

Pride Week sweet deal

Open the box, dump the powder in a bowl, add milk and stir. It's a simple recipe, but there's always that moment when you think it may not blend properly. Then, voila! You're serving dessert after all.

Spokane's Pride Week committee is still in the kitchen and, with help from some other cooks, appears that it will be serving a table loaded with tempting and creative confections. And the menu is still open for additional treats.

For a quick lick of the spatula, see stories beginning on page 6.

Historical commission:

Gay marker approved for Independence Hall grounds

PHILADELPHIA – The birthplace of America's fight for liberty will soon be the site of a new monument. The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission has announced approval of an historical marker that will recognize the area around Independence Hall as the site of the first organized gay and lesbian civil rights demonstration.

Pennsylvania Gov. Edward G. Rendell is expected to unveil the marker at a national celebration at Independence Hall on May 1. The event will commemorate the 40th anniversary of the gay civil rights movement, marked by the demonstration at Independence Hall on July 4, 1965.

"We are thrilled that this important landmark has been approved unanimously by the (state historical commission)," said



Pennsylvania Gov. Edward G. Rendell

Malcolm Lazin, executive director of the sponsoring Equality Forum.

"We commend Equality Forum for a well presented historical marker nomination form," Wayne Spilove, chairman of PHMC, said March 23. "Pennsylvania is proud to be both the birthplace of our nation and the birthplace of so many historic events that have advanced civil rights in America," Spilove added.

The 16-hour national celebration on May 1 is part of Equality Forum 2005,

Continued on page 18

Equality now in hands of Olympia lawmakers

Supreme Court, Senate to decide marriage, anti-discrimination

compiled from various reports

OLYMPIA – A Senate committee was to consider H.B. 1515, the Anderson-Murray Anti-Discrimination Bill, that would provide state residents civil rights protections in employment, housing and public accommodation based on sexual orientation.

The House of Representative overwhelming passed the bill on a vote of 61-37, and Gov. Christine Gregoire has indicated that she will sign it. Presently, however, the bill must be approved at the committee level before it can be forwarded for a vote by the full chamber.

Insiders indicate a Senate vote would be close.

Meanwhile, in the state Supreme Court, justices are considering the constitutionality of extending the full rights of marriage to same-sex couples in Washington state. The justices heard arguments March 8 in lawsuit enjoined by the American Civil Liberties Union, Lambda Legal and the Northwest Women's Law Center.

Plaintiffs in the case – 29 gay and lesbian couples seeking to marry, including Marge Ballack and Diane Lantz of Spokane – are challenging the legality of the state's 1998 Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) which limits marriage to heterosexual couples.

The court did not indicate when it would issue a ruling in the case, but those close to the matter feel an announcement may be forthcoming in three to four months.

In another related development last month, a California judge ruled that the

Rodee-no-no



photo courtesy John Tomes

Bull riding is one capital event at rodeos, but Coeur d'Alene's John Tomes, above, was about to rack up frequent flyer miles from the back of Taylormade at last year's Comstock Gay Rodeo in Reno, Nev. Tomes and other gay cowboys and cowgirls are planning a rodeo event sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Gay Rodeo Association in the Spokane area for late May or early June. Related story on page 8.

state no longer can justify limiting marriage to a man and a woman. The decision was hailed as a legal landmark that, if upheld on appeal, would pave the way for the nation's most populous state to follow Massachusetts in allowing same-sex couples to wed.

"It appears that no rational purpose exists for limiting marriage in this state to opposite-sex partners," San Francisco County Superior Court Judge Richard Kramer wrote. Kramer stated that the state's historical definition of marriage, by itself, cannot justify the unconstitutional denial of equal protection for gay men and lesbians and their right to marry.

Plaintiffs and their lawyers said Kramer's ruling was a milestone for California, akin to the 1948 state Supreme Court decision that made California the first state in the nation to legalize interracial marriage.

The California lawsuits have been closely watched. The state has the highest percentage of same-sex partners in the nation, and its Legislature has gone further than any other in voluntarily providing gay couples the perks of marriage without a court order.

Prime Minister: Britain ready for a gay leader

LONDON – British Prime Minister Tony Blair publicly announced last month that the United Kingdom is ready for an openly-gay prime minister.

"I don't think people would reject a prime minister simply on the basis that he was gay," Blair said in an interview with a local magazine, according to The (Edinburgh) Scotsman, as Stonewall News Northwest prepared for press.

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Voices

A gay district in Spokane?

It's about a *La Cage aux Folles* for canaries

by Michael Alvear

Should cities create "gay districts" to attract tourists, residents and businesses? Gay activists in Spokane, Washington, are at the forefront of this question. They want to create a "gay district" filled with gay homes and businesses to attract some of the 38 million people economist Richard Florida calls the Creative Class – people like doctors and software engineers who think for a living and prefer places that index high on innovation and diversity.

Well, guess what? The folks in Spokane are casting a Queer Eye Down the Wrong Drive. Creating "gay districts" won't draw in business, residents and tourists. In fact, it'll do the opposite. The Creative Class economist Richard Florida talks about is repelled by artifice. And building what amounts to a Gay Epcott Center is the epitome of pretense.

Gay activists and straight city planners are misinterpreting the influential economist's findings. He never said, "Build it and they will come." He said something more like, "Let them come and they'll build it."

Look at the success stories that Florida points to – and that Spokane wants to copy – Minneapolis' Lorin Park, Boston's Jamaica Plain, Chicago's Boystown, Atlanta's Midtown, Washington's Logan Circle. All have a high Gay Index. But these cities didn't create gay districts. They created incentives to rebuild neglected neighborhoods.

They made it easier for urban pioneers to stake out their territory. Gay men tend to be the first to gentrify a neighborhood, not because we're born with a re-decorating gene, but because we're more willing to risk the dangers of living in marginal neighborhoods. Most of us don't have kids so we're not worried about living in areas with good schools. And we certainly don't have girlfriends or wives who'd feel threatened about living in sketchy neighborhoods.

Once these neighborhoods are restored to their former grandeur, the danger recedes, good schools approach and the Creative Class moves in.

Sure, there are successful ethnic enclaves. The Latin Quarter in New Orleans, China Town in New York and Little Cuba in Miami are all physical "districts" with shared cultural, linguistic and religious practices. But a gay district would never work because sexual orientation cuts across ethnic, religious and racial lines. What do gays and lesbians have in common other than that they're romantically attracted to the same sex?

The Creative Class is not interested in gay districts; they're not even interested in gay people, per se. What they're interested in are the things that gays value – walkable neighborhoods, mixed-use spaces, the arts, architectural design, variety and eccentricity.

Birds of a feather might flock together but, ironically, the first ones to fly the coop in a gay district will be gays themselves. That's because if you want to see how tacky gay people can be, take a look at what happens when we do things for each other. Ever been to the Castro in San Francisco? Go. You'll never say "gay districts" and "creative" in the same sentence again. Ever been to a Pride parade? Go. You'll see better floats at high school homecoming parades.

There's nothing gay about the things gays like in their neighborhoods. What's gay about wanting racially diverse neighbors? What's gay about wanting to walk to work?

This whole issue reminds me of the old story about miners taking canaries into mine shafts. Miners used them to detect deadly but odorless gases. If the canaries went claws up, the miners knew to turn tail and run.

Richard Florida once described gays as the "canaries" of the creative economy. In other words, the Creative Class Spokane and other cities want to attract don't care about the canaries as much as they care about what they sniff out.

That's why, instead of "gay districts," cities should

Continued on page 18

Letters

To gain respect, we must be accountable

I recently met an HIV-positive man, but it was not a positive experience for me. The more we talked, the more I realized why gays have such a great battle to fight in gaining acceptance as equals, basic human rights protections and continued funding for AIDS programs.

This person is an example of why we have so many obstacles to overcome. He admitted he has unprotected sex with other men, abuses narcotics prescribed by his

doctor and isn't working because he is disabled ... but not so disabled that he can't go out drinking martinis, cruising the parks and scoring and using drugs, with no apparent income besides disability and those who co-sign for purchases. His prescribed narcotics are paid for by programs like the Early Intervention Program and Medicare/Medicaid; his house rent is paid by some government program, and he receives food from Spokane AIDS Network.

I confronted him about his behaviors and didn't make a friend, but I believe that if we demand respect

from others we have to have it for ourselves and hold the members of our own community accountable. Otherwise, why should anybody support our right to marriage or why should our legislators fight for AIDS funding?

We must practice what we preach. If we don't open a dialogue and hold each other accountable, we are doomed to repeat the past. It's a past I prefer not to revisit. Too many people died to let this behavior go unchallenged.

Paul W. Flanary Jr.
Spokane

This paper proudly dedicates itself to the spirit of the

Stonewall Patriots

who, on May 5, 1997, courageously committed themselves to the achievement of Freedom and Liberty and Justice for all people of the City of Spokane

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the Reverend Linda J. Laster
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Publisher and Executive Editor
John M. Deen

Production Editor
Mark Southwick

Contributors
Michael Alvear
Kurt Erichson
Earl Storm
John Tomes

News and Advertising Contact Information

Stonewall News Northwest
P.O. Box 2704
Spokane, WA 99220

News and Advertising
Phone: (509) 456-8011
Fax: (509) 455-7013
E-mail: snnw@sisna.com

When sending artwork/graphic files by e-mail, please use:
mwsouthwick@msn.com

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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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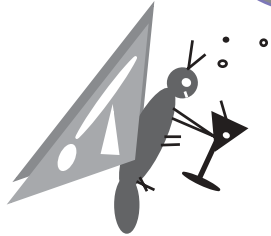
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Spokane

Auction will help Odyssey Youth Center

Members and volunteers at Odyssey Youth Center are putting the final touches to a function this month that is becoming an anticipated annual spring fundraising event for the youth group.

Appetizers and punch will be served, but the event mainly revolves around an auction of art items and services offered by participating businesses. Executive Director Laurel Kelly said the evening also will include selected presentations by youth center members and an overview of Odyssey programs and objectives.

The event is scheduled for a Saturday, April 23, at the Corbin Arts Center, on Seventh Avenue at Stevens Street, from 7-10 p.m. Tickets are \$35 per person, \$60 for couples, with the receipts going to projects developed for Odyssey youth, Kelly said.

Kelly credited Teague Griffen for coordinating the event, with special assistance from Bonnie Aspen and Willow Williams.

Restaurants partner with SAN:

Dining Out For Life

It's a time-tested recipe that has gained a popular following in other parts of the country. Now, the chief cooks and bottle washers at Spokane AIDS Network are introducing it here, for Spogayans and Spokanites alike.

It's called *Dining Out For Life*, a one-day-only partnership with local restaurants that will benefit SAN. It's scheduled at participating restaurants for Thursday, April 28.

From a prospective donor's point of view, giving couldn't get any better than this.

The recipe is simple: Participating restaurants will donate 20 percent of every tab for lunch or dinner (including beverages) to SAN. The money that SAN receives will help people living with HIV and AIDS and provide funds to help in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

As an additional inducement – as if one were needed – raffle tickets from the participating restaurants will give diners the opportunity to win a trip for

two anywhere in the continental United States on Delta Airlines.

The *Dining Out For Life* formula was invented in Philadelphia 15 years ago. This is Spokane's first year to participate.

Ten restaurants had signed on to participate with SAN as Stonewall News went to press. The list will grow, but already offers a surprising variety in cuisine as well as cost alternatives. The list will be updated on SAN's Web site at: www.spokaneaidsnetwork.org. Or, for questions, call SAN at 455-8993, ext. 320.

The CCs and BWs at SAN (the chief cooks and bottle washers) will appreciate everyone's participation. They include Janet Gordon, fundraising assistant; Darrell Reeves, director of finance; Russ Hemphill, fundraising coordinator; Cherie Moss, volunteer coordinator, and Executive Director Susan Fabrikant as well as other volunteers and community supporters.

The first restaurants to join with SAN in Dining Out For Life include:

■ Lunch and Dinner

Ankeny's Rooftop Restaurant
David's Pizza
Luigi's Italian Restaurant

■ Dinner only

Bennidito's Pizza
Cavellino's Lounge (Hotel Lusso)
Fugazzi's Restaurant (Hotel Lusso)
Herbal Essence Café
Mizuna Restaurant & Wine Bar
Sawtooth Grill
Suki Yaki Inn

Oscar raised \$48,000 for SAN projects

This year's recent Oscar Night Gala to benefit Spokane AIDS Network was termed a huge success by organizers.

Gala coordinator Russ Hemphill said the event "grossed just over \$70,000." The net proceeds, \$48,000, he said, will allow SAN case managers to assist more than 200 clients and SAN educators to reach more than 1,000 people with HIV-prevention information.

Hemphill expressed SAN's appreciation to those who contributed to the silent auction, the four corporate sponsors, the 33 table captains, and all the volunteers, SAN staff and other supporters who helped with the event.

Domestic partnership ordinance again delayed

Plans to propose a Domestic Partners Benefit Ordinance for approval by the Spokane City Council have met with another in a long line of delayed actions.

Organizers recently announced plans to introduce the measure on City Council agendas in March. They now peg the date for a first reading for mid-to late-April, according to a spokesperson for the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane and Inland Northwest Equality. No reason was given for the latest postponement.

The Spokane Human Rights Commission had accepted the ordinance as a project nearly three years ago but gave it only sporadic attention. Following a first reading by the City Council, public comment is permitted only at the subsequent, second reading.

SPRING:

An Auction To Benefit Odyssey Youth Center

Saturday, April 23rd

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Corbin ARTS Center
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New focus group at Spokane AIDS Network:

Safer sex *must* become 'mutually-accepted norm'

Spokane AIDS Network will introduce a new program for HIV prevention in Spokane and surrounding communities this spring with the goal of creating a stronger and healthier community – in which safer sex becomes the mutually-accepted norm.

Program coordinator Russ Hemphill said the Mpowerment project is designed for peer-based intervention that relies on young gay men as agents for effecting change to reduce the risks of HIV infection.

Hemphill and SAN staff members look to recruit a core group of 10 to 15 volunteers for Mpowerment. He said they also hope to enlist the support of individuals and organizations in the community as an advisory board to help guide the core group.

According to Hemphill, Mpowerment will rely on four integrated activities:

- Formal outreach: teams of young gay men go to locations frequented by gay men to discuss and promote safer sex, deliver appealing informational literature on HIV risk reduction and distribute condoms.

- M-groups: gay men discuss factors contributing to unsafe sex among men, such as misconceptions about safer sex and poor sexual communication skills.

- Informal outreach: men discuss safer sex with their friends.

- Ongoing publicity: campaigns that attract men to the project by word of mouth and through articles and advertisements in gay newspapers.

The program came about, Hemphill explained, "because peers exert tremendous influence on other young, gay men."



Russ Hemphill

He said the program was developed through an intensive research process that included social marketing and was based on a model in which young men take charge of the project because, when individuals are actively involved in finding and implementing solutions to their problems, the behavior change is more lasting.

Mpowerment, he said, "draws on the theory of diffusion of innovations, which suggests that people are most likely to adopt new behaviors that have already been accepted by others who are similar to them and whom they respect."

Since HIV, in and of itself, is not a particularly motivating, captivating or compelling subject for many gay young men, Mpowerment focuses on

their social concerns, relegating HIV risk reduction to the satisfaction of other, more compelling needs.

The program is approved by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) "for relevance and methodological rigor, and it has the positive and significant behavioral-health findings" required for official CDC listings, Hemphill said.

"Our aim is to create a stronger and healthier community, with safer sex the mutually accepted norm," Hemphill said.

Quest forms auxiliary group for gay, bi high school students

Quest Youth Group has announced plans to initiate a program this month for gay and bisexual young men of high school age. Executive Director Ryan Oelrich said more than three dozen students have expressed an in-

terest in participating in the new group.

Oelrich said Quest HS, for youth aged 16 and 17, will hold an organizational function at Lazer Quest in April. Membership requirements and objectives, he said, will be similar to those of the founding organization.

Participation requires members to be drug free, participate in monthly service projects and abide by a policy that precludes members dating each other during the first months of affiliation with the group. Oelrich said Quest HS will start with one drug-, tobacco- and alcohol-free event per month before expanding to offer the same level of services and programs as the older group.

The founding Quest Youth Group was established in 2003 for gay, bisexual and questioning men 18-25 years of age.

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Pride Week will rock

by John Deen

Conflicts that muddled plans last month for Spokane's celebration of Pride Week seem to have been sorted out, resolved and otherwise corrected. And while it may be cliché, this year's

Pride Week gives all appearances that it will be bigger and better than ever before.

Headliners from the world of entertainment are one exciting addition. Confirmation that the annual Pride Parade will be routed through the downtown business core of the city and – for the first time – include motorized floats also should buoy spirits and participation.

Like the city's streets, some holes need to be filled before all of Pride Week's agenda is finalized, but OutSpokane chair Bridget Potter is confident that committee members and others planning Pride-related events will come through with colors flying. Their special incentive lies with all the advance planning completed to date, a schedule that is well ahead of past years.

Northern Quest Casino has signed on as a Pride Week sponsor, but Potter and her crew are interested in the participation of additional corporate sponsors.

Registration for parade floats and festival vendors will be available on the Web site www.outspokane.com after April 15, Potter said. Following is a thumbnail guide to the events ahead:

Friday, June 3 – The Gay and Lesbian Film Festival will present *Gay Pioneers*, a 30-minute documentary of the fight for gay civil rights 40 years ago. (Related story on page 1.) Festival producer Barb Lee said one of the pioneers profiled in the film, Barbara Gittings, is expected to attend the screening and some Pride Week activities.

Lee said the film is booked at the Eastern Washington University downtown campus Auditorium. Time and tickets are subject to Gittings' schedule.

Saturday, June 4 – This is the corrected date for Emmanuel Metropolitan Community Church's annual *Pride Cruise on Lake Coeur d'Alene*. The boat sails at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$18 and may be purchased by a telephone call to the church at 838-0085.

Monday, June 6 – Spokane-Kootenai Pride for the second year will present the annual Rainbow Awards. The ceremonies will be held at CenterStage at 7 p.m.

Nominations for individuals and groups in four award categories are due by May 2. For nomination information, telephone the local Pride Foundation office at 327-8377.

Thursday, June 9 – Northern Quest Casino will feature one of the country's top female impersonators in a one-night-only appearance at its glittering showcase in Airway Heights.

Canadian-born Christopher Peterson will present *Eyecons* in the 1,000-seat Pend Oreille Pavilion at 7 p.m. Ticket prices, to be determined, will be available by calling the casino's entertainment line, 343-2329, between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m., or, with an added service charge, TicketsWest at 325-SEAT (7328).

Friday, June 10 – Self-proclaimed D-list comic Kathy Griffin – who is more comfortable when at least one quarter of her audience is gay – will be featured at the Big Easy. (Her new video, *Allegedly*, was previewed in the February issue of SNN.) Performance times and ticket prices are to be announced.

The Garland Theater will show a gay-themed movie at midnight.

Saturday, Pride Day, June 11 –

Pride Parade: The staging area for floats, marching units and other participants is the pedestrian mall on Wall Street between Spokane Falls Blvd. and Riverside. The parade will start at noon and head east from Wall and Main, continuing clockwise to Howard, Riverside, Post and Main to Wall, then turn left and proceed to the festival grounds in Riverfront Park. Float owners must provide their own insurance.

Rainbow Festival: Gondola Meadows, at Post and Spokane Falls Blvd., again will be the site for the day's main feature, scheduled from 1-4 p.m. A wedding ceremony will be performed for all gay couples who wish their unions to be solemnized. Entertainment is to be announced.

Concert: The Pride Foundation presents the Seattle Men's Chorus and Seattle Women's Chorus at the music auditorium of Spokane Falls Community College at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance, with service fee added, through TicketsWest at 325-SEAT (7328), or \$22 at the door.

Movie: At midnight, the Garland Theater will feature a gay-themed film.

Sunday, June 12 – Captain Smartypants, a unit of the Seattle Men's Chorus, will entertain at the 9:15 and 11 a.m. services at Unitarian Universalist Church. The services are free and open to the public.



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Hip, hip and hooray, hooray, two groups fete the 1st of May

S-K Pride fundraiser at The Merq at 2 p.m.

Members of Spokane-Kootenai Pride will sponsor *Bunko Games* at The Merq on May 1 to raise funds for its annual grants program to benefit nonprofit organizations in the two Washington and Idaho counties.

Spokesman Kevan Gardner, who serves as regional outreach manager for the umbrella Pride Foundation, said the event will begin at 2 p.m. with a social hour along with instructions for those who have never played the game before. A \$10 donation is suggested.

"Bunko is quick and easy to learn and lots of fun to play," Gardner said. "We'll also have prizes for the game winners and door prizes." He assured that play will start promptly at 3 p.m., "so that those who attend our fundraiser will have time, if they want, to play gay bingo at The Alliance fundraiser later on at Dempseys."

Spokane-Kootenai Pride was founded in 1997 as Pride Statewide!-Spokane, the first affiliate to participate in the new regional outreach program developed by the Seattle-based Pride Foundation. It awarded \$7,500 in grants to local agencies in its first year. In 2004, the local bi-county affiliation awarded area organizations \$15,000 in grants.

The sponsoring Pride Foundation issues grants twice yearly in the five-state region of the Pacific Northwest.

The Alliance fundraiser at Dempseys at 6 p.m.

The Alliance, a gay student organization at Spokane Falls Community College, will sponsor *Gay May Bingo Day* at Dempseys on May 1 at 6 p.m. that will feature bingo, lots of prizes and a raffle for an air hockey table. The event will help build the treasury for the under-funded school organization.

Alliance members have taken it upon themselves to raise funds so they can participate in a national conference in 2006 that will focus on the eradication of hate crimes, which, they say, is a significant issue on the campus. Members of the group, reportedly, have been targets of hate crimes, but they say the perpetrators have yet to be punished.

Responding to a question of why the group has had difficulty obtaining funds from the school, one Alliance member replied, "I'm not to sure, every other group that has requested additional funds for trips has had them granted. It was like pulling teeth to get \$100 for us."

Funds collected at *Gay May Bingo Day*, said Alliance member Melissa Derry, "will help to stop the violence that homophobia causes by supporting and playing gay bingo with The Alliance. There will be some great prizes donated from local businesses, including the grand prize of an air hockey donated by a member of the club."

Distributors unwilling to help with delivery

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Now, Stonewall News Northwest readers may find their favorite spot for picking up a copy of the paper no longer has it available. The reason is that businesses are unwilling to pay, even a nominal charge, for something that has been provided for free.

Stonewall asked its retailing distributors for help in offsetting rising costs, including those at the fuel pump. As options, the newspaper suggested a bulk subscription rate of \$7.50 per month or becoming an advertiser. Chain bookstores, adult shops and several other retailers declined participation.

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PRIDE 2005

save these dates in JUNE!

- 3RD** GLBTQ Film Festival presents: Gay Pioneers
- 4TH** EMCC Annual Cruise on Lake Coeur d'Alene
- 6TH** Rainbow Awards presented by the Pride Foundation

JUNE 9TH
Canadian Female Impersonator Christopher Peterson will appear at Northern Quest Casino

10TH & 11TH
 The Garland Theater promises a midnight GLBTQ movie fest

JUNE 10TH
KATHY GRIFFIN
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JUNE 11TH
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Regional Calendar

April events:

▼ April 2 – *Masquerade*, the University of Idaho Gay-Straight Alliance's 5th annual *Prom You Never Went To*, The Beach, **Moscow**, 9 pm, \$7, \$10 couples.

▼ April 5 and 12 – *Quit Smoking* program for healthcare providers, **Verbena, Seattle**, 7:30-9:30 am, free, (877) 323-6540.

■ April 6 – *The Beaux Arts Trio*, Meany Theater, **Seattle**, 8 pm, \$30, (206) 543-48880.

▼ April 8-30 – Spontaneous Productions' *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail*, Off-Broadway Theater, **Boise**, 8 pm, (208) 363-7053.

▼ April 10 – *PFLAG-Sandpoint* scheduled meeting, United Methodist Church, 2 pm, (208) 263-6699.

▼ April 12 – *GLBT Forum*, University of Montana UC, **Helena**, 7 pm, free, (208) 442-9322.

▼ April 16, 17 – Seattle Women's Chorus' *It's My Party* with Leslie Gore, Meany Theater, **Seattle**, \$20-\$52, (206) 323-2992.

■ April 17 – Spokane's CenterStage presents *Forever Plaid*, Panida Theatre, **Sandpoint**, 7 pm, \$15, (509) 747-8243.

▼ April 28 – *PFLAG-Helena* meeting, Susanna's Place Fireside Room, 512 Logan, 7 pm, (208) 442-9322.

Plan ahead for May:

▼ May 8 – *Mother's Day*, *PFLAG-Sandpoint* scheduled meeting, United Methodist Church, 2 pm, (208) 263-6699.

▼ May 13-June 4 – *Spontaneous Productions* presents *Beyond Therapy*, Off-Broadway Theater, **Boise**, 8 pm, \$10, (208) 363-7053.

▼ May 13-15 – Seattle Men's Chorus' *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, 5th Avenue Theatre, **Seattle**, \$29-\$79, (206) 323-2992.

▼ May 26 – *PFLAG-Helena* meeting, Susanna's Place Fireside Room, 7 pm, (208) 442-9322.

■ May 30 – *Memorial Day*.

▼ special interest ■ general interest

Regional

Local cowboys, cowgirls plan Spokane-area Play Day Rodeo

COEUR d'ALENE – A get-together of gay cowboys and cowgirls here last month sparked interest in promoting a rodeo event in the Spokane area sometime before summer takes full hold.

Principal organizer John Tomes, a member of the Pacific Northwest Gay Rodeo Association, said the 20 or so people who gathered for the Saturday afternoon of get-acquainted fun and games expressed an interest in producing a Rodeo Play Day in the vicinity of Mead, perhaps by late May.

A Rodeo Play Day, Tomes said, "would involve a bunch of events. We'll know more in a few weeks or so."

While a play day for rodeo fans may be a couple of months off, the wranglers at the Lake City meet-and-greet got in a little play time for themselves. "Among other things," Tomes said, "everybody had a chance to learn and practice roping techniques used at amateur and professional rodeos."

With no live critters to lasso, a plastic calf head protruding from a bale of straw "got a whole bunch of rope loops



photo by John Tomes

Wayne Robin, left, and Jim Hauser practiced roping techniques at a cowboy/cowgirl meet-and-greet in Coeur d'Alene in March.

thrown in its direction," Tomes said. "Oh, yeah," he added, "a couple of the guys 'volunteered' to have a loop thrown over 'em, too. So everybody had a chance to have fun."

In related news, Tomes, who also serves on PNWGRA's Gay Pride Parade committee, said the association plans to enter a contingent in Spokane's Pride Parade June 11.

Helena host city for Montana Pride in June

HELENA – Montana's Pride celebration, rotated annually among the state's major cities, will be held in the capital this year, June 17-19.

Organizer Sandy Shull said festivities will begin on Friday with a variety show featuring Montana talent. A parade and festival are scheduled for Saturday, with interfaith services planned for Sunday.

Verbena to light up 'stop smoking' program

SEATTLE – A two-part tobacco cessation intervention training for health care providers serving the gay community will be held this month at the Seattle Gay Community Center.

The program is sponsored by Verbena, in cooperation with King County tobacco prevention programs, and will focus on the how-to techniques of incorporating tobacco cessation interventions into a practice; helping clients move toward readiness to quit tobacco, and becoming knowledgeable of the local tobacco cessation resources available to all men and women associated with the gay community.

Special emphasis on the unique issues faced by gays will be emphasized, Verbena said. Counselors and care providers who complete the training will receive a \$50 stipend.

The two-hour breakfast programs are scheduled April 5 and 12. Registration is available by telephoning Verbena at (877) 323-6540. Verbena's primary goal is to provide health care support for gay, bisexual and transgendered women.

Earlier, in Philadelphia, the national lesbian health organization Mautner Project and two leading local health organizations sponsored a Delicious Lesbian Kisses campaign during the city's "girL party." The March 19 collaboration was part of an innovative nationwide anti-smoking campaign aimed at lesbian smokers above the age of 40.

Pride named among top work places in Seattle

SEATTLE – Seattle Magazine features the Pride Foundation as one of "Seattle's Best Places to Work" in its March issue.

Pride was saluted for its flexible work arrangements, paid sabbaticals and mental-health days. The foundation has the fewest number of employees on the list, 13, and is one of only six nonprofit organizations included.

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Head to British Columbia:

Capture the Rapture

from the relaxing elegance of the

Eagle's Nest

by John Deen

The warming weather has sent the ski bunnies scurrying home as the world of nature refreshes itself for spring. There couldn't be a better time to exercise your spirit of adventure, and one soul-satisfying way to greet the new season would be to hit the road and explore the country around you.

The suggestion here is to head north – into the bountiful beauty of British Columbia. Destination: Kelowna, on the shores of Okanagan Lake. Home base: the Eagle's Nest, a year-old bed and breakfast snuggled into a vantage point that overlooks the lake and surrounding territory from just outside the busy little resort city.

Travelers who seek out the comforts a B&B offers know that it takes special people to make visitors want to return, and Eagle's Nest hosts Alan and Gary Warren – they were married one year ago – are a perfect match for their northland retreat. Alan was right, when he said their visitors "arrive as guests, but leave as friends."

Take the first B, bed: The bedrooms are massive and you can all but disappear in the custom-made downiness of the king- and queen-sized four-poster beds. There are phones for those who don't carry their own and feel a compulsion to communicate with the less pampered. Large-screen televisions are tied to local and cable programming, and DVDs offer the option of watching any of 300 or so mainstream or adult movies available from the house library.

Spacious baths offer separate showers and jacuzzi tubs, thick towels, essential toiletries for those who forgot to pack them, and a tantalizing array of French skin care products and scents, courtesy of Alan's day-job affiliation as a licensed aesthetician and fragrance manager with the formidable Hudson's Bay Company.

The Master suite has adjoining bath facilities and, if desired, a private dining area that is perfect for honeymooners. The Warrens will even arrange a wedding for those who would like to memorialize their union with a ceremony and certificate.

Hosts Alan (standing) and Gary Warren both cook and will serve you breakfast in bed or in the Eagle's Nest dining room overlooking Okanagan Lake.

A couple for six years, Alan and Gary were married March 16, 2004.



The second B, breakfast, is just as exciting, and it begins the night before when guests circle their selections from an amazing number of choices suggested on the menu card. While Gary normally cooks breakfast, both move with ease around the kitchen island that is open to the panoramic view from the dining room. Some guests may prefer their breakfast presentation in bed, and that's available, too. Special dietary needs also are accommodated. Freshly-brewed coffee and herbal teas are available around the clock.

From the top deck, Gary explained that the orchard stretching toward the lake produces cherries the size of ping pong balls that are individually wrapped for export to Japan. The lower deck is accessible from the game room that features a 61-inch HD TV and 1-inch-slate, mahogany pool table. The deck's principal lure is the clothing-optional ahhh-hot tub.

Winery tours, fine restaurants and shopping add to the experience. One downtown nightclub even "turns gay" on Saturday nights.

For the border crossing, you'll be asked to produce a birth certificate or a voter identification card. Two hundred dollars in cash is recommended, but the Warrens suggest making purchases by credit card. And, bear in mind, with the current rate of exchange you can deduct about 25 percent from the Canadian price.

Ahhh, what a way to enjoy spring.



Left: Inside a stable-sized garage filled with automotive restoration projects, Gary Warren plans to use his 1929 DeSoto to transport guests on winery tours, for an evening of dining out or for airline arrivals and departures.



Right: You arrive as a guest, but leave as a friend. Bittersweet good-byes dissolve into a collection of happy memories following a visit with Alan and Gary Warren at Eagle's Nest.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Blithe Spirit spells fun for ART's 1st season finale

compiled by John Deen

Of all the remarkable figures of the 20th century, none was even remotely comparable to Noel Coward. Born in the British Isles within a fortnight of the new century, the son of an unsuccessful piano salesman notched only a few years of elementary school education.

Even so, by early adulthood he was recognized on both sides of the Atlantic as the personification of wit and sophistication, and he achieved success as a composer, lyricist, actor, singer, director, novelist and painter.

Once asked why the Duke of Windsor (the former King Edward VIII) disliked him, Coward deadpanned, "He pretends not to hate me, but he does, and it's because I'm queer and he's queer, but unlike him I don't pretend not to be."

Blithe Spirit

Actor's Repertory Theatre of the Inland Northwest (ART) selected *Blithe Spirit* as the exclamation point to its debut season in Spokane. It is billed at the Spartan Theatre at Spokane Falls Community College Wednesdays through Sundays, April 8-24.

With a special bent for Noel Coward productions, ART's resident artistic director, Michael Weaver, directs. Reserved seats are available by telephoning 838-4013. Mention "Stonewall" and receive 20 percent off ticket purchases.

Signs on Fort George Wright Drive will direct patrons to free parking at Spartan Theatre.

The breezy supernatural comedy *Blithe Spirit* (1942) proved one of Coward's most popular successes. Even Coward viewed it as the best thing he ever wrote: a dizzying comedy about a novelist whose research into the occult brings back the ghost of his first wife – plaguing the novelist, his outraged second wife and a daffy spiritualist.

In *Blithe Spirit*, Charles, and his wife, Ruth, invite a medium to give a séance at their home because Charles wants to use a spiritualist as the villain in his next book. He hopes to scrutinize Madame Arcati's sham techniques.

Neither believes in the occult, but something inexplicable happens dur-

ing the séance and the couple soon must deal with the ghost of Charles' dead first wife, Elvira.

The encounter morphs into a bizarre ménage-à-trois – a very unpleasant one for Ruth, who, unlike Charles, cannot see the jealous ghost. Ultimately, Elvira turns out to be more of a blight than blithe spirit in her effect on her former husband and his wife.



Noel Coward

Shortly after writing *Blithe Spirit*, Coward fell in love with South African actor Graham Payne. As a young boy, Payne had appeared in one of Coward's revues. When they met again in 1945, Payne was a handsome young man. Mutual attraction did the rest.

Coward suffered a stroke at his home in Jamaica in the early morning hours of March 26, 1973. The master of one-liners insisted there was no need to wake his friends, and died just before dawn. Since then, Payne has supervised Coward's affairs with loving care, protecting his plays and preserving their home in Switzerland much as Coward left it.

While Coward kept his homosexual life a scrupulously private matter, he couldn't resist dropping the occasional hint. During a 1956 television interview, when Edward R. Murrow asked if he did anything to relax, Coward responded, "Certainly, but I have no intention of discussing it before several million people."

Once, when asked to describe the style of his tropical paintings, he re-

plied, "Erratic. Actually, it's known by my friends as Touch and Gauguin."

At Queen Elizabeth's coronation parade, friends wondered aloud who the little man sharing a carriage with the 400-pound Queen of Tonga might be. According to David Niven, Coward replied: "Her lunch."

To often-repeated questioning about why he would not "come out," Coward's pet response was, "Because there are still three old ladies in Brighton who don't know."

All this apart, *Blithe Spirit* still sparkles 60-plus years on for the finest piece of breakfast table dialogue ever written: "Anything interesting in The Times, darling?" "Don't be silly, Charles."

Musical evokes stylings of male quartets of the '50s

CenterStage lowers prices to attract more to live theatre

Bow ties, cardigans and white bucks are back in style as CenterStage presents the award-winning musical *Forever Plaid* this month through the 24th.

The Plaids are a male singing group of the Fifties, four lovable losers who idolize The Four Aces, The Four Lads and The Four Freshman. After fine-tuning their act at family gatherings, supermarket openings and proms, they're ready for their big break, a gig at the Airport Hilton Cocktail Bar.

But, on the way, they're broad-sided by a bus filled with Catholic schoolgirls going to see The Beatles debut on *The Ed Sullivan Show*. The Plaids are killed instantly. Miraculously, however, they return to earth to give their best – and last – concert.

Show-stopping tunes will take the audience on a nostalgic tour with classics like *Catch a Falling Star*, *Three Coins in the Fountain* and *Love is a Many-Splendored Thing*.

Forever Plaid is much more than just a play about music: it's about dreams and how they really can come true. The New York Post called it "Screamingly funny! Entirely enchanting, utterly entertaining, awesome." The New York Times said, "The laughter doesn't stop ... delightful, original and funny."

Othello will find new dimension on thrust stage at Interplayers

Artistic Director Niké Imoru opened her drama book at Interplayers and out leaped the Bard of Avon for April.

Completing her first season in residence with the professional theatre on Howard Street, Imoru selected *Othello* – one of Shakespeare's four great tragedies (in company with *Hamlet*, *King Lear* and *Macbeth*) – to challenge her actors and designers and provide theatre-goers with a vibrant change of pace for spring. Interplayers' thrust stage should lend a special and exciting new dimension to this classic tale of love, honor, jealousy and betrayal.

Othello opens with three preview performances beginning April 14 and is scheduled through May 7. For show times and tickets, \$16-\$20, with discounts for seniors and students, phone 455-PLAY (7529).

The show is directed by Kathie Doyle-Lipe. Music director is Leslie Ann Grove. The cast includes Russell Seaton, Max Kumangai-McGee, Darin Jones and Greg Pschirrer.

The show also marks the debut of CenterStage's new dinner-theatre menu and lower ticket prices, according to Artistic Director Tim Behrens. "Our goal is to expand our reach into the community and encourage more people to experience and enjoy live theatre. That's the reason we have implemented these changes," Behrens said.

Forever Plaid runs every Thursday, Friday and Saturday (except April 2 and 16) until April 24, with Sunday matinees on April 3 and 24.

Dinner-and-show tickets are now just \$35 (\$10 off the old price). Dinners include salad, choice of entrée and nonalcoholic beverage. Appetizers, desserts and a number of alternate entrées are available for an additional charge.

Cocktail service begins at 5:30 p.m., with dinner at 6. Shows start at 7:30 p.m. Show-only tickets are \$17 for adults, \$13 for students with valid ID, but do not include dessert or beverage. For matinees, doors open at noon, with lunch at 12:30 and the show at 2.

Tickets may be purchased by telephoning CenterStage at 747-8243, in person at the theatre box office or, with applicable fees, at any TicketsWest outlets.

Gay love triangle focus of *Pride and Joy Movie Night*

This month's *Pride and Joy Movie Night* at CenterStage will transport viewers to a small town nestled among the tall timbers and rugged mountains of Montana's Big Sky country.

Ayre Gross (from TV's *Ellen*) stars in *Big Eden*, a tale of a gay New York artist who returns to his timberland home to care for the ailing grandfather who reared him. Upon settling in, Henry finds his feelings for Dean, which caused him to flee Big Eden nearly 20 years earlier, have only grown stronger over the intervening years.

At the same time, Henry's reappearance sparks a transformation in Pike



photo courtesy Chaikin Films
Gay artist Henry Hart (Ayre Gross) finds himself involved in a love triangle in *Big Eden* at CenterStage April 26.

Dexter, the shy, unassuming Native-American owner of the town's general store, where cowboys lounge on the porch to pass time while keeping an eye on the goings-on. Pike is as surprised as anyone at his new-found infatuation with Henry and, as this unspoken triangle unfolds under the scrutiny of Big Eden's community, nearly everyone in town develops a stake in its outcome.

Pride and Joy producer and CenterStage board member Jerry Davis said April's event will begin with a social time from 6-7:30 p.m. Libations, including several specially-priced selections, will be available. Also, ticket holders are entitled to 25 percent off all menu items from Ella's.

Tickets for *Big Eden* are \$5 and may be purchased at the door the night of the event, Tuesday, April 26.

- Increased participation for some art forms; a reduction in others.
- Reduced corporate and governmental support of nonprofit art organizations.
- An increase in performing arts organizations, venues and for-profit businesses.

The summit is dubbed *Bold Strokes: Building Spokane's Arts Assets* and will be held in the Jewett House, directly behind the Cathedral of St. John at 12th and Grand, on April 5 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$12 and includes a box lunch.



Rainbow Center to host gay artist

The graphic works of gay artist Rich Baker will be featured in the gallery at the Rainbow Center during April and May, announced the center's art director, Timothy Phillips.

Baker describes his work – computer-aided depictions of the human form – as “very spiritually-energized prints that come from the heart.”

The artist resides in Cheney and will be introduced at public receptions showcasing his work during Spokane's *First Friday* events on April 1 and May 6. The receptions are scheduled from 5 to 8 p.m. and free to the public.

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Summit may hold keys to future of the arts in Spokane

Key personnel changes, diminished funding and a shift in participation are among the concerns to prompt a community-wide summit this month to discuss the future of the arts in Spokane.

In addition to artists and arts organization officials and volunteers, business, education and youth leaders and others who have a stake in a prospering local arts community are invited to participate in the daylong program announced by the Spokane Arts Commission.

Karen Mobley, head of the city's arts commission, expressed hope that the summit would create a framework for community support, strengthen and reinvigorate arts partnerships and networking, and develop a legislative agenda with government priorities.

Mobley cited a number of recent changes that have altered the landscape of the arts community in Spokane:

- Almost a 100 percent turnover in arts organization directors and key staff.

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Image: Claude Monet, *Chrysanthemums*, 1882-85
Oil on canvas, 20 x 18 inches. The Philip and Janice Levin Foundation. Photography Courtesy of Sotheby's, Inc. ©2003

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FIRST PLACE

ART is the professional theatre in residence at Spokane Falls Community College

Will & Grace slips as lesbians go for *The L Word* and gay men opt for *Queer as Folk*

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – Gay men are from Mars and lesbians are from Venus when it comes to picking their favorite television shows. Men gravitate more toward shows featuring guys, such as *Queer as Folk* and *Will & Grace*. Women go for “chick” shows, like *The L Word* and *The Ellen Show*.

While 32 percent of lesbians say *The L Word* is their favorite show, only one-half of one percent of the men do. *Queer as Folk* was the favorite for 26 percent of gay men, but the Fab Five scored a viewing audience of only 10.2 percent among gay women.

Almost 50 percent of all gay viewers picked Ellen DeGeneres as their fa-

vorite TV performer, and a whopping 95 percent find *Six Feet Under* as the most accurate gay portrayal on the tube.

The TV faves and raves were tallied by a recent online study conducted by GLCensus Partners, a research partnership between OpusComm Group and S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University.

Dinner and Movie events offer free gay night out

Four *Dinner and a Movie* nights are scheduled at the Rainbow Center this month, according to chief cook and projectionist Timothy Phillips:

- April 8 – *Saved!*
- April 15 – *Just Like a Woman*
- April 22 – *Desert Hearts*
- April 29 – *Pecker*

The films and a small dinner, all free to the public, start at 6 p.m.

CenterStage targets new ‘bomb’ run on Saturdays

It’s “bombs away” as CenterStage continues *The Worst Midnight Movie Series Ever*. The innovative theatre on First Avenue – with a special lapse in bad taste for Saturday nights at 12 – claims to have “reeled” in some exceptionally awful cases of celluloid abuse for April. Each movie begins at midnight.

■ April 2: *Bela Lugosi Meets a Brooklyn Gorilla*. Did you ever wish that Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis had made a film with Bela Lugosi? If so, you’re probably very strange. But not as strange as this movie. “Duke” and “Sammy” are dead ringers for the comedy team. After accidentally falling out of a plane over the Pacific (wearing parachutes, of course), they land on a remote jungle island (how original). There’s a mad scientist (ditto), who experiments on apes and monkeys (double ditto) and a beautiful princess (triple ditto). Oh, and a singing gorilla (uh, you do the math).

■ April 9: *The Horrors of Spider Island*. Horrors! A plane filled with models crashes on a tropical island. Horrors! It’s so hot and humid, they have to remove practically all their clothing. Horrors! There’s not a rock star or photographer in sight. Horrors! There’s this giant spider creature. Horrors! We have to sit through 86 minutes of this.

■ April 16: *Teenage Caveman*, starring Robert Vaughn, who should have yelled *U.N.C.L.E.* much earlier in his career. When the elders of your prehistoric tribe tell you not to cross the river and the Burning Plains or you will die, what do you do? Hmmm. Being a teenager, should you defy authority? Boy, that’s a tough one. To its credit, the film has a unique plot-twist ending. To its discredit, it has Roger Corman as director, which means we get dinosaurs that look like lizards (because they are) and bear suits that are barely there.

■ April 23: *The Terror of Tiny Town*. Thank the “little people” who made all this possible. Round up some midgets, a duck that walks backwards, some sandwiches and pickled eggs ... they just don’t make Westerns like they used to in 1938, pardner. Cattle mysteriously disappear and people mysteriously sing. *High Noon* it’s not, but it’s high on camp and political incorrectness.

■ April 30: *C.H.U.D. 2*, another thriller starring Robert (*Teenage Caveman*, April 16) Vaughn, returning to the genre that began (or ended) his career. Chud is short for “cannibalistic humanoid underground dweller.” It’s also short for “dud,” which perfectly describes this film. A group of teens needs a replacement for the corpse they accidentally let roll away from the science lab (yeah, we’ve all done that). So they decide to steal one from the local hospital. Just their luck he turns out to be Bud the Chud (isn’t that a killer?). And, as a matter of fact, he is.

Tickets are \$3 per person and may be purchased at the door on the night of the show. Since evil can’t be fought on an empty stomach, cocktails, beer, popcorn and snacks will be available. CenterStage is one block west of Dempseys, at 1017 W. 1st Ave.



Mediterranean music, menu main courses at ‘world’ concert

The multi-cultural ensemble Children of the Revolution invades CenterStage for a Sunday performance on April 17 as part of the theatre’s World Music Concert series. Dinner is at 5:30 p.m.; the concert is at 7.

Children of the Revolution mixes flamenco, Gypsy, Greek and Turkish influences with spicy blends of salsa, ska and even Native American rhythms, not to mention flamenco and belly dancing.

The group was founded by vocalist Vassili and guitarist Eric Jaeger and quickly expanded to include some of Seattle’s most talented multi-ethnic singers, dancers and musicians. Referred to as “the world on one stage,”

it was the first Western group to perform in Taiwan, playing to an audience of 30,000 for Buddha’s spiritual birthday.

Food service is in the dinner-theatre format, with a menu featuring a sampling of Mediterranean dishes. Tickets are \$43 per person. Show-only tickets include dessert and beverage for \$22, \$15 for students with valid ID.

Tickets may be purchased by calling 747-8243 or in person at the CenterStage box office Tuesday through Saturday, from noon to 6 p.m. Tickets also are available, with applicable fees, at all TicketsWest locations, including www.ticketswest.com and (800) 325-SEAT.

Enjoy the Spring in ...

Spokane in April

“Spokane. Near nature. Near perfect.”

Friday the 8th – The Actor’s Repertory Theatre concludes its first season with the Noel Coward comedy *Blithe Spirit* at the Spartan Theatre at Spokane Falls Community College at 8 pm. The show continues through April 24th.

The Spokane Rainbow Center hosts its *Dinner and a Movie Night* tonight and every Friday night this month at 6 pm.

Saturday the 9th – The Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane presents its *Ken Mealer Cancer Awareness* fundraiser at Dempseys at 9 pm.

Saturday the 23rd – Support our younger brothers and sisters at Odyssey Youth Center’s *Spring Auction* from 7-10 pm at the Corbin Arts Center.

Tuesday the 26th – CenterStage presents the film *Big Eden* at its *Pride and Joy Movie Night* with a social gathering at 6 pm; the feature starts at 7:30 pm.

Thursday the 28th – Dine out and contribute to a good cause during *Dining Out for Life*. Participating restaurants will donate 20% of your food and drink tab to the Spokane AIDS Network.

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'Film junkies' will find Philly appealing in April

PHILADELPHIA – Inland North-westerners who plan to be in the vicinity of The City of Brotherly Love this month might want to take in some

flicks at the Philadelphia Film Festival. April marks the fifth anniversary of the film fest's transformation into a major international film event.

Philadelphia's richly varied program, under the leadership of Artistic Director Raymond Murray, features a

record number of 31 world, North American or United States premieres, and includes the screening of 110 feature films, 24 full-length documentaries and 125 short films from 42 countries. The festival runs for two weeks, from April 7-20.

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National

Former director charges OSC with discrimination

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The former director of the U.S. Office of Special Counsel has criticized her successor, Scott J. Bloch, and his staff for refusing to investigate a complaint by a gay federal worker who charged that his superiors retaliated against him for disclosing alleged unethical behavior by a fellow employee.

Elaine Kaplan, who served as OSC director from 1998 to 2003, said the OSC violated the U.S. Whistleblower Protection Act by dismissing a retaliation



Elaine Kaplan

complaint by Michael Levine, a radio technician with the U.S. Forest Service in California, according to the Washington Blade.

Kaplan, who is a lesbian, noted that OSC issued the dismissal notice last December, more than a year after Levine filed the complaint, without interviewing witnesses and without deciding the case on its merits. She said substantial evidence existed to warrant a probe into the case, and a finding of retaliation might have been made even if the allegation about an anti-gay slur could not be proven.

In addition to dropping the retaliation complaint, OSC also dismissed without an investigation a charge by Levine that his supervisors engaged in discrimination against him based on his sexual orientation.

Generals, admirals say repeal Don't Ask, Don't Tell

WASHINGTON, D.C. – A group of retired military generals and admirals have announced their support for the Military Readiness Enhancement Act (MREA), which would repeal Don't Ask, Don't Tell, the military's ban on gay and bisexual personnel. The legislation was introduced by Rep. Marty Meehan (D-Mass.) on March 2, along with more than 40 Congressional cosponsors. Meehan is a member of the House Armed Services Committee, as are seven cosponsors of the legislation.

The flag officers' public backing followed an op-ed piece in the Army Times calling for the elimination of Don't Ask, Don't Tell by active-duty Col. Allen S. Bishop, a professor at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

The flag officers, all retired, are among the highest-ranking veterans to publicly support repeal of the military's gay ban. They include Maj. Gen. Vance Coleman, Rear Adm. John Hutson, Lt. Gen. Claudia Kennedy, Brig. Gen. Keith H. Kerr, Brig. Gen. Evelyn "Pat" Foote, Brig. Gen. Virgil A. Richard, Maj. Gen. Charles Starr Jr. and Rear Adm. Alan M. Steinman.

"Our national security depends on having the best and brightest Americans protecting our freedoms," said Foote, one of the first women to achieve the rank of Brigadier General. "As a commander, I know that lesbian, gay and bisexual Americans have served our country with honor and distinction. Our armed forces should be able to recruit every qualified, capable American to protect our homeland, regardless of their sexual orientation."

In December 2003, generals Kerr and Richard and Admiral Steinman publicly acknowledged being gay.

"I think the real issue is how soldiers do their jobs, not their sexuality," Richard said. "The policy is not working and it's not working because, as an example ... the Army and the services are short many linguists and we kicked out (many) over the last couple of years that could have helped our Army."

In February, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) reported that the military has fired 322 language specialists who are gay since 1993, including 54 who specialized in Arabic. The report concluded that Don't Ask, Don't Tell is costly to national security, stating that at least \$191 million in tax money was spent to train and replace the nearly 10,000 service members fired under Don't Ask, Don't Tell. GAO also acknowledged that its cost estimates did not include training and replacement for officers or those with highly specialized skills.

The United States continues to be one of the last original NATO countries to ban gays from the military. Great Britain and Canada have lifted their bans, joining Israel and other nations around the world in utilizing openly-gay troops in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

AMA to include gay health issues in program

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Officials of the American Medical Association emerged from a meeting with the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association in March with a commitment to fully include the health concerns of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Americans in the AMA's ongoing work to eliminate health disparities.

AMA leadership said it will seek to expand the scope and focus of the Commission to End Health Care Disparities launched earlier this year to focus on addressing disparities based on race and ethnicity. GLMA had asked the AMA to help expand the commission's scope to include disparities experienced by gay people.

"It's good science, good policy and a matter of basic fairness to ensure that in prevention and treatment of disease and in health research and education, gay people are in the mix as much as any other group that experiences disparities," said AMA President John C. Nelson.

HRC picks seasoned CEO as new prexy

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Human Rights Campaign wrapped up a three-month personnel search in March, naming Joe Solmonese, CEO of Emily's List, as its new president. Solmonese, 40, replaces Cheryl Jacques, who resigned the post in December after holding the position for less than a year. Emily's List is a political group that helps elect pro-choice Democratic women to public office.



Joe Solmonese

A gay man from Attleboro, Mass., Solmonese is considered a seasoned political strategist with more than 10 years of experience in election

campaigns and political fundraising.

Vic Basile, an HRC board member and cochair of a search committee that recommended Solmonese's appointment, told the Washington Blade that the HRC board and the board of the group's educational arm, the HRC Foundation, voted unanimously to approve the appointment. He declined to name any other candidates considered for the position, saying only that the search committee conducted a "full and thorough" search for qualified candidates.

Solmonese is scheduled to move into his new office on April 11. His annual salary will be \$225,000, a figure that Basile called "the standard in the industry" for the kind of legislative and political campaign work that comes with the job.

'It ain't in the Bible' Georgia teen advised

ATLANTA – A Georgia teenager is face to face with a small town's ire in a fight over a student club that would embrace its gay high school students.

"I just don't think it's right to have a club like this. It ain't in the Bible," said one 18-year-old resident of White County, Ga., a small town some longtime residents say is reluctant to embrace the big-city values that come with some of its newer residents.

One newcomer, Kerry Pacer, hoped to start a Gay-Straight Alliance club at White County High School, in the shadows of the Great Smoky Mountains some 70 miles northeast of Atlanta, but plans changed last month when the solidly Christian community balked.



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UPS ordered to deliver \$63,000 to lesbian for discrimination, gender hostility

SAN FRANCISCO – An openly-lesbian former employee of United Parcel Service was awarded \$63,000 in her hostile-work-environment sexual harassment suit against the world's largest package delivery company.

A jury in March concluded that the 14-year UPS veteran experienced "severe, widespread and persistent harassment that created a hostile and abusive work environment," which ultimately led to her wrongful termination.

"The outcome of this case sends a clear message to UPS – and the rest of corporate America – that harassment based on gender stereotypes will not be tolerated," said attorney Waukeen Q. McCoy, who represented Kathy Hoskins, the plaintiff.

The San Francisco Superior Court case focused on Hoskins' complaint of persistent harassment by coworkers and supervisors about her appearance. She also was denied new work equipment and other uniform and safety equipment that was readily available to male employees. Hoskins is African American whose gender presentation does not fit the stereotypical feminine model.

"According to my former supervisor, I wasn't 'feminine' enough," said Hoskins, who worked at a UPS facility in San Bruno, Calif., as a package car driver until February 2003.

"This judgment is a huge step forward for women everywhere who want to be judged for the quality of their work, not how they express their gender or how feminine they can appear," said Riki Wilchins, executive director of the Gender Public Advocacy Coalition (GenderPAC), a nonprofit group that fights discrimination and violence caused by gender stereotypes. "Kathy Hoskins' case is emblematic of a wider trend toward zero tolerance of gender harassment in the workplace that's not only taking place in the courts, but in state and local legislatures and corporate America as well."

In the gay community, "gender identity" refers to an employee's inner sense of being male or female. "Gender expression" refers to how they manifest it through clothing, dress or behavior.

According to Gender PAC, virtually no major corporation included "gender identity and expression" in its employment policies a decade ago. Through 2004, however, a total of 63 major corporations have passed such policies.

Amazing Race champ vilified for being gay

LOS ANGELES – *Amazing Race 4* winner Reichen Lehmkuhl Burke thought he was finished with a race that took him all over the world meeting various peoples and cultures, but it turns out, his biggest challenge is in his own backyard.

The firm that has been printing his beefcake posters for the past few months said it will suspend print runs in April because, "I learned you are homosexual, and your Web site is helping to promote a homosexual lifestyle. Not only in adults, but in underage children as well," wrote Mark Jones, owner of Progressive Ventures of Vacaville, Calif.

Jones also asserted, "People are not born gay any more than they are born adulterers (sic). Or murders (sic). Or thieves. It is the choices they make that they will be judged by, and this is contributing to the decline in moral values in our nation today."

Burke called Jones' accusations "absurd." Promoting homosexuality, he said, "is impossible. Homosexuality simply exists.

"When (Jones) went to my Web site, he must have seen my biography listing me as a 'gay rights advocate' and

Black lesbian activist found murdered in home

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Wanda Alston, who headed the mayor's office of gay and lesbian issues in Washington, D.C., was found stabbed to death in her home March 16. The body was discovered by her partner, Stacey Long. Police found the victim's car missing.

Alston, 45, was "an activist, a fighter, a strong black woman, a vocal lesbian and a friend," said Keith Boykin, president of the National Black Justice Coalition.



Wanda Alston

Boykin noted that Alston's death comes on the heels of the murder of 19-year-old Rashawn Brazell in Brooklyn in February, and that in the past two years there have been several murders of black gay, lesbian and transgendered persons, including the murder of 15-year-old Sakia Gunn; Shani Baraka, daughter of famed poet Amiri Baraka and her partner Rayshon Holmes, and transgendered teenagers Ukea Davis and Stephanie Thomas.



Reichen Burke

also a mention of the radio show on the Internet that I co-host.

"For me, the most terrible aspect of this incident is that Mr. Jones bases his hateful actions on his 'Christianity' and calls himself a 'right-wing conservative.' The worst outcome from (his) behavior would be that more people will turn away from spirituality in their own lives, thinking that the Christian way is to hate gay people and to cause them harm," Burke said.

ACLU: Scouts ineligible for government support

WASHINGTON, D.C. – A legislative bill called Support Our Scouts Act, introduced in Congress March 16, would open federal lands and facilities to scouting activities and require state and local governments to do the same if they allowed other groups to use public facilities.

The American Civil Liberties Union says the Boy Scouts' exclusion of gay members and its religious nature should make it ineligible for government support.

Catholic bishop denies funeral for a gay man

SAN DIEGO – A 31-year-old gay club owner who died of congestive heart failure while on vacation in March was denied a Catholic funeral by San Diego Bishop Robert Brom, who said John McCusker Jr.'s businesses – including a dance club popular with gays – were "inconsistent with Catholic moral teaching."

McCusker's funeral was eventually held at an Episcopal church, but not before San Diego gay community leaders vented their outrage. Brom reversed course, issuing the McCusker family an apology and offering to preside at mass in memory of the gay businessman.

Dioceses have sometimes denied funeral Masses for mobsters, and some priests accused of sexual abuse have been granted Catholic funeral services, said the Associated Press,

High school editor axed in free speech dispute

LOS ANGELES – The American Civil Liberties Union is appealing the recent dismissal of a high school newspaper editor for publishing a human-interest article involving three gay and bisexual students.

Ann Long, the former editor-in-chief of the Oracle at Troy High School, was removed from her position for her chronicling the coming-out stories of three fellow classmates. The ACLU is seeking her reinstatement through an appeal to Orange County school officials.

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International

Swiss OK'd partnerships; now processing split-ups

GENEVA— Eight percent of the gay couples who took advantage of Switzerland's partnership law enacted in May 2001 now have legally dissolved their unions.

A total of 215 gay couples and 54 heterosexual couples have registered partnerships under the law, and 19 have so far officially ended their relationships, with 17 of those being gay couples, according to news sources.

"They're splitting up for the same reasons that married people get divorced," Maurice Fiumelli of the cantonal chancellery office told the Swissinfo news agency. "Some of them have discovered that they don't get along or they've fallen in love with other people and want out of the relationship."

For two partners to dissolve their legal relationship under the Swiss law, a letter to the chancellery is all that is needed.

Gay bias prompts bishop to refuse AIDS donation

SOUTH RWENZORI, Uganda— African Bishop Jackson Nzerebende Tembo of South Rwenzori in Uganda refused a \$352,941 donation from the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania in March because the diocese supported the election of Gene Robinson as bishop of New Hampshire.

The money was earmarked to help those with AIDS in the region, according to The (London) Guardian.

Trans golfer finds a 'level of ignorance'

GOLD COAST, Australia— Mianne Bagger hopes that at some point in her golfing career she'll be known for her prowess with a driver or putter. Right now, though, the attention Bagger receives is more about who she used to be.

Born a male in Copenhagen, Denmark, on Christmas Day 1966, Bagger began playing golf as an 8-year-old, then stopped in 1992 to begin a six-year transformation to female. Now a resident of Australia, she made her European tour debut in this year's ANZ Ladies Masters at Royal Pines, shooting an even-par 72.

Before her round, she said she was incredulous that some suggest she changed her sex so she could have an unfair advantage playing women's

Two claim Pride Parade would spark violence

JERUSALEM— A WorldPride parade being planned here in August is drawing criticism and thinly-veiled threats from ultra-Orthodox Israeli Knesset member Nissim Zeev as well as an evangelical pastor in California named Leo Giovinetti.

Giovinetti is circulating a petition in protest of the parade, and all 11 Knesset members in Zeev's Shas party have indicated they will sign it. Both Zeev and Giovinetti have made statements intimating the parade could be met with violence.



Mianne Bagger

golf. "It really exhibits the level of ignorance that exists," Bagger said. Nonetheless, rules are being changed to allow her to compete, and other tours also have changed bylaws or are looking into policies that would now bar Bagger from competing.

Courts asked to rule out religion from gay issues

TAUBATE, Brazil— A prosecutor here has asked the country's federal judiciary to expand marriage rights to gays and lesbians— without the spectre of religious bias.

"Gays deserve equal rights, not more rights or less rights. This is something that should be discussed objectively, without interference by the church's moral standard of marriage," said 27-year-old Joao Gilberto Goncalves.

Gays in India use loophole to marry

NEW DELHI— Winter is India's celebratory wedding season and, while the law is silent on gay marriage, same-sex couples are taking advantage of the loophole to perform marriage ceremonies. Yet the happy, but daring couples are vulnerable to arrest because gay sex is punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

Gays in India face discrimination, blackmail and persecution by police and government agencies, human rights campaigners say. With India's myriad caste and class distinctions, being openly-lesbian is doubly hard.

Lesbians Raju, 25, and Mala, 22, who use single names, eloped in December. The couple were detained and taken to court, which decreed they could live together because the law was silent on the issue. "Nobody can separate us. Not even death," Raju told reporters. "We have vowed to live together for the rest of our lives as husband and wife."

American earns high gay rating by Stonewall

LONDON— American Airlines is one of the top 100 employers of gay men and women in the United Kingdom, according to a newly-released rating by Stonewall, a leading gay rights organization in the UK.

American, the world's largest airline, tied for 14th, the highest ranked airline in the Top 100 survey and the only U.S. airline on the list. American employs some 1,200 persons in the UK and serves three UK cities and other European destinations from seven U.S. gateway cities.

The Stonewall index ranks companies for their employment policies and benefits, employee involvement, corporate diversity practices and sponsorships.

Threat of public outing stirs parliamentarians

BUDAPEST, Hungary— The public outcry in wake of comments recently made by Hungarian Christian Democratic party leader Zsolt Semjén— that equated membership in rival Free Democrat party with homosexuality— has extended to threats to out members of parliament.

Transvestite performer Terry Black told MTV on March that he would publish a list of current and former gay Members of Parliament if Semjén does not resign from a parliamentary committee on human rights, according to the Budapest Sun.

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MORE NATIONAL NEWS

Lesbian gains finals; Phelps' kin drubbed

TOPEKA, Kan. – Lesbian City Council candidate Tiffany Muller won her primary bid in March and now moves on to a two-way nonpartisan general election on April 5.

Muller, 26, received 1,329 votes in a four-way primary that included the 20-year-old granddaughter of anti-gay crusader Rev. Fred Phelps. Jael Phelps garnered 202 votes. Top vote-getter was attorney Richard Harmon with 1,935 ballots.

An effort to repeal a city ordinance that protects gays from discrimination –

dubbed by the local media as the Phelps Amendment – also failed, 14,285 to 12,795. The City Council had approved the antidiscrimination ordinance in November. Fred “God Hates Fags” Phelps and his Westboro Baptist Church launched a petition drive against it.

The senior Phelps caused the country to regurgitate when he conducted a demonstration at funeral services for gay Wyoming college student Matthew Shepard in 1998. Shepard was brutally tortured then lashed to a rail fence in a remote country area outside Laramie, Wyo., and left to die by two men who later were sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

The Victory Fund, which backed Muller, congratulated the people of Topeka for sending “an important message that fairness and equality are values embraced by Topeka.”

Quit smoking help available toll-free

WASHINGTON, D.C. – While many gay smokers believe that smoking increases their health risks, fewer (75 percent) have made attempts to quit compared to other adults (80 percent), according to the American Legacy Foundation.

“Research suggests that a higher percentage of the (gay) community may smoke, compared with the total adult population, and we are committed to raising awareness of the toll of tobacco on gay people and providing help to quit smoking,” said Dr. Cheryl Heaton, president and CEO of the foundation.

Free counseling and information on smoking and health to help gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered individuals quit smoking are available through the foundation’s Learn to Quit Line at (800) 399-5589.



Tiffany Muller

Clubs, lies and deep ‘see’ fishing

Hey Girl,

There is a guy at the club who I think likes me. But sometimes he says he’s “bi,” sometimes “just curious” and other times he’s “straight.” He kissed me twice in the last year when he was sober. What should I do?

The Daily Report
Milwaukee

Hey Daily Report,

First the bad news. Even though he sounds like a fun, straight/bi-curious, undecided, so on and so forth guy who enjoys your gay company, this really fits more into the Wasting Your Time category for The Gay Film Festival’s Tragedy Contest than being a true-life boyfriend situation. By constantly changing sexualities, he probably just wants to be liked, not break your heart. Now the good news! Enjoy him as a friend. Honey, even though catching a straight fish is exciting, a gay fish will stay longer and ... let you taste its meat.

Kisses, Trinity

Dear Trinity,

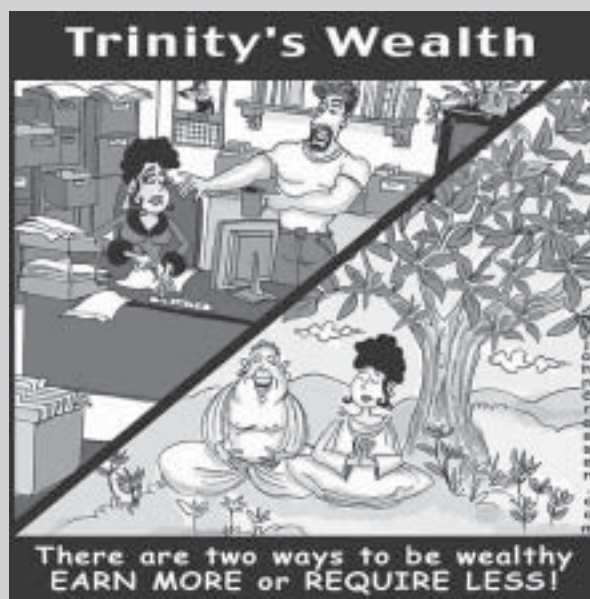
My very “spiritual” boyfriend keeps pushing me to work less and appreciate life more. What am I suppose to do when I’m not working, shop, chat on the Internet or watch TV? I like working. How else am I going to make money?

Work vs. Life
Elizabeth, N.J.

Dear Work vs. Life,

You are dead right and dead wrong. In order to be wealthy, you do have to work and work hard. I

Tell Trinity



Dating Dilemma No. 130

applaud you for that. However, have you heard of inner wealth? Well, baby, maybe it’s time!

Dear Trinity,

My friend of three years and I recently became boyfriends, but we’ve only had weird sex, twice. Oh yeah, he moved, so I never see him and when I do he doesn’t seem interested. Does he still want me?

Dead Desires
Harrisburg, Pa.

Dear Dead Desires,

Let me get this right: he moved away, you hardly see him and, when you do, he never wants to have sex? Pumpkin, not only is he not your boyfriend, he’s not anything except an old friend you had bad sex with. So, point blank, it’s over, if it even started. Now, go find a new boyfriend who wants to please you, not tease you!

Good Luck, Trinity!

Dear Trinity,

My girlfriend is always late. It’s becoming a big problem, not for her as much as for me. Help!

Dear Late Date,

Waiting for someone once is awful, but waiting time and time again can make you loony. However, there are alternatives with:

Trinity’s Tough Tips For Dealing With Someone Who’s Always Late

1. COMMUNICATION: Ask for a 30-minute warning before she’s actually due, and another 10-minute warning before she actually arrives!

2. LIE: If dinner is at 6 p.m., tell him 5:30. And never be ready before 5:45.

3. NO EXCUSES: Tell her no excuse is necessary. It’s about communicating her lateness before she’s late, not having good excuses after she’s arrived.

4. WARNING: Let him know that if he wants to be late, he just needs to call and tell you. He does not need an excuse!

5. ACCEPTANCE: Just accept that she will often be late, and this is how it will often be. Don’t act all upset and surprised every time!

6. STAY BUSY: Always keep busy with things to do while waiting for a typically-late person.

7. THE TRUTH: Being late is not a crime, punishment or international offense, it’s just how some people are. Accept it!

8. THE OTHER FOOT: Remember, if he’s always late, then you can always be late, too, and never feel bad.

9. ENDING THE STRESS: It’s better for you to call and “check in” 10 minutes before she’s due, than to wait angrily, hoping she calls you.

10. Lastly, ATTITUDE: Yes you can make someone feel bad for being late, but after a few times, you’d better accept it with open arms or ... find someone else to put your arms around!

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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GAY MARKER APPROVED

Continued from front page and encompasses more than 100 programs and 40 special events.

Highlights include a tribute to "Gay Pioneers and 40 Heroes," a concert featuring Cyndi Lauper, an interfaith service at historic Christ Church with Bishop Gene Robinson, screenings of the movie *Gay Pioneers*, a Gay Icons pavilion at the Independence Visitors Center, a street festival and some 14 parties.

Thirty-two states and the District of Columbia will hold state receptions on April 30. All substantive events, including the national celebration, are free.

EDITORIAL: GAY DISTRICT

Continued from page 2

build arts districts. Instead of sexual ghettos, they should build sturdy sidewalks. The laws of attraction don't include division. Separate But Equal didn't work and neither will Separate But Fabulous.

Artificially constructed "gay districts?" This is one canary that just sniffed the air and keeled over.

Michael Alvear is the author of Alexander The Fabulous: The Man Who Brought The World To Its Knees. He receives e-mail at mkealvear@mac.com.

MURPHY'S MANOR

by Kurt Erichsen



Classifieds

PEOPLE and EVENTS

13-Volunteers:

ODYSSEY YOUTH CENTER desperately needs volunteers to help man our local GBLTQ youth drop-in center. Make a difference in a young person's life today! Call Julie at 325-3637 for more info.

Miscellaneous

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34-Business Opp:

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PERSONALS

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."

PERSONALS

78-Pen Pals:

CALIFORNIA STUD, 5-4, 145, 8-1/2 cut, 45, very handsome, looking for she-male, clean, healthy, cute, 18-50, financially secure, fun, outgoing, sex oriented. Reply to: Tony Gallegos #55421, ISCI Unit 14-D-51, PO Box 14, Boise, ID 83707.

GM, 27, 5-4, 160, uncut, looking for top who is responsible, kind and caring to dedicate themselves to an LTR with someone special. Reply to: Richard Doten #51210, IMSI J-89, PO Box 51, Boise, ID 83707.

BiWM, 5-11, brn, brn, looking for mature male and female for pen pals, possibly more, in Spokane-Colfax-Coeur d'Alene-Sandpoint region. Reply to: Troy D. Alonzo #33205, IMSI, PO Box 51, Boise, ID 83707.

PERSONALS

78-Pen Pals:

LONELY BI-CURIOS male, 18, 6-0, 161, brn, hzl, looking for persons to write in Spokane-CdA area. Reply to: Dustin Simmons #60961, IMSI J-2-45, PO Box 51, Boise, ID 83707.

SWM, 32, 5-5, 140, brn, hzl. Open-minded to all life styles. I'm settling in CdA-Lewiston area. Reply to: Mike Newsom #37404, IMSI J-2 44B, PO Box 51, Boise, ID 83707.

PERSONALS

78-Pen Pals:

EXQUISITELY CARVED physique: SWAM, 35, 5-11, 175, brn, hzl, 33" waist, 20" biceps, 55" chest, gymnast, excellent physical health, articulately trained and skilled in fine art of massage. Affectionate top male in search of serious love in N. Idaho-Spokane area. To be released 10/05 to 10/07, permitting whether it's believed I've been a good enough boy. Reply to: F. Francis Ehlert #23983, IMSI J(2)-35(B), PO Box 51, Boise, ID 83707.

Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous

Deadline for the May Classifieds is Tuesday, Apr. 19.

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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.

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

WEDNESDAYS

6-8:30 pm: **RAINBOW REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER.**

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

THURSDAYS

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

FRIDAYS

2-8 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.)

1

Friday

A reception for gay artist **Rich Baker** will be held at the **Rainbow Center** from 5-8 pm as part of the city's **First Friday** art event. Free
The musical comedy **Forever Plaid** continues its run at **CenterStage** Thurs, Fri and Sat through April 24. \$35. Show-only \$17, s

2

Saturday

The **Gonzaga University First Nations Student Association** hosts its 4th **Unity in Spirit Powwow** at **Martin Centre** from noon to 7 pm. Free
K.K. "Robby" Robbins announces an **Open House** at **Advanced Wellness Clinic**, 5735 N Division, from 2-4 pm, followed by a drum circle until 5.
Eileen Ivers and 9-time Irish fiddle champions **Immigrant Soul** will entertain at the **Met** at 8 pm. \$16-\$30
With no apologies to Faye Rae, **CenterStage** screens **Bela Lugosi Meets a Brooklyn Gorilla** for **The Worst Midnight Movie Series Ever** tonight at 12M. \$3

3

Sunday

ISCS (the **Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane**) will hold a board meeting at **Dempseys** at 6 pm. A general court meeting follows at 7:30.
Karaoke fans can join **Yasmine** at **The Merq** tonight and every Sunday at 9:30 pm.

5

Tuesday

The **Spokane Arts Commission** will convene an arts summit, **Bold Strokes: Building Spokane's Arts Assets**, at the **Jewitt House** (behind St. John's Cathedral at 12th and Grand) from 9 am to 4 pm. \$12 includes box lunch.

6

Wednesday

The **GLBT Book Group** will meet at **Auntie's Bookstore** at 7 pm to review Alison Smith's **Name All the Animals**.
If karaoke is more your style, join **Yasmine** at **The Merq** tonight and every Wednesday at 9:30.

7

Thursday

On Thursdays this month at 9:30 pm, **Yasmine** hosts karaoke at **The Merq**.

Spokane's entertainment and meeting calendar for April

April 2005

Birthstone: Diamond

Flower: Daisy

Astrological Guide: Aries to April 20th; Taurus April 21 to May 20

8

Friday

Michael Weaver directs **Actor's Repertory Theatre** presentation of Noel Coward's comedic **Blithe Spirit** at the **Spartan Theatre** on the campus of **Spokane Falls Community College** tonight at 8 and continuing through April 24. Call 838-4013 for reservations, mention "Stonewall" and receive 20% off ticket purchase.

Dinner and a Movie night at 6 pm at the **Rainbow Center** will feature **Saved**. Free

9

Saturday

This morning at 9:30, **Older and Wiser Lesbian Sensations (OWLS)** will flock to the **Old Country Buffet** for breakfast.

To support the battle against cancer, **ISCS** performers will entertain at a **Ken Mealer Cancer Awareness** fundraiser at **Dempseys** at 9 pm. Lineup for performers is announced for 8 pm.

14

Thursday

The **Senior Art Exhibit** opens for a 3-week show at the **Jundt Art Museum** at **Gonzaga University**. Free

Othello, Shakespeare's classic tale of love, honor, jealousy and betrayal, opens a 3-week run at **Interlayers**. \$16-\$20, S/s.

15

Friday

Advance ticket requests for **Odyssey Youth Center's Spring Auction** on April 23 are needed today: 325-3637

Just Like a Woman will be the feature for **Dinner and a Movie** night at the **Rainbow Center** beginning at 6 pm. Free

Tonight only, **Gonzaga University** students will perform a series of dramatic scenes in **Take a**



Meet the artist of Last Drop, above, **E.L. Stewart**, during a free public reception at **The Huneke Gallery** at **Spokane Art School** during **First Friday** on April 1 from 5 to 7 pm. **Spokane Art School** is across from the **Arena** at 920 N Howard.

At midnight, **CenterStage** continues its celluloid abuse in **The Worst Midnight Movie Series Ever** with the showing of **The Horrors of Spider Island**. \$3

12

Tuesday

Mother likes who best? **The Smothers Brothers** join the **Spokane Symphony** for an evening of humor, nostalgia and bluegrass at the **Opera House** at 8 pm. \$20-\$42

13

Wednesday

Participating students and schools will observe a **Day of Silence** today, promoted by **GLSEN**, the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, to protest anti-gay discrimination and harassment.

The **Inland Northwest Business Alliance's** monthly luncheon meeting at **Europa** restaurant begins with networking at 11:30 am. \$15-\$18

16

Saturday

Special events and displays today through April 23 mark **Japan Week** at the **Japanese Cultural Center** museum and resource center at **Mukogawa Fort Wright Institute**, weekdays from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Free

Teenage Caveman (without Gidget) plays at **CenterStage** in **The Worst Midnight Movie Series Ever** when both hands on the clock point up. \$3

17

Sunday

The public is invited to join the **Spokane Lesbian Association** for game day at the **Rainbow Center** between 11 am and 3 pm.

Music from around the Mediterranean will reverberate at **CenterStage** in tonight's dinner-

theatre **World Music Series** featuring **Children of the Revolution**. \$43. Show-only \$22, s

19

Tuesday

Members of **Papillon** will discuss transgendered issues at tonight's **PFLAG** (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) meeting at **Unitarian Universalist Church** at 7.

22

Friday

Dinner and a Movie night at the **Rainbow Center** includes the screening of **Desert Hearts** at 6 pm. Free

23

Saturday

A **Spring Auction** to benefit **Odyssey Youth Center** will be held at **Corbin Arts Center**, at 7th and Stevens, from 7-10 pm. \$35, \$60 per couple

The **ISCS Prince and Princess** present a fundraiser at **Dempseys** to bolster the court's **Disaster Fund**. Show starts at 9 pm; entertainer lineup is at 8.

The indomitable **Eunice Kennady Smith** headlines **Simply Drag** at **The Merq** tonight from 10:30 to 12:30. Free

Western camp without John Wayne? Yup, and **CenterStage's** got it in **The Terror of Tiny Town** for **The Worst Midnight Movie Series Ever** tonight. \$3

26

Tuesday

Pride and Joy Movie Night at **CenterStage** begins with a social time at 6, followed by the feature presentation, **Big Eden**, at 7:30. \$5 (Ticket qualifies for 25% dinner menu discount at **Ella's**)

28

Thursday

Designated restaurants will donate 20% of your meal tab to **Spokane AIDS Network** when you dine with them today. For **Dining Out for Life** participating restaurants, call SAN: 455-8993, ext. 320

By coincidence, **The Spitfire Grill** opens a month's run at **CenterStage** Thurs, Fri and Sat. \$39-\$45, S/s

29

Friday

Pecker will light the screen for **Dinner and a Movie** night at the **Rainbow Center**. Start time is 6 pm. Free

30

Saturday

The original was so good, they made **C.H.U.D. 2**. No matter, **CenterStage** has glommed onto it for us as the month's finale in **The Worst Midnight Movie Series Ever**. \$3

May 1

Sunday

Spokane-Kootenai Pride invites you to play **Bunko** at a fundraiser this afternoon at **The Merq**. Social hour and practice at 2; games scheduled 3-5:30. \$10 donation suggested.

Across the river at **Dempseys** at 6 pm, **The Alliance** gay student organization at **Spokane Falls Community College** will hold a **Gay May Bingo Day** fundraising event featuring bingo and a raffle.

May 2

Monday

Today is the deadline to submit nominations for Spokane's **Rainbow Awards**. Info: 327-8377



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