

Community Spotlight...

Jeff Buckner is a family man and an active member in the Spokane GLBTA community ...

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STONEWALL News Northwest

Vol. XIV, No. 12 Serving the GLBTA Community of the Inland Northwest since 1992 December 2005

Options for action proposed, invited

The Stonewall is not rehashing on these pages the voluminous details of the scandal that surrounds Spokane Mayor Jim West. Anyone who needs this background should check the Web sites of either the Spokesman-Review or the Inlander. "What's the next step?" Nov. 19 forum participants asked.

"Get involved," said the panelists and discussion moderator, Rogers High School teacher Peter Perkins, who noted the keen interest of young people in the evolving story.

Among options cited: Join one or more of the many GLBTA groups whose work is discussed on these pages regularly; actively support candidates for public office who reflect your values or run for office yourself; speak up when unfair laws or policies are proposed or when you discover inaccuracies in something you read or hear; come out of the closet – be proud of who you are.

Community weighs in: West must go



Above, L to R: Moderator Peter Perkins and panelists Lorin Miller, Travis Mayfield, Suzi Hokonson, Jill Wagner, Brad Read and Dean Lynch prepare for the start of the community forum. Inset: Jerry Davis and Dean Lynch

by Catherine D. Willis

"Sticky" is how the Spokesman-Review's Jill Wagner described the multi-layered story of Spokane's embattled Mayor Jim West in her "Out on the Town" column Nov. 18 – and the term was repeated many times the next day by her, fellow panelists and audience members at a community forum sponsored by Stonewall News Northwest at CenterStage in downtown Spokane.

Seven panelists chosen to reflect diverse opinions and backgrounds led a sometimes spirited discussion that touched on everything from the breadth of allegations against the mayor in the long-unfolding scandal to conjectures about the actual status of his sexual orientation to the recognition of positive achievements in Spokane government

since his election as mayor in 2003. Few overlooked his gay-unfriendly legislative record; most took some stand on the Dec. 6 recall vote; all seemed eager to explore the impact of the story on the area's GLBTA community.

Mayor West was asked to participate in the two-hour program,

"If I stay in the closet, I can't be effective because I'll always be hiding something."

–Dean Lynch

or to send a representative to champion his position, but he twice declined the invitation. Independent efforts by the Stonewall to recruit West backers to speak at the event were unsuccessful.

"I want to clear up a few fabrications," began panelist Jerry Davis,

an openly gay attorney who worked with Shannon Sullivan, the citizen activist who initiated the recall process. West and his attorneys are "trying to manipulate the facts, saying that they can't get his side of the story out, that he can't question his accusers."

Davis, counsel to Ryan Oelrich and an unnamed man, both of whom have claimed the mayor offered them jobs after online encounters, called this "flat-out wrong" and explained that a meeting planned for this purpose was cancelled at the last minute by the West team.

Panelist Lorin Miller, a transgendered mental health professional, raised questions about due process and our legal system. "There are few in this world, or in this audience, that don't have a skeleton in their closet." She noted that "Mr. West is currently wearing the Scarlet Letter."

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Local wins World Habitat Award

Kelly Lerner of One World Design Architecture accepted the 2005 World Habitat Award at the United Nations World Habitat Day celebration in Jakarta, Indonesia, Oct. 3.

The prize honors her body of work, specifically her contribution to a team effort to produce affordable, energy-efficient homes and schools in five northeastern provinces of China.

The project, funded by the Kadoorie Foundation of Hong Kong, spans seven years and to date includes 603 houses in 59 villages and three schools.

Straw-bale construction technology is Lerner's forte and the feature that distinguishes the award-winning project from traditional building endeavors.

An old process, rediscovered and

updated to incorporate advanced design techniques, straw-bale construction is especially suited to cold climates. Unlike wood or bricks, which have little or no insulation value, straw-bales have a CRSI value of 5.8; the value for brick walls is 0.33. Straw-bales are comparatively lightweight, earthquake-resistant and inexpensive. These are essential factors in the region of China where the home-building process has been successfully applied.

Lerner has been working with an international aid agency that serves poor rural populations. The aid group



won provincial support for the first straw-bale building after a brick school collapsed during a relatively minor earthquake; the straw-bale replacement withstood a 5.6 jolt that leveled all the buildings around it.

Straw-bale construction is easily taught. Lerner serves as technical

consultant on the project and there is a project manager, but thousands of community laborers have actually built the homes and local governments have been instrumental in standardizing building codes to facilitate construction efforts.

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Voices

Letter from the Publisher

Good-bye, Jim West

Stonewall worked hard to knit together a balanced panel for its Nov. 19 panel discussion and community forum regarding Mayor Jim West. It was, and continues to be, important for the GLBTQA community to openly and broadly engage the Jim West issue – particularly with his recall vote now on our doorstep.

I invited Mayor West to participate fully in Stonewall's open public forum. He responded he would be glad to, but only in December or January. I replied – underscoring the importance that his voice be heard – that an appointee on his behalf may serve well to that end. He again declined.

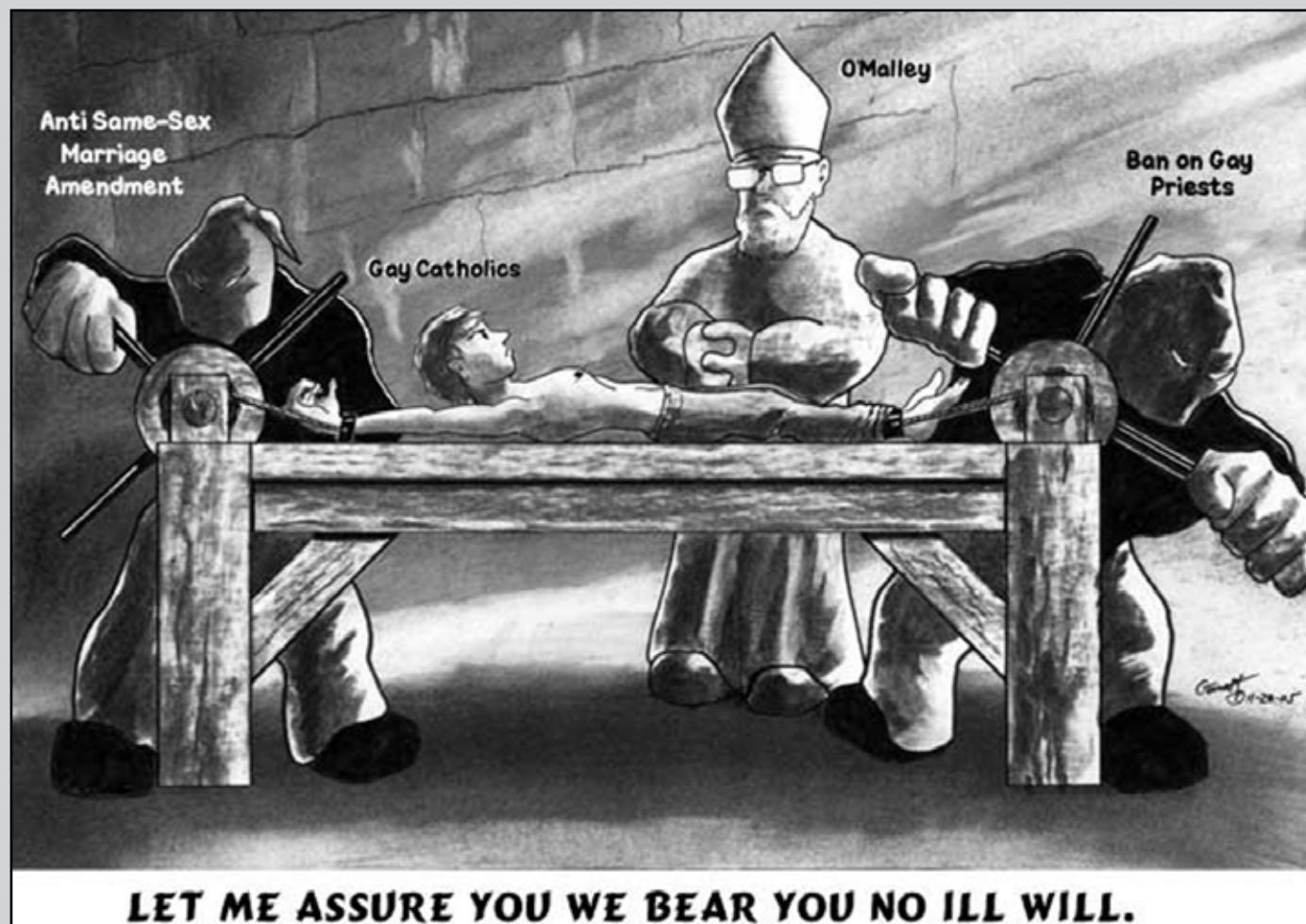
While one always hopes for a robust turnout and engaging and spirited dialogue at such open forums, I was comfortable with the turnout numbers (30 or so community members) and media coverage garnered, given limited pre-publicity for this first Stonewall Open Public Forum.

The questions and points of discussion appeared to be quite varied and indicative of the attempt by so many of us to better understand and get our arms around the fragmented issues surrounding Jim West, particularly as

they apply to the GLBTQA community. Whether or not a consensus opinion seems to come through in a forum, what's valuable is that engagement and dialogue occur. With the benefit of other's shared factual insight and experience, we can do a better, more informed job of re-evaluating and reshaping our own opinions and beliefs. I believe that happened in Stonewall's Open Public Forum on Jim West.

With that said, Stonewall News Northwest's official position now sides with the effort to recall Mayor West. His 20-year, aggressively homophobic legislative voting record alone doesn't just speak to a narrow, divisive mind, set to squash equality – it **screams** it. For decades, Jim West fought – tooth and nail – to deny equality on a wide range of core rights that serves as a slap in the face of human dignity. While some could argue the GLBTQA community sat passively on the sidelines for way too long, we now have the opportunity to make a difference. Vote.

Michael R. Schultz
Publisher



LET ME ASSURE YOU WE BEAR YOU NO ILL WILL.

One day after a group strongly supported by Boston Archbishop Sean O'Malley, submitted petitions for a referendum to amend the Massachusetts constitution to ban same sex marriage, O'Malley sent a letter to the parishes, calling for an end to prejudice against gays. As if relegating same sex couples to legal purgatory wasn't itself an act of prejudice.

In the letter, O'Malley said that he doesn't want gays to feel like the church discriminates against them. He says he wants gays to know that the church has no hostility toward them. And if you're wondering by now what kind of incense the Archbishop is smoking these days, you need to bear in mind that his words aren't directed at the gay people sitting in the pews, but the heterosexuals who might at this point be getting a little uncomfortable with what is happening. O'Malley's statement is meant to reassure them, not the gay Catholics sitting next to them. It's the kind of calming patter people utter to each other while they're busy kicking their neighbors in the teeth...the sound of people reassuring each other that the heartless bigot they see in the bathroom mirror every morning isn't really them.

Everything is political

Before I came out, long before I got involved in GLBTQ issues, I worked in various capacities in the family violence prevention and intervention arena. There I met some of the most passionate and effective child and family advocates in the nation, women who impressed upon me what our community is just beginning to grasp: **Everything is political.**

We forget this truth at our peril. We cannot assume that civic duty ends when we've cast our ballots. The recently concluded election (I'm not talking about the recall question) rendered mixed results. Two gay-friendly City Council members were retained. Hooray! I won't cry over Nancy McLaughlin's victory. She ran a dynamite campaign and Steve Corker did not. That's politics.

Now the teaching begins. We need to adopt the philosophy of "lifestyle example" embodied by Jeff Buckner, the subject of a "Family" profile (page 9). When those who oppose us, though they don't even know us, ascribe to us a nature – usually something untoward, often repulsive – we need to confound them with our goodness, our unimpeachable fair-mindedness, our willingness to engage them without succumbing to the harsh rhetoric that is their calling card.

It's easier said than done. Gonzaga University, my *alma mater*, has undermined the spirit of principled discourse twice in four weeks, and both times the offending sponsor group was the GU chapter of College Republicans.

I'm not against Republicans, mind you. I used to be one. In fact, I was the incoming vice president of Young Republicans the year (the now Rev.) Robert Spitzer was outgoing president. My beef isn't with the GOP but with the ultra-right wing that demonizes all dissent, proclaiming it unpatriotic or worse.

Where are the moderates? (It's a question I ask of Democrats as well.) How can we find common ground when we're always talking to each other from the fringes? GU leaders were not cultivating reason when they sanctioned the appearance of Dr. John Diggs on Oct. 25; consciously or not, they were inviting discord.

Diggs is entitled to his extremist views. I wholeheartedly defend his right to express himself. What I lament is the university's insensitivity in bringing to the campus such a polarizing figure without offering the same, or a nearby, podium to a counterbalancing voice. Wanda Daehlin and Tiina Buckaloo, local PFLAG leaders, present one such perspective in this month's "Be Our Guest" column (page 16).

David Horowitz's Nov. 16 speech only managed to further exacerbate university-community relations. What were they thinking? I attended that lecture. Dare I say "rant"? The man had a chip on his shoulder before he ever reached the microphone. I have no idea how much the student Republicans paid him to speak, but they did not get their money's worth.

To his credit, the man refrained from making any overtly anti-gay remarks, but he wasn't particularly

courteous to young members of the GLBTQA community who tried to dialogue with him. I drafted the "rules of engagement" for the Nov. 19 forum sponsored by the Stonewall. We wanted to create a safe environment for all participants, regardless of their position on homosexuality or the West recall. The word "civility" fit that venue and is appropriate still. The political activism to which the GLBTQA community is committed must hold tight to this maxim.

In deference to this, I apologize to Rep. Jim Moeller (letter, below) for reporting his words at the Power Summit in a manner injurious to his meaning. I intended no harm. I told him I could explain, not excuse, the error, and I do that now: Like a lot of the folks in our community, I wear many hats. I went to the summit as a founding member of Inland Northwest Equality. I had asked someone else to cover the story for the Stonewall; unfortunately, that person fell ill, so I did the best I could with a notepad and a pen. I usually tape record events of that type to assure accuracy in reporting.

Again, I ask our readers for help. If you or someone you know is going to an event you would like to see highlighted in these pages, please bring us the basics – who, what, when, where, how and why – and we'll take it from there. Or feel free to write the story for us!

We missed an important story last month, an oversight that hurt an active member of the GLBTQA community. Athan Bitsas ran for a position on the Mead School District board of directors. To my knowledge, he was the only openly gay candidate on the November ballot. He deserved our attention, and we failed to give it. *Mea culpa.*

Catherine D. Willis
Editor

Letters

I am amazed how people can pass off hatred as "medical research" in modern times marked by intense political polarity.

I attended the lecture (my most diplomatic term for what I witnessed) given by Dr. John Diggs at Gonzaga University on October 25. I went into it expecting a reasoned presentation of misconnected facts directed toward pushing an ideological agenda. I was amazed at how homophobic this man truly is.

He apparently had evidence that AIDS activists were responsible for the continued spread of AIDS from the onset of the epidemic. He also apparently had evidence that homosexuals (he refused to use our words "lesbian" and "gay") have over 2000 sexual partners each over their entire lives. He even apparently had evidence that someone in a committed

homosexual relationship has eight sexual partners outside said relationship per year.

Dr. Diggs' main argument was that since anal intercourse carried physiological risks for participants, homosexuality is immoral in the eyes of God. What a bizarre leap of logic!

For most of his tirade, Dr. Diggs spent our time lambasting us, the audience, about society's "acceptance" of the "homosexual lifestyle." In retrospect, I'm glad he came to Gonzaga's campus. When it comes to blatant hatred, I'd rather see it exposed to the public than hidden behind "medical research." The reasoned public will see it for what it is. Thank you, Dr. Diggs, for sharing your bigotry with us.

Bryce Hughes

2004 Gonzaga University graduate

I read with interest Catherine Willis' Stonewall News Northwest article ("United we win") on the Equality Power Summit. Although mostly accurate, the item includes two misrepresentations attributed to me.

Ms. Willis quoted me on the issue of full marriage equality: "We are not going to get it through the Legislature." This is awfully sad, but unfortunately true. The rest of my statement, however, was "...as it's currently configured." The complete statement (missing from the article) is key because it emphasizes our authentic hope to change current reality and win marriage equality.

The second misrepresentation involves a question asked me by Barrie Ryan, AIDS Network board president, regarding civil unions versus marriage. Ms. Willis reported that he asked if I advised folks to

"accept less than equality." While correctly reporting that I said "Yes," the article failed to include my entire answer putting it in context to the broader discussion of an intermediate step of civil unions before full marriage equality. I say unequivocally: *I will never support less than full marriage equality for our GLBT community.* However, I would vote for civil unions as an *intermediate* step toward full civil marriage.

Like it or not, the reality is that the Legislature is a place of increments. Let's not be too proud or impatient to take steps we may need along the way. We're united in this journey — and yes, united we will win.

Jim Moeller

State Representative

49th Legislative District (Clark County)

Friday is Flag Day



Spokane's GLBTQA community has had a banner year. The Stonewall salutes our successes (see overview, page 4) and invites readers and friends to stand tall with us as we look to the inevitable challenges of 2006.

Let's start a new tradition. Let's show everyone that we're here and we're proud. Let's make a statement at least once a week. We proclaim Fridays our Flag Day!

Spokane

October 2, 2004—We wouldn't have guessed it at the time, but the face of Spokane's GLBTQA community has been transformed since the INBA, Pride Foundation, WSU Spokane and other sponsors brought us "A Conversation with Candace Gingrich." The Candace Event, as we've come to call it, was a catalyst for many changes over the past year. Listed below are some highlights of GLBT events reflecting those changes.

INBA's Vision Committee kicked off their "Let's Get Visible" campaign with a Web site, www.letsgetvisible.com, a logo, rainbow-colored "Welcome" cards to be displayed by area businesses and "Economic Asset" cards to be given to area merchants when purchases are made. These efforts were designed to help GLBTQA visibility and to help Spokane realize the spending power of its GLBTQA community.

December 11, 2004—the Spokesman-Review endorsed the Gay Business District plans on its editorial page. <http://www.inbaspokane.org/index.php?page=press&id=11>

The community workshop was reported in local news media – and generated a wave of letters to the editor in opposition to and support of creating a gay district.

April 25, 2005—The Spokane City Council passed the long fought for Domestic Partner Benefits ordinance. Opponents tried but failed circulating a referendum petition. The City Council voted again in September to support the Ordinance by refusing a bid by Bob Apple to put the issue on the November, 2005 ballot.

January 2005, the Associated Press picked up on the story and ran an article, with photographs, on INBA's plans. Within 10 days, that article was disseminated worldwide by more than 80 news sources and sparked an international interest in the Gay District efforts. <http://www.inbaspokane.org/index.php?page=press&id=13>

Spring 2005—INBA was asked to make a presentation about the Let's Get Visible campaign and the Gay District plans to the attendees of The Western Business Alliance Conference in Seattle, August 18-21, 2005.

February 2005, Spokane was visited by international media organizations. London's Guardian News sent a correspondent, Paul Harris, to report on the accomplishments being made by the GLBTQA community. <http://observer.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,6903,1426309,00.html>

The five-minute introductory video INBA created for The Candace Event and community workshop won an Award of Merit from the Spokane Public Relations Council and set the stage for the creation of an hour-long documentary, "A Rainbow Vision."

An Italian television station, LA-7, also sent a film crew to Spokane for several days to obtain footage for a documentary they are producing on communities in the United States that are defying the American government's conservative agenda.

June 2005—Michael Schultz bought Stonewall News Northwest from John Deen, longtime publisher/editor, and began the transformation of the Stonewall into a strong, vibrant voice for our community.

Spring 2005, Emboldened by these events and publicity, the group responsible for planning the annual Pride Celebration changed their name from Inland Northwest Pride to OutSpokane and adopted the "Let's Get Visible" theme for the 2005 Pride Celebration. OutSpokane more than doubled its size and activities of previous years' celebrations by inspiring other community organizations to help plan more than a week's worth of Pride activities.

June 11, 2005—Spokane and the Inland Empire enjoyed Pride Parade! OutSpokane's efforts culminated in a Rainbow Festival in downtown Spokane, complete with a family-friendly carnival and play area. The spectacular array of weeklong events was capped with the Saturday morning Pride Parade through downtown Spokane and was culmination of celebratory unity between various community groups including INBA, SAN, PFLAG, EMCC, Quest, Odyssey, to name of few.

Summer, 2005, Emmanuel Metropolitan Community Church moved to "get back out there" and be a more active part of the greater community. The church began developing partnerships with Odyssey and the Rainbow Center in a continuing effort to support and assist other organizations.

October, 2005—A week-long "Fall Into Pride" celebration coincided with National Coming Out Day. Activities included the "United We Win!" summit to help the GLBT community organize politically, various Coming Out Day activities, Gay Night at our Civic Theatre's production of *My Fair Lady* and a Coming Out Forum at Gonzaga that helped educate the allied community about how being in the closet affects us all.

August 6, 2005, OutSpokane and INBA continued the effort to increase GLBT visibility with a booth at Unity in the Community celebration.

November 19, 2005—Stonewall News Northwest hosted an Open Public Forum at Spokane CenterStage on the subject of Mayor Jim West, discussing the impact the issues surrounding him have on the larger GLBT community of the Inland Northwest.

September 17, 2005 OutSpokane and the INBA continued visibility with a booth at the Monroe Street Bridge Opening, and OutSpokane was visible again at the Valley Fest on September 23rd.

Throughout this year and into 2006, a film production crew from PBS' "Frontline" continues to remain in Spokane filming an episode about the Spokane GLBTQA community's visibility and accomplishments.

INBA announces INBA Outreach

The Inland Northwest Business Alliance has done what members have wanted to do for some time – spin off its scholarship program, establishing a separate 501(c)3 corporation to manage and raise funds for the charitable operation. The new organization will be known as INBA Outreach.

The Pride Foundation has administered the scholarships in the past, and will process applications due January 13. Future awards will be handled through INBA Outreach, said Penny Reid, an alliance member who has been instrumental in securing the group's nonprofit status through the Internal Revenue Service.

Paperwork was completed this summer. The group expects to receive IRS documentation any day now.

A board of directors appointed by INBA has been named. Reid is

president. Sandy Davidson, Mike Johnson, Paul Tiesse, Kim Krogh and Susanne Maarten are directors.

In taking this step, INBA hopes to encourage more local donations and generate greater community awareness of scholarship opportunities.

The goal, said Reid, is to "provide financial support to higher education students who have demonstrated academic achievement and community involvement and who intend to give back to the GLBTQ community after graduation."

Board support is being sought, especially from individuals with time, interest and know-how in the area of fund raising. The board will meet Jan. 5 and the first Thursday of each month thereafter at 5:30 p.m. Interested parties may e-mail Reid at reipe19@msn.com.

Odyssey reports good, bad news

A small fire shut down Odyssey Youth Center Thursday, Nov. 17, causing considerable smoke and debris damage. Youth were quickly evacuated at the first sign of smoke. The fire department and landlord were called, but an on-site fire extinguisher was enough to douse the flames.

A light ballast malfunctioned and burned ceiling tiles and the attic space.

New carpet and paint will be provided through the building owner's insurance company, but the organization needs to replace three couches lost to smoke damage. Call (509) 325-3637 if you can help with a donation.

The Rainbow Center provided games and movies for Odyssey youth during some of the afternoons and evenings the center was closed for repairs. It has reopened.

In other news, Odyssey announced that Bonnie Aspen has accepted the position of operations/outreach coordinator. She will be working directly with Odyssey youth and volunteers to ensure that the Center is a safe, educational and vibrant space for Spokane's GLBTQA youth.

"Besides bringing vast experience and well established community relationships," said Ramon Alvarez, Odyssey's executive director, "Bonnie brings tremendous passion for the work Odyssey is engaged in and we are fortunate that she has chosen to join the Odyssey team."

New Year's GAP

More than 150 members of the GLBTQA community, mostly women, enjoyed a Halloween Dance at the Inland Northwest Wildlife Council Building in Hillyard – thanks to the intrepid efforts of 11 women, who organized an event when past promoters (Women & Friends and the Giant Ass Drum Corps) were unable to do the labor-intensive work. Gals and Pals, as they have dubbed themselves, not only put on a successful party but raised enough money from the celebration to net \$483 for Emmanuel Metropolitan Community Church.

They have already mobilized to sponsor a New Year's Eve Masked Ball, to be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane. The party begins at 8 p.m. and will end at 1 a.m. DJ Irey is handling the music. Sue Spence will be taking photos. Revelers should bring their own beverages (UUCS policy limits spirited libations to wine, beer or champagne only), a cooler and a snack. Masks, noisemakers and some munchies will be provided. The church kitchen will not be open to partygoers.

There will be door prizes and a 50/50 drawing (celebrants will purchase tickets and winners will get half of the ticket pot, the balance of the money going to local nonprofits).

Ginny Foote, spokeswoman for Gals and Pals, noted a lack of male participation at the October event. Men are encouraged to attend the end-of-year gala. Planning for the program is in process. Anyone, male or female, who wishes to help out should be at Dempsey's on Monday, Dec. 5, at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$10, available at the Rainbow Center and by e-mail (contact Foote at galsandpals-tix@hotmail.com).

NIGMA takes form

North Idaho Gay Men's Association is creating community by providing real time social activities for gay men in the Moscow/Pullman area as well as visitors and allies. Currently there are over 90 members in the NIGMA yahoo group, which was founded in May of 2004. NIGMA began after the closure of the Stonewall Health Project of Moscow in January of 2004, when Dustin, the former program coordinator for the project, continued to get people together for coffee on Wednesday nights.

Scott incorporated the existing coffee social on Wednesday and the first Friday cocktail hour onto the their calendar. Other activities include a monthly brunch, a monthly movie night and a monthly wine tasting. Special events have included theater events, visits to hot springs, rafting, game nights and bonfires. All events

are free to attend, unless other wise notified. Please see the online GLBTQA Calendar at www.stonewallnews.net for the current schedule of events. You can reach NIGMA at ezran74@yahoo.com.

Quarter Auction fierce fundraiser

The auction raised about \$3000 which is more than last year and probably more than in recent years. There certainly seemed to be more enthusiasm especially when some audience members (guys and girls) auctioned off the underwear they were wearing (done in good taste). While the crowd may have been fewer in numbers than in the past, the bidding (throwing lots of quarters) was fierce and competitive. More auction items donated than in past years and the event lasted until almost 7:30.

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Regional

No Rest for the Wicked

We've got rhythm

by Joan Opyr

For those of you who don't follow Idaho politics – and I'm guessing that's most of you – you'll perhaps be surprised to learn that all roads here seem to lead to homo.

First, Idaho House Speaker Bruce Newcomb, Republican (surprised?), has announced that the first order of business in the next legislative session will be the introduction, once again, of a bill to amend the state's Constitution to ban gay marriage. Of course, Idaho state law already bans gay marriage, so why the push to enshrine this particular bigotry in the Constitution?

I don't know. Perhaps it's because the state is just so damned perfect – the best of the best ... a booming economy, universal health care, a happy, well-educated, rich and satisfied populace – we've got rhythm, we've got music, if we could just ban same-sex marriage, who could ask for anything more?

The same "blame it on the gays" thinking has taken hold on a local scale as well. Here in Moscow, our local crackpot fundamentalist, Doug Wilson, has blamed his college's zoning problems on "the homosexual agenda." (Wilson, you may recall, is the scholarly giant whose pamphlet, "Southern Slavery: As It Was," claims, among other things, that the slave-holding South was "the most racially harmonious society" the world has ever known.) A few years back, Wilson's New St. Andrews College, a small, conservative Christian school, purchased a building in the Moscow's downtown Central Business District, a district that expressly prohibits colleges and universities.

New St. Andrews College is in clear violation. It cannot be where it currently is; three Moscow citizens have filed a zoning complaint against the school, and the Moscow City Council has voted 4-2 that the college is in violation. It all seems cut and dried: New St. Andrews screwed up. These things happen. Zoning violations happen. But you might be surprised to learn that you're to blame. And so am I. And so is each and every gay, lesbian, bisexual, queer, transgendered and transsexual person in Moscow, in Idaho, in the United States, in North America and, indeed, in the whole world.

Why? Because New St. Andrews' problem isn't really a zoning issue.



According to Pastor Wilson, its problem is the homosexual agenda. God-hating queers and our communist allies are out to destroy Christianity. I know; you thought you were on good terms with God. You were feeling kind of relaxed and happy. At the top of your "To Do List" was folding the laundry, worming the cat, and doing a little Christmas shopping, but you don't know your own strength. You

and I, my friend, are out to destroy 2005 years' worth of Christian faith. Where do we begin? I would have preferred to start with boycotting Pat Robertson or keeping George W. Bush's approval ratings down in the U-bend of the toilet, but wreckers can't be choosers.

Thank God – or whatever – that we homosexuals are so good at multi-tasking. I don't know about you, but I was just sitting here, drinking a cup of coffee and keeping an eye on our new puppy (who isn't house-trained yet) and without even knowing it, I have been hard at work destroying not one but two of the pillars of Western Civilization – marriage and Christianity. Wow. They were so wrong about me in high school: I am not cold boogers on a paper plate; I am hot snot on a silver platter.

And so are you. Mind you, I don't feel like Dr. Evil. Could it be that Pastor Wilson has confused Moscow's business zone with what might euphemistically be called the end zone? It's all butts and fannies with these fundamentalists. They think about anal sex more than the entire male population of South Beach, Florida.

Which reminds me, I have a message for the Idaho legislature: I'll get you, my pretties, and your Constitution! I just need to figure out where I put that army of flying monkeys – oh, wait! There they are. I was sitting on them all the time. Fly out, boys, fly out!

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 and invites you to visit her web site: www.auntieestablishment.com.

Gay dollars have power

Spokane-Kootnai Pride 2005 fall grant award recipients were publicly honored by the Pride Foundation's regional outreach coordinator Kevan Gardner, in his Auntie Bijou role, before a packed auditorium at the 7th annual GLBT Film Festival Nov. 5.

Three days later Audrey Haberman, Pride Foundation's executive director, and foundation donors were honored at a reception at the South Hill home of Curtis Anderson.

Haberman thanked area supporters and discussed plans to enhance local involvement in charitable giving and disbursement decision-making, themes she repeated in a speech presented at the Inland Northwest Business Alliance luncheon on Wednesday, Nov. 9.

She described the Pride Foundation model, in place in eight communities at this time, wherein locally raised funds stay local, augmented by foundation matching gifts. In six or seven years, she said, all of the foundation's grant-making will conform to this model.

"I want to talk to you about the power of the gay dollar," she stated, and she told this story:

"Several years ago, we started filing shareholder resolutions with companies. We have an endowment and therefore we had investments in stocks and companies. We decided we were going to ask Fortune 500 companies to include sexual orientation in their anti-discrimination workplace policies. There had been very little track record of success in this, but we decided it was an important thing to do, and we had a responsibility in holding those shares of the company.

"And so we said we would go ahead and start big. We had low expectations."

They chose General Electric and McDonald's. The foundation owned a few hundred shares in those companies. They did their research and filed their paperwork.

"The goal was to get on the proxy and get 3 percent support."

At that level, she explained, shareholders are seen to have a degree of power. Moreover, this would allow them to go back for another year. They didn't expect the companies to do anything.

"So we sent it [the resolution] off, and a week later we got a call from McDonald's."

The corporate spokesman said, "You know, we've talked about this on and off for some time. We've been really afraid of the backlash. We do not want this on our proxy so, yes, we will include sexual orientation."

The folks at Pride Foundation were dumbfounded – and transformed.

"That moment really did permanently change Pride Foundation," she affirmed. "What happened in that moment is we realized we had power. ... For the first time, people were saying, we can think really big. We can have the whole loaf. We can ask for what we deserve. And I've noticed with our board members and volunteers how this has come into the discussion a lot."

Equally endearing, she noted, were the responses they received from McDonald's employees all over the country, men and women excited to be free to be out at work, among their co-workers.

Since then, the foundation has pushed for and won anti-discrimination protection for workers at Wal-Mart, General Electric and Emerson Electric.

Haberman reiterated her central message to INBA members and guests: "You all have a tremendous amount of power and you ought to utilize it."

Pride Foundation developed and placed the Allies Ad that ran in major newspapers on National Coming Out Day, Oct. 11. Six of seven Spokane City Council members signed onto the project, she noted, including Bob Apple.



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Pride foundation grants awarded

The Seattle-based Pride Foundation announced awards totaling \$146,000 to 39 nonprofit organizations last month. The foundation distributes funds in its five-state service area (Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington) in two cycles yearly.

The nine Pride Foundation Regional Communities make grants annually. Black Hills, Kitsap County, Pierce County and Spokane-Kootenai gave funds this fall.

Grants manager Jeff Hedgepeth reported receiving a record 104 applications for the five-state fund. One in five requests were granted.

STONEWALL NEWS NORTHWEST'S READERSHIP AREA RECIPIENTS

Blue Mountain Heart to Heart

\$5,000 for general operating support to strengthen care and prevention services for rural individuals at risk for infection with HIV/AIDS.

Inland Northwest Business Alliance

\$3,000 for project completion research fees, pre-production costs and initial marketing materials and to facilitate placement and distribution of the one-hour documentary, "A Rainbow Vision."

Lutheran Community Services

\$3,465 to establish a support and education group for GLBT individuals who have experienced domestic violence while in a same-sex relationship.

Odyssey Youth Center

\$5,000 for general operating expenses; \$3,000 for new promotional materials including an agency brochure, speaker's panel brochure, new logo, business cards and donation insert envelope.

Palouse Pride Planning Committee

\$1,044 to expand the scope and size of the annual parade and festival.

Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane

\$3,235 toward the salary and expenses (rent, postage, telecom, fund-raising, printing and advertising) for the Inland Northwest Equality coordinator.

Rainbow Regional Community Center

\$2,300 to upgrade building electrical outlets and lighting, building materials and office furniture to create office space for local GLBTQA entities.

Spokane AIDS Network

\$3,000 for activities conducted by the Mpowerment Project, a community-level HIV prevention program, endorsed by the Centers for Disease Control.

Yellowstone AIDS Project

\$5,000 to extend client services partnership program throughout Montana.

News in a nutshell from the Palouse

Washington State University's LGBTQ Student Association held a family Thanksgiving Nov. 7 at the Gadish Community Center in Pullman, Wash.

Two lesbian-owned businesses have relocated to 221 E. Main St. in Moscow, Idaho. Eclectica, a costume and novelties retailer, and Safari Pearl, a comic books shop, opened at the new site Nov. 19.

The AIDS Quilt will continue on display at WSU's Compton Union Building Gallery through Dec. 19. The exhibit is open for public viewing from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily.

OUT! In the Middle of Nowhere

"Climate Control"

by Tim Anderson

I was at the airport in San Diego recently and noticed lesbians outnumbered everyone in the Southwest Air terminal. That's when I met Tami, a friendly, middle-aged, somewhat nervous lesbian from Baltimore. I introduced myself as a fellow rainbow tribal member and former honorary lesbian.

"Tami, wassup with all the family?" I asked.

Even after vacationing in San Diego for a week, I knew I couldn't have been so distracted that I'd missed any local LPGA tournaments. I'd spied a few giant cruise ships slipping in and out of port, but it never occurred to me that one of those ships brought new meaning to family vacation.

Tami quickly whispered that she'd just returned from this most marvelous Olivia Cruise – complete with all sorts of famous lesbians. After detailing the wonders of her vacation, she turned very serious. "But they warned us we were leaving Climate Control at the end of the cruise and we'd have to go back to reality."

Tami's hush-hush voice haunted me. Why the whispers? We so outnumbered everyone else in the terminal – and, after all, this was San Diego. Baltimore, her home of 20 years, didn't exactly strike me as oppression central either.

Back at home, I was contacted by a producer from ABC News "Nightline," who was researching a soon-to-be-aired segment on the release of the movie **Brokeback Mountain**. They weren't sure about the legitimacy of International Gay Rodeo Cowboys, and wanted to interview some "real" gay cowboys living the cowboy lifestyle 24/7.

Brokeback Mountain, in case you hadn't heard, is the tale of two hard luck cowboys who fall in love while tending sheep in Wyoming. Based on the haunting, award-winning story by Annie Proulx, the release of **Brokeback** has Hollywood all abuzz. Nationwide moviegoers are about to be treated to two tall-hatted men kissing in chaps. The media frenzy surrounding the sex scenes is reminiscent of that infamous 1990's "girls kiss" episode on "Rosanne." Except circa 2005, it's a Technicolor take on dances with testosteroneed tongue. Gasp! Is America ready to view two macho cowboys kissing and making whoopee after a little too much bottled yippee-cay-yah?

The gay sex, well it reeks Climate Control. How brave that these two straight actors can gush on and on about focusing on the compelling love story while also admitting they originally refused the role. Can you please just forget about the lovemaking part? And

no, for the record, the actors are not even close to being gay. Groundbreaking?

Hardly. Reverse the roles and the "acting" is no different than all those closeted gay actors who've been regularly swapping spit with Hollywood's leading ladies for generations.

Still ABC wanted to know if I could put them in touch with "real" rural gays. It seemed to me they were hell-bent on reinforcing the

prevalent view in gay urban America that the only place one can safely come out of the closet is in some "climate controlled" urban environment.

The problem is I don't know a single miserable rural gay person.

Over the years, I've come to know many, happily Out, rural gay folks. People who really do work their cattle herds, farm thousands of acres and break their own horses. The majority of them are not fearfully hiding in the closet and they aren't suicidal. The popular assumption that being rural and gay defines loneliness isn't accurate.

Surprised? That's because after nearly 40 years of major media interpreting gay stories in America, the only halfway realistic portraits continue to be the urban ones. The real shocker surrounding isn't how groundbreaking the Climate-Controlled Dolby Sound, Cowboy Up! lovemaking is, but rather just how dated the stereotypes remain.

And that whether you're viewing those bucking cowboys on a screen in Billings or Baltimore, it's high time the news gets out that the rural closet no longer holds the power it once did.

A writer, horseman, truck driver, and graduate of Seattle Pacific University and Lutheran Bible Institute of Seattle, Tim has been published in Guide, Frontier, Second Essence and Bend, Don't Shatter. He is also the president of the Gay Truckers Association. For more in-depth information about his bio, visit www.highmountainranch.com which won Website of the Year from www.roadstaronline.com.



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National & International

News in a nutshell

Reform Leader Accuses U.S. Religious Right of Bigotry

Houston (gay-wired.com) – The attitude of American ‘religious right’ leaders toward gays and lesbians is akin to the anti-gay policies promoted by Adolf Hitler, according to the president of the Union for Reform Judaism, Rabbi Eric Yoffie.

<http://www.gaylinknews.com/storydetail2.cfm?storyid=7718>

Two cutting-edge housing clusters have come to New Mexico - one designed for an aging gay population and one catering to nontraditional women

New Mexico (The Albuquerque Tribune) – At a time when the largest group of senior citizens in our country’s history is approaching old age - and more of them are gay and out of the closet than ever before - New Mexico is on the forefront in redefining what those golden years might look like.

http://www.abqtrib.com/albq/features/article/0,2564,ALBQ_19849_4246898,00.html

Northern Ireland Council-ior Claims Gays are “Abominable and Filthy”

Edinburgh, Scotland (PinkNews.co.uk) – A councillor for the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) in Northern Ireland, led by Dr. Ian Paisley, has branded gays as “abominable and filthy” and to blame for Hurricane Katrina and the spread of AIDs in Africa.

<http://www.gaylinkcontent.com/storydetail2.cfm?storyid=7712>

More Gay Executions in Iran

Iran (GayNZ.com) – Two more men have reportedly been publicly executed in Iran this week, accused under religious “Sharia” law of homosexual acts. This is the second set of gay executions this year in the Islamic nation, and international human rights groups are outraged.

<http://www.gaynz.com/news/default.asp?dismode=article&artid=2981>

Counter-protesters: ‘God loves gays’

By Sara Holwerda

Originally printed 11/24/2005 (Issue 1347 - Between The Lines News)

ANN ARBOR - On Saturday evening, outside the west entrance to the Michigan League, at least 200 LGBTA community members and supporters gathered in preparation for a “non-violent, peaceful, and unified counter-protest” against a baker’s dozen of anti-gay protestors from Fred Phelps’ Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kansas.

Phelps’ posse were at the University of Michigan to protest the school’s production of “The Laramie Project,” a theatrical production based on the life of Matthew Shepard, a gay man who was tortured, beaten, tied to a fence and left to die because of his sexual orientation in 1998. The play was held at the Mendelssohn Theatre and put on by UofM’s School of Music and Department of Theatre and Drama.

Members of the LGBTA community had been preparing for this event for weeks.

Many University departments, including the Department of Public Safety and the Office of LGBTA, created Organized for Unity in response. OFU organized a counter-protest with an emphasis on a cohesive theme of peace. The plan of action was laid out and sent to all interested parties via e-mail before the event.

Actions by the OFU included the formation and training of a Peace Team. During the counter-protest, Peace Team members could be seen in their bright yellow vests emblazoned with “Peacemaker” or “Peace Team.” They

were the people closest in proximity to the Phelps group aside from the police. Inserts about Phelps’ protests were put in the programs for that night’s production of “The Laramie

Project.” The OutLoud Chorus, working with coordinator Jim Leija, planned a sing-a-long and prepared song sheets for supporters.

With Phelps’ group due to arrive at 7:15 p.m., supporters

had time to visit the information tent sent up by the Safe Space and Action Center, grab hot cocoa supplied by the Stonewall Democrats, pick up ear-plugs to drown out the Phelps group, and show their pride with light sticks and rainbow sashes. There were also free cookies offered up by the Queer Scouts of America; students enrolled in an outreach course in the UofM School of Art and Design led by associate professor Holly Hughes.

OutLoud sang for the duration of the counter-protest, including “We Shall Overcome” (with additional verses including “We Are Not Ashamed”) and “America the Beautiful.”

Shortly before the arrival of the Phelps group, Gabe Javier, a coordinator with OFU, pulled out his megaphone and reminded everyone in attendance that, “Peace and non-violence are more powerful than hate.” Javier directed the crowd to line up in two lines and make their way around to the front of the League. There, most lined up with linked arms, banners, glow-sticks and

Continued on page 18



News in a nutshell

UAE: Hormone treatment for gay men

Dubai, United Arab Emirates (Reuters) – Men arrested at what a United Arab Emirates official said appeared to be a gay wedding are to be given hormone therapy, officials said on Tuesday. The U.S. State Department condemned the forced medical treatment of gay couples in the Muslim Gulf Arab state and called on the UAE to comply with international legal standards.

<http://www.cnn.com/2005/WORLD/meast/11/29/uae.gay.reut/index.html>

Elton looking for wedding party venue

England (Scotsman.com) – Sir Elton John and his partner David Furnish are planning an extravagant reception to follow their forthcoming civil partnership ceremony – but cannot find a venue.

The flamboyant singer is set to “marry” his long-term partner in December in one of the first unions following the introduction of the Civil Partnership Act.

<http://news.scotsman.com/topics.cfm?tid=294&id=2321902005>

Spain in knots

Madrid (Gayteens.org) – As Spaniards avail themselves of one of the world’s most liberal laws sanctioning gay marriage, knots of another sort are emerging.

The new rules have put Spanish authorities into bitter conflict with the Roman Catholic Church and revived angry rhetorical ghosts from Spain’s civil war, when the church backed dictator Francisco Franco and homosexuality was a crime.

<http://www.gayteens.org/714/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=872>

Former opponents join to fight gay marriage in election campaign

Ottawa (CP) – Two former political opponents will work together to force the same-sex marriage issue onto the agenda during the coming election campaign.

http://news.yahoo.com/cpress/20051122/ca_pr_on_na/anti_same_sex_3

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“Family”

Family man, businessman, activist

Jeff Buckner isn't quite as tall or as beefy as the classic good guy/big guy character we have all come to know and love (remember Hoss Cartwright of “Bonanza” fame?), but he certainly wears the proverbial white hat, the ready smile and the soft-spoken, easy-going manner so often associated with the gentle giant type. He exudes “nice.”

His underlying sweetness turned to something powerful when he spoke of his three daughters – Ashley, 14, Joellee, 11, and Aubrey, 9.

“A lot of people, especially in the gay community, will talk about family as their close-knit group

of friends. ... That's who their family is. But my family is *my family* ... When I think of family, I think of my kids,” he declared.

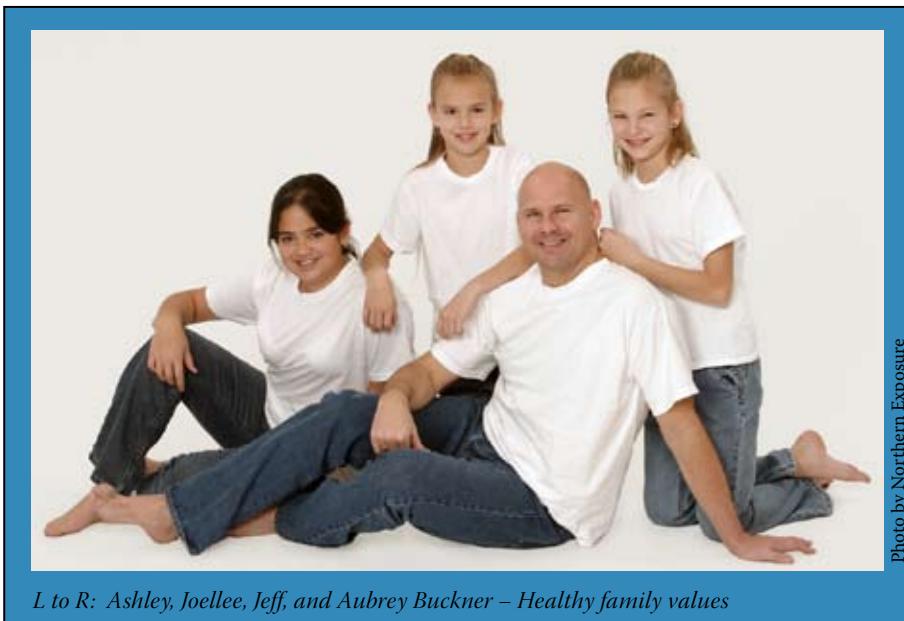
Born in California, one of eight siblings, he knew he was gay from an early age, probably five. He recited the story his mother tells of knowing his truth when he was but 18 months old. She got confused when he seemed to walk the straight path. Theirs was a Christian home, Pentecostal in fact, and Buckner embraced his religion with gusto. He ultimately married a preacher's daughter. He conceded, “I did what I thought I was supposed to do ... to please God, society and my family.”

Ashley was a year and a half old when Buckner married her mother. Pained bewilderment washed over his eyes as he detailed the coolness with which the child's natural father signed over parental rights, clearing the way for him to adopt her. “So she is my pumpkin girl,” he finished, his face aglow with pride and joy. “I forget she is adopted a lot of times. Even she forgets. I hope it's because of the way I treat her. ... I don't think I could possibly have a favorite. They're all so wonderful little people in their own ways, different ways.”

Buckner clearly enjoys the role of father, a descriptive he does not use. His choice, the appellation he applied unabashedly throughout a nearly one-hour interview: “Daddy.”

The divorce that followed his

coming out to his wife generated ill will for a time. He didn't get to see his kids at first. The matter of his orientation was not discussed directly. He explained, “I thought they were young enough



L to R: Ashley, Joellee, Jeff, and Aubrey Buckner – Healthy family values

that through lifestyle example they could know who Daddy was and put it together in their mind, and then one day, when they learned what the word was and the negativity that society

Buckner's mother, a member of the Assembly of God Church, was asked to sign a petition restricting gay rights. "I can't sign that," she said. "I have a gay son and I totally support him. No one can tell me that he's immoral, that he did anything to choose this."

associated with it, that they would think, “That doesn't describe my daddy... I thought it worked well.”

“Things that meant stuff to you before mean nothing compared to your kids.”

– Jeff Buckner

Questions do arise. “Mommy says boys aren't supposed to kiss boys,” one of the girls announced during a weekend

bike ride. Buckner called for an on-the-spot family meeting.

“Sometimes mommies and daddies can't tell their kids how to feel and think. Sometimes you have to decide for yourself. Sometimes Mommy's not right and Daddy's not right. It's what you think,” he responded.

“I don't think it's bad,” said one daughter, and the others agreed.

Not long ago, they were watching a sitcom that featured a gay character and the youngest asked, “Daddy, what's ‘gay’?” He pondered a more comprehensive reply but settled for a brief definition; what she needed, he surmised, was information about the word, not a treatise on the practice.

“I don't focus on being a gay parent,” said Buckner. “I focus on being a parent.” He returned to a point he expressed repeatedly: “The status, being gay, is just a small part of who I am.”

He doesn't shy away from the subject, however. All his friends and co-workers know he's gay. When he went to work as the controller at Spokane Power Tool four years ago, one man, a devout evangelical Christian, let him know in no uncertain terms how he felt about homosexuality. “It gives me goosebumps,” Buckner admitted, when he told of a recent encounter with the same man.

“I just want to tell you that you've made me question my beliefs,” the man said. “My church tells me that you're a child molester and an alcoholic and a drug addict and a pervert. I see that you are none of these.”

He further noted, “I've seen you with your kids. You're an awesome dad and I know you don't drink and you don't do drugs and you've never smoked ... It makes me wonder why they teach that.”

“Because they're afraid,” Buckner countered, amazed and gratified that what he calls “lifestyle example” can change hearts and minds. “I was just being Jeff.”

In addition to work and family, Buckner serves as treasurer of the Rainbow Regional Community Center board of directors. He will begin his fifth year in that capacity in January.

Jeff Buckner and Paul Gilmore are exploring the steps required to form a Spokane chapter of Gay Daddies. If you or someone you know would like to help launch this family-friendly program, please call 280-9228 or e-mail: jeffreybuckner@hotmail.com

Community Builder

Jim Jones is a relative newcomer to the Lilac City, having arrived from the East Coast in July 2004. Barely a year later, he initiated two programs aimed at building GLBTQ community pride and awareness.

He launched his blog, “Blogging for Reality-Based People of Spokane” (www.choiceofthepeople.blogspot.com), at the end of August, he said, “in response to some narrow-minded groups that seem extremely well organized. I wanted a method to get factual information out to the GLBTQA community to combat the ‘facts’ these groups publicize.”

At first he was doing one, often two, posts per day, but he has found it a bit challenging to offer properly researched material at that pace, so he has backed off some.

Readers seem to favor his efforts. His site gets 50-60 visitors per day. To date, more than 5,000 have viewed his postings.

Topics have ranged from “talking points” to counter arguments against domestic partner benefits to instructions on how to properly address same-sex couples to heartfelt goodbyes to the newly deceased (even Bob Denver, TV's



“Gilligan,” got a nod). He tends to focus, however, on politics and hot-button issues such as the Vatican's plans to root out gay seminarians and the latest machinations

of extremist Christian groups.

Jones highlights community goings-on as well. **Friday Nights Out (FNO)** was also his brainchild, a low-key, low-cost opportunity for social interaction, the first of which was held Oct. 7 at ella's Supper Club, 1017 W. First Ave., in downtown Spokane. The last one for 2005 will be Dec. 2 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Attendance has varied. The post-Film Festival gathering Nov. 5 saw a crowd of out about 40 people; 20-25 is more typical, said Jones. Men tend to outnumber women, but female participation is on the rise. All age groups have been represented and all are welcome, though 30-somethings have predominated.

FNO will resume Jan. 5 at ella's and continue there through the month. In February, the site will change to Catacombs for a three-month period.

“I want to support businesses that have supported us,” said Jones.

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WORLD HABITAT AWARD

Continued from page 1

About the award, Lerner acknowledged, "I feel very honored. The award really goes to everyone who worked on the project... It's really an award to the human drive to make things better – applying ingenuity."



Straw-bale construction has not yet caught on in the United States, although several such homes have been built here in Spokane. Interest may rise as home heating costs escalate, said Lerner.

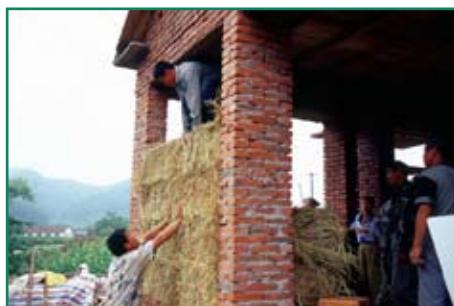
Locally, she has focused her talents on "custom green homes." She continued, "I really prefer to do them in established neighborhoods rather than out in the middle of nowhere on undeveloped land. I don't think that's very sustainable."



Driving long distances in ever-increasing traffic is not her idea of quality living. She grew up in northern Indiana, spent five or six years as a pottery artisan in Oregon, then did volunteer recruitment for Girl Scouts for a few years. It was when she was remodeling a home that she realized her passion.



Lerner enrolled in the architectural program at the University of Oregon and began to explore energy efficient options, including straw-bale construction. She moved to the Bay Area to work with a pioneer in this technology, Dan Smith and Associates, and stayed nine years.



Two and a half years ago, she decided she'd had enough of the big city and its traffic and air pollution. She had traveled the northwest enough to know that the place to be if you've had your fill of fog and rain is east of the Cascades. She sought a city that had a university as well as cultural niceties. She considered Boise and Spokane.

"Spokane won hands-down," she reported.

Because energy-efficient building is new here, she doesn't have a lot of competition. "It's a niche market," she admitted, but "it's growing.... It hasn't been hard to find clients here."

She envisions a broader clientele in the future; remodels will be key to "green" in Spokane.

Energy Efficiency at Home

Adapted from *Natural Remodeling for the Not-So-Green House*, by Carol Venolia and Kelly Lerner, for Stonewall News Northwest

Making your home more energy efficient is a win-win-win; you reduce fossil-fuel use and the accompanying global climate change, you save money on utility bills, and you increase your physical comfort.

Here are a few tips to consider:

Reduce Appliance Operating Costs

Refrigerator, freezer, dishwasher, washing machine and clothes dryer – we love the convenience of modern appliances. Because they last a long time (10 to 20 years), it's important to buy appliances wisely.

- The American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) publishes lists of the "best of the best" energy-efficient appliances. A condensed version of their lists is available at no charge on ACEEE's Web site, www.aceee.org. You can also order *The Most Energy-Efficient Appliances 2004* for under \$10.

- Look for the Energy Star label when shopping for appliances and lighting products [ILLUS: Energy Star logo] and check the Energy Star Web site (www.energystar.gov) for special rebates in your region. Consider Energy Star as a minimum standard. You can often find products that exceed these standards.

Reduce Heating and Cooling Costs

- Install a programmable thermostat. You can set the timer/programmer to determine when and at what temperatures your heating/cooling system will operate.

- If your air duct system is outside your home's insulated envelope, thoroughly seal the duct system using mastic and foil tape.

- If your air duct system is outside your home's insulated envelope, thoroughly insulate the duct system after you seal it.

- Air-seal your home. For more information on air sealing see: www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=home_sealing.hm_improvement_sealing

- After you have air-sealed your home, insulate your attic, walls, and floor/crawlspace. For recommended levels of insulation in each climate see: www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=home_sealing.hm_improvement_insulation_table

- Replace your heating/cooling system with a new energy-efficient unit. Heat pumps are especially efficient in milder climates; look for a Seasonal Energy-Efficiency Ratio (SEER) of at least 14.5 and a Heating Seasonal Performance Factor (HSPF) around 9.0. For fuel-fired heating units, look for sealed combustion and an Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency (AFUE) of 90+.

Reduce Water Heating Costs

- Lower your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees. This can save as much as \$45 per year and reduce the risk of being scalded by tap water.

- Insulate your water heater tank with specially designed water-heater jacket insulation. (Some newer energy-efficient models should not be insulated; check the manual.) Gas water heaters should be not be insulated on top. Set an electric water heater on a piece of rigid foam insulation, especially if it's on a concrete slab.

- Insulate all exposed hot water pipes. Use minimum 5/8" foam pipe insulation or 3" fiberglass wrap.

Lighting and Electronics

Though lighting and electronics aren't the largest consumer of electricity in your home, they are one of the easiest arenas for reducing energy use.

- Maximize your use of sunlight.

- Don't try to achieve uniformly high levels of light throughout your house. Task lighting, such as desk lamps or fixtures that shine directly on kitchen work surfaces, puts the light where you need it most.

- Where electric lighting is needed, make the switch to Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs). They are three to four times more efficient than incandescent bulbs, and they last eight to ten times longer. Replacing incandescent bulbs with CFLs may appear expensive, but it can actually reduce your lighting energy costs by 50-80% without any loss in lighting quality.

- To avoid standby losses, unplug appliances when not in use. Better yet, group appliances (for example, a computer, printer, and other peripherals, or a TV, DVD, VCR, and stereo) on one surge protector that can be turned off when the appliances are not in use.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Irma Vep bites at interPLAYERS Response is: Fantastick(s)

by Christopher Lawrence

Irma Vep was a bad girl. And by "bad" of course I mean good. There is that type of comedy that creates a groan and grows into a begrudging laugh. This is NOT that.

My first thought on seeing the two cross-dressing actors sashay onto the stage was: "That woman really needs more base to cover her five o'clock shadow!" It would need to be applied with a paint roller to hide the males under the female characterizations. **Vep** isn't really about gender confusion as much as it is a comical spoof on so many of the gothic dramas (now seen more as comedy) at the turn of the 20th century.

Damon C. Mentzer and Christopher Bange both showed incredible physical articulation, both precise and hilarious.

Damon, a local actor who works pretty regularly looks the part of a cute frat boy who knows something he shouldn't. Such a provocatively wicked smile should never have been bestowed on a straight boy.

Christopher is an excellent and more-than-slightly over the top actor who came to us from Seattle. Way too comfortable in women's clothes he also roughed out a great gameskeeper that one would hate to meet in the in the moors at midnight.

The audience is in on all the fun and occasionally pulled into the 'dramady' with little choice. Bange, as the Egyptian mummy vampire returned from the dead, undulated through a perfectly awful veil dance, false nipples akimbo only to rub them vigorously across the spectacles of an unsuspecting elderly woman. She laughed so hard we thought we might need to call 911. The audience howled.

The Mystery of Irma Vep was great.

Make room in your calendar for the **The Fantasticks**. You may recognize one of the love-struck songs from this, longest running musical comedy in the world. Does "Try to Remember" ring a bell? Running



through Dec. 17, this cockeyed backward story is distantly akin to Romeo and Juliet, except that these parents PRETEND to have a feud in order to dupe their children into falling in love and betrothal.

Full of quirks, shamelessly sweet romance, and foolish mugging, it still has the ability to appeal to the pure at heart in all of us. "The Rape Ballet" was fairly controversial in the sixties but should not be missed.

"Good families gone bad" might have been the headlines when this delightful musical was created and introduced to audiences in 1960. The Web site claims that "Internationally, more than 700 productions have been staged in 67 nations from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe." Something about this show has a really universal appeal and we are lucky to have it returning to Spokane.

Don't expect edgy. Just settle back and let this slightly zany comedy and the comforting music spin their magic.

Tickets are available from the interPLAYERS' box office or by calling ahead for reservations at (509) 455-PLAY (7529).

Cheers and drums lift Film Fest

by Barbara Williamson and Christopher Lawrence

Spokane's GLBT community came together in force Nov. 4 and 5 for the 7th annual **GLBT Film Festival**. Playing to a packed auditorium, Stormy Oshun of the Giant Ass Drum Corps opened the festival with a rousing clapping rhythm lesson designed to highlight how difference can be our strength. A slight modification in the schedule allowed the actor/director and the star of **Proteus Point** to treat the audience to an insider's view of independent filmmaking.

Then, after the intermission, we were treated to a hilarious performance by the Radical Cheerleaders. This was an evening to remember, not only for the interesting group of films, but also for the incredible energy in the audience reaction to the entertainers and the films. Has there ever been a film festival evening so full of Pride and as rowdy and rollicking as this one?

Three other short films followed the live entertainment. **Bikini**, an animated beach adventure about coming out, with an amusing homage to stereotypes that poked fun at themselves lyrically; **A Fish (Almost) Eaten by a Shark**, a documentary about being different in high school and forming a proactive gay/straight alliance to maintain dignity; **Hi Maya**, a charming stroll down memory lane when two elderly widowed women rediscover each other many years after their summer camp tryst, were all shown to the appreciative crowd. The final film of the night, a documentary called **In My Father's Church**, witnesses a daughter's journey toward marriage and the struggle to understand why her pastor father did not perform her wedding ceremony.

The Saturday afternoon matinee introduction was less lively, but **Irene Williams, Queen of Lincoln Road** stole our hearts and hammered at our funny bones with her upbeat attitude and outrageous outfits. **Small Town Secrets** is a living tribute to Kathleen Leggett's journey documenting the closet in which she and her gay parents lived while she was growing up. Another animated short was followed by the documentary from local filmmaker Frank Hays, **Journey of Love**, which chronicles the life of Spokane activist Christopher Lawrence and his partner, Kevin Anthony, who died of AIDS.

Saturday night's final shows were hosted by the effervescent, glittering and always lovely Auntie Bijou Matinee. Everyone enjoyed the surprise birthday cake for Auntie Bijou's more mundane alter-ego, Kevan Gardner, regional outreach manager for the Pride Foundation. Then **Me, Myself & I** explored a variety of gender assumptions and issues with Mr. Rogers theme song placed in ironic circumspsect; **Cairo Calling** treated us to an Egyptian mother coming to America to rescue her son and get him married with a humorous ending twist of 'happily ever after.' Two other shorts preceded the 2005 audience choice award winner, **We are Dad**, an especially inspiring documentary about two gay men in Florida co-parenting a group of special-needs children under the shadow of Florida's anti-gay bias.

The **Spokane GLBT Film Festival** gets bigger and better every year and once again proved itself and its ability to bring together our community, to both entertain and to enlighten.

Spend a night OUT
PRIDE & JOY
MOVIE NIGHT

CENTER STAGE
a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Arts Organization

The fourth Tuesday of each month at 6 pm for the Social Hour at ella's Supper Club. Appetizers and dinner at 25% discount

Showing: Mysterious Skin
at 7:15 on December 27
Tickets \$5

Drawings to win Theater Tickets for current productions each month and more!
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Holiday entertainment for "family"

December is often a slow month in entertainment with a few notable exceptions. This seemed like a great time to put together a list of ideas for 'family' and friends to have some extra fun that might not have occurred to you.

Early in this holiday season we are fortunate enough to have featured by the Spokane Jazz Orchestra, **Christmas Favorites Featuring Horace Alexander Young**. He is considered as one of a revered group of "triple threat" recording and touring artists who is equally gifted with woodwinds, keyboards and percussion. He is also thought to be a truly fine jazz vocalist and composer. For beautifully romantic and classic sounds you can be sure of a place to snuggle with your "significant other" in the warmth of this Holiday Concert at the Met on Saturday, Dec. 3.

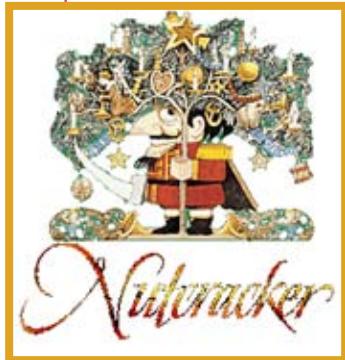
If, on the other hand, you would prefer something for the whole family that you can see at home, I highly recommend **Good Boy**, the 2003 tongue-in/on-cheek sleeper that examines the truth about our relationships with 'man's best friend.' If you have kids or dogs in your extended family this is a 'must see' despite some slightly vulgar humor (Hey! They ARE dogs for gosh sake!), and would also make a great gift that can be enjoyed again and again.

is reviewed on the R & P page. Make this a holiday outing to be shared with friends that love the excitement offered in this razor sharp interpretation of the classic opera, **La Boheme**. Finding it more gritty and uplifting than formal and dark, Rolling Stone magazine called it "A raw, riveting milestone in musical theater!"



GLBTQ ally considers any group of 25 or more to be a large enough audience to rent it out in the hinterlands. That might be us! If none of our local movie theaters choose to run it, perhaps a group can rent it and show it on **Pride & Joy Movie Night** at CenterStage Theater in the coming months. Do I hear a "Yay!" or "Nay!" from anyone OUT there? Let me know.

If you want to consider taking a holiday trip to Seattle, make plans now to see the Pacific Northwest Ballet's inimitable **Nutcracker**, a favorite family holiday tradition that has been dazzling the young and the young-at-heart each holiday season for 22 years. Running through Dec. 28 and created by PNB's Founding Artistic Director Kent Stowell and world-famous children's author and illustrator, Maurice Sendak, **Nutcracker's** brilliant blend of costumes, sets and choreography create a magical storybook world enjoyed by children and adults alike. You may purchase tickets online at <http://www.pnb.org/season/tickets.html>



Looking for something more edgy and upbeat? Rent is playing at three separate movie complexes in greater Spokane. The music

Speaking of raw and riveting, I would wager that most of you have at least one friend who either is a fan of, or wants to be a fan of Ari Gold. Bruno Gmünder has compiled a sizzling coffee table book set that is accompanied by a book of Ari picture postcards as well as a CD of Ari's remixes. The book and the CD are reviewed in R & P. That should melt the snow off some of your hearths.

Brokeback Mountain, the extremely controversial new movie starring hotties Jake Gyllenhaal and Heath Ledger is scheduled to open Dec. 9 around the country. No word in the Lilac City indicating we will be privy to see it during its opening run, but Ang Lee, a true

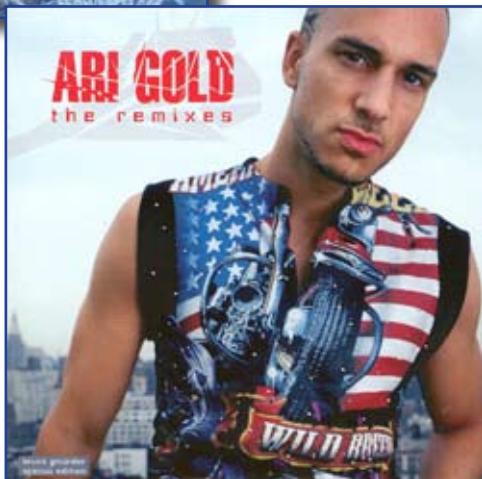
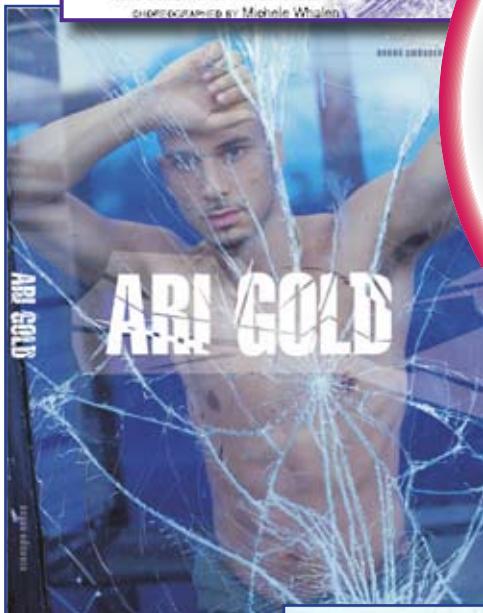
Pride & Joy Movie Night

...is offered as an alternative social venue for the GLBTQA community on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Join us on Dec. 27 for the 6 p.m. **Post-Christmas Social** at ella's *Supper Club* and the showing of **Mysterious Skin**, a film highly charged with homoerotic energies that follows the divergent paths of two young men who were sexually abused as children. Mystery mixed with the drama of self-discovery. You can find the review of it online at <http://www.stonewallnews.net> in the Nov. 2005 issue.

Ticket holders for **Pride & Joy Movie Night** are offered drink specials and a 25 percent discount on all food from ella's. Drawings for theater tickets and more. Join us. Without a doubt, CenterStage is "family"-friendly.

A POPE FOR GAY MARRIAGE

Did his struggle for homosexual rights cost him his life? look for **'Murder in the Vatican'** Auntie's Books • 402 W. Main • Spokane



If traveling such a distance to see a holiday favorite is not for you, have no worries. **A Christmas Carol** with the classic characters of Ebenezer Scrooge, the ghosts of Christmases Past, Present and Future and Tiny Tim always delight the whole 'family' (men wearing dressing gowns, indeed!) and our own Civic Theatre is doing their production through Dec. 18. Tickets may be purchased by calling 509-325-2507 or you may order online at <http://ticketswest.rdl.com/artist.aspx?evt=39474>

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MUSIC DIRECTOR

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REVIEWS & PREVIEWS

BOOKS & VIDEOS

Reviews by Christopher Lawrence

Arie Gold

by Bruno Gmünder

Hardback, 50 pages

This is both a high-end coffee table book and a CD set (see Music Reviews) that includes a second smaller book of picture postcards. The very hot and very OUT Ari Gold is featured in various moods and stages of evocative and sometimes a bit provocative dress and undress.

If you are not yet familiar with Gold, he is OUT, he is PROUD and he is unafraid to make his way in the world of music, owning his personal orientation and communicating his feelings openly... a rock star with real integrity that drives his music and his life.

He confesses to being a Madonna fan and relates his story of meeting her with some awe and yet as self-aware as he appears to be, he has focused on becoming an excellent musician and OUTstanding spokesman for coming out with no regrets.

According to some sources, Boy George claims to have discovered Ari Gold and yet it seems more like Gold discovered himself at an early age and built on his obvious love of music with great strength and plenty of talent. At any rate, this book is just a hint of what is to come. Keep your eyes and ears open for more from this rising talent.

The portraits (photographs and illustrations) are by such European and American notables as Boy George, John Falacco, Duane Cramer, Aaron Corbett, James Houston, Mr. Means, Joe Oppedisano, Marco Carocari, Jason Lloyd Miller, Alan Emmins and Joe Phillips.

Our music reviewer Graham Ames wrote this about **The Remixes**: The Jewish Boy Toy from the Bronx accompanies his coffee table photo book with this exclusive album of eight remixes from his smash-hit, award-winning sophomore album, **Space Under Sun**. Five tunes are represented here in various forms: "Love Will Take Over," "Wave Of You," "Bashert (Meant To Be)," "He's On My Team" and "Funk That Ship."

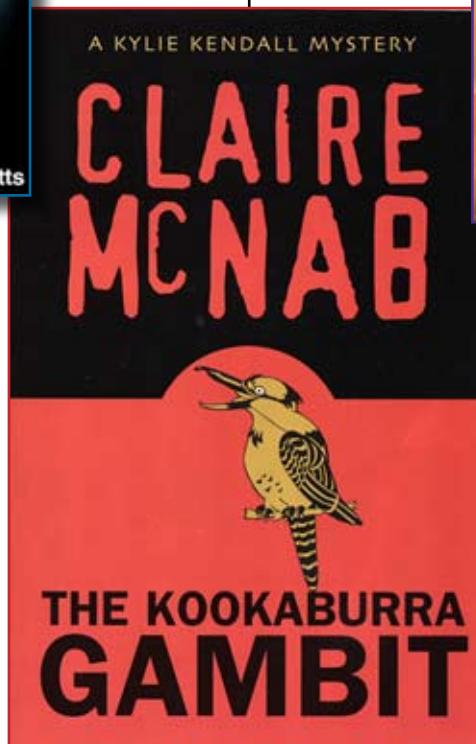
This is queer dance music at its best, with positive lyrics and booty-grinding beats a-plenty. "Hate will subside and

love will take over," proclaims the track that receives the most treatments here, four of them ranging from house anthem style to deep house club and even trance mixes. *Bashert* is a yiddish word meaning "match made in heaven," and it's delightful to hear it applied to same-sex coupling.

"He's On My Team" is a quite clever conversation song about gaydar and its accuracy. Ari's vocals remind one of a typical boy-band frontman, although with a depth

he decides to steal the necklace that belonged to his real mother from his estranged family. While the two are carrying out this misdeed, the family returns home, surprising them in the act. A struggle ensues. The gun is fired.

Ethan's taking his family hostage at gunpoint is the pivotal moment that turns one against the other, triggering the slow, painful awareness that each played a part in the betrayal of love and loyalty.



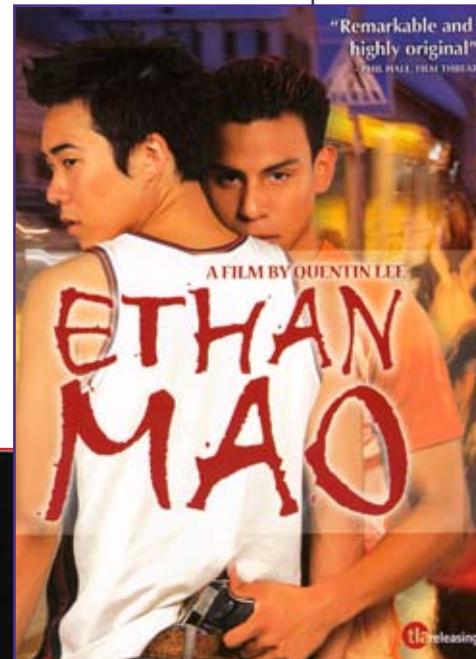
and expressiveness seldom found in such teen fare.

This "bonus" included with the gorgeous photo book is a great overview of Ari's music for the uninitiated, and will please "completists" who have to have EVERY version of EVERY track.

Ethan Mao
by Quentin Lee
TLA Releasing,
87 minutes

The insight into this Chinese-American family develops in a subtle manner, much of it at the point of a gun. The violence is a result of unspoken feelings in a family; each member is complicit in the secret politics that often go unspoken in households. Ethan's father is enraged upon learning from his wife about his oldest son's cache of gay magazines. Unable to accept his son's orientation and unwilling to consider the consequences, he throws the boy out of his home to live on the streets.

Angry, hurt, and frustrated, Ethan is befriended by Romigio, another young stray, with whom he lives until one day



The part of the stepmother ("I was an ACTRESS!") is a plum role and could have used a bit more depth and humanity.

Some very sweet moments are shared among the characters who eventually begin to see each other as whole and worthwhile.

Direction was good. The story was thought-provoking.

Truly, this low-budget indie film has some potential. Aside from the overly dramatic content (read: not very subtle), there is plenty in this film to enjoy. The story is original and deals with issues that families face every day. Most manage to do that without bloodshed, which might be a subject for another day.

The Kookaburra Gambit
by Claire McNab
Alyson Books, 226 pages

It took me a full two weeks to get into this tale. Perhaps the obstacle was that I rarely read fiction, lesbian fiction less still. And this Australian-born author offered little to hook me in the first dozen or so pages.

Perseverance paid off, however. Just as "B" movies have entertainment value, Claire McNab's second Kylie Kendall mystery eventually won me over. Maybe I'm a sucker for Aussie terminology. The word-play alone was enough to keep me going despite a lackluster plot and a menagerie of rather shallow, stereotypical characters.

It helped too that I'm a Southern California transplant, so the story unfolded in familiar places. Anyone who watches television knows about the trendy sections around Los Angeles – from Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills to the "family" haven of West Hollywood. The settings seemed predictable to the point of being cliché.

Kylie Kendall, the protagonist, is a detective-in-training, having inherited her recently deceased father's 51 percent share in a thriving private investigation firm and, of course, she falls head-over-heels for her new business partner, a brilliant and attractive woman, who, like herself, is a lesbian.

Forced romance is no more appealing in gay storytelling than in mainstream. I would like to have seen more character development to support the sexual tension alluded to but rarely felt in the interaction of the key players.

The titular kookaburra is a plush toy version of a character in an Australian children's program about to be made into a movie by a cultlike organization – only the little Kelvins have been shipped to the States with a belly full of stolen opals. What can the creators of the "Oz Mob" do but seek help from their onetime neighbor and Aussie compatriot...

An easy-to-read "escape," once you get into it." And it comes with preview pages of Kendall's next adventure.

—C.D. Willis

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.

REVIEWS & PREVIEWS

MUSIC

Reviews by Graham Ames

RENT Original Motion Picture Soundtrack

Warner Brothers Records

I have seen neither the stage nor movie productions of this long-running musical but have known the story behind its creation for a long time. Jonathan Larson wrote the book, lyrics and music for a modern rock resetting of Puccini's *La Boheme* and passed away the night of its final dress rehearsal. *RENT* went on to win a Pulitzer and four Tony awards, and continues its run on stage a decade later. It has now been directed for film by Chris Columbus, with most of the original cast. This soundtrack album (28 tracks, two discs) has such fire and energy, it is sure to win a new generation of fans.

There are plenty of inspiring tracks here ("Seasons Of Love," "One Song Glory," "Out Tonight," "Another Day," "La Vie Boheme" and "Without You") to have me listening to this mammoth project compulsively since the CD arrived. The more conversational pieces feel a bit awkward at times, but are in keeping with the operatic nature of the work. A single disc "Highlights from..." album is available featuring only the standout songs, a sort of "aria without recitative" take on *RENT*. Either way, the passion in these tracks spills out into the life of the listener, which I am sure was exactly Larson's intent.

Confessions From a Dance Floor

Madonna

Warner Brothers Records

The ultimate guilty pleasure for anyone who loves pop, dance music, disco or Madonna, *Confessions...* is 12 tracks of nonstop energy which begs to be played loud and demands plenty of elbow room for moving about. You listen to this with your entire body, not just your ears. Working with new producer Stuart Price, Ms. M has fashioned a neo/retro sonic blend that cleverly feels old

school while being completely cutting edge. Pulling sources and inspiration from the highest days of disco ("Hung Up" has an ABBA sample; "Future Lovers" recalls Donna Summers' "I Feel Love"), through '80s dance pop (obvious in the keyboards on "Get Together") and into current trends with tracks like "How High" and "Push," M & Friends manage to make it feel all "of a piece" somehow.

There are a few things lacking, however. There aren't a lot of lovely melodies to sing along with here. "These tracks are more

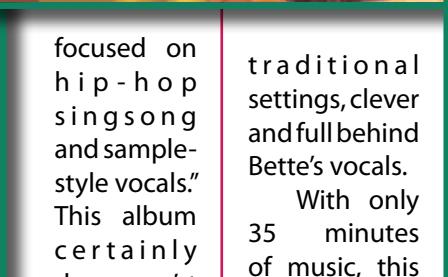
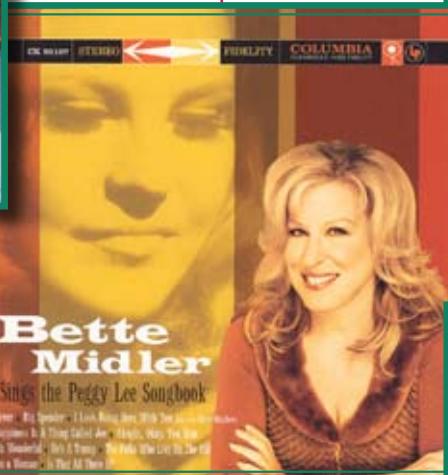
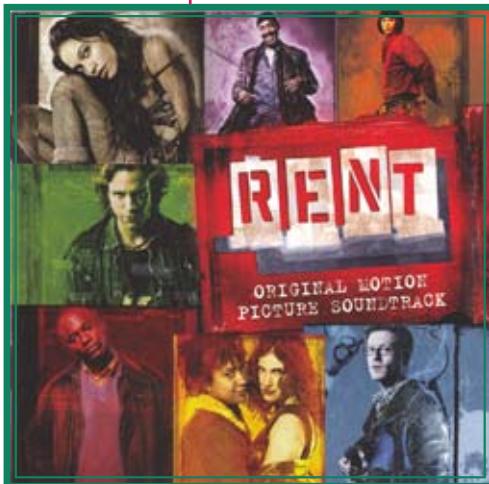
along with longtime friend and producer Barry Manilow, has created a glowing, respectful tribute.

The 10 tracks on this album include tunes familiar even to younger generations, such as "Fever," "I'm A Woman," "He's A Tramp" (from the film *Lady And The Tramp*) and "Big Spender." Older listeners will thrill to hear "Happiness Is A Thing Called Joe" and "Mr. Wonderful" included in the list. These are new arrangements by Manilow, who has been a force in jazz for a while now, and they are all luscious,

delicious holiday confections should be served in every household this year.

Jane takes on a wide range of styles over the course of the 11 secular carols presented here. The gentle guitar jazz of "Merry Christmas Darling," the jazz trio of "Moonlight In Vermont," the often-overlooked original lyrics to "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas" and the Ella-esque "Sleighride." The remaining tracks are all perfect companions for a roaring fire and a glass of hot buttered rum.

One bit of warning: this CD contains Sony's "malware," which has been in the news much of late. Thus, this great addition to any holiday music collection should only be played in a standard audio CD device.



focused on hip-hop songs and sample-style vocals." This album certainly doesn't have the

depth of *Ray Of Light* or *Like A Prayer*, either one of which could be considered Madonna's *Sgt. Pepper's*. All that aside, though, *Confessions...* is an outstanding project worth picking up. Just make sure you have comfortable shoes, as you won't be sitting down much while it plays.

Bette Midler Sings The Peggy Lee Songbook

Bette Midler

Columbia Records

Following the success of her Rosemary Clooney album, *The Divine Ms. M* has decided to take on another iconic singer from the 1950s. Few recording stars from that era pulled off the careful balance between sexy allure and social acceptance like Peggy Lee, and Bette,

traditional settings, clever and full behind Bette's vocals.

With only 35 minutes of music, this album feels far too short, especially in this era of the 70-minute CD. Bette also seems to disappear too completely into the songs, allowing little of her own personality to shine through. Still, these are minor complaints about an album that will bring such wonderful songs to a new audience for the first time in a half century.

The Season

Jane Monheit

Epic Records

I can forgive Jane for opening her new Christmas album with the soft jazz of "This Christmas." I have never been a fan of that particular style, but happily she gets that radio-ready single out of the way and settles into the classic jazz vocals for which she has become famous. Such

guitar, driving drums, rock and classical influences, and rich, emotional vocals (tinged with Tori Amos' style) soon cast their spell over me.

Relationships (and how to navigate them) are the subject of these 10 tracks. In "Back Of My Neck," Allison realizes that "I don't need you in order to breathe, but I liked your breath on the back of my neck." The title track finds her lamenting trying to capture love in a song, because "there wasn't any sound as beautiful as you." During "Spinning Song," she notes "just because I'm naked next to you doesn't mean we're stripped of anything." There is depth here to explore for some while.

Ready is available online through www.allisontartalia.com (where you will also find audio to sample), as well as for download via iTunes.™

Be Our Guest

Digg's divides, dismays

Editor's note: Gonzaga University's student Republicans hosted a speech by the controversial Dr. John Digg's Oct. 25. This response was submitted for publication in general readership newspapers area-wide but was rejected for space reasons. The Stonewall is running the text in full not because we doubt our readers' awareness but to recognize our ever-faithful PFLAG allies.

Perhaps because publicity was limited on this event, neither of us knew of it beforehand and so did not attend. But according to the article in the Spokesman-Review (Oct. 29) Dr. Digg's message was filled with inaccurate information. This, in spite of the fact that GU's new standard for outside speakers includes "whether he has legitimate knowledge, background and understanding to present a point of view."



We are curious to know just how many inaccuracies this man proclaimed, but there are at least three glaring ones, as reported in the article. First, "homosexuality is the result of a bad relationship with one's same-sex parent." What outdated rubbish! Nowhere in any serious research will you find such a conclusion.

Second, he "doesn't believe that homosexuality is innate," implying that it is more of a chosen lifestyle. From our own experience with our children, and the countless experiences we have had with the families we work with, never has it been the case that homosexuality has been "chosen." Who would choose a life in which one is the target of discrimination and hate? All of the major health organizations in this country, including the American Counseling Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association and the American Medical Association, have come to the conclusion that being homosexual is, in most cases, something one is born with.

Third, in his emphasis on "the real world effects of sexual permissiveness," it seems that Dr. Digg's is saying that being

gay equals being sexually permissive. Here is another inaccurate, unfair stereotype.

According to the article another point in the policy regarding outside speakers is that they not "create a hostile learning environment." It is not too far-fetched to imagine that students who became convinced that Dr. Digg's was speaking the truth might go out from that talk emboldened to harass, taunt and insult fellow students who are gay or even suspected to be gay. Is this not creating a hostile learning environment? Is this the kind of environment that GU seeks to create?

People who are gay do not become "un-gay" through any amount of will, "therapy" or coercion. People who come out as gay, far from being "trapped in a self-destructive activity" often experience peace for the first time in their lives, because they are living their authentic selves, the authentic selves that God created them to be.

Offering a forum for different points of view is something we would expect and even require from our institutions of higher learning. But when someone is given the podium who is dispensing false and prejudicial information that has great potential to harm roughly 10 percent of the population, we must speak up and loudly protest. If, in the wisdom of Gonzaga's powers that be, a speaker such as Dr. Digg's should be invited to speak, then someone from the other side of the issue should be invited to speak as well, so that discerning students can make up their own minds, based on hearing both sides of the issue.

-Wanda Daehlin and Tiina Buckaloo
Co-chairs of PFLAG-Spokane

SEASON'S GREETINGS

from

STONEWALL NEWS NORTHWEST!

The small but diligent crew of Stonewall News Northwest wishes our community a wondrous holiday season filled with magic, happiness, and warm memories.

It is with honor and humility, yet with vigor and pride, we serve as your voice and conduit of engagement in GLBTQA issues impacting the Inland Northwest.

Thank you for your readership, your advertising, and your support!



*Mike Schultz,
Catherine Willis,
Christopher Lawrence
Stonewall News Northwest*

Stonewall has a new offering we call "Be Our Guest." We invite individuals and organizations representing GLBTQA-friendly interests to contribute to what we hope will be a rotating column addressing many topics from many perspectives. Query us at editor@stonewallnews.net

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Stonewall Dems elect leaders

Washington State Stonewall Democrats, the state's GLBTQ Democratic caucus, adopted bylaws and elected a board of directors at the Washington State Democratic Central Committee meeting in Ocean Shores Nov. 11.

Officers are Anita Latch, Gig Harbor, president; Susan Rydeen, Garfield, executive vice president; Ken Lewis, Yakima, vice president/membership; Jerry Hebert, Hansville, vice president/political and legislative affairs; Joe Reilly, Spokane, vice president/communications; Judy Farbach, East Bremerton, treasurer; Gregg Gallo, Shoreline, diversity outreach director; Michele Kämmerer, Bellingham, transgender outreach director; and Jerry Hebert, Hansville, Washington State Democratic Central Committee Representative.

The following appointments were also made: Ken Lewis, central regional organizer; Susan Rydeen, eastern regional organizer; Melanie Delker, Bremerton, peninsula regional organizer; and Michael Taylor-Judd, Seattle, community organization liaison.

The Peninsula Region meeting and holiday party will be held in Hansville Dec. 11; Eastern Regional organizing meetings will be in January (dates and locations to be announced); the quarterly statewide meeting is set for Jan. 27-28 in Ellensburg.

For more information, see Web site at <http://www.stonewalldemswa.org>

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Tell Trinity

Going Above And Beyond Your League

Hey Trinity,

I'm not unattractive but I'm attracted to guys way out of my league.

How do I meet and eventually date someone way better looking than me?

Upping The Ante? Peoria, IL

Hey Upping The Ante,

Everyday people hook up with others "out of their league" simply because someone said, "Hello". While yes, looking your best is important, Pumpkin it's more about who you talk to, how you talk to them and mentally psyching yourself up to simply talk. Failure and rejection are part of life just like acceptance and success so don't fear them work with them. First, have a professional makeover because you need to look better than you "think" you look, second learn some smart/witty lines from others for striking up a conversation and third buy'em a drink.

Oh and very attractive people can also be nasty, have low self-esteem and make bad lovers just like unattractive ones.

Good Luck, Trinity

Hello Trinity

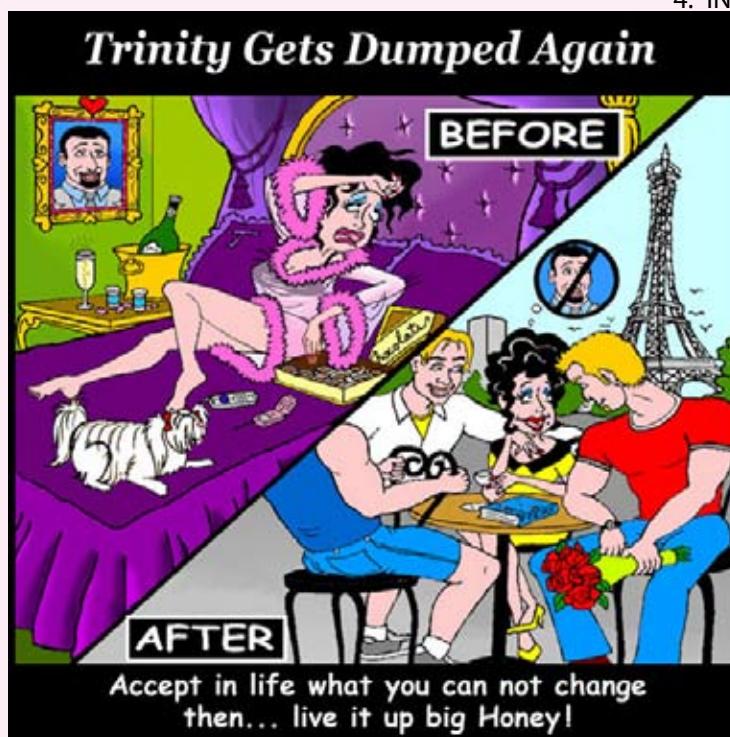
I've been dumped again and it's taking its toll on me. What am I supposed to do, make believe I'm happy when I'm really so sad?

Thanks, So Sad Fire Island, NY

Hello So Sad,

Well, yes and no. Yes, when you're sad get into it 100%! Never avoid it. And NO, don't let your sadness control you. Practice making believe what it was like to be happy until eventually you feel good more often than bad. If actors can "create" feelings so can you. Just fake it till you make it, Honey!

XOXO, Trinity



DATING DILEMMA #138

Listen Trinity,

Sometimes my mouth doesn't say what my brain is thinking. Recently on a date I just kept saying the wrong things. It's been a week. What's the best way to apologize?

My Big Fat Mouth Portland, ME

Listen Big Mouth,

The best way to apologize is a) send flowers, e-mails and letters apologizing, b) be consistent in begging for forgiveness and don't debate someone when receiving their comments, c) communicate what happened, how you're working on getting better and how it "won't ever happen again" and d) when you're face to face, lower your head, bat your eyes, push out your lower lip and say, "I'm sorry Baby!" (Works for me every time!)

Good Luck, Trinity

Dearest Trinity,

Just cause I'm single do I always have to look the part? Must I always be selling myself?

A Bachelor's Life Orlando, FL

Dearest Bachelor's Life,

If business people have to look the part to succeed so do you with dating. It's called dressing for success. Also success means having a list of commitments or declarations. That's why I created:

Trinity's Concrete Declarations For Being A Good Bachelor(ette)

1. PRESENTATION: I promise to always appear groomed, well dressed and clean.

2. SELF-ESTEEM: I promise to work on being less shy, less boring, less of a couch potato and less defensive.

3. MANNERS: I promise to be polite, considerate and respectful to the time, money and imperfections of other people.

4. INTEGRITY: I promise to return phone calls and e-mails, be on time and communicate clearly if I can't.

5. TRUST: I promise to trust my path in life, to trust uncomfortable, negative or challenging situations, to trust my dreams and to trust my intuition.

6. ENVIRONMENT: I promise to keep my living space presentable even if it means hiring someone once a month to help me look less like a slob.

7. EDUCATION: I promise to continually work on my social skills plus the skills of cooking, cleaning, dressing, etiquette and being a better person.

8. SELF-GROWTH: I promise to work on my self-respect, self-confidence, and self-esteem.

9. HEALTH: I promise to exercise, sleep and eat well, take time off from stress and think positive thoughts.

10. Lastly, ACTION: I promise at least once a week to go to a singles event or club that will help me meet other singles.

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, PO Box 1362, Provincetown, MA 02657-5362

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Illuminations

Beat them with their own words

by Bryce Hughes

Turn the other cheek. Give him your cloak as well. Walk the extra mile: *These instructions from the Gospel of Matthew could be interpreted as Jesus Christ's endorsement of passive resistance, a phrase paradoxical in itself, in the face of oppression. Yet knowing how radical Jesus was, this idea would be ludicrous! I doubt Jesus would have told his followers to "Give in to your oppression." Maybe we lost something in translation.*

In his essay, "Jesus and Alinsky," in *The Impossible Will Take a While* (edited by Paul Rogat Loeb), Walter Wink challenges this paradigm with a different interpretation – nonviolent resistance. He writes that we perverted the Greek *antistenai* from its original meaning, changing it from "resist violently" to simply "resist." Wink theorizes that when King James ordered the English translation of the Vulgate, his translators spun it to mean passive resistance to avoid instigating any revolutionary sentiment among the English poor. If Jesus preached passive resistance against the oppressive Romans, his clergy would preach passive resistance against the state of England.

Yet Christians today use these very same words as justification for not fulfilling their gospel calling: ending oppression, liberating the impoverished and bringing about social justice on the earth. Many see it as Jesus' endorsement of the status quo. *Your true reward lies in heaven, not in what you fight for on earth.* Yet simultaneously, throughout the Gospels, Jesus preaches radical notions about who is beloved in God's eyes (consider the Beatitudes). Why would Jesus want to preach such radical ideas about social upheaval when all he expected of his disciples was to "turn the other cheek"?

When looked at to say "do not resist evil violently," these three directives take on a new meaning. If you were struck on the right cheek, likely you had been backhanded, meant to demonstrate your lower status. If you turn the other cheek, you say to your striker, "Try again. This time hit me as an equal." By giving your cloak as well as your coat, you scandalize your oppressor, who now looks upon your naked body. By going the extra mile, you force the Roman soldier who pressed you into service to violate Roman law, for the Empire limited indentured servitude of the Israelites to one mile.

What possibilities does this open up for the GLBT community? We have been oppressed in the name of Jesus for millennia, and we seem to have no hope in the struggle for liberation within religious tradition. What do we do? We employ the tactics of Jesus himself.



Hold our oppressors to their standards. *Blest shall you be when men hate you, when they ostracize you and insult you ... your reward shall be great in heaven* [Luke 6:22, NAB]. Use Christ's words to challenge homophobic doctrines.

Hold our political leaders to the standard set by our founders that "all [people] are created equal." Challenge their discriminatory practices in the courts and the legislature. If the leaders of our nation wish to call this nation Christian, make sure they are upholding the teachings of Jesus Christ and see us as blessed too. We must speak truth to power and expose systemic injustices. We win when those in power realize it is hateful to use religion to keep us oppressed by blurring church and state.

Even if you are not a Christian yourself, don't allow people to use Jesus' words against you. To do so would be blasphemous; at the very least, it dishonors the memory of an amazing person.

Jesus told us that we need to overcome our oppression – in nonviolent, creative and often humorous ways. He wanted to stir the pot and cause change. It is up to us to do this too. Our actions can free us from the chains of discrimination and oppression.

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.

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What could be easier?

COMMUNITY WEIGHS IN: WEST MUST GO

Continued from front page

GLBTQ ally Suzi Hokonson, a textile artist and social justice advocate, said, "Jim West has been a good mayor. He has done a lot for the city." She expressed surprise, however, that the allegations surrounding him had not been the subject of particular scrutiny among friends or family. So she spent the week before the forum collecting feedback, concluding, among other things, that "everyone tends to like him," a statement later challenged by attorney John Davis and another ally on the panel, schoolteacher Brad Read.

Read had been chairman of the Spokane Human Rights Commission prior to West's election. Citing a desire to move the commission in another direction, the new mayor refused to reappoint several members whose terms had expired, asserting an oversight by outgoing Mayor John Powers. Read was one of those peremptorily unseated.

"For me the issue is simply one of public officials and their integrity," said Read, who subsequently questioned West's voting history on both human rights and human services. "I'm not concerned so much in terms of the recall vote whether or not ... he has his day in court. There is no process in the city charter for impeachment or anything like it. The best thing we have when someone violates a code of integrity and ethics, which I am convinced he has, is the recall. Until the charter is changed, until the council

has legislative power, this is our best recourse. ... This man acted with abuse of power, and for that he has to go."

Hokonson's good will toward West evaporated when she considered what would have happened had he been a high school principal facing similar accusations: "He would have been ousted instantly."

Journalists on the panel, KXLY-TV reporter Travis Mayfield and Spokesman-Review columnist Jill Wagner, both gay, eschewed overt opinions relative to West's situation generally and the recall vote specifically. "What I'm here to do is to help you think critically about the media and think critically about the information that you're getting, to help you make a

"Situations like this create opportunity."

–Cat Carrel

better decision," said Mayfield.

Wagner

addressed the immense volume

and variety of allegations against West. She stressed the importance of keeping disparate issues separate, especially in light of unsubstantiated claims in the mayor's case that might be misconstrued to perpetuate the stereotypical, and inaccurate, link between gay men and child molesters. Fairness is key, she maintained.

Panelist Dean Lynch, a retired social worker, longtime political activist and Spokane's first openly gay city council member, also broached the question of fairness. Referring to allegations made about the Mayor West story, he said,

Continued on page 19

GOD LOVES GAYS

Continued from page 8

posters with their backs to Phelps, so that people attending the performance of the Laramie Project would be unable to see messages from the Phelps team such "God Hates You" and "Matt in Hell 7 Years."

Other counter-protesters couldn't resist pressing right up to the police tape to face Phelps' group, trying fruitlessly to talk some sense into them.

There were the requisite debates about who knew the Bible better, and at one point, the most vocal member of the Phelps side threw an American flag on the sidewalk and stomped all over it. Phelps and his group believe God not only hates fags, but also all of America. A child in the Phelps group held a sign reading "America Is Doomed." Another member held a sign reading "Thank God For IEDs," referring to the improvised explosive devices responsible for killing many American soldiers in Iraq.

Also facing Phelps' group, and standing on the North University's

median, were other generous counter-protesters, among them the Ann Arbor Christians, who sang, "I've got love like an ocean, I've got peace like a river," as they waved an American flag with rainbow stripes and held letters that spelled out "GOD IS LOVE."

Singing seemed to be the most effective and most popular peace-keeping tactic, and many of the supporters joined in with "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," "I Will Survive," "Seasons of Love," and finally "Hey Hey Hey, Goodbye," as Phelps' group left to uproarious cheering, shortly after 8 p.m.

The evening's performance of "The Laramie Project" was sold out, helped by subsidized tickets for students provided by the LGBTA Commission through Michigan Student Assembly.

After the production, participants reflected with the cast of "The Laramie Project" in the Vandenberg Room in the League, coordinated by the office of LGBTA, School of Music and CAPS.

“Some people say, ‘Well, he hasn’t had his day in court.’ Well, when you talk legal issues, that is true. He hasn’t had his day in court, but the political system is something totally different. We vote people in office and we vote them out of office. That vote is not necessarily related to a claim of illegal behavior. Sometimes it is and sometimes it isn’t.”

Lynch urged the audience to be cognizant of the agendas of some factions active in the recall effort. To say that the only relevant issue is the abuse of power or the misuse of city equipment belies the fact that “there are people who are involved who have their own personal animosities against gay and lesbian people,” he stated. “We need to know that.”

The question-and-answer session commenced with a request that Lynch clarify an earlier statement debunking the common perception that Jim West has been a good mayor.

Said Lynch, “John Powers had the responsibility of changing a form of government and he was in an environment where the council fought him at every step of the way. ... When Mayor West came in, the legwork had already been done.”

He pointed to West’s “cabinet”: Deputy Mayor Jack Lynch and Spokane’s chief financial officer, Gavin Cooley, are both Powers appointees – and most of the city’s department heads were in place before West took office.

West gets credit for the union contract settlements Mayor Powers kept postponing. “Believe me, I don’t think our union members, our city employees, are overpaid. I don’t begrudge them,” said Lynch. Powers was trying to hold down costs, he noted; the city’s fiscal crisis has grown under West.

Lynch also questioned the accolades bestowed on West for resolving the River Park Square garage dilemma. Court actions already under way were bound to end that matter, he said.

A questioner wanted to know why everyone kept referring to West as gay. She wasn’t convinced he is.

Wagner handled the query, summarizing the difficulties she had had putting together her weekly column. “I realized that, at the very least, he’s questioning, and that’s part of our community as well. That’s the ‘Q.’”

“It was rather generally known that Jim West was a gay man,” said Karen Dorn Steele, one of the Spokesman-Review reporters responsible for the investigative series that put a spotlight on the mayor’s private life and precipitated the flurry of allegations

of impropriety that culminated in the pending recall vote. “My question is, ‘Why was the gay community here not willing to step up earlier, knowing of the

response, Lynch conceded. “We’re behind the times.”

He later took issue with “the idea that the gay community hasn’t done



“I think this is like so many of the issues on a national level... we have to start listening to each other,” said Suzi Hokonson at the Nov. 19 community forum.

Photos by P. Devitre

existence of some extreme legislation he sponsored, and say something?”

Hokonson said she had known for some time that West was gay and had posed the same question to GLBTQ friends who told her, “that’s his private life.”

“In interviews it’s the first question they ask,” acknowledged Davis, whose legal work on the case has put him in contact with journalists from all parts

of the nation and around the world. He attributed widespread reticence to the large closeted segment of the local GLBTQ community and the fear that perpetuates their silence. His demand for dialogue in a November letter to the Stonewall sparked the idea to hold the afternoon panel discussion/ community forum.

“There’s this real ‘live and let live’ kind of mentality here in Spokane,” observed Mayfield. “When I have talked to people who’ve said, ‘I knew’ and things along those lines, I ask, ‘Well, why wasn’t it a story? Why wasn’t something made public?’ And it’s basically the same attitude, that it’s his private life.”

As to why the community failed to question West’s legislative record, Mayfield said, it “happened in Olympia... it was ‘over there.’”

Had this been San Francisco or Palm Springs or some other more advanced, better organized community, there might have been a different

anything” and recounted some of the community’s recent successes [see the Stonewall’s 2005 Timeline, page 4].

“There are only a few people who ever step forward and get involved.

Are we being more critical of ourselves than we really should be? ... I don’t think we should beat ourselves up because we weren’t out beating down the door of city hall. This is Spokane. We do things our way.”

The mayor’s supposed predilection for men a third of his age drew a number of comments. Read called West’s “carefully managed press conference” a defining moment. “The one question he did not answer was, ‘Mayor West, do you think it’s ethical for you to pursue a relationship with

“Can anyone tell me why a gay person should vote to keep an anti-gay mayor?”

–Audience member

“I would have to say that, because of his political skills, that if he is retained he will continue to move his agenda forward with some degree of success.”

–Dean Lynch

an 18-year-old?... The central issue is abuse of power. That’s unethical. He forfeits his right to office because of

that,” he said.

A few minutes later a bold member of the audience demanded a “yes or no” answer from the panel on the recall question. Davis, Read and Lynch said “yes”; Miller abstained, as did Hokonson, who is not a city resident; and the two journalists, as promised, withheld their opinions.

Wagner’s introductory remarks hinted at her position, however: She mentioned she hailed from San Diego, “which coincidentally, also has a special election on Dec. 6. They have two brand new candidates, though, because their

mayor had the courage to resign when his financial dealings with the city went public.”

Participants enjoyed a moment of levity in the midst of the serious discourse when the bride-to-be and her bridesmaid en route to the wedding being held in a CenterStage banquet room upstairs came rushing through the forum site. Davis, who was speaking at that moment, paused to note, “You look very nice,” and the room erupted in applause. A follow-up comment elicited greater applause and a lot of laughter: “And we just want the same rights they have!”

Stonewall’s “OUT! in the middle of nowhere” columnist Tim Anderson, who lives in Pend Oreille County, asked, “How can we move forward?”

Mayfield said the community had already “begun to react in a positive way.” He attributed the success of the 2005 Pride celebration in June to a community “galvanized” by the mayor’s scandal. “What this has done is really

focus the attention ... we’re having this conversation ... gay is in the newspaper

every single day now.”

“I think this has been a good thing for the city of Spokane,” said Miller, who talked about the ills of the closeted life and suggested folks might consider coming out.

Lynch picked up on the theme. “The fear of coming out is greater than the consequences.”

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Healthier Options

What's the fix?

by Cameron Lewis

As yet another World AIDS Day is upon us, I like to take this time to reflect on where we are and where we have come from. I wish I had more positive things to say about the gay community and HIV or STD's. I really hate to admit it but, as one of the great-grandpas of HIV prevention, treatment and counseling models, I am appalled that 20 years later we are having discussions related to whether to teach about prevention methods for sexually transmitted diseases in sex education in schools and things like bare-backing, drug usage and unprotected sex in the gay community.

In today's era of safer sex there is no excuse for any human to contract HIV – short of rape. HIV Prevention is simple: Don't have sex; don't swap body fluids; if you do have sex, wear a condom and use it correctly and consistently every time. Let me repeat – It's simple: Shut up and wear the condom and you will have a great chance of staying negative. It is not about controlling others but about controlling yourself and taking responsibility for your own sexual actions. Responsibility is based in "you," not "them."



I don't need the Bush administration or any other organization dictating my sex life. The real focus of this discussion in the gay community needs to be centered on not the fallout of HIV/AIDS or bare-backing but the effects of the perpetual adolescent "Peter Pan" mindset that seems so pervasive in the gay community.

Not to generalize, but today's gay drug-driven culture throws safer-sex education and training out the window and down the drain as it snorts, injects or booty bumps crystal or other drugs to bring itself to the world of "fabulous." (Hmmm... since when is fabulous defined as being drunk, out of control and obnoxious to especially those not drunk or drugged and out of control?)

As a culture we (the gay community) need to grow up, accept responsibility, put down the drugs and come to our gay collective senses. HIV is preventable, and by 2005 we should be seeing a consistent downward spiral of HIV infection numbers, but, alas, it is the opposite. Why?

First and foremost, we don't take care of our youth. We don't model responsible behavior. Instead, we encourage lots of excuses – from being burned out on condoms and safer sex to being too stoned to put one on. There's the classic "I don't care anymore" or the vain "I don't want to die an old bitter queen when I could die young and pretty" or "they have drugs to treat it (HIV/STD) now." Sadly this has become the apparent culture normal,

not the exception. Why? Because we (the LGBTQ community) allow it.

How do we fix this? We need to start with rethinking our cultural norms, developing a line of realistic, positive beliefs that are centered in community and humanity, not just self-centered pleasure. I don't mean we put the sex police on the corners or encourage our becoming driven by such heterosexual values as

total abstinence, monogamy, marriage or celibacy, but I do believe this means rethinking things like the large theme parties that have become excuses for engaging in better living through rave drugs and Viagra, and modeling appropriate behavior (meaning community leaders and entertainers should not be drunk or stoned when in public view).

Additionally it means being proactive – voting and writing to community or state legislators and encouraging those lawmakers to restore funding for HIV/STD prevention programs, including free condom outreach, taking time to talk to loved ones and friends about how wrong the Bush administration's idiotic abstinence-driven one-size-fits-all model of HIV/STD prevention is, and, most important, taking the time to have a discussion with friends about sexual attitudes beliefs and activities. (If you can't talk about it, don't do it!)

As a greater community we also need to be working to develop activities that are not drug, alcohol and sex-oriented.

As harsh as this sounds, it is the reality: HIV and AIDS will become a thing of the past when our culture comes out of the artificial clouds of the seasonal circuit parties and crystal haze and realizes the harm that drugs have done to us.

Cameron Lewis has 20 years of experience in HIV/STD prevention, addiction prevention, counseling and treatment, community development and planning. He is currently lecturing for several colleges and universities on the topics of safer sex, blood and airborne pathogens, drug and alcohol issues and community development.

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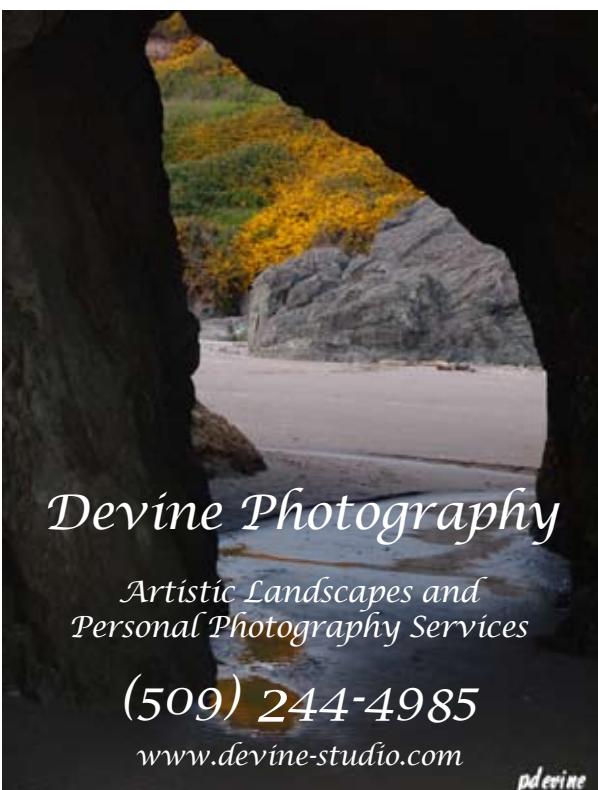
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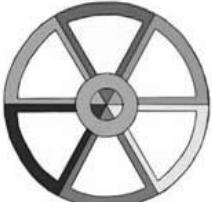



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Weekly Calendar of Events

SUNDAYS

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

Noon-1 pm: Counter Crisis meets at RAINBOW REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER

1-2 pm: Radical Cheerleaders meets at RAINBOW REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER

2-6 pm: RAINBOW REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER.

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

7 pm: GLBTQ 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.)

Thursday Dec 1

WORLD AIDS DAY

Candle Light Vigil at MAC, 5 pm

MPOWERMENT FOR GAY/BI MEN 25+ Open House 6:30-8:00 pm, Rainbow Center. Come to an Open House to find out about a new program that builds a healthy men's community and creates fun social opportunities. Coffee and dessert.



Friday Dec 2

Reception / Combined Art Exhibit 5:00-8:00 pm, Rainbow Center. The "Combined Current Work of Jayme Aumann, Jan-marie Danielson, Cliff Hall, and Linda M. Lawrie" This exhibit is a combination of different technique and styles brought together by four local artists. The exhibition will show from December 2nd 2005 until January 27th 2006.

Friday Night OUT! 6:30-8:30 pm, Ella's Supper Club. Kick off the holiday season right! It is the last FNO of the year! A social hour for Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgendered, and allied people of the Inland Northwest. There will be no agenda, no fund raising, no politics!

"Somebody Else's Life" Performance 8:30-9:30 pm, Rainbow Center. "One Of America's Hottest Touring Actors!" Matt Burlingame, Artistic Director, Lambda Players, Sacramento, CA Ragged Blade Productions presents Somebody Written and performed by Jerry Rabushka Directed by Gregory Paul Hunsaker

Saturday Dec 3

Spokane Jazz Orchestra presents their Holiday Concert at the Met, 8 pm.

Spokane's entertainment and meeting calendar for

December 2005

Birthstone: Turquoise

Flower: Narcissus

Sagittarius until Dec. 21, Capricorn begins Dec. 22



Monday Dec 5

Four-Part guided Workshop: Homosexuality, Not a Sin, Not a Sickness 7:00 pm, Rainbow Center. Reoccurs weekly on Monday. What The Bible Does and Does Not Say. This four part guided workshop is sponsored and moderated by Emmanuel Metropolitan Community Church. Six infamous passages in the Bible are used against gays and lesbians-all of which must be taken out of context when directed against them. Come join us in a non-church setting as we take a hard look at these passages away from the glare and overly projected diatribe of the religious right. With commentary provided by a study from author Rev Donald Eastman of Metropolitan Community Church. Free (donations for materials accepted). Proselytizing will not be condoned

Friday Dec 9

Movie Night "Lilies" 6:00 pm, Rainbow Center. Love, jealousy, revenge and forbidden homosexual passion color this alternately campy and dramatic adaptation of a play by Michel Marc Bouchard.

Saturday Dec 10

Episcopal Support Group "Integrity" 12:00-2:00 pm, St. Johns Cathedral



Reach the Inland Northwest's Dream Market for less than 40¢ a day!

The Wall Street Journal calls the gay and lesbian community a "Dream Market" and it's no wonder considering our consumer loyalty and spending habits on goods and services. In fact the 2005 Simmons Market Research Study has estimated the annual buying power of the gay community nationwide at over 600 billion dollars.

You can reach the GLBTQ consumer all year long by advertising in the INBA Community Resource Directory. A basic listing is less than 40¢ a day, a full-page color ad is less than \$1.85 a day, plus you'll also receive a 10% discount on Stonewall News ad rates. Together the INBA Directory and Stonewall News are your best way to reach the Inland Northwest's Dream Market.



Inland Northwest Business Alliance

A Professional GLBTQ/Allied Business Organization

P.O. Box 20163, Spokane, WA 99204 • Voice mail: 509-455-3699

Save 10% on ad rates before 12/30/05

Sales close February 1, 2006

Distribution March 2006

For rates and sales contact our sales team:

Denise Thomas 509-475-3578

Denise@INBAspokane.org

Mike Nestor 509-535-3144

Mike@INBAspokane.org

or visit INBAspokane.org

Tuesday Dec 6

Inland NW Equality 5:30-7:00 pm, Rainbow Center

Monday Dec 12

Four-Part guided Workshop: Homosexuality, Not a Sin, Not a Sickness 7:00pm, Rainbow Center. Reoccurs weekly on Monday. What The Bible Does and Does Not Say. This four part guided workshop is sponsored and moderated by Emmanuel Metropolitan Community Church. Six infamous passages in the Bible are used against gays and lesbians-all of

Thursday Dec 15

MPOWERMENT FOR GAY/BI MEN 25+ Open House 6:30-8:00 pm, Rainbow Center. Come to an Open House to find out about a new program that builds a healthy men's community and creates fun social opportunities. Coffee and dessert.



Friday Dec 16

Movie Night "Maedchen In Uniform" 6:00 pm, Rainbow Center. An early feminist classic, Maedchen in Uniform was originally banned in Germany and censored in the U.S. Today considered one of Germany's greatest films, the all-female production stands out for its sensitive acting and tender portrayal of female love.

Tuesday Dec 20

Dempsey's Sweet 16 Birthday Party 6:00-10:00 pm, Dempsey's Brass Rail

PFLAG Monthly Meeting 7:00-9:00 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church



Friday Dec 23

Movie Night "White Christmas" 6:00 pm, Rainbow Center. After leaving the Army after W.W.II, Bob Wallace and Phil Davis team up to become a top song-and-dance act. A series of romantic mix-ups ensue as the performers try to help the General.

Sunday Dec 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

Rainbow Center Closed

Tuesday Dec 27

Pride & Joy Movie Night Mysterious Skin 7:15-10:00 pm, CenterStage. Based on the novel by Scott Heim, the story tells the parallel story of two teenage boys living in small-town Kansas: Brian (Brady Corbet), a clunky and awkward fellow with no discernable social life; and Neil (Joseph Gordon-Levitt), a rebellious gay youth whose fragile beauty and cruel indifference make him a successful hustler to the area's older men.

Friday Dec 30

Movie Night Paris is Burning 6:00 pm, Rainbow Center. Documentary about the Harlem drag balls thrown by predominantly inner city black and Latino gay men in the mid-1980s. A fascinating look at the complexities of this elaborate subculture.

Saturday Dec 31

NEW YEAR'S EVE

New Year's Eve Masked Ball, 8 pm at UUCS, \$10

Sunday Jan 1

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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

Please visit the GLBTQA Calendar at www.stonewallnews.net to request your own name and password for posting events!

Community Service Announcements

CenterStage Theater is searching for a board member from the GLBTQ community. If you or someone you know loves the arts and is willing to work hard to continue the fine work of this non-profit organization, please contact Tina Luerssen, Executive Director at 74-Stage.

ATTENTION GLBTQA NONPROFITS and other community oriented organizations: If you are looking for volunteers, participants, financial backers or staff, please e-mail an announcement of your needs by the 20th of the month to Stonewall News Northwest at mail@stonewallnews.net.

Correspondents Wanted
Stonewall News Northwest is looking for correspondents to help us bring comprehensive news coverage to the GLBTQ Community we serve in Spokane and the Inland Northwest. Call (509) 570-3750 or e-mail us at editor@stonewallnews.net. No pay, but lots of satisfaction and great resume enhancement!

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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](http://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](http://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](http://www.inbaspokane.org)

Inland Northwest Equality

A coalition of local individuals and organizations committed to progressing GLBT equality and justice.

Call: Krista Benson: 838-7870

[Web site: www.icehouse.net/pjals/issues/inwe.html](http://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

Mpowerment

For gay and bisexual men 25 and up; a frank and open forum about sex, self, safety and socializing. For more information about upcoming meetings and events:

E-mail: mpower@san-nw.org

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](http://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](http://www.pflagspokane.org)

PJALS –

Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane

Independent, membership organization building foundations for a just and non-violent 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](http://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](http://www.spokanerainbowcenter.org)

SAN –

Spokane AIDS Network

Call: (509) 455-8993 or
1-888-353-2130

[Web site: www.spokaneAIDSnetwork.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.stonewallnews.net)

Spokane Gender Center

Resources and support for transgendered people.

[Web site: www.gendercenter.com](http://www.gendercenter.com)

Unitarian Universalist Church

Gay, lesbian resource committee.

Call: (509) 325-6383

[Web site: www.uuchurchofspokane.org](http://www.uuchurchofspokane.org)

Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery

Call: 535-3155

[Web site: www.vanessabehan.org](http://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](http://www.nicon.org/niac)

North Idaho College

Gay-Straight Alliance

Email: [BCHARDISON@icehouse.net](mailto: BCHARDISON@icehouse.net)

NIGMA -

North Idaho Gay Men's Association

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

E-mail: ezran74@yahoo.com

Panhandle Health District

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

• Kootenai County

Call: (208) 667-3481

• Boundary County

Call: (208) 267-5558

• Shoshone County

Call: (208) 786-7474

• Bonner County

Call: (208) 263-5159

• Benewah County

Call: (208) 245-4556

[Web site: www2.stateid.us/phd1](http://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

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](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

PFLAG – Walla Walla Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays

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

Call: (509) 529-5320

Write: 527 E. Oak

Walla Walla, WA 99362-1248

E-mail: pflag_walla2wash@hotmail.com

[Web site: www.pflag.0catch.com/](http://www.pflag.0catch.com/)

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

Lesbian Avengers

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

Call: (406) 523-6608

Our Montana Family

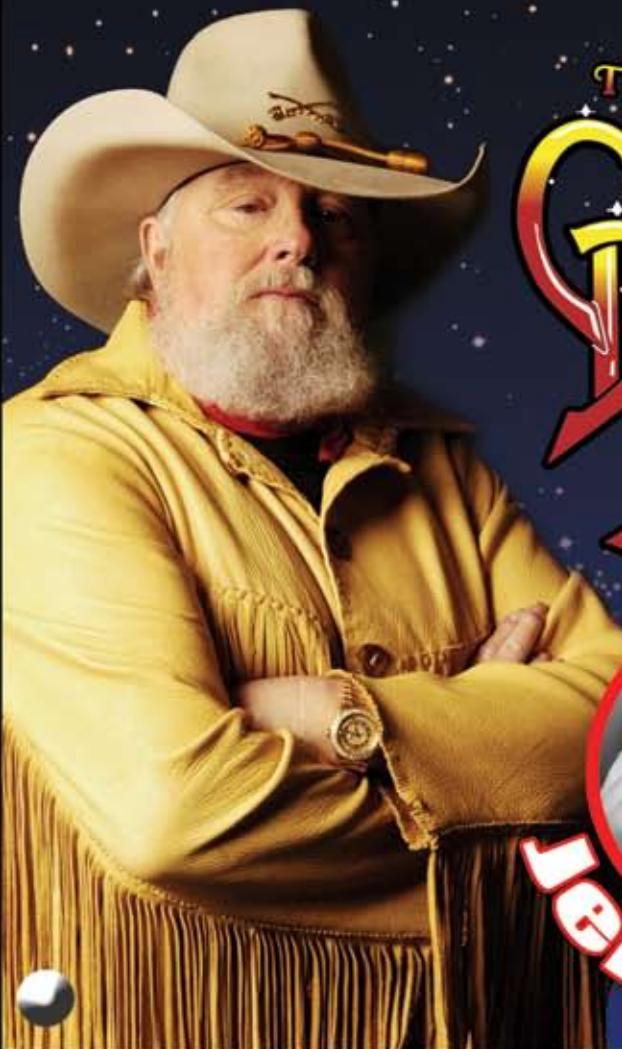
Supporting Montana's GLBT parents and their children.

E-mail: barbatpride@aol.com

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TWO STEPPIN' INTO 2006



(COUNTRY)

The CHARLIE DANIELS BAND

(COMEDIAN)



Lefty Pittman

The Bacon Brothers

December 2
8:00PM

(ROCK 'N' ROLL)



A Christmas Carol

December
16, 17 & 18

SEE CAMAS CLUB FOR DETAILS

(FAMILY)

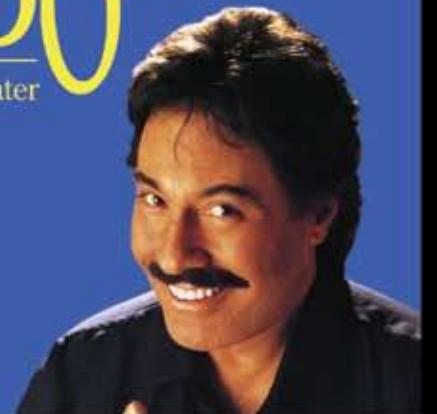


T O N Y ORLANDO

Yellow Ribbon Music Theater

January 21
8:00PM

(CONTEMPORARY)



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