

# Spanish Prime Minister Zapatero's remarkable gay marriage speech

Translated by Rex Wockner

When the Spanish parliament took its historic vote legalizing both gay marriage and adoption of children by gay couples [June 30], Socialist Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero – who put the full prestige of his office and party behind passage of the gay human rights legislation – made perhaps the most remarkable speech in favor of full equality for those with same-sex hearts ever delivered by a head of government anywhere.

Here are excerpts from Zapatero's speech:

"We are not legislating, honorable members, for people far away and not known by us. We are enlarging the opportunity for happiness to our neighbors, our co-workers, our friends and our families. At the same time we are making a more decent society, because a decent society is one that does not humiliate its members.

"In the poem 'The Family,' our [gay] poet Luis Cernuda was sorry because,

**"Today the Spanish society grants them the respect they deserve, recognizes their rights, restores their dignity, affirms their identity and restores their liberty."**

**– Spanish Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero**

'How does man live in denial in vain / by giving rules that prohibit and condemn?'

Today the Spanish society answers to a group of people who, during many years, have been humiliated, whose rights have been ignored, whose dignity has been offended, their identity denied and their liberty oppressed. Today the Spanish society grants them the respect they deserve, recognizes their rights, restores their dignity, affirms their identity and restores their liberty.

"It is true that they are only a minority, but their triumph is everyone's triumph. It is also the triumph of those who oppose this law, even though they do not know this yet, because it is the triumph of liberty. Their victory makes all of us, even those who oppose the law, better people; it makes our soci-

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## Dancing in the streets!



photo by Pierre-Philippe Marcou

Up to two million Spaniards, according to organizers, joined in the Gay Pride parade last month in Madrid, this year celebrating the country's new law allowing same-sex couples to marry and adopt children.

## Canada becomes fourth nation to OK gay marriage

### Poll shows most Canadians want new law to stand

by Elizabeth Weill-Greenberg

The Canadian Senate gave final approval last month to a plan legalizing same-sex marriage in a historic 47-21 vote, making Canada the fourth nation in the world to extend marriage rights to gay couples.

Canadian courts have ruled in favor of marriage rights for gays since 2003, legalizing the practice in most provinces. In June, Canada's House of Commons voted to approve legislation allowing gay couples to marry.

Spain, the Netherlands and Belgium are the only other countries to recognize gay marriage. In the United States, one state, Massachusetts, has legalized gay marriage. Many American gay couples have traveled to Canada to marry because it has no residency requirements for marriage. However, those unions are not recognized by the U.S. government.

"This law is based on the principle that no minority is diminished when

another minority is acknowledged," said Laurie Arron, director of advocacy of Egale Canada and political coordinator for Canadians for Equal Marriage. He added, laughing, "I think that's what makes this country great – or I should say one of the things."

The legislation was drafted and vigorously supported by Prime Minister Paul Martin's Liberal Party government.

Liberal senators had threatened to force a vote on the bill if Conservatives dragged out the debate. Conservative Senator Gerry St. Germain tried to push through a motion that would have delayed a final vote for six months.

St. Germain told the Senate that recognizing gay marriage would damage heterosexual marriage, according to Canadian news reports.

The vote for marriage equality finally came around 11 p.m. on Tuesday, July 19.

"There is no point in further postponement," said Jack Austin, the Liberal leader in the Senate, as reported by the Canadian press. "There are no new issues to be argued, there are no

new positions to be taken. I think everyone in this chamber understands that we have, along with the Canadian people, come to our own conclusions."

### Canadians tired of debate

Arron said that polls show that a majority of Canadian voters don't want Parliament to reopen the issue. Accord-

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# Voices

## The Power of Love

by Mike Neubecker

After dragging our barbecue grill out of the storage shed and getting ready to grill some bratwursts for a Memorial Day outdoor feast, I noticed what looked like a nest of cotton on the right side of the grill underneath the main grate. Looking closer, I saw five tiny mice that were each barely an inch long, not counting the tail. My first instinct was to destroy the nest so the rodents could never enter the house, when suddenly the mother mouse popped out from under the burner cover, her with eyes bugged out as though she was staring me down.

I called for Jan to come and look at the home they had made for themselves in our grill. We discussed some strategies for getting them out of the way of our barbecue plans. Although we'd had a problem in the past with a mouse in the house after we'd left a basement window open, I knew we had to let them live ... but obviously somewhere outside of our house.

I removed the main grill cover, figuring it might be best to first get the mother mouse out of the way so I could then carefully remove the babies. I grabbed the grill scraper and banged the handle against the side of the grill, and I thought that would get her running for the hills. She remained steadfast by her little ones.

So I proceeded with another plan: If I temporarily lit the left side of the grill, which was away from the mouse family, the sight of fire

would surely flush the mother out and then I could extinguish the flame and remove the youngsters without the mother's interference. Well, wouldn't you know it, even in the face of fire, the mother stood her ground, refusing to leave her babies.

I figured it was time for a new strategy: Remove the babies and the mother would follow. Jan brought out the "deluxe gopher" device with its handy rubber cups that can delicately pick up anything from a distance. One by one, I was able to grab each mouse toddler by the tail until all five were placed next to a nearby bush where they took their first steps to hide underneath. Only after all were removed was the mother mouse ready to jump out of the grill and into the bush to be reunited with her litter.

After a long cleaning and warm up of the grill I completed my barbecue mission and we enjoyed our backyard picnic. It felt good to show mercy when it was so tempting to do destruction.

I think what touched me the most was the defiance that mother displayed in protecting her young from danger when I could have easily squashed her. I saw her care, concern and courage, and could only find compassion in my heart. Perhaps it was a simple matter of instinct, but I believe I saw her love for her family and her willingness to die in their defense.

After the meal, I thought about the many PFLAG mothers and fathers who challenge head-on society's discrimination against and hatred of their loved ones. The hate, scorn and social shunning are not enough to keep them from standing with their children to protect them from harm. No amount of threats will scare them off or make them run for cover; instead they are only emboldened to take further measures to protect those they raised by visiting legislators and writing letters to the editor to educate the public.

I don't know how much of this is instinct, but I see their love for their families and their willingness to die if necessary in the defense of their families. As PFLAG members take their stand and speak out, others will recognize their care and concern for their offspring's well-being. Experience tells me that most people have sufficient compassion in their hearts to be moved by this – and perhaps to question their attitudes.

But it really has to be more than instinct with us humans because not all parents respond in such a protective way. Perhaps the power of stigma, religious conformity and the need for social acceptance are far too strong for some. From the many family stories of PFLAG people I have heard, I do know that the power of love is much stronger. It just may take longer for some to know it.

*Mike Neubecker is the regional director for PFLAG Great Lakes, comprising Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio. He can be reached by e-mail at mneubecker1@comcast.net.*

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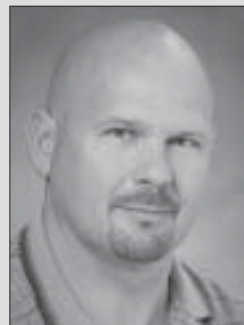
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# Community

## The more things change, the more they remain the same?

by Catherine D. Willis

What do you think? Has there been a shift in GLBT consciousness? If so, how has it manifested? What do you think accounts for it?

I posed these questions at the end of last month's Community piece. Having received some thoughtful answers to preliminary inquiries, I eagerly awaited a shower of responses.

They didn't come the first week the July issue was on the stands or in mailboxes. They didn't come the second week despite my seeking input by phone, face-to-face and e-mail. As deadline time approaches, they've still not come, leaving me torn between frustration and confusion.

Change seemed the watchword in the heady aftermath of Pride Week. I expected follow-up comments like those offered by Russ Hemphill of Spokane AIDS Network. "The community is growing and morphing," he noted. "People are coming out, going out and are happy being out."

Hemphill attributed the shift in GLBT consciousness to a combination of media influences (television and movies) and to social policy and attitude changes around hot-button issues such as gay marriage and domestic partner benefits.

"GLBT folk are in the news, are topics of conversations around the water cooler and the kitchen table.

GLBT folk may be in situations where they are supported by friends, family and co-workers. For most of them," Hemphill added, there is the realization that "it's OK to be gay, to be gay in Spokane."

He further stated, "There is a younger heart driving the city. There is a lot of growth downtown. There are new folk moving to Spokane and some of them are becoming the new gay leaders."

"I came here to a small city to get away from the rat race as well as the 'gay ghetto' that exists in most large U.S. cities," explained Athanasios Bitsas, an educator who arrived in Spokane from Chicago in May 2004. "I notice that folks out here are much more in tune with the lifestyle I've desired – not identifying myself as 'gay' but just living my life as an individual whose sexual preference just happens to be men (or one man)."

"In a large city, folks are more promiscuous, even if they're partnered ..." Bitsas continued, "and in a smaller city folks are more apt not to stray because everybody knows everybody else's business. I think this is very helpful in building community."

"I have noticed another trend, brought out in part by the Mayor Jim West 'scandal,'" he volunteered. "Here in the Inland Northwest, folks are much more conservative than in the Upper Midwest or on the Northeast or West coasts. Here, it's neces-

sary for members of minority groups to stick together and stick up for one another. In Chicago, where it's so safe to be out, ... alliances tend to be more social. ... Since it's more difficult to find 'same' [in a place like Spokane], I believe relationships and friendships here turn out to be stronger and last longer."

In Spokane, "folks are energized more by politics and disgust for the injustices we face daily; in Chicago, there is safety in numbers and folks just get apathetic and complacent. I would never have gone to Pride in Chicago; it's just a glittery party with lots of screaming queens, but I was proud to go to Pride here because we need to make the statement that we are everywhere. We need to mobilize, to get active, be political."

Longtime local activist Dean Lynch would likely agree with Bitsas' final analysis. He weighed in on my questions from Nicaragua, writing matter-of-factly, "I have no reason to believe that the GLBT community has made any significant change since 2002. There are some new people in town, but my efforts at getting GLBT persons politically involved last summer in an open and out manner was far from what I had hoped [to achieve]." He concluded with what amounts to a challenge. "A telling statement on whether or not there has been a change will be the community's response to a repeal effort of the domestic partner benefits ordinance."

*Editor's note: the domestic partner benefits ordinance repeal effort did not receive enough valid signatures for a November referendum.*

trict, established a few years ago, is enjoying respectable growth, quietly enhancing our downtown's renaissance.

The medical community has molded an environment compatible with and attractive to the lucrative, future-focused biotech industry. And Spokane's wireless downtown is the envy of the nation (or at least a good number of lesser connected cities, large and small).

"Near nature, near perfect," Spokane's official slogan, is more than an advertising come-on. Spokane has many of the "quality of life" elements the "creative class" seeks. We have the type of environment that charges the creative mind and soul. Surrounded by nature, Spokane is our playground.

Alvear thinks we want to build a Gay Epcot Center; we do not. We intend to build up a part of Spokane that

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## 12 reasons why gay people should not be allowed to get married

by Notti, *Odyssey Youth member*

1. Homosexuality is not natural, much like eyeglasses, polyester and birth control.

2. Heterosexual marriages are valid because they produce children. Infertile couples and old people can't legally get married because the world needs more children.

3. Obviously, gay parents will raise gay children since straight parents only raise straight children.

4. Straight marriage will be less meaningful if gay marriage is allowed; after all, Britney Spears' 55-hour, just-for-fun marriage was meaningful.

5. Heterosexual marriage has been around a long time and hasn't changed at all; women are property, blacks can't marry whites, and divorce is illegal.

6. Gay marriage should be decided by people, not the courts, because the majority-elected legislatures, not courts, have historically protected the rights of the minorities.

7. Gay marriage is not supported by religion. In a theocracy like ours, the values of one religion are imposed on the entire country. That's why we have only one religion in America.

8. Gay marriage will encourage people to be gay in the same way that hanging around tall people will make you tall.

9. Legalizing gay marriage will open the door to all kinds of crazy behavior. People may even wish to marry their pets because a dog has legal standing and can sign a marriage contract.

10. Children can never succeed without a male and a female role model at home. That's why single parents are forbidden to raise children.

11. Gay marriage will change the foundation of society. Heterosexual marriage has been around for a long time, and we could never adapt to new social norms because we haven't adapted to things like cars or a longer life span.

12. Civil unions, providing most of the same benefits as marriage with a different name, are better because a "separate but equal" institution is always constitutional. Separate schools for African-Americans worked just as well as separate marriages for gays and lesbians will.

## Gay district: adding another facet to Spokane's diversity

Author Michael Alvear challenged the merits of political scientist Richard Florida's "creative class" theory as applied to Spokane's incipient gay district in a *Voices* essay published in April. (To see the full text, go to [www.stonewallnews.net](http://www.stonewallnews.net) and select the pdf for April 2005.)

by Marvin Reguindin, *INBA Vision Committee Co-chairman*

When I read Michael Alvear's opinion on *nyblade.com* and again in *SNN*, I wanted to know what medication he was on – or had forgotten to take.

Had Alvear adequately investigated what is currently happening in Spokane, instead of scrutinizing every aspect of Richard Florida's "creative class" theory (CCT) as if it were the

sole foundation for Spokane's prospective gay district, he would have found that this theory is just one of many socioeconomic constructs our Downtown Spokane Partnership (DSP) has explored. The University district, subject of considerable buzz – most of it positive – was based in part on this very theory.

The fact of the matter is, CCT was the model being studied by the DSP when they sought out our largely invisible gay community, looking for ways to ignite interest in downtown housing renewal. That contact sparked talk among GLBTQ leaders about the possibilities of establishing a gay district here.

Spokane has much of what Alvear says is needed for success. An arts dis-



# Spokane

This issue of Stonewall News is proudly dedicated to Bridget Potter, whose tireless efforts and dedication led to the one of the best Pride Parade and Festivals in Spokane this last June.

Thank you, Bridget, for all you do!

— Mark Southwick, Production Editor and the staff at Stonewall News

## INBA joins Unity in the Community

The Inland Northwest Business Alliance's Vision Committee will be staffing an information and retail booth at the 11th Annual Unity in the Community celebration Saturday, Aug. 6, at Spokane's Liberty Park.

Alliance members will be distributing the INBA Directory to interested event-goers and selling "Let's Get Visible" merchandise (t-shirts, baseball caps and polo shirts). Committee representatives will discuss the proposed gay district as well.

This year's Unity theme is "Make the Connection – Drive the Dream!" New for 2005 will be Job/Career and Health fairs, set for 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and an Art Walk with global art displayed by local artists.

Scheduled entertainment includes a variety of culturally diverse dance and musical performances. There will be raffle drawings for adults and youth, and a food drive to benefit the community's less fortunate.

Mayor Jim West will be on hand to deliver a City Proclamation; Commissioner Mark Richard will make a County Proclamation. Corporate and community leaders also will share a few remarks.

The festivities begin at 10 a.m. and end at 5 p.m.

## "A Rainbow Vision"

# Documentary to discuss Spokane issues and struggles

by Denise Marie Thomas  
Vision Committee Member

The Inland Northwest Business Alliance and InFocus Productions have collaborated to create an hour documentary about the gay issues that have impacted Spokane in the past year. The overwhelming response to recent Associated Press and national headlines has prompted the Vision Committee to expand its five-minute "Creating A Vision" introduction video, showcased at their Gay District Development Seminars, into an hour program. A DVD of the video is available upon request or you can view it online at [www.LetsGetVisible.com](http://www.LetsGetVisible.com). The video recently won an Award of Merit from the Spokane Public Relations Council's 2005 SPARC Awards in the Audio-Visual category of On-Going Video.

The working title is "A Rainbow Vision." The program will reveal the social issues and struggles of creating a visible gay community in the small conservative city of Spokane, Wash. It documents the efforts of GLBTQ organizers who have proposed the development of a gay district. It will also include the recent controversy over the public outing of Mayor James West and the anti-gay stands he took over the course of his former senatorial career.

The current gay issues have influenced the genesis of this project and

present an educational opportunity to reach a wider audience about gay civil liberties, visibility, acceptance and understanding of the GLBTQ community needs. The program's content has already generated national viewership and piqued international interest. Producers have received requests from independent companies for domestic and foreign distribution and film festival screenings. A separate Web site for the documentary will be created in the near future. The anticipated completion date for the project is fall 2006.

Executive producers Denise Marie Thomas of InFocus Productions (509-475-3578) or Marvin Reguindin, INBA (509-747-4930), will gladly accept donations to help fund this worthy program. For further information, visit the Web site at [www.letsgetvisible.com](http://www.letsgetvisible.com).

## ISCS hosts annual fun-raising picnic

Sunday, Aug. 14, is a "fun" day for the Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane as it holds its annual community picnic and softball game at the Peaceful Valley Community Center.

"This is a family event," said Clyda Carver, board secretary. "Gather the kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews, etc., and bring them down for some great food and a lot of fun."

The event starts at noon.

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You're invited to attend the Annual Spokane Democrats Salmon Feed and Fundraiser featuring "C.C. Dill Salmon" for only \$35 per person. Price includes dinner, music and a beer and wine garden.

We will be joined by our local Democratic elected officials, honored guest and speaker Congressman Jay Inslee and a **Special Guest Speaker!**

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, August 6**, beginning at 5:30 pm and running until sunset on the North Bank of Riverfront Park.

This location has parking immediately adjacent.

You may reserve on-line at [www.spokanedemocrats.org](http://www.spokanedemocrats.org) or by phoning 509-324-8525. RSVP today – this event will be the largest Democratic gathering of the year in Spokane and likely to sell out!! Visit [www.spokanedemocrats.org](http://www.spokanedemocrats.org) for more details. All proceeds being raised go directly to support the Spokane County Democratic Party.

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## Domestic partner ordinance passes go

Spokane's recently enacted domestic partner benefits ordinance survived an attempt at repeal by referendum last month when a petition drive to put the matter on the November ballot fell short by 121 signatures.

Referendum sponsors needed to gather 5,103 qualifying signatures of registered Spokane city voters, but only 4,982 of the 6,532 signatures submitted were valid, according to Spokane County election officials.

The ordinance, passed by a 5-2 vote of the Spokane City Council April 25, extends employee benefits – health and life insurance, pension rights and paid family leave – to unmarried domestic partners of city employees and, where applicable, their children. At present, only 17 nonunion employees and members of the City Council qualify for the new benefits, and none has asked for them. Union employees will need to bargain for the benefits when their contracts are next open to negotiation.

Proponents of the measure consider it an equity issue. Opponents cite costs and morality concerns. Commenting on the failed campaign, attorney Michael Smith, a spokesman for Choice of the People, a conservative advocacy group

that circulated the petitions, told The Spokesman-Review, "That won't be the end of it."

Inland Northwest Equality (INWE) and Equal Rights Washington are preparing for future challenges. They will be co-sponsoring what is being called a Power Summit at Gonzaga University, October 7-9. Brooke Powers, INWE organizer working through the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane, is spearheading the effort.

## INWE is ready to rally

The Washington State Supreme Court recessed for the summer without rendering a decision in the combined cases challenging the Defense of Marriage Act argued on behalf of numerous same-sex couples, but Inland Northwest Equality is prepared to respond when it does.

INWE organizer Brooke Powers has built, and continues to expand, an e-mail collection of players and allies so that the GLBTQ community can be mobilized quickly when a ruling is announced, whether or not it affirms the group's position on equality.

If you want to be notified of the post-decision rally, pro or con, go to the INWE link on the PJALS Web site: [www.icehouse.net/pjals/issues/inwe.html](http://www.icehouse.net/pjals/issues/inwe.html)

On a social level, a gay district would mitigate fear and discrimination of gays by giving opponents a model of normalcy. They would see that we are people just like everyone else.

A gay district would give validity to gays and lesbians who don't live in the district. It would allow them to be more open to their neighbors. They might even become sufficiently proud and self-confident to fly a rainbow flag for Pride.

A gay district would give gay youth and closeted adults role models other than flamboyant drag queen and butch dyke stereotypes (not to say that there is anything wrong with these groups).

Like most small cities, Spokane loses young people to better-paying jobs and greater cultural diversity in larger metropolitan markets. Gay youth leave for the same reasons, but also to more easily come out of the closet and to experience life in a gay district.

A gay district in Spokane might have made our closeted, anti-gay mayor's public outing a little less brutal. And he might become a little less hateful and anti-gay if he got to know us as social and economic assets to the city.

Spokane is bursting with energy and new optimism. Growth is happening in all corners of the city. The gay community needs to ride the wave of progress instead of letting it pass.

Alvear writes, "it's not a matter of build it and they will come." We see it as "We are here and we will build it."

## The magic word is SAN; say the word (SAN) and save

Coeur d'Alene Summer Theatre will reduce regular ticket prices by \$4 to patrons who mention Spokane AIDS Network when placing a telephone order this summer. A portion of the proceeds from each sale will go to SAN as well to benefit HIV/AIDS programs.

"Beauty and the Beast," the modern Broadway classic, is August's featured show. Enjoy all those heartwarming Disney tunes Aug. 6, 7, 11-14, and 18-20. Thursday, Friday and Saturday performances begin at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday matinees start at 2:00 p.m. The Coeur d'Alene Theatre is located at the North Idaho College campus in Boswell Hall.

Tickets cost \$19, \$27 and \$29. Call CST at 1-800-4-CDA-TIX to buy a night of fun and help a great cause ... but don't forget to say the magic word.

## Golfers scramble to benefit Transitions

Participate and challenge yourself, while benefiting women and children in our community.

The "Worthy Cause Golf Scramble" will be held on Friday, Sept. 16, at Downriver Golf Course in Spokane.

Funds raised will benefit Transitions, a local organization serving

women and children suffering from homelessness, poverty and various life crises. Transitions offers four programs – The Women's Hearth, Miryam's House, TLC Educare and the Transitional Living Center.

This year's event is hosted by the Exchange Club of North Spokane. As in the past, this will be a four-person shotgun scramble format with a start time of 12:45 p.m.

The Golf Scramble is limited to 144 participants (36 teams); players are advised to register early.

For more information regarding the event please contact Susan DeLano of Transitions at (509) 328-6702 ext. 106 or by e-mail at [sdelano1@qwest.net](mailto:sdelano1@qwest.net).

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If interested, please e-mail your resume to [mail@stonewallnews.net](mailto:mail@stonewallnews.net).

## GAY DISTRICT: ANOTHER FACET

Continued from page 3

is like every other part of Spokane, just more visibly gay.

CCT is not key to our creating a gay district. It has helped us see that the gay community is an asset to Spokane. This is true whether or not the theory works.

What Spokane lacks is diversity, which is something a visible gay community can foster. CCT says you must have the three T's – talent, technology and tolerance.

For Spokane to elicit talent and technology, it needs the tolerance it lacks. CCT measures tolerance by the amount of diversity in a city. Instead of measuring racial diversity, which we don't have, CCT looks at the visibility of a gay community. Visibility suggests tolerance, which is one of the things creative, open-minded professionals want in a community.

Spokane County's demographics skew away from diversity when the point of reference is racial: 92 percent of the area's 432,000 residents are white. The largest nonwhite racial group is just 2.3 percent of the population (Spokane Economic Development Council, Washington State Employment Security Department). If the gay community represents 5-10 percent of the population, a standard estimate, then Spokane's gay community would be the only diversity group with the numbers that could develop and support a specific district.



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# Regional

## Curses, soiled again!

by Joan Opyr

One of our local crackpot ministers down here in Moscow, Idaho, has taken to referring to “the curse of homosexuality.” The curse. Of homosexuality. In North Carolina, where I come from, we talk a lot about “the curse,” but it has nothing to do with homosexuality – it’s a slang term for menstruation. Stop cringing, men. Be brave. At least I didn’t say Tampax. Or Kotex. Or feminine hygiene products. Hey, where are you going? Come back here!

We use a lot of nonstandard gynecological terms in the South. The curse, the pip, the monthly visitor – when it comes to “down there,” we Southerners like to beat around the bush. (Oh, stop. You knew that was coming. This is a lesbian humor column, for heaven’s sake.) We also use slang for curse-related body parts. Pooky. Maybob. Monkey. Cootie-cake. Men enjoy an equally wide selection of synonyms: tallywhacker, John Thomas, Peter, one-eyed trouser mouse. No one would dream of using “bad” words like penis or vulva. If I said the word “vulva” to my grandmother, she’d either think I was talking about a car or she’d wash out my mouth with soap.

“What in the world,” she’d say. “Shame on you for talking so nasty. Now get on out of here. I need to powder and perfume my pooky. I’ve got to go to the gynecologist this afternoon and turn up the bat cave.”

We often speak euphemistically in the South. Many members of my family wouldn’t dream of telling people I

was a lesbian; instead they prefer to say that I’m “funny.” This suits me just fine. Funny is infinitely preferable to sodomite, and it beats the hell out of cursed. Funny means eccentric, not



Joan Opyr

damned to perdition; funny means I’m a person and not a sex act. The term allows my family to acknowledge who I am without having to talk about what novelist E. F. Benson’s immortal character Lucia refers to as “that thing Freud calls sex.”

Call me a prude, but I think we talk too much about sex, and by we I don’t

mean just gay folk; I mean everyone. I’ve never liked that old saw about those who can’t do, teach, but I have come to believe that those who can’t do, talk. The same crackpot who came up with “the curse of homosexuality” can’t seem to stop talking about exactly what it is that he imagines gay men – and it’s always gay men and not lesbians – do to each other. Like Jesse Helms, Alan Keyes and James Dobson, the unholy trinity of the homophobic right, anti-gay preachers think and speak and write far more (and far more graphically) about gay male sex than any gay men I know. James Dobson in particular could launch a very profitable sideline in gay male porn. Every sermon sounds like a job interview at a fudge-packing plant.

So what will happen to us if we don’t lift “the curse” of homosexuality? Will American life turn into something akin to “The Mummy Returns”? Will we have to call on Brendan Fraser to rid us of a gay Imhotep? Our peripatetic preacher doesn’t seem quite

sure. On the one hand, he’s convinced that it’s prayer and not politics that will save us from what he calls the “unhinging of our nation’s understanding of sexuality.” On the other, he argues that the “Church does not have the political solution to what ails America ... [t]he Church is the political problem that ails America.”

At last, the preacher and I are on the same page! Church plus politics equals disaster. Let him pray all he wants for the lifting of “the curse.” If it brings Brendan Fraser to town, gay men will be ecstatic. If it means that one less woman is reliant on Pamprin, then lesbians shall reign triumphant.

In the meantime, keeping in mind the Southern meaning of “the curse,” I would suggest that our gay-obsessed preacher consider the following possibility – that he is suffering from PMS: Patriarchal Man Syndrome. There are only two treatments – a healthy dose of feminism or chemical castration. Our preacher might be forgiven for thinking that the cure is worse than the curse.

Hysteria-ectomy, anyone?

## Welcome, welcome! Love lets everyone in

An estimated 150 people attended the “Love Welcomes All!” conference sponsored by PFLAG on Saturday, July 9, at the Newport Presbyterian Church in Bellevue, Wash.

The featured speakers were Bob and Mary Lou Wallner of TEACH Ministries, Arkansas, who came to spiritual acceptance of homosexuals in the wake of their daughter’s 1997 suicide. Their message emphasized the tragic social consequences of homophobia, counseling spiritual communities and families to educate against it.

A morning panel discussion addressed emotional and mental health issues in homosexual youth. Participants included University of Washington clinical professor of psychology Doug Haldeman, a co-author of the

American Psychological Association’s “Guidelines for Psychotherapy with Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Clients”; Dr. Patrick Chapman, a professor of anthropology at South Puget Sound Community College; and gay Christian activist Jallen Rix, who often speaks about his unsuccessful experience with what conservative evangelicals call “conversion therapy.”

One afternoon panel focused on families of GLBTQ youth. Concurrent spirituality sessions offered research and opinion from evangelical perspectives and other faith traditions.

The event was organized in response to a June conference in Seattle presented by Dr. James Dobson’s Focus on the Family ministry. That program spotlighted the “Family Love Won Out” model, a growing movement that advocates treatment versus acceptance, holding that sexual orientation and gender identity can and should be reversed.

Inland Northwest PFLAG member Tiina Buckaloo, a retired school counselor, who attended “Love Welcomes All!” with her husband Neal, a Lutheran pastor, found that the conference affirmed for her that “All people are created in the image of God. The Bible says nothing about homosexuality ... the clobber passages are taken out of context and used against gays. We are told to love each other and that means ALL people [emphasis hers]. For us, that includes the religious right as well as other people we don’t agree with!”

PFLAG may sponsor a similar advocacy and education program in Spokane later this year or next.

Joan Opyr is a writer and editor who lives in Moscow, Idaho. Her first novel, “Idaho Code,” will be published in March 2006 by Bywater Books. She welcomes your questions and comments at [joanopyr@earthlink.net](mailto:joanopyr@earthlink.net) and invites you to visit her web site: [www.auntie-establishment.com](http://www.auntie-establishment.com).

## Regional Calendar

### August events:

- ▼ Aug. 3 – Foolproof’s American Voices offers a presentation by Congressman **Barney Franks**, Benaroya Hall, **Seattle**, 7:30 pm, \$75-\$15, (206) 325-2993.
  - Aug. 4 – **Fresh Aire Concert** with **Lewis-Clark State College Saxophone Quartet**, East City Park, **Moscow**, 6:30 pm.
  - ▼ Aug. 5-7 – Quest Youth Group’s **Quest Leadership Retreat** in **North Idaho**, for more information, see web site: [www.questyouthgroup.org](http://www.questyouthgroup.org).
  - Aug. 11 – **Fresh Aire Concert** with **Off the Leash**, East City Park, **Moscow**, 6:30 pm.
  - ▼ Aug. 14 – PFLAG-Sandpoint meets, United Methodist Church, 2 pm, (208) 263-6699.
  - Aug. 18 – **Fresh Aire Concert** with **Dozier-Jarvis Trio**, East City Park, **Moscow**, 6:30 pm.
  - ▼ Aug. 21 – PFLAG-Sandpoint’s Annual Picnic, noon, Lakeview Park, **Sandpoint**.
  - Aug. 25 – **Fresh Aire Concert** with **Oracle Shack**, East City Park, **Moscow**, 6:30 pm.
  - Aug. 26-28 – **North Country Artist Trails**, various locations throughout Stevens and Ferry counties; for information see web site: [www.northcountryartisttrails.com](http://www.northcountryartisttrails.com).
- Note: last month’s web site address was incorrect. - Ed.
- ▼ special interest ■ general interest

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# National

## Georgia gay rights group launches billboard campaign

ATLANTA (AP) – The blue billboard bears a simple image – five casually dressed men and women standing arm in arm – and a simple message: “We are your neighbors. And ... we are gay.”

The sign, posted on a stretch of nightclubs and restaurants in midtown Atlanta, is part of the first wave of a state-wide campaign Georgia's largest gay and lesbian group hopes will change attitudes throughout the state.

“For so long, extremists have used gays and lesbians as a means to further their own agendas,” said Chuck Bowen, executive director of Georgia Equality. “The purpose of this campaign is to let people know we're no different than anybody else.”

The group's “We Are Your Neighbors” campaign is an 18-month effort that comes on the heels of what gay activists call a bruising year in politics.

Last year, several states, including Georgia, passed anti-gay marriage amendments and many believe homosexuality was used as a divisive wedge issue in the presidential campaign.

“We're tired of being chased,” Bowen said. “We constantly had to react to very negative, erroneous misrepresentations of us. Now, we're try-

ing to send a positive signal to let people know who we really are.”

The campaign began with 12 billboards in metro Atlanta's Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett and Paulding counties.



*This is one of the 12 billboards that have been installed around the Atlanta area.*

The billboards went up in early July. According to official traffic counts, more than 8 million people would see the billboards during the month, Bowen said.

A second wave of billboards is expected to go up in October in suburban and rural communities throughout the state. Bowen said many of the locations were picked using polling data from last year's election that showed low levels of support for gay issues.

Over 18 months, billboards are planned in 38 counties. The campaign, funded by private donations, also will feature television and print advertisements.

Other billboards feature a firefighter, with the phrase “I protect

you ... and I am gay,” and a female doctor with the phrase, “I care for you ... and I am a lesbian.”

Bowen said the people featured on the first wave of billboards are from out of the state, but that future signs will picture residents of the communities where the signs are placed.

Members of some conservative groups who pushed last year's anti-gay marriage amendment in Georgia see the campaign as a political ploy.

“I think it's just one more step in their agenda to try to mainstream their lifestyle,” said Sadie Fields, executive director of the Christian Coalition of Georgia. “I'm certainly not going to question their stated motives, but I don't expect their political agenda to stop.”

But supporters say the campaign is more about winning friends than winning votes.

“It's just about people,” said David Greenberg, 43, of Atlanta, a speech coach and author who is speaking to the public and media as part of the campaign. “The more people get to know gay people, they realize that we really are just people with similar issues just wanting to have a happy life like everyone else.”

## Bush judges already affecting gay rights

WASHINGTON D.C. – No need to wait until President Bush appoints a Supreme Court justice to see how he will make his mark on the federal judiciary.

Overall, in his four-plus years in office, Bush has pushed a Republican-leaning federal judiciary farther to the right with more than 200 appointments to appellate and district courts.

His district court appointees have been “dramatically conservative but not off the board – not so bizarre that the other judges wouldn't know them or speak to them,” said Robert A. Carp, a political scientist at the University of Houston who has studied the federal judiciary extensively. Bush's district court appointees stand out as particularly conservative on civil liberties cases such as abortion, freedom of speech and gay rights, Carp found.

On these matters, Bush's district judgeships were rated 28 percent liberal in Carp's study. That put them well to the right of jurists appointed by Presidents Nixon, at 38 percent, and Ford, at 40 percent, and slightly to the right of Reagan and the first President Bush, both of whom were rated 32 percent liberal.

## Freelance Reporters Wanted

Stonewall News Northwest (this publication) seeks freelance reporters who can work on assignment or independently contribute their own work covering GLBTQ events and issues within the Inland Northwest. Stonewall News Northwest is a GLBTQ community-oriented news and events publication. Compensation is negotiable but is generally tied to each piece submitted and published. Our in-house contributing editor can help polish your work once submitted.

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# International

## Iran executes two teens for homosexuality

Two gay teenagers, one aged 18 and the other believed to be 16 or 17, were hanged July 19 in Edalat (Justice) Square in the city of Mashhad in north-east Iran. Their crime, decreed Court No. 19, which imposed the death sentences under Islamic Sharia law, was homosexuality.

An appeal for leniency based on the age of the condemned was rejected, according to Ruhollah Rezazadeh, attorney for the younger of the two. The British gay rights group Outrage! reported that the youth were subjected to 228 lashes and held in prison for as long as 14 months prior to the executions.

Since the Ayatollahs came to power in Iran in 1979, some 4,000 lesbians and gays and as many as 100,000 Iranians have been put to death, reported Peter Tatchell of the London-based Outrage!, citing figures compiled by numerous human rights organizations.

*Editor's note: As Stonewall went to press, several human rights groups have questioned whether the two teens were executed for being homosexual. Research by the International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International has found, so far, that the teens were*

*convicted of and executed for sexually assaulting a 13-year-old male, a crime that occurred when the two teens may have been minors.*

## Court sentences gay man to death by stoning

LAGOS – A 50-year-old man was sentenced to death by stoning by a Nigerian court last month after he admitted in court he had had sex with men.

The man, whose name has not been made public, had been charged with sodomy and brought before a Sharia or Islamic court in northern Nigeria. Following a brief trial he was acquitted.

But, according to a UN report, the judge then asked the man if he had ever had sex with another man. When the man answered yes the judge convicted him of sodomy and sentenced him to death.

Philip Alston, the United Nations special reporter on arbitrary executions has called for an immediate review of the case by the Nigerian government.

"Sodomy cannot be considered one of the most serious crimes for which, under international law, the death penalty can be prescribed," said Alston in a statement after an official tour of Nigeria. "The punishment is wholly disproportionate."

## A REMARKABLE SPEECH

Continued from front page

ety better. Honorable members, there is no damage to marriage or to the concept of family in allowing two people of the same sex to get married. To the contrary, what happens is, this class of Spanish citizens gets the potential to organize their lives with the rights and privileges of marriage and family. There is no danger to the institution of marriage, but precisely the opposite: This law enhances and respects marriage.

"Today, conscious that some people and institutions are in a profound disagreement with this change in our civil law, I wish to express that, like other reforms to the marriage code that preceded this one, this law will generate no evil, that its only consequence will be the avoiding of senseless suffering of decent human beings. A society that avoids senseless suffering of decent human beings is a better society.

"With the approval of this bill, our country takes another step in the path of liberty and tolerance that was begun by the democratic change of government. Our children will look at us incredulously if we tell them that many years ago our mothers had less rights

than our fathers, or if we tell them that people had to stay married against their will even though they were unable to share their lives. Today we can offer them a beautiful lesson: Every right



Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero

gained, each access to liberty has been the result of the struggle and sacrifice of many people that deserve our recognition and praise.

"Today we demonstrate with this bill that societies can better themselves and can cross barriers and create tolerance by putting a stop to the unhappiness and humiliation of some of our citizens. Today, for many of our countrymen, comes the day predicted by Kavafis [the great Greek gay poet] one century ago: 'Later 'twas said of the most perfect society / someone else, made like me / certainly will come out and act freely.'"

## GAY MARRIAGE APPROVED

Continued from front page

ing to the Toronto Globe & Mail and CTV News, 55 percent of those polled earlier this month want a same-sex marriage law to stand. Thirty-nine percent said they favored a repeal, and 6 percent were undecided.

If elected prime minister, the Conservative party leader Stephen Harper has said he would try to repeal the law.

"For [Harper] to win he has to get the middle ground and folks in the middle are sick of this debate," Arron said, who noted that Harper's popularity sinks when he raises the gay marriage issue.

Many Canadians view opposition to marriage equality as a wedge issue, designed to distract and divide voters, he said.

When asked why Canada differs from the United States on the gay marriage question, Emily Turk of Canadians for Equal Marriage said their conservative party is not as influenced by religion as the U.S. Republican Party. While many voted along party lines, not all conservatives voted against the bill to recognize gay marriage, she said.

"Our right and our left are not quite as polarized [as in the U.S.]," she said. "The Conservative Party is split amongst themselves."

Canada's gay marriage debate was at times contentious. Recently a conserva-

tive, religious organization, Marriage Canada, started a letter-writing campaign to urge Queen Elizabeth to intervene.

Premier Ralph Klein of Alberta had publicly opposed recognizing gay marriage but he has said he will respect the law.

"This is federal legislation," Klein's spokesperson Jerry Bellikka told the Blade. "We're not lawbreakers here."

Brian Rushfeldt, executive director of Canada Family Action Coalition, said that his organization would now fight to overturn the bill, which became law when it received royal assent on Wednesday. Unlike the United States, Canada is run by a "fascist-type liberal government," Rushfeldt said.

"There are other solutions to the problem of homosexuals supposedly wanting to be equal," he said.

Canada's Catholic Church has also been vocal in its opposition. Charlie Angus, a member of Parliament, was denied Holy Communion for his support of the bill.

While opponents of marriage equality pledge to kick into high gear, Canadians for Equal Marriage happily shut their doors, Arron said.

"Our goal has been accomplished," Arron said. "We will close down."

Elizabeth Weill-Greenberg can be reached at eweill-greenberg@washblade.com.



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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Hello, goodbye to gay TV landmarks

### As gay networks arrive, "Queer as Folk" and "Six Feet Under" depart

by Damon Romine

It's been quite a queer summer. And I mean that in a good way.

MTV Networks made history in June with the launch of Logo, the first basic cable channel specifically for a lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) audience. In the cable spectrum, Logo joins pay channels here! and Q Television, which both went to round-the-clock LGBT programming last year.

Also this summer, we've been treated to new seasons of Showtime's "Queer as Folk" and HBO's "Six Feet Under." They are, sadly, the final episodes as each comes to an end this month.

#### PROGRAM NOTES:

"Queer as Folk" will close its five-season run on Sunday, Aug. 7 at 10 p.m. The finale will be preceded by a half-hour special "Queer as Folk: Saying Goodbye" at 9:30 p.m.

"Six Feet Under" will air its series finale on Sunday, Aug. 21 at 9 p.m. The broadcast will be preceded by the one-hour special "Six Feet Under: 2001-2005" at 8 p.m.

The tremendous hours of new programs on the gay cable networks may help fill the void left by the departures of "QAF" and "SFU," but it won't make saying goodbye any easier. In their own ways, each show was historic television, holding up a mirror which allowed gays and lesbians to REALLY see ourselves on TV.

Since its premiere in 2000, "QAF" has been an unabashed and unashamed depiction of relationships amongst a group of Pittsburgh friends. The show presented their world with an honesty and candor never before seen on television.

With "QAF," executive producers Ron Cowen and Dan Lipman – partners both personally and professionally for over 25 years ("An Early Frost," "Sisters") – not only brought the word "queer" back into vogue, but gave us a series wherein gays and lesbians are multidimensional characters who work, love, create families and have sex. This was a series where gay characters were not relegated to the role of wisecracking neighbor or supportive best friend.

An unflinching slice of gay life, the show never purported to represent our entire community, but "QAF" still polarized the very audience it portrayed. Some viewers loved the show's soap



photo by L. Pief Weyman / Showtime

Queer as Folk's Hal Sparks, left, and Robert Gant

opera-like elements. Some hated the fact that at times drugs and promiscuous sex seemed glamorized. Many appreciated the fact the show included lesbian characters. And others argued the series belied its Pittsburgh locale with an all-white cast.

Love it or hate it, the show has evolved over five seasons to provide something for almost everyone. The freewheeling bedroom antics remain intact, but the characters have grown and faced many complex issues affecting our community: relationships, commitment, discrimination, hate crimes, adoption, custody battles, HIV, drug addiction, and death, to name a few. Heading into the finale, the characters find themselves embroiled in the



photo by John P. Johnson / HBO

Six Feet Under's Michael C. Hall, left, and Mathew St. Patrick

debate over marriage equality as they lobby against an anti-gay referendum.

After "QAF's" somewhat shocking debut – audiences had never seen depictions of sex between men on series television before – a new drama the fol-

lowing year about life and death seemed almost tame by comparison. But "Six Feet Under" was groundbreaking in its own right. Created by Alan Ball ("American Beauty") in 2001, the show at its core is a family drama where two of the main characters happen to be gay.

People tuned in to watch a series that broke convention and took them on a journey with quirky and engrossing stories. The saga about the funeral-home-owning Fisher family includes gay son David and his African-American partner Keith – three-dimensional characters who showcase the complexity and diversity of our community.



photo by Norman Jean Roy / Showtime

Queer as Folk's Thea Gill, left, Keegan/Logan Hoover and Michelle Clunie

Every member of the Fisher clan has experienced romantic upheavals, but David and Keith have sustained a long-term relationship that is neither stereotypical nor perfect. The couple has dealt with real issues like religion, race, monogamy and violence. As the final episodes unfold, David and Keith are focused on having a family of their own, having spent this season looking at options such as surrogacy, foster care and adoption.

Anyone who questions the importance of having complex, textured characters like David and Keith on a successful show only has to look at a recent study out of the University of Minnesota. Researchers measured the

attitudes of 150 students about gay men. After the students watched 10 episodes of "SFU" and were tested again, there was a statistically significant reduction in their reported prejudice. That's the power of television in changing hearts and minds.

"QAF" will go down in history as TV's first gay drama that pushed through barriers and broke new ground. "SFU" will forever be an example of an ensemble show that successfully integrated our stories, depicting the diversity of our community and the value of our families. For many different reasons we're grateful to have had them as part of our lives. (Dare we dream of the reunion movies a decade from now: "Queer as Old Folk" and "Really Six Feet Under"?) Long after they are gone, the influence of these two shows will continue. Would the triumvirate of Logo, here! and Q Television even exist without the success of these shows? Would Bravo's "Queer Eye" or Showtime's "The L Word"? Probably not.

It's been an amazing five years when it comes to the progress we've made on cable television, while our portrayals on the broadcast networks have declined over the same period of time. With the end of "QAF" and "SFU," and the series finale of "Will and Grace" on NBC in May, a huge void will be left when it comes to LGBT images on mainstream TV.

The magic of television is its power to offer a broad audience a glimpse of our lives, and show everyone that LGBT people have many of the same hopes and dreams (and hormones) as straight people.

When our stories are not told, the implicit message is that our stories are not worth telling. But "Queer as Folk" and "Six Feet Under" have shown that our stories are interesting, engrossing and capable of transforming the way people see us.

The recent setbacks we've suffered in our quest for equality make it clear: we cannot take our visibility for granted. Having three niche networks devoted to us is a major leap forward, but the other cable and broadcast networks must continue to step up to the plate and share our stories. And we, in turn, need to support those shows whose commitment to inclusion is expanding acceptance and understanding of us in the larger culture.

Damon Romine is the Entertainment Media Director for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD). For more information, please visit <http://www.glaad.org>.



## 2005 amazing gay women in showbiz

For their first three years, POWER UP's honored list was the "10 Most Powerful Gay Women in Entertainment." The original award received national attention through its "Saturday Night Live" spoof with host Ellen DeGeneres, and was further recognized by then Democratic presidential candidate Howard Dean, who contacted each of the awardees.

Last year, POWER UP (Professional Organization of Women in Entertainment Reaching Up) modified the award to look for Amazing Gay Women who are working, creating and changing lives as they make their way up the ladder of success in the entertainment world.

POWER UP members chose from a slate of nominees, selecting the winners for 2005. Awards will be presented at the Fifth Annual Power Premiere Ceremony in November.

### And the winners are . . .

**Jamie Babbit**, director: Her body of work includes "But I'm a Cheerleader," "Nip/Tuck," "The Bernie Mac Show," "Malcolm in the Middle" and "Popular." Currently Jamie is in post-production for "The Quiet," starring Elisha Cubert and Edie Falco

**Lauren Lloyd**, manager/producer: Her achievements include "Cellular," "Mermaids," "Drop Zone," "The Butcher's Wife," "Dream Lover," "The Fires Within" and "Freddie Got Fingered." Lauren is in pre-production on "Smoke" for Gold Circle, "Diary" at Sony Pictures and "Pop Warner" with Mel Gibson.

**Jane Lynch**, actor/comedian: She played in "A Mighty Wind," "Best in Show," "Two and a Half Men," "The L Word," Margaret Cho's "Celeste and Bam Bam," "The 40 Year Virgin," "Fifty Pills" and POWER UP's "PROM-troversy" and "Little Black Boot." Jane wrote and starred in the award-winning "Oh Sister, My Sister."

**Gwen Marcus**, executive vice president, Showtime Network, Inc.: Gwen is the company's chief legal officer in charge of the Network's human resources and administration

department. Gwen was a part of the development team that created the groundbreaking series "Queer as Folk" and "The L Word."

**Roberta Marie Munroe**, writer/filmmaker/programmer: Roberta is one of three short-film programmers at the Sundance Film Festival. This past year she wrote and directed her first short film "Dani & Alice," a Fox Searchlab program.

**Eileen Opatut**, senior vice president of original programming, LOGO TV: Eileen began at Nickelodeon, where she developed and acquired material for the cable network, then moved to the BBC and then to the Food Network. She is currently with managing creative projects at LOGO, the new gay and lesbian channel that launched this summer.

**Angela Robinson**, writer/director/editor/producer: POWER UP's multi award winning short "D.E.B.S.," Screen Gems feature "D.E.B.S." and Disney's "Herbie: Fully Loaded." Recently, Angela signed a two-year, first look pact with Disney that covers her work as a writer, director, and producer

**Jenny Stewart**, entertainment editor: Jenny is the industry insider for the Entertainment channel on PlanetOut and Gay.com. She is also the creator and driving force behind RockOut, the first-ever music channel to spotlight and highlight up and coming gay and lesbian musicians.

**Dannielle Thomas**, manager/producer: In the spring of 2006, Dannielle will produce the Dusty Springfield project with Universal Pictures, Marc Platt and Kristin Chenoweth. POWER UP film grantee Jessica Sharzer ("Fly Cherry") will write and direct. Dannielle is part of the management company Untitled Entertainment.

**Jenny Wall**, entrepreneur/marketer: She marketed HBO's "Angels in America," Sundance Channel's "OUTLOUD" and Paramount Picture's "Mean Girls." She is an owner of Crew Integrated Marketing; their clients include HBO, TNT, the Discovery Channel, Sony, the Sundance Channel, Samuel Goldwyn and CBS.

POWER UP's main purpose has been to produce films through its film grant program. The organization won the PlanetOut Grand Prize Short Film Award in 2002, 2003, 2004 & 2005, and has produced an Official



Jane Lynch



Angela Robinson



Jenny Wall

Selection of the Sundance Film Festival in 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005.

For more information, visit [www.power-up.net](http://www.power-up.net)

## Artist Trails roams again

North Country Artist Trails, a self-guided arts and crafts tour, continues this month. All participating sites will be open the weekend of Aug. 26-28.



The studios and galleries of working artists feature paintings, drawings, digital art, wearable art, recycled art, sculpture, photography, woodworking, jewelry, ceramics and more.

Regular days and hours of studio and gallery operations vary; visit [www.northcountryartisttrails.com](http://www.northcountryartisttrails.com) for directions and individual studio information or call (509) 684-3002 for more information.

## Priscilla comes to Spokane

CenterStage Theatre's Pride and Joy Movie Night on Aug. 23 features "Priscilla, Queen of the Desert."

Social hour starts at 5:30 p.m.; the movie begins at 7:30 p.m. Appetizers and drink specials are available.

A 25 percent discount off of Ella's Supper Club dinners and appetizers is available, before or after the movie, with the purchase of the \$5 ticket.

Beat the heat with fun this

## August in Spokane

"Spokane. Near nature. Near perfect."

**Friday the 5th** – Laugh 'til you cry at "*Suds*" - *The Musical!* presented by CenterStage. The dinner theater show starts at 6 p.m. tonight and plays most Thursdays and Fridays thru Aug. 18.

**Saturday the 6th** – Enjoy entertainment and "Get Visible" at the 11th annual *Unity in the Community* at Liberty Park. The event lasts from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Sunday the 14th** – Snack and smack at the Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane's annual *Community Picnic and Softball Game* at the Peaceful Valley Community Center starting at noon.

**Tuesday the 16th** – Join families and friends at PFLAG's *Family Potluck Picnic* at the Manito Park Pavilion at 6 p.m.

**Tuesday the 20th** – Socialize with your friends and watch *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* at *Pride & Joy* movie night at CenterStage. Social time at 5:30 p.m.; film at 7:30 p.m.

This message is presented as a Community Service by

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## Illuminations

# Communities of faith: There's room for all in a house of God

by Bryce Hughes

My journey to Olympia last March for the Washington State Supreme Court hearing on marriage equality just happened to coincide with a rally aimed at protecting what those on the right side of the fence call "traditional marriage."



Bryce Hughes

Dubbed the "Mayday for Marriage," the gathering brought evangelical Christians from all over to Capitol Hill by the droves. They prayed, they spoke out, they marched and they sang. My heart sank as I watched these people, surrounded by symbols I cherish in my faith tradition, denounce my equality. Where do they get the right to use my faith against me?

I am a Roman Catholic. I belong to a church that has been notorious for standing in the way of lesbian and gay equality. Our cardinals elected one of the most vocally anti-gay popes in church history as many of us who belong to the *sensus fidelium* (a church term for the faithful) could only stand by and watch. I have always believed the Catholic Church will one day see the value of affirming lesbians and gays as faithful members of the Church. Unfortunately I know that day is a long time coming. So why do I continue to profess my faith if my church doesn't accept me?

My faith as a Roman Catholic has been a source of inspiration and grounding for me. Much of this is due to my upbringing within the tradition of the Catholic Church.

What has been helpful to me was finding individuals and communities who profess the tradition of the Roman Catholic Church but at the same time openly affirm the lives of lesbian and gay Catholics. Many of these individuals at one point or another have been shunned or disenfranchised by the Church. I know many others who simply fled their faith communities because of the open bigotry that is preached from the pulpit. Nothing is more tragic than when a person of faith is unwelcome in a house of God, a victim of religious conceit.

We all have a place in our communities of faith. No person or institution has the right to tell you otherwise. For instance, from a Christian perspective, Mark 2:27 reads, "Jesus said to them, 'The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.'" In other words, our religious institutions are of our creation and it is their responsibility to respond to the experiences and perspectives of their members, not vice versa. Jesus' words echoed what all our faith institutions, whether they be Christian or not, need to hear: We deserve a place at the table.

We can start out by seeking groups within our various traditions who affirm us as full members. This will give us the chance to reclaim the inspiration and grounding needed in dark times such as these, and times are dark indeed. Look at the world around you. Violence against GLBT youth is on the rise because our religious and civic leaders are openly preaching prejudice and bigotry from the pulpit. Voters in 11 states last November loudly declared that preserving our inequality was important enough to enshrine in their state constitutions. Our own faith communities are using the traditions

we grew up in as weapons against us to perpetuate their prejudice.

By coming back to our institutions of faith, we gain the tools to show that faith cannot be used against, only in support of, our equality. We are given a new voice against the oppressive establishment. It is our duty to call these institutions back to their roots and demand reform. If we arm ourselves with our faith, our

opponents can no longer use it to oppress us further. I choose to be Roman Catholic, you may choose to be Muslim, but the more we show other people that yes, you can be queer and a person of faith, the closer we are to liberation.

*Bryce Hughes is Special Project Coordinator with AmeriCorps Campus Compact at Gonzaga University's GLBT Resource Center. He accepts e-mails at hughesb@gonzaga.edu.*

## It's Your Life

# The "perfect" relationship

by Paul A. Gilmore

"Whatever relationship you are presently in is the 'perfect' relationship for who and where you are today," says Janet Roberts, a local licensed independent clinical social worker in private practice. She continues,



Paul A. Gilmore

"We are drawn to what we need today. If one is needy in a relationship, then one will be drawn to those that need to give; any relationship is symbiotic — mutually sustaining."

Casey Jackson, another well known local licensed independent clinical social worker, adds, "Relationship is a continuum, not a point of arrival, and all relationships are 'healthy' in a subjective manner in that we settle into a relationship that meets our needs, whether those needs be healthy or unhealthy."

So I asked these two experts to describe what a relatively healthy relationship might look like. How may one recognize an unhealthy relationship? What does one do to move toward a healthier relationship? Their answers may surprise you, as they did me. It is my hope that our relationships may be strengthened by what you may learn here.

Both Roberts and Jackson agree that healthy relationship begins with the individual. If you like and respect yourself, you are more likely to find yourself in a healthy, dynamic relationship. What you want is a supportive relationship that nurtures mutual individuality with interdependence as opposed to independent individuals who are simply sharing space and time.

Jackson emphasizes the individual's responsibility to know what she or he wants and does not

want in a relationship. What would a viable relationship actually look like?

Jackson suggests that individuals or couples sit down with a pen and paper and write out everything that each considers important in a relationship. They should identify priorities and the foundation upon which the relationship will be erected. They should each draw a template, so to speak, and then overlay them.

Jackson says this exercise helps some couples see that theirs is not really a good match and they will then dissolve the relationship. Others use their understanding of each member's needs and desires to discover where there is room for compromise and they will go on to build even stronger relationships.

Healthy relationship is fluid, ever evolving, changing, responsive to what each member contributes. Or, as Roberts puts it, "It takes a little shit to feed the garden and it takes a little shit to feed the relationship." A healthy relationship feeds on a little adversity, which draws the two together for the common good. Too much "fertilizer," however, will burn a relationship as surely as it will burn a garden. Then you may get relationships that are exploitive, controlling or manipulative, or individually self-centered, self-serving or self-protective.

Getting the two counselors to give me succinct points of a healthy versus unhealthy relationship took a little arm-twisting; neither wanted to provide the arrows partners might later fling at one another. So here's the deal: You may not use the following information to blame or judge or hurt the other half of your relationship; you may use it to assist your understanding of your contributions to your relationship.

Healthy	Unhealthy
Balanced	Stagnant
Supportive of the individual	Self-centered
Trustful	Secretive
Shared interest	Manipulative

Continued on next page



HIV/AIDS Services for the Walla Walla Valley

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Continued from previous page

Healthy	Unhealthy
Productive	Stymied
Safe to be your self	Unresolved resentment
Honest	Controlling
Appreciation	Disrespect
Giving	Withholding of intimacy
Spiritual	Violence

This is not an exhaustive list. You may wish to add other elements. The caveat here is that you look at yourself first, for this is where any correction must begin.

The great "aha" for me in conversing with these two counselors was the realization that relationships are neither healthy or unhealthy. The individuals within the relationships are healthy or unhealthy. If I am floating from partner to partner to partner, claiming to be searching for that ever elusive 'perfect' relationship, perhaps the problem is closer to home than I realize or want to realize. A repetitive pattern of broken or dysfunctional relationships should be my first clue.

So what do I do about it? What resources are available to me and you?

Good friends are an excellent resource for casual self-study, suggests Jackson. But self-observation is as simple as looking in the mirror every once in a while: If you like what you see, great; if not, then do something about it.

Like it or not, we as individuals have the responsibility and the capacity to make changes. We have to set priorities, elevating what is important and sidelining everything else.

If you find you are experiencing a redundant pattern of undesirable events, then it may be time to seek professional assistance. Professionals may provide observations and tools that escape the casual friend. Or they may help you identify and prioritize your needs.

Stonewall News presents a resource guide each month. The Inland Northwest Business Alliance publishes an annual directory that includes counseling service providers.

Casey Jackson, LCISW, is available at (509) 981-9851. He serves clients of all ages, individuals, couples and families.

Janet Roberts, LCISW, is available at (509) 838-4886. She too serves clients of all ages, individuals, couples and families.

*Paul Gilmore is a certified Phlebotomist and Lab Assistant with the nation's largest reference laboratory. He makes his home in Spokane, Wash. You may reach him in care of Stonewall News Northwest.*



# Tell Trinity

## Would have, could have, should have

Dear Trinity,

Seventeen years ago in college I fell for someone but never asked them out. Recently, I researched their name, called and we spoke. They were partnered with kids. I'm still single and still feel like I missed out on a great romance. Now what?

Yours, The 17-Year Itch.  
Toronto, ON

Dear Itchy,

Yes, you may have screwed up years ago but it's too late now and your recent conversation will just have to be enough! It was a lifetime ago, Pumpkin, and you don't need to become an old obsessive fool or do you? If everything happens for a reason and life's a great big game then there'll be other opportunities you don't want to miss by looking backwards! So close that chapter and look forward ... gracefully!

Love, Trinity

Dearest Trinity,

I dated a guy for months and then he suddenly broke it off. Even though he was always taking my money, I'm having a terrible time saying, "my ex". Help!

Sincerely, In Pain  
South Hampton, NY

Dearest In Pain,

Yes, for the first few weeks, saying, "my ex ..." is just like saying, "my dead lover." But someone and something HAS died. So take time to cry, breathe and laugh. It really does get easier every day as long as you keep

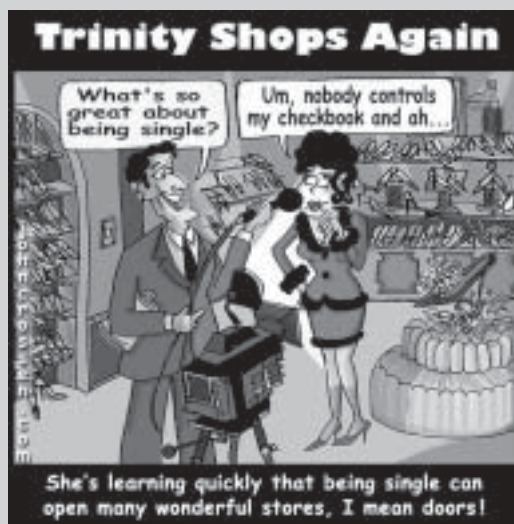
saying, "Being single is great! (And) Having control over my money is ... even greater!"

Kisses, Trinity

Hey Trinity,

I keep being told to use the internet to meet people. But why bother?

InterNot  
San Juan, Puerto Rico



## Dating Dilemma No. 134

Hey InterNot,

Internet dating, it's like picking a slot machine, sometimes there's no connection, sometimes there's a great connection and sometimes there's a religious fanatic trying to ruin your day. But as long as you don't become addicted and are cautious to read between the lines, you may meet someone who treats you naughty, I mean nice.

P.S., always end e-mails with a question so your contact has something to reply.

XOXO, Trinity

Dearest Trinity,

I met a restaurant reviewer who invited me on a dinner date. But what if I'm too picky or not knowledgeable enough? What if I don't like the food? There are so many ifs!

Sincerely, What If  
Baltimore, MD

Dearest What If,

If you're nervous about your eating etiquette open a bottle of wine and start reading:

## Trinity's Important "ifs" To Ask Yourself On A Dinner Date

1. If I'm picky about WHAT I EAT why not ... check the menu before entering a restaurant or sitting down.

2. If I'm picky about WHERE I SIT (for whatever reason) why not ... ask to look around the restaurant first and pick a comfortable place before committing.

3. If my CELLPHONE RINGS during dinner why not ... turn it OFF for the rest of the meal!

4. If I'm EATING SEEDED FRUIT why not ... make a fist and spit the seeds quietly into the palm of my hand and then nonchalantly place them into a napkin.

5. If I'm EXPERIENCING BAD FOOD and/or BAD SERVICE why not ... be light, fun and forgiving, at least for tonight, and stylishly ask for a different meal or waiter.

6. If I must EXCUSE MYSELF to use the bathroom why not ... leave my date something to read.

7. If I'm MORE INTERESTED IN the people at the next table or walking by then why not ... pull out a gun and shoot my date so he or she can be put out of his or her misery from being in my company.

8. If I'm trying to WATCH MY WEIGHT why not ... have a little dessert instead of making my date eat one alone, just for tonight!

9. If I'm DONE EATING why not ... place the silverware criss-cross on the plate so the waiter knows I'm done.

10. Lastly, if my eating companion OFFERS TO PAY the bill why not ... offer to leave the tip!

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

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# REVIEWS & PREVIEWS

## BOOKS & VIDEOS

Book and video reviews by Christopher Lawrence

### Deadline

By Steven Cooper

*Alyson Books, 295 pages*

Murder mysteries somehow seem more personal when one or more characters are gay. We have the good fortune of reading another page-turner from the author who brought us *Saving Valencia* and *With You in Spirit*.

This account is related to us through the narrative of one of the murder victims, a leading Boston television news reporter, Damon Fitzgerald, who was investigating a murder case. Astonished and surprised by his own demise, he is now more determined than ever to get to the bottom of both murders. How to do that from the great beyond is where the fun begins.

The chapters are short and packed with multihued character and clues related to each of the incidents. His quirky and cynical take on the absurdity of television news and his gay-related humor create a colorful story line peppered with deadpan ribaldry.

The rhythm of his style moves us along quickly from scene to scene. Be warned that his plot twists are, as usual, both staggering and hilarious. I felt like I was strapped in, but without control over the careening vehicle.

Thoughtfully folded inside these pages is a sweet and gentle perspective about the afterlife that might enchant the child within you. If you have ever wondered at the beauty of starlight, you will prefer Cooper's vision to anything science has yet revealed.

I can recommend this book unequivocally and equally as much for the pleasure of unraveling the puzzle as for the sardonic humor. This may not be a mystery to loan to your mother, but you can count on being entertained! – C.L.

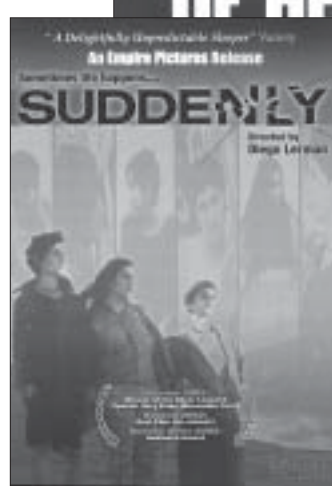
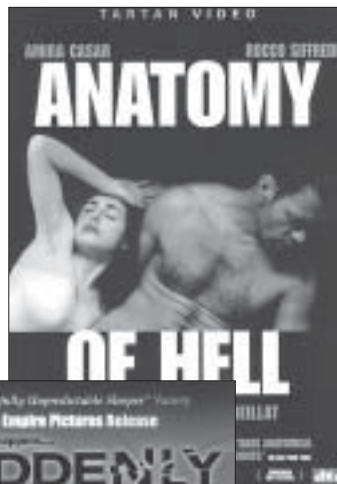
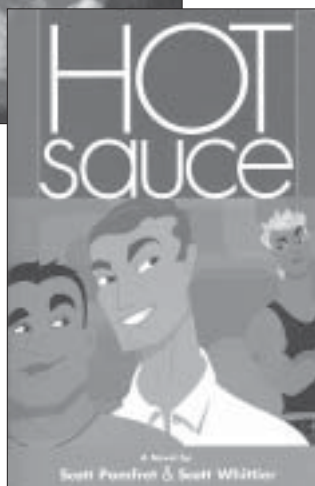
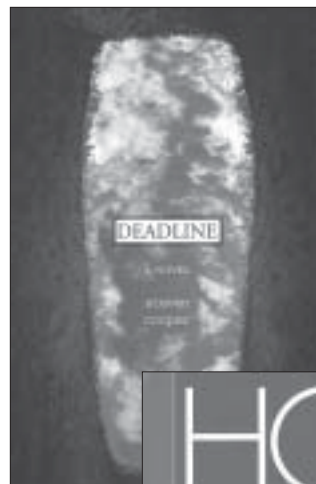
### Hot Sauce

By Scott Pomfret, Scott Whittier

*Warner Books, 245 pages*

For years, the closest relative to romance novels for gay men was fairly crude fictional pornography. Each time I read one of these two Scotts' novels, I momentarily muse that we took so long to become an obvious target of this market. *Spare Parts*, reviewed last year, was my introduction to the genre, and once again, I happily took to the recliner for their newest and very welcome distraction.

The leading characters are all 30-something hunks with perfect hair, ex-



quisite physiques, daunting smiles and other very daunting attributes, but I ask: Where is the harm in embracing a little fantasy for a couple of hours?

Although this is not a novel of deep philosophical meaning, it is a satisfying read; a blossoming and possibly threatened gay relationship in the context of pitting classes against each other in the upper society of Boston. Carefully crafted to appeal to the sensibilities of the upwardly mobile, some of the characters barely rise above being stereotypes, which works well enough to create disharmony.

The writing style is witty, clever, and sometimes catty, with just enough conflict to pique your interest between the hot, steamy and explicit love scenes, which can compete with the best of *Friction* and still grant us the warmth, tenderness and completion of an ideal love life.

Consider curling up on the couch for a little down time or adding a boyfriend to make it some 'up' time. I liked it and hope you enjoy the guilty pleasure of this gay romance novel. – C.L.

### Anatomy of Hell

Directed by Catherine Breillat

*Tartan Video, 80 min.*  
*French with English subtitles*

In this troubling tale of initiation, a woman approaches and hires a man in

a bar where men meet other men for sex. They make a deal that he will "watch her where she is unwatchable," because, as a man who dislikes women, he will be impartial.

Opening with oral sex and a poorly attempted suicide in the first five minutes, scenes range from what feels pornographic to darkly shadowed excursions into primitive elements of the psyche. I suspect many of the scenes will be too difficult to bear for the faint of heart or weak of stomach.

Rocco Siffredi and Amira Casar are daring and excellent in this film about the confrontation of two natures; where female weakness begets male brutality. The explicit sex with full frontal nudity, including arousal with penetration is, at once, both horrifying and fascinating. When faced with the "unwatchable," which could easily be branded as obscenity, I realized that the filmmaker's intention was for the viewer to transcend the more obvious. Instead, she wants us to focus on the mystical underpinnings of shame we have inherited from the historically fundamentalist view of contrary genders, whether dealing with gay or straight, male or female sexuality.

Many reviewers branded this video as pretentious. I disagree. If you dare to check out this provocative offering, I suggest you watch the interview with Catherine Breillat to fully comprehend her moody revelation, which I found

to be both crude and poetically sensitive. Not for children! – C.L.

### Suddenly

Directed by Diego Lerman

*Empire Pictures, 94 min.*  
*(Spanish with English subtitles)*

Marcia, our frumpy salesgirl, has been forsaken by her boyfriend of two years and is leading a life of quiet desperation filled with a mundane daily existence. She is suddenly the object of desire of one of the street waif/lesbian/punkers, Mao, and her equally boyish partner, Lenin, who stalk her. After a short confrontation about whether she is willing to have sex with Mao, a complete stranger, she declines, and is coerced at the point of a switchblade into a road trip, during which she is bound and blindfolded.

To prove her love for Marcia and attain the rights to savage her body, Mao decides to realize her new love victim's dream and surprise her when they bring her across Argentina to the ocean. Convoluted? Yes.

This road movie is filmed entirely in grainy black and white. The high contrast sacrifices much of the detail in the more poorly-lit shots. The grittiness is offset beautifully by some of the cinematographer's choices of scenes by making great use of the monochromatic elements of visual composition.

This will never rise to the level of a cult film, but it has its moments during the processes that are typical of road movies. We see the changes in each character as they become aware of how our lives are dependent on having companionship that serves as family and how painful that loss can be. This film has some merit regarding sexual orientation and sense of identity, but we have seen others that might be worth watching more than once. – C.L.

### GLBT Book Group

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

Upcoming reviews include:

**Aug. 3:** *Three Junes* by Glass.

**Sept. 7:** Karen Joy Fowler's *Jane Austen Book Club*.



# REVIEWS & PREVIEWS

## MUSIC

Music reviews by Graham Ames

### The Beekeeper

Tori Amos

Epic Records

In 1991, when MTV actually played videos, I caught the world premiere of Tori's first video, "Silent All These Years." Five minutes later, I was at the record store purchasing "Little Earth-

quakes." After hearing it, I gave three of my best friends a money-back guarantee on this amazing CD – if they bought it and didn't like it, I would buy their copies from them. I never had to make good on that offer. "Under the Pink" was equally stunning: intense, nearly classical pi-

ano work, therapist-couch-inspired lyrics, with emotions ranging from black despair to sexy playfulness. A couple of clunky CDs followed and she dropped off my musical radar.

On this, her eighth studio release, Tori seems to have grown a lot, and not always in good ways. Her sonic palette has broadened; she continues to redefine the Concept Album. Unfortunately, from the 20 tracks containing nearly 80 minutes of music, I cannot pick out one highlight. A musical line or lyrical idea starts to reel me in, only to drop me a second later. Perhaps her growth has been successful, but there seems to be less fire in her art. I think her early works are ready for another listen, so I can remember why she thrilled me all those years ago. – G.A.

### Little Star

Girlyman

Daemon Records / [www.girlyman.com](http://www.girlyman.com)

This Brooklyn-based band is back

with their second album in two years, and it is just as sweet as the first. "Little Star" builds on the buzz started with "Remember Who I Am," full of the same perfect three-part harmonies and insightful folksy tunes that made them the sweetheart newcomer group of 2004.

Trading off writing duties, and swapping any number of instruments among themselves, Girlyman's three

members deliver 12 utterly delicious, gender-bending tracks just in time to open for Indigo Girls on their current tour. After performing excellent new tracks such as "Young James Dean" (by Ty, a butchie dyke who gets thrown out of women's restrooms across the country), "On The Air" (by Nate, who also sang a scorching "Son Of A

Preacher Man" to close the set), and "Speechless" (by Doris, whose energy was infectious even far from the stage), the trio was overwhelmed by audience members seeking autographs, uncommon for an opening act. To the crowd's great delight, Girlyman was also brought onstage several times during

Indigo Girls' set for vocal and instrumental support.

Do yourself a favor – pick up "Little Star" or Girlyman's first CD, and learn about this remarkable group before everyone else. You'll be ahead of the crowd, and proud to say so. – G.A.

### Careless Love

Madeline Peyroux

Rounder Records

Madeline Peyroux's (pronounced "Peru") sophomore release hit the shelves nearly eight years after her debut, and it is worth the wait.

After making a huge splash with "Dreamland," she disappeared back to Paris, working the streets and clubs and further refining her craft. Now she has returned, and "Careless Love" is pretty close to perfect.

The timeless quality of these 12 tracks is created by her expert backing quartet, the selection of songs (from writers ranging from W.C. Handy to Bob Dylan to Hank Williams), and

Madeline's amazing vocals, which recall Billy Holliday without becoming a cheap imitation. The atmosphere is light and bright with a touch of melancholy; this is evening music for dinner parties or jazz cafés, not smoky, basement after-midnight tunes. Standout tracks are difficult to choose, but Dylan's "You're Gonna Make Me Lonesome When You Go," the torchy "J'ai Deux Amors" and the country-jazz of the title track all deserve special mention.

Only 30 years old, Madeline has many years left to share her gifts. "Careless Love" is her second album, and her vast potential is only beginning to show. I just hope to hear more from this wonderful young artist before another eight years have passed. – G.A.

### Who's Got Trouble?

Shivaree

Zoë / Rounder Records

As soon as I heard Ambrosia Parsley's voice, I knew I'd heard it before.

Sure enough, Shivaree's "Goodnight Moon" was featured in "Kill Bill: Vol. 2." That distinctive voice is the centerpiece of "Who's Got Trouble," the first U.S. release in five years from this fascinating, darkly witty combo.

Reminiscent at times of Sam Phillips' vocals and sparse instrumentation, Shivaree creates torch songs for modern times. Black humor plays with and against the wide-open arrangements, with songs such as "Lost In A Dream" and "Little Black Mess" painting a quirky picture of love lost, unrequited or abused. The intent of this album is to throw things out of kilter. In fact, when the group is being their most conventional, as in "It

All Got Black," is when they are least interesting. But when they fire up the strange, the sparks are illuminating. In "I Will Go Quietly," the singer promises "I'll stay screaming inside your sleep / I'll stamp out the moon and I'll shear all of your sheep," which should keep the Serta mascots worried for a while.

"Who's Got Trouble" isn't an album for everyone, but everyone should hear it at least once, perhaps twice. I think I'll listen to it over and over and over again. – G.A.

### Ultimate Kylie

Kylie Minogue

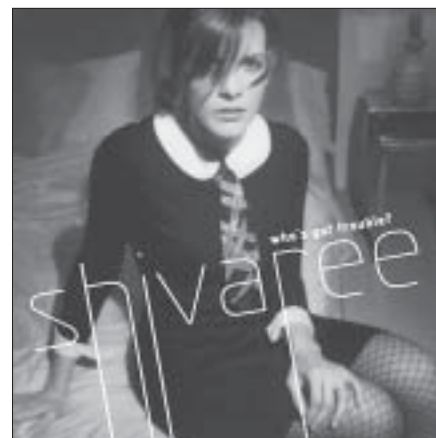
Parlophone Records

DancePop: you either love it or you hate it. If you love it, then "Ultimate Kylie" is the absolute perfect addition to your collection. Spanning nearly 20 years across 33 tracks, this two-disc set features every Kylie single, plus two obligatory new tracks to grab any completists' attention. You've never heard of Kylie? Well, the rest of the world has: outside the U.S., she's one of the most successful recording artists ever, and is a huge gay icon on the order of Madonna or Cher.

The album is happily divided in half, chronologically, creating a kind of "early Beatles, later Beatles" effect. The first disc is an enjoyable flood of '80s production (not a bad thing, really), while the second disc documents her career after she left her original production team behind and developed her own sound. The gems are in her newer material, including "Can't Get

You Out Of My Head," "Love At First Sight" (with great headtrip sonics), "Kids" (a duet with Brit-throb Robbie Williams) and the Paula Abdul-esque "Put Yourself In My Place."

Whether you shuffle it into your collection via your iPod or enjoy this monster assemblage of huge Euro-hits on its own, "Ultimate Kylie" is great fun and well worth seeking out. – G.A.





## Garden Clippings

# Anniversaries and endings

by Michael Loundagin



August 2 will be my first anniversary as a nursery worker. I'm wondering if a deal will be made of it (doubtful, unless I make a deal of it, and how self-

serving is that?).

I can't wrap my head around how fortunate I am to be doing what I'm doing now while wondering what the (expletive here) I was doing for nearly 20 years before this. Actually, I know what I was doing: Learning. Watching. Connecting. Dreaming. But also ... stressing.

A year ago my blood pressure averaged 145/100. Now, it's 122/78, with a pulse of 58. And the work clothes I bought a year ago are way too large now. Isn't that sad? People come up to the counter and say things like "It must be so much fun to work here" or "I'd love to have a job like this, playing with plants all day!"

You see, when people come into a nursery, they are looking to add beauty to their world. Almost always they are in a positive, open frame of mind. Contrast that to law enforcement (something I'd considered): "Wow! Billy and Susie both got straight A's, I got a 20 dollar raise and my cancer's cured! Let's call the cops!"

Not that it's always peaches and cream; sometimes there's yogurt: "I

bought these plants here this morning, and now they're dead. I want a refund." (What happened?) "Nothing. I came here, bought these, put them in my car, went to the mall, played a round of golf, had a late lunch with some friends, went home and found the plants dead in the back seat." (It's in the upper 80s outside ... do you have any idea how hot the inside of your car was today?) "Are you suggesting this is MY fault?!"

No one alive today has seen this. No one alive today will see this again. It's an event of profound importance. I can't comprehend why Matt and Katie haven't appeared at my door to interview me. I'm aghast and agog. It's too much. I feel faint. My bamboo is flowering.

That's right. My bamboo is flowering. Did you gasp? Well, you (expletive here) well should have! Why? OK, listen. When a bamboo plant is born, a little clock is set in it somewhere. Actually, it's more like a time bomb. It goes "tick-tock, tick-tock" for some period of time (like a hundred years) and then BOOM! Procreate, then die! And it's happening, right by my front door! And there is nothing I can do to stop it. The Blue Fountain Bamboo, *fargesia nitida*, is expending itself in one mass sex party, all over the world, with felines, letter carriers and impressionable young children as witnesses. Wanna look? Maybe get some seed? Drop me a line. Gimme a hug. So sad ...

Resident garden guru Michael Loundagin works as a nursery specialist on Spokane's South Hill. He can be reached at [mlaua1034@aol.com](mailto:mlaua1034@aol.com).

## Love in action?

### Gay teen to be released from Tenn. ex-gay facility

by Eartha Jane Melzer

Zach Stark, the Tennessee teenager who blogged about his parents' negative reaction to his coming out, may soon be released from Love in Action, the religious facility that has been working to change his sexual orientation since the beginning of June.

Early last month, a Love in Action administrator said that two male teens in the program were both enrolled for six-week stints in the 'ex-gay' camp and last week in an interview broadcast on the Christian Broadcasting Network, Zach's father, Joe Stark, confirmed his son's identity as one of Love in Action's clients.

"We felt good about Zach coming here ... to let him see for himself the destructive lifestyle, what he has to face in the future, and to give him some options that society doesn't give him today," Stark said.

"Until he turns 18 and he's an adult in the state of Tennessee, I'm respon-

sible for him, and I'm going to see to it that he has all options available to him."

A Los Angeles-based psychologist took issue with the father's statement. "It appears that both Mr. Stark and the LIA director's public comments are highly defensive and indicate that their concern is less for the child's well-being and more for their own purposes," said Paul Chimubulo via e-mail.

"The sort of homophobia they espouse has been shown to be rooted in anxiety and a feeling of threat. ... The gay child's expressions are recognized and interpreted as injurious to the parent's sense of self. With the publicity this has gathered, the father's in-

**In 1997, Smid described to the Memphis Flyer how he believed God helped people overcome homosexuality:**  
**"I'm looking at that wall and suddenly I say it's blue. Someone else comes along and says, 'No, it's gold.' But I want to believe that wall is blue. Then God comes along and He says, 'You're right, John, [that yellow wall] is blue.' That's the help I need. God can help me make that [yellow] wall blue."**



JOHN SMID TALKS HIS WAY OUT OF IT...

ternal anxiety and feelings of threat over his son's gay identity must really be ratcheted up."

It is not yet known what effect the Love in Action experience has had on Zach, who initially blogged that his parents' reaction to his coming out was driving him to suicidal thoughts.

Zach's story has triggered global media coverage about efforts to change sexual orientation, about the "ex-gay" movement that supports these efforts, and about the conflicts that sometimes arise when parents have strong negative reactions to news that their child is gay.

Blogs on the Web, the gay media, the Memphis-area media and mainstream national news outlets, including the New York Times, have covered Zach's story.

In Memphis, Queer Action Coalition formed and held educational demonstrations and has engaged Love in Action staff, the media and the community in dialogue about reparative therapy and its methods.

Continued on next page

# know first

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 STD screening • 324.1600





Continued from previous page

One facet of the public discussion has hinged on the legality and ethics of offering counseling to treat homosexuality.

As a consequence of the publicity around Love in Action, the Tennessee Department of Health began an investigation and notified the unlicensed group that it appeared to be functioning illegally and could potentially be referred to the county district attorney for prosecution.

According to a report in the Memphis Commercial Appeal, Love in Action executive director John Smid said that Love in Action would change its program to remain unregulated by the state.

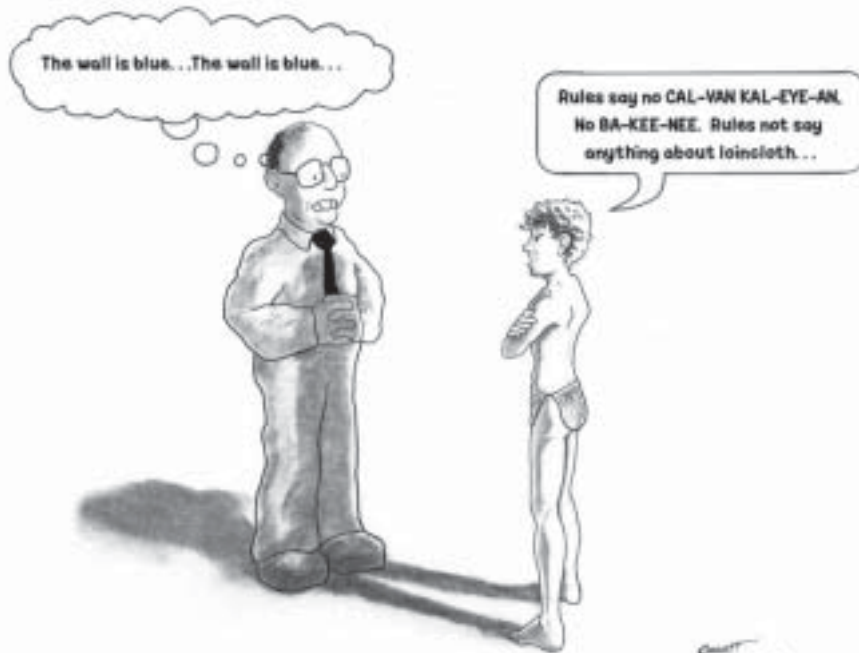
But Andrea Turner, spokesperson for the Tennessee Department of Health, said Love in Action has not yet told the state how it plans to come into compliance with the law.

A staff member at Love in Action said he could not confirm or deny reports that the facility planned to send clients to an off-site facility for drug and alcohol treatment.

A request for an interview with Love in Action administrators was declined because the administrators were busy

preparing to attend Exodus International's Freedom Conference in Asheville, N.C., [July 23-24].

Eartha Jane Melzer can be reached at [emelzer@washblade.com](mailto:emelzer@washblade.com).



**KIDNAPPED AT 17 BY EVIL AMERICAN RELATIVES WHO DISAGREE WITH HIS LIFESTYLE. TARZAN'S SON "BOY" IS TAKEN TO LOVE IN ACTION TO CURE HIM OF TALKING TO ANIMALS, PRAYING TO STRANGE AFRICAN GODS, PAINTING HIS BODY IN TRIBAL COLORS, DANCING SUGGESTIVELY TO THE MUSIC OF JUNGLE DRUMS, AND NOT COMBING HIS HAIR.**

JOHN SMID REALIZES HE FACES A CHALLENGE...

## On-line census focuses on GLBT community

SYRACUSE, NY – One lifestyle to live? The lifestyle of the party? Those phrases don't have much of a ring to them. So it's understandable why gay people chuckle over the saying: Why is it that straight people have lives, and we have lifestyles?

What straight Americans and corporate America need is some information about those lives.

That's the goal of the Gay/Lesbian Consumer Online Census, an annual on-line survey that collects responses from gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) people.

The survey, now in its fifth year, is a joint venture between OpusComm Group and the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University. Last year the survey had approximately 8,000 respondents. This year's version of the survey runs from July 11 to Aug. 22 and invites all GLBTs to log onto [www.glcensus.org](http://www.glcensus.org) to "Stand Up And Be Counted" in the largest annual study of the gay community and their consumer behavior.

Survey responses will help paint a clearer picture of GLBT people – their relationships, their families, their politics and their consumer and media habits.

# 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.

### LIVING

#### 22-Housing for Rent:

##### ROOM FOR RENT

Northside, Mead area; 3-bdrm. home available to gay college student. \$300 a month plus utilities, non-smoking. 994-9321.

### JOB MARKET

#### 31- Help Wanted:

##### ADVERTISING MANAGER WANTED

STONEWALL NEWS Northwest is seeking an experienced, qualified person to fill the position of Advertising Manager. The job entails selling retail and classified display advertising space in this monthly publication as well as other duties. The Advertising Manager should be personable, professional, reliable, motivated, articulate and intelligent. Honesty and integrity in all professional conduct and behavior is expected.

If interested, please e-mail your resume with cover letter to [mail@stonewallnews.net](mailto:mail@stonewallnews.net).

### JOB MARKET

#### 31- Help Wanted:

##### FREELANCE REPORTERS

STONEWALL NEWS Northwest (this publication) seeks freelance reporters who can work on assignment or independently contribute their own work covering GLBTQA events and issues within the Inland Northwest. Stonewall News Northwest is a GLBTQA community-oriented news and events publication. Compensation is negotiable but is generally tied to each piece submitted and published. Our in-house Contributing Editor can help polish your work once submitted.

We seek fair and accurate reporting of diverse GLBTQ issues such as politics; arts and entertainment; men's and women's health; AIDS awareness; youth; spirituality; disabilities; aging, etc.

Please forward your resume and/or an example of your work with letter of interest to [mail@stonewallnews.net](mailto:mail@stonewallnews.net), or fax to (509) 455-7013.

**STONEWALL**  
Serving the GLBTQ Community of the Inland Empire since 1992

**Deadline for the September Classifieds is Tuesday, Aug. 23. Call 456-8011.**

### JOB MARKET

#### 34-Business Opp:

##### Economy Got You Down?

Are you tired of being laid off, downsized or outsourced?

Would you rather be paid on performance?

Work part-time for yourself from home, without the \$\$ investment.

To find out more, call Mark or J C at (509) 534-2283

### PERSONALS

#### 73-Bisexuals:

DOMINANT, MATURE BiWM seeking discrete, erotic adventure. Open-minded to fantasies, role playing, B&D, cross-dressers, spanking, nudist. Must be clean, healthy, non-pushy. (509) 624-0222.

#### 76-Body Work:

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

### PERSONALS

#### 76-Body Work:

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

RELIEVE STRESS and tension. For an awesome experience try my quality relaxation. Skilled, sensitive hands providing excellent help. 30+ Years Experience! Call Tom: (509) 838-7156; [thomas99205@yahoo.com](mailto:thomas99205@yahoo.com).

#### Miscellaneous

##### WANTED

PAYING CASH for gay adult porn. Call Jeff at (509) 362-1845.

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#### Miscellaneous

#### Miscellaneous

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# Resource Directory

## SPOKANE AREA

### BiNet Spokane

A social support group for bisexual men and women.  
Call: (509) 217-1271

### Eastern Washington University SAFE Students' Alliance for Equality

Weekly meetings for students, faculty and staff.  
Call: Kat Olson: (509) 359-4253  
http://iceberg.ewu.edu/safe/safe.htm

### EMCC – Emmanuel Metropolitan Community Church

Christian church with an outreach to the GLBT community.  
Call: (509) 838-0085  
Web site: www.emmanuelmcc.com

### Friends of SAN

Fundraising organization for people living with HIV/AIDS to improve the quality of their lives.  
Write: 1212 E. Front Ave.  
Spokane, WA 99202

### Gay/Lesbian Info Line

Call: (509) 489-2266  
Immediate Crisis: (509) 838-4428

### GLBT Book Group

Discusses selected works at Auntie's Bookstore at 7 p.m. the first Wednesday each month.  
Call: Julie Smith: (509) 838-0206

### Gonzaga University GLBT Resource Center

For information and to contact resource organizations on the GU campus, September-May.  
HERO (Helping Educate Regarding Orientation) gay-straight alliance.  
SODA (Sexual Orientation Diversity Alliance) law school support group.  
Direct line: Bryce: 323-5847

### Hospice of Spokane

Physical, emotional and spiritual care for the terminally ill and loved ones; bereavement support and HIV/AIDS counseling services.  
Call: (509) 456-0438

### ISCS –

Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane  
Call: (509) 251-1242.  
Web site: www.iscspokane.com

### INBA –

Inland Northwest Business Alliance  
A Professional GLBTQ/Allied Business Alliance. Guests are welcome to our monthly luncheon meetings, non-members are welcome to advertise in our annual community resource directory. Visit our website for information.  
Write: PO Box 20163,  
Spokane, WA 99204  
Voice mail: 509-455-3699  
E-mail: info@inbaspokane.org  
Web site: www.inbaspokane.org

### Inland Northwest Equality

A coalition of local individuals and organizations committed to progressing GLBT equality and justice.  
Call: Brooke Powers: 838-7870  
Web site: www.icehouse.net/pjals/issues/inwe.html

### Integrity

Gay and lesbian Episcopalians meet monthly for communion and simple meal.  
Call: Chuck: (509) 326-7707 or  
Ann: (509) 624-6671

### Landlord Tenant Information Hotline

Volunteers provide information and referrals to landlords and tenants. Free resource materials. Does not provide legal advice, but may refer.  
Call: (509) 325-3037

### Northwest Fair Housing Alliance

Private, nonprofit organization provides education, outreach and enforcement assistance for those who have experienced discrimination and the general public.  
Call: (509) 325-2665 or  
(800)-200-3247

### Odyssey Youth Center

Discussion/support group and social drop-in center for GLBT and questioning youth.  
Call: Laurel: (509) 325-3637

### Outreach Center

Condoms, needle exchange, AIDS information. Open M-F, 3-5 p.m. at 1103 W. First Ave.  
Call: (509) 838-6859

### OutSpokane

Committee organizes annual Pride march and celebration and other community events.  
Web site: www.OutSpokane.com

### Papillon

A social support group for the transgendered community.  
Call: (509) 292-8852

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

Support group for parents, family, friends and members of the GLBT community.  
Call: (509): 624-6671  
Web site: www.pflagspokane.org

### PJALS –

Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane  
Independent, membership organization building foundations for a just and nonviolent world.  
Call: (509) 838-7870

### Planned Parenthood of Spokane & Whitman Counties

HIV antibody testing and counseling.  
Call: Clinic for Appt.: (509) 326-2142  
Administration: (509) 326-6292

### Quest Youth Group

To "inspire, encourage and support" gay and bisexual guys, 18-25, in the Inland Northwest through free monthly recreational activities, discussions, service projects and movie nights.  
Call: Ryan: (509) 290-3519  
Web site: www.QuestYouthGroup.org

### Spokane-Kootenai Pride

A program of the Pride Foundation to involve Washingtonians outside of King County in activities beneficial to the GLBT community.  
Call: Spokane office: (509) 327-8377

### Rainbow Regional Community Center

Support services for GLBT community and individuals exploring their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.  
Call: (509) 489-1914  
Web site: www.spokanerainbowcenter.org

### SAN –

Spokane AIDS Network  
Call: (509) 455-8993 or  
1-888-353-2130  
Web site: www.spokaneAIDSnetwork.org

### Spokane County Domestic Violence Consortium

A private, nonprofit organization with members from a variety of professions who have come together to end intimate partner violence.  
Call: (509) 487-6783

### Spokane Falls Community College - The Alliance

GLBT and allies group to provide a safe space; to educate our community.  
Call: (509) 533-4507

### Spokane Human Rights Commission

Call: Equity Office: (509) 625-6263  
  
Spokane Regional Health District  
Providing health services and referrals for the public. HIV testing.  
Call: (509) 324-1542 or  
1-800-456-3236  
Web site: www.spokanecounty.org.health

### Stonewall News Northwest

Flagship publication for the gay and lesbian community and the Inland Northwest.  
Call: (509) 456-8011  
Fax: (509) 455-7013  
Web site: www.stonewallnews.net

### Spokane Gender Center

Resources and support for transgendered people.  
Web site: www.gendercenter.com

### Unitarian Universalist Church

Gay, lesbian resource committee.  
Call: (509) 325-6383  
Web site: www.uuchurchofspokane.org

### Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery

Call: 535-3155  
Web site: www.vanessabehan.org

### Women and Friends

Women-only activities and events in the Spokane area.  
Call: (509) 458-4709

### Women's Cultural Exchange

Promoting arts and entertainment events by women, for women.  
Write: P.O. Box 4795,  
Spokane, WA 99202

## IDAHO

### Idaho for Basic Rights

Citizen action group to work for civil and legal equality on basis of sexual orientation.  
Call: (208) 343-7402

### NIAC –

North Idaho AIDS Coalition  
HIV/AIDS prevention, education and assistance for people infected/affected with HIV.  
Call: (208) 665-1448  
Web site: www.nicon.org/niac

### North Idaho College

Gay-Straight Alliance  
Email: BCHARDISON@icehouse.net

### Panhandle Health District

STD/HIV testing, condoms, and other methods of birth control, physical exams, shots, cancer screening, resource nurse voucher program, referrals to area resources and education. All services are confidential.  
• Kootenai County  
Call: (208) 667-3481  
• Boundary County  
Call: (208) 267-5558  
• Shoshone County  
Call: (208) 786-7474  
• Bonner County  
Call: (208) 263-5159  
• Benewah County  
Call: (208) 245-4556  
Web site: www2.stateid.us/phd1

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

Support, education and advocacy group for Sandpoint gay people, parents, family and friends.  
Call: (208) 263-6699

## LEWISTON/CLARKSTON

### PFLAG - Lewis-Clark – Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays

Support, education and advocacy group for Lewis-Clark gay people, parents, family and friends. Meets in Lewiston.  
Call: (509) 758-6437

### Stonewall Health Project

Great times and group discussions relating to men's issues.  
Call: (800) 493-8367

## MOSES LAKE

### AACW – Alternative Alliance of Central Washington

A social and support group to help bring together people in the GLBT community.  
Write: P.O. Box 1282,  
Moses Lake, WA 98837

## PULLMAN / MOSCOW

### Washington State University GLBA Program

Fun, fellowship and socializing.  
Call: (509) 335-6428  
Web site: http://cubwsu.edu/GLBAP

### Out There

Safer-sex information and supportive programs for young men who have sex with men.  
Call: Melinda: (509) 335-6428

### University of Idaho Gay-Straight Alliance

Promoting a fabulous, positive and inclusive environment for all people on campus and encouraging individual growth and understanding by developing outreach programs, improving visibility and recognition of queer issues and history.  
Call: (208) 885-2691

## TRI-CITIES

### Benton-Franklin District Health Department

Confidential and anonymous HIV testing, case management, educational and referral services.  
Call: (Pasco) (509) 547-9737, ext. 234  
Confidential voice mail also.

### River of Life

Metropolitan Community Church  
Christian church celebrating diversity and affirming GLBT people. Sunday services at 11:30 a.m.  
Call: (509) 542-8860

### Tri-Cities Chaplaincy / Tri-Cities CARES

Columbia AIDS relief, education and support. Survivor support group and HIV/PWA support group.  
Call: (509) 783-7416

## WALLA WALLA

### Blue Mountain Heart to Heart

AIDS prevention education, support and services.  
Call: (509) 529-4744  
Toll Free: (888) 875-2233 (pin #4744)  
Spanish: (509) 529-2174

### Seventh-day Adventist Kinship

Call: (509) 525-0202

## YAKIMA

### PFLAG - Yakima/Yakima Valley Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays

Promotes the health and well-being of GLBT individuals, their families and friends.  
Call: (509) 576-9625

### Rainbow Cathedral Metropolitan Community Church

An MCC Seattle parish extension.  
Call: (509) 457-6454

## MONTANA

### Flathead Valley Alliance

Northwest Montana information and referral services.  
Call: (406) 758-6707

### Gay Helena

Web site features gay social life in Montana: www.gayinhelena.com.

### Lesbian Avengers

A direct action group focused on issues vital to lesbian survival and visibility.  
Call: (406) 523-6608

### Our Montana Family

Supporting Montana's GLBT parents and their children.  
E-mail: barbatpride@aol.com

### PRIDE!

Statewide lesbian/gay/trans civil rights advocacy group.  
Call: (406) 442-9322  
or, in Montana: (800) 610-9322

### PRIDE Celebration

Group in charge of annual Montana June PRIDE celebrations.  
Call: (406) 442-9322

### The Rainbow Connection

Gay group for Billings and Eastern Montana meets monthly.  
Web site: www.rainbowconnection-montana.com.

## WASHINGTON

### Bi MEN Group

Bi and bi-curious men and gay men who enjoy and support bisexual men.  
Web site: www.egroups.com/group/bi-men-west

### Legal Marriage Alliance

Working to achieve the right of same-sex couples to marry legally in Washington.  
Web site: www.lmaw.org

### Lesbian Resource Center

Resources and referrals, groups and events. Monthly newspaper.  
Call: (206) 322-3953

### Lifelong AIDS Alliance

Providing support, prevention and advocacy for people with HIV/AIDS.  
Call: (206) 329-6923

### PositiveVoice Washington

Advocates for programs and services needed by people with HIV. Offers self-advocacy training.  
Call: (888) 704-0099

### Pride Foundation

Grants to organizations that benefit the GLBT community. Awards educational scholarships.  
Call: (800) 735-7287  
Web site: www.pridefoundation.org

To have your group listed in this directory, e-mail your organization's information to Stonewall News Northwest at news@stonewallnews.net.

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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.**

5:30 pm: **PEER TO PEER SUPPORT GROUP** meets at **Rainbow 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.)

2

**Tuesday**

**INWE (Inland Northwest Equality)** meets at the **Rainbow Center** at 5:30 pm. All are welcome to attend.

3

**Wednesday**

The **Gay and Lesbian Book Group** meets at **Auntie's Bookstore** at 7 pm.

5

**Friday**

The **Rainbow Center** will showcase local gay artist **Richard Craven** for **First Friday** at 5 pm.

**Quest Youth Group** meets at **River Park Square** for **Food & Flicks!** at 6 pm. Open to all GLBTQ youth 18-25 and their allied friends.

**CenterStage** presents **"SUDS" - THE MUSICAL!** in its dinner theater at 6:00 pm tonight and most Thursdays and Fridays thru Aug. 18.

The **Legal Marriage Alliance** meets at the **Rainbow Center** at 7 pm.

**Quest Youth Group** will hold its first annual **Leadership Retreat** in northern Idaho this weekend.

6

**Saturday**

The 11th annual **Unity in the Community** will be held at **Liberty Park**, 10 am-5 pm. Free

The **Spokane County Democratic Party** will sponsor a **C.C. Dill Salmon Bake** fundraiser at the Howard St. entrance to **Riverfront Park** at 5:30 pm. \$35

The **Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane's** Lady Debutante **Jenstone Cocks** will host a fundraising luau at **Dempseys** at 7 pm.

**KC and the Sunshine Band** will perform at **Northern Quest Casino** in **Airway Heights** at 8 pm.

*Spokane's entertainment and meeting calendar for August*

**August 2005**

Birthstone: Sardonyx

Flower: Poppy

Astrological Guide: Leo to the 22nd; Virgo beginning on Aug. 23



**Let's Get Visible Wear (t-shirts, baseball caps and Polo Shirts) are now available at [www.letsgetvisible.com](http://www.letsgetvisible.com). T-Shirts are available in small to XXL, baseball caps come two color combos, and Polo Shirts are available in several colors. Shirt/Cap combos are also available. Sales proceeds will help INBA's Vision Committee produce material and create workshops on the proposed gay district.**

7

**Sunday**

The **Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane** will hold a **board meeting** at **Dempseys** at 6:30 pm followed by a **general court meeting** at 7:30 pm.

10

**Wednesday**

The **Inland Northwest Business Alliance's** monthly luncheon will feature an update from the **Vision Committee** on the proposed Gay District at **Europa Pizzeria & Bakery** at 11:30 am. \$15 and \$18

11

**Thursday**

The **Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane** will hold an open forum for **Mr. and Ms. Wrangler** candidates at **Dempseys** at 7:30 pm.

12

**Friday**

The **Rainbow Center's** featured film for its **Movie Night** will be **Jeffrey** at 6 pm. Free  
**Quest Youth Group** will hold its **Family Picnic & Picnic Basket Auction**. Location TBA. Call 290-3519 or visit [www.questyouthgroup.org](http://www.questyouthgroup.org) for more information.

13

**Saturday**

**Integrity**, an association of gay and lesbian Christians meet at **St. Johns Cathedral** at noon.

The **Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane** will present an **"Old and New"** fundraiser at **Dempseys**. Lineup at 7 pm; show at 8 pm.

The **Association** will entertain at **Northern Quest Casino** in **Airway Heights** at 8 pm.

14

**Sunday**

The **Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane** will hold its annual **community picnic and softball game** at the **Peaceful Valley Community Center** at noon. Free

16

**Tuesday**

**PFLAG's Family Potluck Picnic** will be held at the **Manito Park Pavilion** at 6 pm.

19

**Friday**

The **Rainbow Center's** **Movie Night** will feature **French Twist** at 6 pm. Free.

**Quest Youth Group** will hold its **annual camping trip** at **Riverside State Park**. Camping starts at 5 pm on Friday and ends at noon on Saturday. Free

20

**Saturday**

The **Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane** will present **Turnabout, Flash and Trash and Tropicana** at **Dempseys**. Lineup at 7 pm; show at 8 pm.

**Billy Joe Royal** will appear at **Northern Quest Casino** in **Airway Heights** at 8 pm.

21

**Sunday**

The **Spokane Lesbian Association** meets at the **Rainbow Center** at 11 am for games, movies, activities and social time. The public is invited.

22

**Monday**

The **Odyssey Youth Center** will be closed today through Sept. 11 for cleaning and remodeling. It will re-open on Sept. 13.

23

**Tuesday**

**CenterStage** will feature **Priscilla, Queen of the Desert** at its **Pride & Joy Film Night**. Social at 5:30 pm.; show at 7:30 pm. \$5

26

**Friday**

**Connie and Carla** is the featured film at **Movie Night** at the **Rainbow Center**. 6 pm. Free

27

**Saturday**

The **Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane's** **Wranglers** will step down at **Dempseys** at 5:30 pm.

**We'd love to include your organization's events in this Calendar!**

**Please visit the GLBTQA Calendar at [www.stonewallnews.net](http://www.stonewallnews.net). Your organization can request its own username and password to post your events!**



# NORTHERN QUEST CASINO

Proudly Presents

## SUPER SPEEDWAY 4 CAR GIVEAWAY!

PLAY EVERYDAY FOR YOUR  
CHANCE TO WIN 1 OF 4 CARS!  
JULY 1 - AUGUST 31



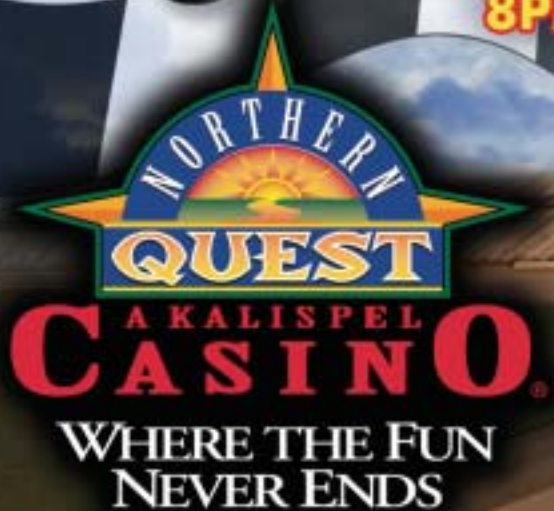
CONGRATULATIONS  
HENRY!

2 CARS  
REMAINING!

DRAWING  
DATES

AUGUST 17TH  
AUGUST 31ST

8PM



August 6<sup>th</sup> 8:00PM



The Association  
August 13<sup>th</sup> 8:00PM

Billy Joe Royal  
August 20<sup>th</sup> 8:00PM



(COMEDIAN)

RICHARD JENI  
September 3<sup>rd</sup> 8:00PM



September 10<sup>th</sup> 8:00PM



Sammy Kershaw  
September 24<sup>th</sup> 8:00PM

Coming  
Soon!



QF@HBQP CLO >II >@QP >OB >S>FI>?IB >Q QEB KLOQEBOK NRBPQ @>PFKL ?LU LCCF@B)  
?V MELKB >Q %2 - 6& 01 - @ 34 - -) LO @>II QF@HBQP TBPQ >Q 0 / 2 @ PB>Q %40 / 5&+  
QF@HBQP TBPQ QF@HBQP >OB PR?GB@Q QL > PBOSF@B @E>ODB+

>ii bsbkqp ^ob . 5 vb^op ^ka liabo r kibpp pmb`fcfba+

KL T LMBK  
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