so-trashy price. For information online, go to www.torridromance.com. — C.L.

Keeping Mr. Right

Dr. Kenneth D. George

Alyson Books, 195 pages, paperback, \$14.95

Once you have found love, what can you do to keep it? The many questions stemming from "What do we do now?" are examined in some detail in this sequel to *Finding Mr. Right*.

Negotiating the foundation of your relationship is unique to the two of you, so Dr. George has reduced what could be a complicated process to a very real and manageable prospect for a successful relationship. He provides guidelines for communication skills that will help form the relationship contract that can work for both of you.

Throughout he offers constructive advice on defining the association, resolving conflict, negotiating changes instead of putting up with annoyances, sustaining friendship within the context of your partner-



ship, and, of course, creating a great and lasting sex life!

The homework assigned for both partners to complete, in a series of thought-provoking mental and emotional exercises, sheds light on many of the pitfalls that are encountered in creating and keeping a healthy and fulfilling bond for both individuals. Wisdom and common sense dictate the assortment of scenarios that are presented from the lives of real couples, including the author and his partner of 10 years, in their endeavors to maintain both the partnership and separate individuation.

Anyone who doubts the feasibility of a lasting relationship or marriage between same-sex or opposite-sex couples would be well advised to investigate this perspective on building and maintaining a long lasting, intimate and romantically satisfying approach. This compendium of what successful couples do is an easy read, filled with good ideas and hope for keeping Mr. Right. Highly recommended reading! — C.L.

Appropriate Applause

John Boyd Brandon

iUniverse, 142 pages, paperback, \$12.95

What is it like to grow up in a family that is increasingly homophobic? Many of us have had to deal with anti-gay attitudes in our hometowns and with our loved ones. In this story we follow the experiences of Scott Morgan, who moves to New Mexico from Chicago with his parents because he has not found a job to support himself. Unfortunately, this artistic lad's father has disliked gay men ever since he was 10 years old and went through a terrifying experience. Since that time he is of the opinion, "Homosexuals should be put to sleep."

Scott is justifiably concerned about his father finding out his se-



cret and decides to take it one day at a time, escaping into his art to find respite. Eventually he meets and falls in love with a young man. Scott's father discovers the relationship and, when he attempts to end it, Scott's depression over his father's nasty behavior leads him to attempt suicide.

The journey of father and son guided by therapy to repair their lives is a process of self-examination revealing secrets neither of them had realized and leading to a greater understanding of the inclusive meaning of "family of origin" versus "family of choice."

This was a personal and intimate look into the unfolding of their awareness of priorities when it comes to love and acceptance. In the brief span of the book that pass all too quickly, we are treated to a well-rounded, seemingly, personal story from this author. — C.L.

Queer Parent's Primer

Stephanie A. Brill

New Harbinger Publications, 242 pages, paperback, \$14.95

This month seems to be bursting with information on marriage and maintaining relationships, and now I have discovered a really well-conceived book on interacting with the world as gay parents. Truly a primer for many but, more than that, the author covers nearly every foreseeable experience, hardship, barrier and challenge that might crop up.

What's more, there are exercises designed to help you to understand your range of choices. Scenarios are presented to help in dealing with the many matters of the heart when it comes to social, political, religious and family reactions — and the ramifications of each decision.

An excellent job of researching and referencing an abundance of reliable resources will help queer parents' ongoing self-education. This book is clearly directed toward political activism as a tool to create a healthy family



environment. Can you imagine the empowerment a child will have when reared without prejudice and with the tools for self-preservation in navigating the straight community at large?

Thoughtful and rich with accumulated wisdom and experience, this gay-family-manual might well be the must have for any queer family, whether just starting out or well on the road to being the creators of a powerful life together and apart. Might be a good idea to get a copy for both sets of grandparents and all the out-laws, too. — C.L.

GLBT Book Group

Spokane's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Book Group meets monthly in the second floor conference room of Auntie's Bookstore. Facilitator Julie Smith says review sessions begin at 7 p.m. and visitors are welcome.

Upcoming reviews include:

Nov. 3: Nina Revoyr's *Southland*.

Dec. 1: *Dead Beat* by V.L. McDermid.

REVIEWS & PREVIEWS

MUSIC & VIDEO

It's About Time

Spokane Jazz Orchestra

Self-produced CD

I never know what to expect when settling in to listen to an album by a local artist or group. SJO's first recording ever in their 30-year existence is a wonderful surprise, contagiously full of spirit and swing.

The 12 tracks are an excellent document of Big Band Jazz for this new millennium. There are a couple of familiar vocal numbers (*Makin' Whoopie*, *Almost Like Being in Love*), a few

standards, old and new, and several original pieces. Members of SJO created all the arrangements and originals. Their talent for music and love of "the jazz" shines through bright and clear.

This delightful recording is crystal-clear in its production, and the energy and moods of the orchestra leap right into the listener and take control. Unlike live jazz, Big Band Jazz has made a good home for itself in recordings since the days of Goodman and Basie. The new pieces on this recording, by Edstrom, music director Keberle and Yasinitsky, show that there is still life in the house. It's a great CD for jazz lovers or anyone yearning to know that this music can, and will, renew itself and live on. I hope it is not another 30 years before SJO's next release!

I certainly encourage you to indulge yourself or: as a stocking stuffer of local flavor, it's way better than Aplets and Cotlets, longer lasting than Spokandy and costs less to mail. Order at www.spokanejazz.com or pick



up copies at an SJO concert at the Met. The next one is Dec. 4.

Beyond that, I just learned that internationally-known jazz critic, writer, producer and former jazz radio station manager (KJAZZ) in San Francisco

Herb Wong called to rave about SJO's new CD. Wong receives about 200 CDs a month that people want him to listen to. Says he separates them into five piles and that SJO's *It's About Time* "easily made the top one." – G.A.

John Barrowman Swings Cole Porter

Title artist

First Night Records CD

Barrowman has a real gift for theater-style singing, and he has polished every moment on these 14 tracks to a crisp sparkle, worthy of any London or New York stage. The orchestral arrangements are superb and lush; the musical direction brings fresh light into each familiar track.

So is it complaining to point out that the first song that even begins to swing is the seventh track? It's not that these are poor renditions of ol' Cole's wonderful songs. But this recording most certainly does *not* swing, not in any way Louis Armstrong would recognize, anyway.

Barrowman is decidedly more at home with ballads such as *Do I Love You?* and *In the Still of the Night* than



he is with comic numbers like *Miss Otis Regrets*, which he performs with no humor at all. Occasionally things really click, as proven in *You'd be so Nice to Come Home To*, but, overall, this CD forgets that Porter was cutting edge and naughty – a rock star before the idea existed. It is safe, sanitized, beautiful and easy to listen to, but it has no bite and it certainly doesn't swing. – G.A.

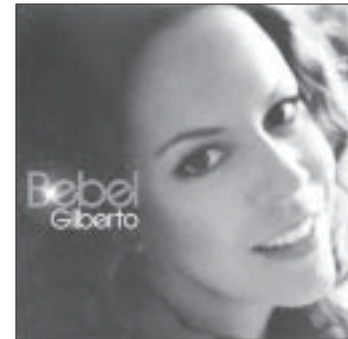
Bebel Gilberto

Self-titled album

Six Degrees/Ziriguiboom Records CD

Listening from my porch, I could swear the insects outside were keeping time with *Aganjü*, the second of 12 tracks on this dreamy, late-night CD of updated boss nova. The daughter of Brazilian legend João Gilberto, Bebel's cutting her own swath through her native music, helped by producers known for working with Madonna, Bjork and Dido. Their expertise keeps an ethnic edge in the smooth Sade atmospheres of this disc.

The focus here is an acoustic core and a strong vocal, with just a hint of an accent, giving everything an exotic flair. Sung in English and Portuguese, the textures of this disc never rise much above "coffeehouse mellow," but within that, they astound with orchestrations, rhythms, effects and cross fades. Over it all is that voice – intimate, welcoming, joyful. Songs such as *Cada Beijo* don't take you where you think they are going, but that's OK. None of the changes seem



out of place or distracting; they all add to the whole.

Although Bebel writes most of the tracks, she covers a couple of Brazilian standards, keeping in touch with her roots. Based on this CD, she's going to grow from those roots for years to come. – G.A.

Mind, Body & Soul

Joss Stone

Curve Records CD

Fourteen tracks of blistering soul.

Gifted with a huge voice which belies her age (17), Joss has written most of the tracks on her second album, creating an amazing collection of lyrics which echo Alanis or Avril, with a delicious '70s sound which can reach back to Aretha.

The first single, *You Had Me*, comes out at full boil and ends far too soon for my eager ears. At the middle comes *Security*, where the backing choir suddenly comes forward with a sense of epiphany. These are songs of love beginning, love ending or, as in *Understand*, asking a lover to be secure in the present.

Joss' youth does betray her at times, even though the material is varied, and her voice is powerful. By her mid-20s, she will have much more control and nuance, which she has yet to achieve. This CD starts to wear thin at least a couple of times. Fortunately, her producers draw on Joss' strengths to create moments which pull the listener back in. Joss does have strengths – galore. Well worth enjoying now, and following in the future. – G.A.



Abnatomy 2

David Sloneigura

If you are the type who would rather get sweaty working with your balls in the presence of a muscular hunk at home than drive to a gym, this 60-minute VHS tape is for you! The balls to which I refer are, of course, specifically for exercise.

Heralded as one of the best body sculptures today, David demonstrates and leads three levels of movements primarily designed to create a mus-

cular butt, legs, lower body and abs in three cycles. In a bonus segment, he instructs upper body exercises to make this a complete workout program.

The exercise balls, used with or without weights, forces the use of a wider range of contributing and support muscles to maintain stability. Sound science for anyone wanting to mold his or her body, with or without



creating major muscle mass. Seeing the results he has created with his own beautifully defined body, using full range of motion training, removes any doubt about his techniques.

With an exercise science degree from Concordia University, and a background education from the school of Dietetics and Human Nutrition at McGill University, his instructions are

clear and his Web site offers excellent articles he has written on various aspects of his exercise programs and how to decide what works for you, from how to choose a gym to whether "To Burn or Not to Burn."

I guarantee it's easier to learn from a handsome, masculine, muscular specimen who really has "balls" and "walks the walk." David is a pleasure to watch and I would be surprised if you are not inspired to work that butt in new ways. Order online at www.fitnessdavid.com. – C.L.

At CenterStage:

Tim Behrens to serve zesty McManus fare

The next dinner-theater production at CenterStage is a one-man show written by bestselling humor author Patrick F. McManus that features the acting antics of Tim Behrens. *Pot Luck: A Salad of Seldom-seen Stories Served a la Carte* opens in preview performances Nov. 4 and 5, then continues Thursday through Saturday through Nov. 20.

"McManus stories are a cross between Bill Cosby and Mark Twain, and just as funny as both of them!" raved the Billings Gazette. Typical of a McManus play, the stage for *Pot Luck* will be festooned with characters representing the animal, vegetable and mineral families, as well as some whose classification is truly out of this world. *Pot Luck* replaces *Voices* on the CenterStage schedule.

Tickets for dinner and the show are \$39. Show-only tickets include dessert and beverage. Ticket information and purchases are available by telephoning 747-8243, in person at the CenterStage box office or, with fees, at all TicketsWest locations.



Garden Clippings

Water like a mad dog
Then admire the bark

C O L U M N

by **Michael Loundagin**

The careful reader will remember I suggested a bet be placed on getting through October without a frost. It's a good thing I'm not a (real) gambler, 'cause I might have lost that one.

Can you believe the fall we've had? And, according to NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Acrobats or something) we're going to have a mild winter. Ohhhh, yeah!

Even if, you still have to act as though Siberia itself was gonna take up residence right on top of us. That means, first and foremost: **WATER THE HELL OUT OF EVERYTHING!** Are you receiving me? I'm amazed and torqued that so many people,

most with sprinkler systems, have stopped watering. You can see them, living behind their brown lawns. The greenest grass of the year should be happening right now; it sure is in my patch. But that's not the worst thing. These people's trees and shrubs are heading into the toughest time of the year in a drought-stressed condition. Then, next year, they'll be on the horn because their rhody-roses look like crap. **WATER**, kids, until the ground freezes.

About those leaves ... remember that whole leaves take up a lot of volume. Reduce your raking by mowing over the leaves first, then again, and then maybe directing the side discharge towards your beds and

borders. Look! No piles, and free organic matter for your garden!

I take a lot of calls at work from concerned people about winterizing things. The first thing I stress is, of course, the watering thing. But another is not pruning now. People ask, "How far back should I prune my roses now?" Don't touch 'em! Please! Roses die back from their tips, and if you prune them now, that's where the death will start. Leave 'em alone, except to hill them up, which you shouldn't have to do, but you keep on buying grafted roses instead of roses on their own roots. Hey, but I won't nag ...

There are still lots of bulbs around. Cognizant retailers, knowing as they do that tulips and daffies and such hate being binned at room temperature, will have kept theirs outside, maybe, in an unheated structure, perhaps, so the bulbs will still be in prime condition. Perfect for potting up, or for just conceived spring schemes. Click, click, click ...

I want you to do something this winter. Really pay attention to bark. Look at trees and shrubs. Study the bark. So much emphasis is placed on pretty flowers and leaves that the "skin" is overlooked, and it can be stunning. Go find the *Stewartia* tree in the Arboretum. I defy you to not gasp at the beauty there. And then contact me. I know where you can get one ...

SNN garden guru Michael Loundagin makes his home in Spokane and receives e-mail at Mlaau1034@aol.com.

Civic will open Seuss for holidays

Characters of fame and infamy come to life in *Seussical the Musical*, a melodic tribute to Dr. Seuss, created by the tuneful duo that gave us *Ragtime* and delivered by Spokane Civic Theatre for the holidays.

Monty Python's Eric Idle assisted in the original conception of this project, which follows Horton the Elephant and Whos from the land of

Who (residing in a speck of dust) through a series of Seussian adventures.

The Cat in the Hat pops in and out in various roles to keep the continuity of the story, and Horton, concerned with the Whos, is arrested and goes on trial before Judge Yurtle, the turtle, for the crime of thinking. Oh my! The moral of the story cannot be far behind.

Touted widely for its charm and brilliant mix of music genres, the au-

dience likely will be bouncing in time to the many fine rhythms. As always, Dr. Seuss' characters promise a vibrantly colorful and gaudy visual experience that is perfect for the whole family. The dazzling fun in *Seussical the Musical* is not a kids-only treat.

Performances are scheduled Nov. 19 through Dec. 18. Tickets are \$19 for adults, \$16 for seniors and \$12 for students and may be obtained by telephoning the theatre at 325-2507 or, outside the local area, (800) 446-9576.

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Artist reception vies for Film Festival crowd

The Rainbow Regional Community Center Gallery will show the current works of Megan Schmall from Nov. 5 through Dec 28. An opening reception for the artist will be on Nov. 5 from 6-9 p.m., announced Timothy Phillips, the center's gallery director.

The reception is part of First Friday, in which participating art exhibit spaces remain open late to encourage looky-Lous. The Rainbow Center is located at 508 W. 2nd Ave. People planning to attend opening night of the GLBT Film Festival could swing by on their way to Riverpoint.



The new lexicon

C O L U M N

essay by *Ken Lovering*

"This is my husband Paul."

How odd to say these words and know they carry legal weight, but I've been saying them every chance I get. When meeting new people at other weddings we've attended (we've shared in three gay and one straight wedding this summer) ... at a photo exhibit opening at our local art museum ... at the supermarket deli ... on my curb as the trash collector comes by. To anyone who'll listen, really.

I've also been saying these words so I get more comfortable with them. In my family (ah, yes, we blame everything on them, don't we?), my parents respected the status quo and often criticized that which stepped outside it. They embraced (and still do) the silent desperation of predictability, sometimes with an OCD-vigor. It took me years to forge my own path that has included extensive travel, creativity and being gay. But I still struggle with the nagging feeling that, by proclaiming my marriage to another man, I am doing something wrong.

Mind you, it's not my marriage that nags. Just the new lexicon. The spoken word, after all, announces to the world that I'm bucking the status quo my parents have worked so diligently to uphold, and the years-old vestiges of them. Despite that they now wholly love and embrace Paul as my life partner, they sit on my shoulder telling me not to take chances.

My mother's two favorite words when I was growing up were "What if ...?" I laugh at this now because those are also the writer's favorite words. "What if my main character walked in on his husband while he was sleeping with another man? No, what if the main character walked in on his husband while he was sleeping with a woman?" For the writer, this exercise opens up a world of possibility, unfolding narrative and character development.

For my mother, these words unfolded a catastrophic string of events that would bring her children to irreparable harm. "What if your Halloween candy is laced with cyanide? What if the car breaks down in the middle of a sudden snow-storm?" For the former, all our candy

was subject to careful inspection. No fruit allowed because it was susceptible to poisonous injections. For the latter, my father was sure to keep blankets, hats, gloves, extra sweaters, a shovel, a flashing roadside light, a flare and a battery-operated easy-bake oven in the trunk. We never talked about the fact that my father was a fiend for weather forecasts and that we wouldn't venture anywhere if snow was on the radar. So the supplies collected dust in the trunk.

Recently, my parents bought a new Saturn, their car of choice. My mother showed me around the vehicle, pointing out all the gadgets she was so proud to own. She brought me to the trunk and opened it, pointing out a latch within. "It even has a safety lever to open the trunk from inside in case, god forbid, a child should ever get trapped inside."

Thank goodness for that. After all, you never know.

*** **

So you can imagine that calling Paul my husband, even though it is 100 percent accurate in my state, carries a tinge of guilt. It's a quiet guilt and, by acknowledging it, I can wrangle it to the ground.

Of course, I'm careful not to tell my mother that I'm sharing my new husbandhood with the world. What if I introduce him to a right-wing fanatic at a cocktail party? What if the lunatic makes our acquaintance cordially, then disappears into the shadows where he spies our every move ... cringes as we touch hands and make other quiet affections toward each other. Then what if he follows us home and, long after we're asleep in each other arms, pours gasoline around the perimeter of our house and torches us to hell where we belong.

This is my mother's world, but likely the world of mistrust and suspicion, and it kills me to think she might be on to something. Just last week, I called Verizon Wireless to ask the good folks there a question about our phone bill. It was a simple, harmless question. But apparently I'm a security risk for my husband, because I'm only the secondary name on an account that's under his name.

After negotiating my way through a maze of touch-tone menus, I finally got in touch with a human being. "I can't disclose any information about your account without authorization from the account holder," she said. Hmm. But I suspect that if they were calling us to upgrade our service, they would gladly speak with me.

My blood began to boil.

"Would this be an issue if I were his wife?" I said.

The woman paused. "Well, no."

"What state am I calling?"

"Kentucky."

"In my state, Paul is my husband and I am his."

This got me nowhere. I hate when Mom's right.

*** **

It's a new social construct, this husband thing. Paul has had to get used to it, too. At another event this summer, he introduced me as his partner, perhaps because that's how he's always introduced me, perhaps out of discomfort. I later quietly and (I hope) sweetly reminded him, because I know it's an adjustment, "I'm your husband."

It's a wonderful, marvelous new label that turns all of our expectations inside out. It all reminds me of old literary theory classes that tore our language apart: we label objects and notions with signifiers (a fancy critical-theory term for name). Soon, the object takes on the meaning of the word itself, even though the object in and of itself holds no true meaning.

Um, never mind. I'll cut to the chase. What's unusual here is that it's not the label "husband" that seems inaccurate or surprising. Any man can be a husband. Rather, the label feels odd or misplaced because of the user and the relationship it defines. All our lives, whether we're forty or eighty, only women were legally permitted to use this term of endearment.

Now, men in Massachusetts (and soon other states) happily use it, too.

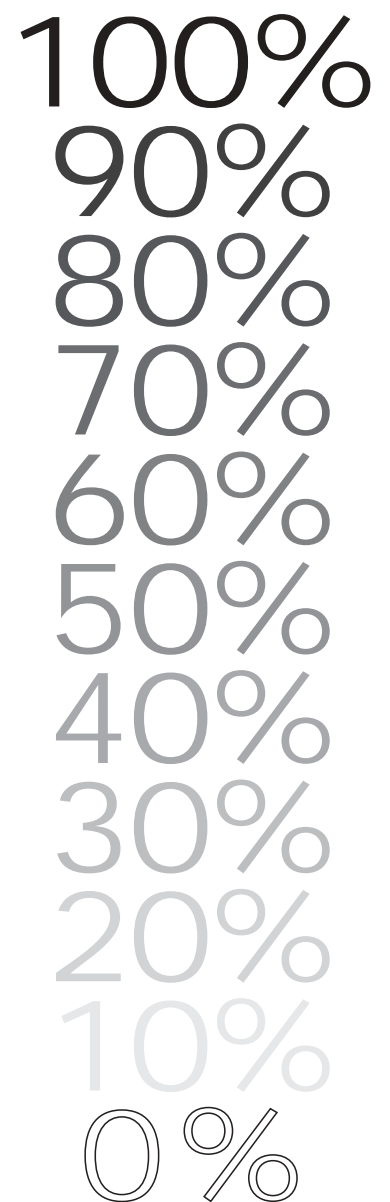
Ken Lovering makes his home in central Massachusetts and receives e-mail at kenlovering@hotmail.com.

Judge: man didn't look gay, could hide sexuality

LOS ANGELES – Lambda Legal has urged a federal appeals court to grant asylum to a man who faced severe anti-gay persecution in his native Mexico but was rejected for asylum by an immigration judge who said he didn't seem gay and could hide his sexual orientation to avoid persecution.

Lambda Legal represents Jorge Soto Vega, a 35-year-old man from Tuxpan, Mexico, who faced severe harassment and violence from the community and his family from an early age. Recently, Soto Vega was detained and beaten severely by police who threatened to kill him if they saw him again because they wanted to get rid of gay people.

Last year, a Southern California immigration judge ruled that there was credible evidence that Soto Vega was persecuted in Mexico because of his sexual orientation, but rejected his application for asylum in the U.S., saying Soto Vega didn't appear gay to him and could keep his sexual orientation hidden if he chose to.



What's Your Level of Participation?

STONEWALL

YOU BE THE JUDGE

Continued from page 14

complaints that judges are “activists.” It is simply an effort to diminish judges who put the Constitution ahead of anti-gay ideology.

Case in point: The same people who label Justice Kennedy as “activist” hurled no such accusations at an Alabama judge who defied a federal court order to comply with the First Amendment and remove a monument to the Ten Commandments from public property. Opponents of equality want judges to promote an agenda, their agenda.

Already, we’re seeing evidence that judges nominated in service of a right-wing agenda will deliver the goods when they get the opportunity. On July 21, a federal court of appeals upheld Florida’s discriminatory adoption ban by a one-vote margin. Who sat on that bench? Judge William Pryor.

Pryor has an abysmal record on gay issues and recently received a temporary judicial appointment in a move that circumvented congressional approval. His temporary appointment expires at the end of this year. It is in the interest of our community to insure that Pryor, and judges like him, do not receive lifetime appointments to the bench.

When it comes to the Supreme Court, the stakes couldn’t be higher. Four of the justices are older than 70. With many cases decided by the narrowest of margins, who appoints the next Supreme Court justice will change life for gay Americans, for good or for bad.

That’s why the Human Rights Campaign Foundation recently released Justice for All, a publication explaining the role every vote plays in shaping the judiciary in years to come. It’s why Lambda Legal educates about the effect one judge can have on millions of lives, while exposing the truth behind rhetoric about so-called “activist judges.”

In the end, though, it’s not up to us. It’s up to you. Your vote can make the difference between giving a lifelong job to someone who spouts the rhetoric of Bork or someone as fair and impartial as Kennedy. It’s your vote. You be the judge.

The referenced documents are available on the Internet at www.hrc.org/justiceforall and at www.lambdalegal.org/judgingdiscrimination.

STATES TO VOTE

Continued from page 14

GLAAD said that many national news outlets inappropriately have grouped all 11 proposed constitutional amendments together. In doing so, says GLAAD, they “inaccurately suggested that they would have substantially similar effects.”

Eight of the proposed amendments, GLAAD notes, would ban not only same-sex marriage but also civil unions and, in some cases, potentially any protections designed to safeguard gay and lesbian families. In Ohio, the Cincinnati Enquirer noted that Ohio’s “poorly written and overly broad” amendment “could have consequences for any two people living together, no matter what their relationship might be.”

“Public opinion polls have found steadily growing majorities in favor of civil unions, which is one reason why the backers of these anti-gay amendments are trying to obscure their real agenda,” said GLAAD Media Director Glenda Testone. “As long as national news outlets continue to characterize these amendments as dealing solely with marriage and – by omission – not with civil unions, the public will continue to have an incomplete understanding of how their vote will impact families in their states.”

Regional groups organized to counter the anti-gay initiatives include Montanans for Families and Fairness headed by Rob Hill, and, in Oregon, No on Constitutional Amendment 36, chaired by Rebekah Kassell. Their e-mail addresses are familiesfairness@aol.com and rebekah@basicrights.org. Their respective Web sites may be found at www.familiesandfairness.org and www.noon36.com.

OUTED GOP OFFICERS

Continued from page 14

Gurley told the Blade that the outing by Rogers did not appear to have any negative consequences for the two men in connection with their RNC jobs. “The reaction with Jay, at least to my knowledge, has been the same as it’s been with me,” Gurley said. “Everybody’s been completely supportive of us.”

Rogers also pointed to the platform the Republican Party adopted at its August convention in New York. The

platform, among other things, calls for a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage, a continued prohibition against gays serving openly in the military and strong opposition to legislation prohibiting employment discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The Blade said Banning and Gurley are the highest-ranking known gays in either the Republican or Democratic parties.

READING MARY’S MIND

Continued from page 15

port, Iowa, where Dad said, “Lynne and I have a gay daughter.” But in Kerry’s debate with George, Kerry was the one who brought up my being gay and in connection with an abstract question about whether gay was a choice. The situations weren’t really parallel.

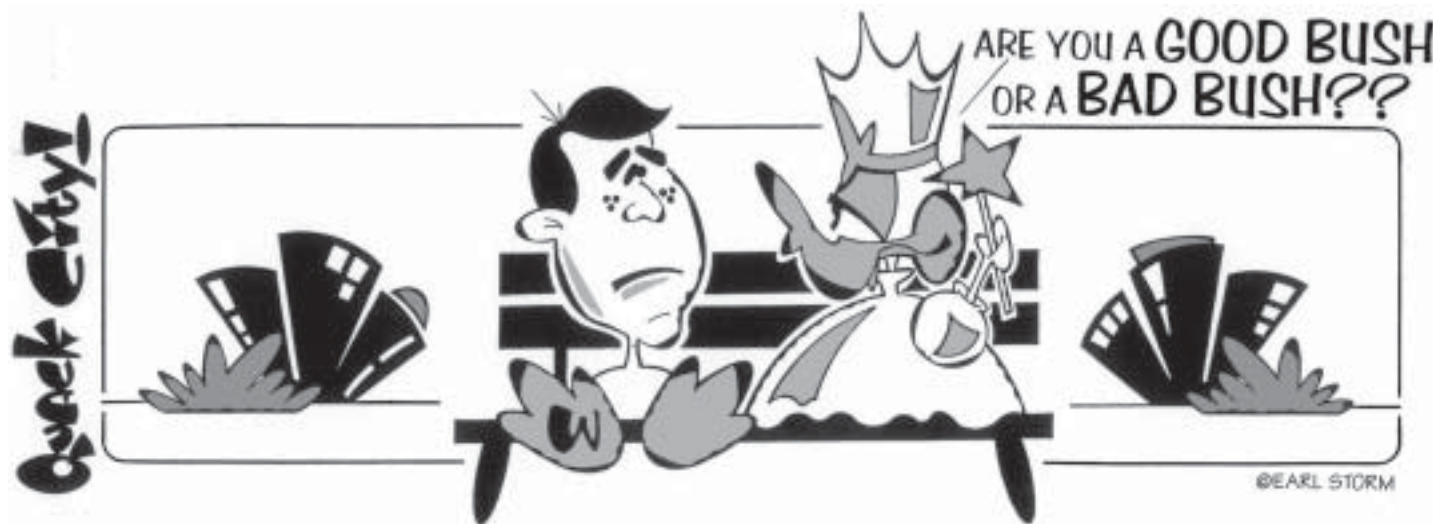
So I guess I’m trying to figure out how to feel about this and what to do about it. I mean I haven’t lived in the closet for years – unlike some administration staff members I can think of.

Mom was quick to decide that we shouldn’t let the Kerry campaign use me as a poster child so she went into high dudgeon mode right away, denouncing Kerry’s “cheap and tawdry political trick” without explaining what the trick part was. I wondered about that. Dad waited until the next day to pretend he was angry. In a way, that reflects their natural differences: Dad’s always been a kind of meat and potatoes policy guy while Mom has always been more focused on creating partisan advantage.

But it also reflects their differences regarding me. Dad has always been really cool with my being gay, but Mom has been a little more uncomfortable about it, especially about talking about “it.” I guess that’s typical. Heather said there’s research that shows that opposite-sex parents – mothers of gay sons and fathers of gay daughters – are more accepting of gay kids. Maybe parents who are the same sex as the gay kid think it reflects on them somehow.

But what can I do? Not much really. If I speak up – well, since when have campaign functionaries spoken up on their own behalf? But if I speak up anyway, I’ll just prolong this whole thing and I really, really, want it to go away. George could win if he could defend his positions better than he does, so we wouldn’t have to go this hypocritical nonsense of denouncing people who mention my being gay – just to keep a few million homophobic evangelicals from peeling off. Politics! Sheesh!

Some of Paul Varnell’s previous columns are posted at the Independent Gay Forum www.indegayforum.org. He receives e-mail at Pvarnell@aol.com.



MURPHY'S MANOR

by Kurt Erichsen



Symphony will trumpet the soul of N'orleans

The Dukes of Dixieland blow traditional jazz and the sounds of the South into the 21st century. Weaving strands of pop, gospel and country with authentic New Orleans, they will bring that syn-copation to their performance with the Spokane Symphony on Saturday, Nov. 6 at 8 p.m. in the Spokane Opera House.

The symphony will be under the direction of associate conductor Morihiko Nakahara.

Steeped in traditional Dixieland that has stirred audiences throughout the world, the Dukes will contribute a distinctive blend of New Orleans jazz and rhythm and blues, all mixed in with innovative jazz stylings and arrangements. It's a sound that is still fresh, fresh enough to win a Grammy nomination for the band's 50-year celebration album, the jazz-gospel breakthrough *Gloryland*.

Tickets range from \$17 to \$38 and are available at the Symphony ticket office at 818 W. Riverside Ave., by calling 624-1200 or online at www.spokanesymphony.org. They also are available, with a service charge, through TicketsWest at 325-SEAT.

Locked Within

*In the closet is a bad way to be,
it's something caged, not being free.
A GLBT in the closet, a pig in a pen,
it's all the same being locked within.*

*A GLBT, a cactus, a lily, a rose in a vase,
denied its freedom, denied its space.
The human discrimination never will end;
whatever they touch, they lock within.*

*In the closet is a bad way to be,
it's a lonely, torturous feeling that we can't see.
For one of the hardest things to mend
is the ball of emotions that's locked within.*

Phillip Cains
Inmate, Louisiana State Prison

Classifieds

PEOPLE and EVENTS

11-Special Person:

ERIC S.

HOW ABOUT sharing a wish-bone with me over the Thanksgiving weekend? Signed, If-you-don't-know-who-this-is-then-the-answer-must-be-no.

JESSE H.

SO, TELL me, what happened to your romantic interlude with "Mr. Right" after you got your new computer? Love, P.E.

12-Announcement:

INDIVIDUALS AND representatives from all community organizations are invited to attend and participate in the next planning meeting for Pride Week: at the Rainbow Regional Community Center on Monday, Nov. 22 at 6:30 p.m. The INPride committee.

PEOPLE and EVENTS

12-Announcement:

FREE THANKSGIVING DINNER

at the Y Tavern on Thanksgiving Day, 3 p.m. or 'til food is gone or closed. Call for more information: (208) 682-4036.

LIVING

21-Housemates:

GW DADDY, 45, looking for gay college-age son. Must be attractive. Size unimportant, attitude is. N-S, preppy athletic-type preferred. Intimacy exchanged for rent. Rich: 994-9321.

22-Housing for Rent:

728 S. RALPH. New, 3 bdrms, 2 baths. \$650/mo. + deposit. No pets. Credit check required. 536-7598.

JOB MARKET

31- Help Wanted:

MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTION-IST. Work from home, part-time, full time. Work delivered. Great pay. Training available. TNI's Jobline: (425) 334-5978.

PERSONALS

76-Body Work:

SENSUOUS, AROUND-the-world massage by 6-ft., 175-lb., 48, handsome, clean, muscular, willing to please, blue-eyed bottom masseur using latest technique and essential oils. Call Gary: (509) 889-9294.

MALE MASSAGE by Rich. Enjoy total relaxation. Let yourself go, you won't be disappointed. Clean, dependable, good looking, sensuous hands. In or out. Call Rich: (509) 994-9321.

PERSONALS

77-Gay Men:

WHITE MALE, slight build, good looking, clean, discreet, sincere, 40s. Want to meet black male for friendship and more. Reply to: V.B., P.O. Box 40353, Spokane, WA 99220.

78-Pen Pals:

PLEASE NOTE: Ads in this classification are free to people incarcerated in prisons and detention centers. SNN may edit copy submitted but does not screen ads. Readers are advised to use common sense in replying to any ads from prisoners. Contact the institution where prisoner is incarcerated to obtain information about a prisoner's conviction charge, sentence, county of commitment and release date.

Additional information may be obtained from public records where the prisoner's trial and conviction took place.

For general reader information, SNN sends inmates a complimentary copy of the issue in which their Pen Pal ad appears, except for prisons in the seven states that do not permit publications with "homosexual content."

GWM SEEKS pen pals to discuss anything. Love reading books and magazines on any subject, writing and receiving letters. No LTR wanted, just friendships. Reply to: Thomas E. Clark #52.392, ISCI 14-D-56, PO Box 14, Boise, ID 83707.

SGWM, 39, 6-0, 230, seeks relationship with others into drag scene. I'm a big, softhearted teddy bear. Let me make you my queen: James Richardson #48830, ICC H-107B, PO Box 70010, Boise, ID 83707.

PERSONALS

78-Pen Pals:

SEEKING GLBT. BiM, 35, 6-1, 189, enjoys writing poetry, receiving photos, letters, visits from GLBT community, all ages. Reply to: Phillip Cains #193001, CBB-LL15, Louisiana State Prison, Angola, LA 70712.

ATTRACTIVE, SINGLE GWM, 33, 5-11, 173, blond, blue, seeking single, drug-free GWM for possible relationship upon my release in Jan. '06. I'm from Bremerton, looking to relocate back to the Washington area. Please respond with photo to: Robin Tachell #30659, IMSI A-2 #51A, PO Box 51, Boise, ID 83707.

BiWM, 5-11, 140, loves the outdoors, camping, hiking, etc., looking for pen pal for correspondence. Reply to: Ricky Cortes #56826, ISCI U-10, PO Box 14, Boise, ID 83707.

PERSONALS

78-Pen Pals:

OPEN-MINDED BiWM seeking other open-minded people for friendship, correspondence. I am fun loving and a part-time country boy. Not from this area and need someone to show me around. If you'd like to have fun then I'm your guy: Robert J. Champion #64427, ISCI Unit 10C54A, PO Box 14, Boise, ID 83707.

FUN-LOVING SWBiM, 25, 6-0, 165, hazel, dark brown, attractive, open-minded and honest, seeking same qualities in someone special for friendship, possibly more. If you're looking for a heart of gold, then I'm your guy. Please don't leave me lonely for too long: Michael Hadcock #73683, ISCI Unit 10-65, PO Box 14, Boise, ID 83707.

Miscellaneous

Deadline for the December Classifieds is Tuesday, Nov. 23. Call 456-8011.

Classified Advertising Index

10 - PEOPLE and EVENTS

- 11 - Special Person
- 12 - Announcements & Notices
- 13 - Volunteers
- 14 - Classes & Workshops
- 15 - Crafts
- 16 - Pets

20 - LIVING

- 21 - Housemates
- 22 - Housing For Rent
- 23 - Housing Wanted
- 24 - Housing For Sale

30 - JOB MARKET

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40 - FOR SALE

- 41 - Garage & Yard Sales
- 42 - Real Estate
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50 - HOME IMPROVEMENT

60 - BODY & SPIRIT

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70 - PERSONALS

- 71 - General
- 72 - Transgendered
- 73 - Bisexuals
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- 75 - Escorts
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- 77 - Gay Men
- 78 - Pen Pals

COMMUNICATIONS

SNN Phone: (509) 456-8011
SNN Fax: (509) 455-7013

Classified Advertising Information

Rates: Ads for individuals are \$10.00 for up to 25 words. Each additional word is 25 cents. For a bold face headline, add an additional \$1.50. For super bold face, add an additional \$2.50.

Mail-In Ads: Type or legibly print your ad on an 8 1/2 x 11 sheet of paper along with your name, address and phone number; also include your signature. Mail your completed ad along with your payment (check or money order) to SNN, P.O. Box 2704, Spokane, WA 99220.

Phone-In Ads: Write out your classified ad as you would like it to appear. Have your VISA or MasterCard handy and call us at (509) 456-8011.

Personals: Personal ads require a Post Office Box or a Personal Blind Box. For a Personal Blind Box, add \$4.00 per insertion to the cost of the ad. SNN will assign a code for your Personal Blind Box and will forward replies weekly for up to 3 months after your ad runs.

Business Classified Display: Cost is based on a sliding rate scale with discounts for size and frequency. Call (509) 456-8011 for a copy of our Classified Advertising Rates.

Policy: SNN reserves the right to reject or edit any advertisement which may be considered demeaning or offensive to our readers. Any errors will be compensated with advertising credit.

Deadline: Classified ads for the December issue must be received by SNN no later than Tuesday, November 23.

BEST BUY
Adult Entertainment
2425 E. Springfield • Spokane • (509) 624-7522
1-888-624-7522

"BEST PRICES IN TOWN"

Adult Videos
Magazines
Adult Toys
Adult Games
Cards & Gifts
Body Products • Oils
Lubricants • Lotions
All-Natural Sexual Stimulants
for Male and Female

SALES • RENTALS • NEW • USED

Videos • Lingerie • Insense • Candles • Magazines • Leather • Toys • Rainbow Products & More!

Rapid HIV Testing!
Results in 20 minutes • Free & Anonymous

THE VICTORIAN
In Billings Montana!

2019 Minnesota Av. @ 21st St. • (406) 245-4293 • SVETJOHN@aol.com

FREE SERVICES PROVIDED BY MONTANA TARGETED PREVENTION
HIV SWAB TEST • WED. THRU SAT. 5 - 9pm • CONDOMS • HIV/AIDS INFORMATION

**VICTORIAN MERCHANDISE
RECEIVE A 20% OFF COUPON WHEN YOU GET TESTED FOR HIV!**

Weekly Calendar of Events

SUNDAYS

9 and 11 am: Worship services at **UNITY CHURCH** at 29th and Bernard.

5 pm: **EMMANUEL METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH** worship service in sanctuary of Bethany Presbyterian Church, 301 S. Freya.

WEDNESDAYS

7 pm: **GLBT AA** meets at **Emmanuel MCC/Bethany Presbyterian Church**, 301 S. Freya.

THURSDAYS

5:30-8 pm: **RAINBOW REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER**.

FRIDAYS

2-6 pm: **RAINBOW REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER**.

(When known, the price of admission for one adult is shown. S/s indicates discounted ticket prices are available for Seniors and for students with ID.)

2

Tuesday

General Election Day. Your vote will help elect public officials and decide important federal, state and local issues.

Dracula enters its final week at **Interplayers** tonight at 7:30 pm. Weekend performances are at 8. \$19, S/s

3

Wednesday

The public is invited to the **Spokane Opera House** 5-8 pm for its 30th birthday celebration. **Spokane Symphony** will entertain and backstage tours will be offered. Free

A block away, beginning at 7 pm, the **GLBT Book Group** will meet at **Auntie's Bookstore** to review Nina Bevoyr's **Southland**. Free

4

Thursday

Tim Behrens is featured in the one-man Patrick McManus production of **Pot Luck: A Salad of Seldom-seen Stories Served a la Carte** at the **CenterStage** dinner theater tonight thru Nov. 20. \$39, S/s; show-only \$19

5

Friday

Buy a bag of popcorn, settle in and cut the lights ... it's opening night for Spokane's 6th annual **Gay/Lesbian Film Festival** at **Riverpoint Auditorium**. Movies start at 7 pm. \$8, \$15 event pkg

Eastern Washington University and the **Institute for Action Against Hate** present a **Journey to a Hate-Free Millennium** conference at the **EWU Pence Union Building** from 9 am to 4 pm. Breakfast and lunch included. \$30 general public

Meet artist Kathleen Cavender at a **public reception** at the **Lorinda Knight Gallery** from 6 to 8 pm. The artist's work will be exhibited through Nov. 27. Free

6

Saturday

OWLS (Older and Wiser Lesbian Sensations) will meet for **lunch** at the **Old Country Buffet**, in the Franklin Park Mall on Division, at 11:30 am.

The **Gay/Lesbian Film Festival** at **Riverpoint Auditorium** continues today with an afternoon matinee of shows at 3 and evening screenings at 7. \$5 matinee, \$8 evening

Spokane Folklore Society's 9th annual **Fall Folk Festival** at the **Spokane Community College Lair**, 11 am to 10 pm, features 65 performing groups plus workshops, crafts and ethnic foods. Free

Spokane's entertainment and meeting calendar for November

November 2004

Birthstone: Topaz

Flower: Chrysanthemum

Astrological Guide: Scorpio to the 22nd; Sagittarius begins Nov. 23

Renowned jazz pianist Eric Reed and the **Whitworth Jazz Ensemble** entertain at the **Cowles Auditorium** at **Whitworth College** at 8 pm. \$10

More jazz is available at the **Opera House**, with the **Dukes of Dixieland** joining the **Spokane Symphony** in a program at 8 pm. \$17-\$38

The Worst Midnight Movie Series Ever continues at **CenterStage** with a **Flash Gordon** serial preceding **Attack of the Bee Women**. \$3

7

Sunday

The Fairie Awards variety show, a fundraiser for **Inland Northwest Pride**, is scheduled at **The Dancing Place**, 39 W Pacific, beginning at 8 pm. \$2 cover

12

Friday

Sample more than 100 wines and 30 handcrafted beers with hors d'oeuvres at the **Spokane Cork and Keg Festival** at the **Red Lion Hotel at the Park** from 7-10 pm, sponsored by the **Washington Restaurant Association**. \$40

13

Saturday

The gay and lesbian Christian fellowship **Integrity** meets in the **All Saints Chapel of St. John's Cathedral** at noon.

A **Flash Gordon** serial and **Samson and the Vampire Women** are the witching-hour fare at **CenterStage** for its **The Worst Midnight Movie Series Ever**. \$3



Fairies, one of 14 films to be shown during Spokane's 6th annual Gay/Lesbian Film Festival, plays on Saturday, Nov. 6 at 7 p.m.

8

Monday

Singing auditions for **Romance, Romance** will be held at **CenterStage** at 7 tonight and tomorrow.

10

Wednesday

Jon Eliassen, president and CEO of the **Spokane Economic Development Council** is the scheduled guest speaker for the **Inland Northwest Business Alliance** luncheon at **Europa Pizzeria and Bakery**. \$15-\$18

11

Thursday

Veterans Day.

14

Sunday

It's fun to participate, but it's as much fun to watch the participants having fun – at the annual **Quarter Auction** sponsored by the **Friends of SAN**. This is the 13th year for the controlled mayhem to benefit **Spokane AIDS Network** – at **Dempseys** beginning at 3 pm.

Later in the evening, also at **Dempseys**, the new sovereigns of the **Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane** enter their third week as royals of the realm with a board meeting at 6 followed by a general court meeting at 7:30.

16

Tuesday

CenterStage opens its doors for **Gay Movie Night** at 7 pm, with beverage service available for the coming-of-age tale **Beautiful Thing** to be shown at 8. Theatre board member **Jerry Davis** hosts. \$3, includes popcorn

Reminiscent of visions of the first Thanksgiving, **PFLAG's** (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) November meeting will be a **Family Potluck**, with members of **Odyssey Youth Group** and **Quest** as special guests. The holiday affair is at **Unitarian Universalist Church** at 6:30 pm.

18

Thursday

The holiday comedy **Inspecting Carol** opens at **Interplayers** at 7:30 pm for a monthlong run. \$20, S/s

19

Friday

Step aside reality TV, contestants vying for the title of **Dempseys Drag Idol** take the stage at the First Avenue club at 10 pm with **BlowMe Bubbles** emceeing.

Across the river at 7:30 pm, **Spokane Civic Theatre** introduces happiness for the holiday season in the form of **Seussical the Musical**, with performances scheduled through Dec. 18. \$19, S/s

20

Saturday

At 1 pm in the **Phase I Classroom Auditorium** of the **WSU Riverpoint** campus, the **INBA Vision Committee** will channel plans for establishing a gay district in Spokane. Free

A serial episode of **Flash Gordon** and Phyllis Diller in **Maniac** are offered for **The Worst Midnight Movie Series Ever** at **CenterStage**. \$3

22

Monday

Individuals and organizations interested in shaping next year's **Pride Week** are encouraged to participate in a meeting at 6:30 tonight at the **Rainbow Regional Community Center**.

25

Thursday

Thanksgiving Day.

26

Friday

Full moon.

Dec. 1

Wednesday

World AIDS Day.

Events and programs in observance of **World AIDS Day** are planned at the **MAC** (the **Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture**) in Browne's Addition beginning at 11 am. A **commemorative program** begins at 5 pm in the **Exhibition and Education Center** and concludes with a **candlelight vigil** in the **Outdoor Amphitheater**. Free

VL McDerimid's **Dead Beat** is slated for discussion at the **GLBT Book Group** meeting at **Auntie's Bookstore** at 7 pm. Free

Dec. 3

Friday

Scheduled distribution date for the December issue of **Stonewall News Northwest**.

Dec. 4

Saturday

Seattle jazz artist Charlotte Carruthers joins the **Spokane Jazz Orchestra** for its popular holiday concert, **Holiday in Jazz**, at the **Met** at 8 pm. \$24.50, S/s

Dempseys Drag Idol

Friday • November 19th • 10 pm

First Prize:
\$80 Dempseys
gift certificate,
Tiara, Flowers
and a 3-month
Paid Contract.



Second Prize:
\$60 Dempseys
gift certificate.

Third Prize:
\$40 Dempseys
gift certificate

All entries must call to
register for performance.
Contact phone 218-3508.

Finals on December 17th.

13th Annual Friends of SAN Quarter Auction

Sunday • November 14th

Starts at 3 pm and goes until the last item is sold!

Your Hostesses: Dame Edwina • BlowMe Bubbles
and a special guest appearance by Miss Mylar

Jewelry • Artwork • Merchant Gift Certificates • Videos & DVDs • Power Tools • Housewares & Appliances

“Spokane’s Largest Basket of Chocolates” Raffle

\$3 P.B.R. Pitchers All Day, All Night • Sun., Mon., Tues. Weds. & Thurs.

Open Thanksgiving Day at 6 pm

Come down for a reunion with out of town friends!

New: Dempseys now has Dancing on Thursdays & Sundays • 9 pm - 2 am
(in addition to Fridays & Saturdays • 9 pm - 4 am)

Party with Spokane’s Finest!

Sunday - Thursday 3 pm - 2 am • Friday & Saturday 3 pm - 4 am

909 West First Avenue • Downtown Spokane • 509.747.5362 • www.dempseysbrassrail.com