

Senate votes to preserve bigotry

OLYMPIA – A state Senate bill that would have banned discrimination against gay men and women in housing, insurance and jobs has been rejected – by a single vote.

The legislation appeared dead when it was sent to a committee, but the Senate allowed the measure to come up for a vote on April 21 and rejected it 25-24.

Sen. Jim Hargrove, a Democrat from the Grays Harbor city of Hoquiam, said he opposed the measure for religious reasons. Democrats Hargrove and Tim Sheldon joined all 23 Republicans in voting against the bill.

Gov. Christine Gregoire, who had promised to sign the bill, said she was disappointed the measure failed.

“I remain committed to ending discrimination and I urge all my fellow citizens to do all we can, individually and as a community, to make Washington a safe and welcoming place for all people to live and work,” she said in a statement.

“We’re disappointed, of course, but we’re not giving up,” said George Cheung, executive director of Equal Rights Washington. “Polls clearly show that the people of Washington state overwhelmingly support equal rights for gays and lesbians ... the Senate let party politics interfere with its duty to protect Washington residents.”

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Domestic partner benefits approved

by John Deen

It seemed to be a contest: God and morality versus fairness and equality. The judges’ decision – in this case, the Spokane City Council – would be final. Concluding a five-hour meeting, council members voted 5-2 to extend medical, dental and related benefits to city employees with domestic partners.

The measure applies to all unmarried couples, regardless of sexual orientation, and requires an affidavit confirming the relationship. Currently, 17 “at-will” employees qualify. Labor groups would have to bargain to qualify union members for the plan.

Maybe all the values discussed during the evening are winners.

“I think of a God of love,” said councilwoman Cherie Rodgers, “and how we think of other people. It’s not about hating. I’ve talked to people who can’t

Volunteers help Odyssey



staff photo

Among the volunteer corps at Odyssey Youth Center are, from left, Linda McKittrick; Volunteer Coordinator Julie Amo; Ann Marie Floch and Janice Packwood. Floch and Packwood, partners of 5 years, began their volunteer stint last winter; McKittrick has volunteered intermittently since Odyssey’s inception 13 years ago. Amo said more volunteer participation is invited. She may be contacted by telephoning the youth center at 325-3637.

New England states approve landmark pro-gay legislation

Connecticut

HARTFORD, Conn. – Republican Gov. M. Jodi Rell has signed into law a measure that allows gay and lesbian couples in Connecticut to enter into civil unions and receive all the benefits the state now provides married heterosexual couples.

Before final adoption by the state House and Senate in April, the bill was amended to define marriage as between one man and one woman. Another amendment fixed the minimum age for same-sex civil unions at 18. The age of consent for marriage in the state is 16.

In signing the bill, Gov. Rell stressed the marriage amendment: “I have said all along that I believe in no discrimination of any kind and I think this bill accomplishes that, while at the same time preserving the traditional lan-



Connecticut Gov. M. Jodi Rell

guage that a marriage is between a man and a woman.”

Openly-gay state Rep. Evelyn Mantilla, a Democrat, voted against the bill because of the restrictive amendments, but the measure still passed in the House, 85 to 63, easily overcoming the 75 votes needed for passage. Senate approval was by a 3 to 1 margin.

get married, same-sex couples, and sexual orientation is not a choice.”

Rodgers and council members Joe Shogan, Al French, Mary Verner and council President Dennis Hession, who

sponsored the ordinance, voted yes. Bob Apple and Brad Stark voted no.

Shogan favored the issue, he said, “because it comes down to a matter of equality and fairness.”

Commented French, “Whatever the council decides, it will not impact the institution of marriage.” He noted also that domestic partner benefits were recently approved for state employees.

Verner said some of the people who opposed the ordinance “have brought in some highly inflated figures” on what the plan will cost the city. “Marriage isn’t necessarily a healthy envi-

Continued on page 6

A concurrent poll by Newsday and Associated Press found that more than half (56 percent) of registered Connecticut voters support civil unions for gay men and lesbians, but that 53 percent are unwilling to extend marriage rights.

Religious groups may mount an effort to have the bill overturned in court

Maine

AUGUSTA, Maine – Legislators in this Northeastern-most state of the continental United States accomplished what their counterparts in the Northwestern-most state could not or would not do.

And Maine Gov. John Baldacci declared “a proud day for Maine” as he signed into law a bill to protect gay men and lesbians from discrimination, making Maine the sixth and final New England state to do so. Maine also becomes the 16th state to outlaw anti-gay bias.

“Our doors are open to all people. This is a proud day for Maine,” said

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Voices

A Rorschach for gay marriage

by Mubarak Dahir

When gay rights activists and right-wing fundamentalists both protest the same thing, it's worth taking note. Particularly when the object of ire for both groups is a law that recognizes same-sex relationships.

That seems to be the case with the recent bill signed into law by Connecticut's Republican Gov. M. Jodi Rell that recognizes civil unions for that state's gay and lesbian couples.

No less a firebrand than Tony-award-winning actor and playwright Harvey Fierstein, who is from Connecticut, called the politicians who supported the civil unions bill "traitors to the gay community. This is the most un-American movement I've ever heard of," he told *Newsday*.

He was referring to the fact that the Connecticut Legislature chose to ratify a law recognizing civil unions for same-sex couples, but stopped short of trying to pass a marriage bill for gays and lesbians.

The law is written to extend all the rights and obligations of a heterosexual Connecticut marriage to the state's same-sex couples. However, same-sex couples won't be able to get marriage licenses. Furthermore, the Connecticut House added an amendment to the civil unions bill that rewrote the definition of marriage as solely between one man and one woman.

"In Connecticut, they just passed a law saying I am less of a human being, I'm less of a citizen," Fierstein fumed. "How dare they."

Indeed: How dare they, agrees Brian Brown. Sort of.

Brown is the executive director of the conservative Family Institute of Connecticut, which opposes any kind of recognition for same-sex couples. "From now until 2006, our mission will be to let every person know ... which lawmakers voted to redefine marriage, and

which lawmakers voted to protect marriage," he said. Marriage?

Yes, as far as Brown and his followers are concerned, Connecticut just passed a form of marriage for gay and lesbian people – regardless of what it's officially called.

Listening to the debate over Connecticut's civil union law between unhappy gay rights activists who wanted marriage, and conservative anti-gay forces who consider the law just as bad as granting marriage licenses to same-sex couples, is like looking at a Rorschach inkblot test: People can look at the same thing, and see totally different things.

Funny thing is, even though the two men are on polar opposites of this issue, in many respects both are right.

There's no doubt that, as Fierstein feels, a civil union is not equal to a marriage.

It just isn't.

While rights and protections are incredibly important, the battle for same-sex marriage rights is a lot more than legalese. It's about recognizing the personal, emotional and social significance of the relationship between two people who happen to be of the same sex.

No substitute is an equal.

Harvey Fierstein is right to be outraged.

Connecticut citizens see same-sex relationships as deserving of legal recognition and acknowledgment, but they don't yet see those relationships as equal to marriage. In the future, though, they likely will. Polls there show that people under 40 are very comfortable with gay couples – even giving them marriage licenses.

Fierstein and Brown see these realities quite clearly. It's no wonder they are both so upset.

Mubarak Dahir is a resident of Fort Lauderdale and receives e-mail at mubarakdah@aol.com.

Letters

Big issue for gays is drugs/alcohol, not sex

In response to Paul Flanary's letter to the editor in the April edition of *Stonewall*, I would like to say the irresponsible and degrading behavior Paul observed in the HIV-positive person he met was and is not particular to the GLBT community. Rather it is rampant in the drug/alcohol addicted community, be they gay/straight, white/black, rich/poor. What the GLBT community does have in particular is a higher than average drug and alcohol addiction rate.

There are theories and good reasons for this phenomenon, but what is most unfortunate is our community's lack of momentum to admit and deal with this issue. Our cultural center has historically been and remains "the bar." For many of us it was where we found our community and support. Our proud cry of "Stonewall" comes from the name of a bar. If we rejected drugs and

alcohol, where would we go? What would we do? How would we find one another?

I don't want to give the impression of being a Carry Nation, ready to smash "the devils den." Gay bars have often been the supporters and financial backbone for other organizations and community events and I appreciate that they have provided us a place to find each other. But I do hope our community will realize and deal with its love affair of alcohol and drugs. We need to extend our community organizations and support network so that "the bar" becomes only a part of our community and not its center.

Barb Lee
Spokane

Attorney wins praise for professionalism

Yesterday's news? Well, not exactly, though it has taken nearly

two years to bring the case of Roseanne Day vs. Linda Kelsh to a close. Judge Clarke recently set the final "presentment hearing" to put into print any minor changes or "rewording" for the record. Only a few changes were made.

The honorable judge awarded Ms. Day an additional \$300 for "statutory" reasons. I will ultimately pay \$6,450 to nullify what used to be an intimate friendship.

I wish to state that I am extremely grateful to my attorney, Jerry Davis, and his firm, Stevens, Davis and Dinenna, for their unwavering commitment, genuine kindness and support. Mr. Davis, esq., ultimately reduced a \$75,000 claim to \$6,450, rightly so, as was proven beyond doubt that I carried the majority of the financial burden throughout the years, which greatly exceeded the assertions of Ms. Day.

Linda Kelsh
Spokane

This paper proudly dedicates itself to the spirit of the

Stonewall Patriots

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

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Dennis Davis ♦ Jay Castro ♦ Janice Marx
the Reverend Linda J. Laster
Marianne Hurmence-Dawson

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Letters Policy

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

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Spokane

St. Vinnie welcomes gay bargain hunters

by John Deen

Everybody who loves sales and good buys when they go shopping should love prowling any of the three St. Vincent de Paul stores in Spokane.

"We're very gay-friendly, right down to our hiring practices," said Mathew Meeusen, who, earlier in his management career opened the new Borders Books and Music store in North Spokane. "We hire people based on their work and experience and not on any other factors."

While the executive director of the St. Vincent de Paul operations, himself, is not gay, he invited Stonewall News Northwest to come in and look around.

The main store is a shopping mall unto itself, occupying a full city block on East Trent. It's a department store chock full of low-priced, previously-owned merchandise everywhere you look – a pure delight to shop. You can browse unbothered to your heart's content.

Among the friendly employees, I had an opportunity to chat with Angela Goodman and Erica Siverson. Neither is Catholic but both are lesbians who are very comfortable in talking about their sexual orientation in the context of their work environment, although they don't make it a conversation staple around the break table in the store lunchroom.

Goodman opened the company's employee manual while Meeusen dashed off to a hotel chain to pick up several hundred beds that were being replaced. Sure enough, to my surprise, "sexual orientation" is included in the nondiscrimination clause. Surprised, because churches are exempt from complying with the city's human rights ordinance that bans em-

ployment discrimination, and St. Vincent de Paul has been a charitable organization of the Catholic Church since 1833. That's a remarkable step in promoting equality in the workplace.



staff photo

Erica Siverson, left, and Angela Goodman work behind-the-scenes in the production department at St. Vincent de Paul's main store on East Trent.

"Some people might not come here because of 'Saint' in the name," said Goodman. "But we would like everybody in the (gay) community to feel comfortable about coming in here, whether donating or as a customer. We

want them to know they are welcome here."

Goodman is production manager at the main store, working toward her fifth year with St. Vincent. She said she'd like to squeeze in some volunteering at the Rainbow Center, but her full-time job comes with a healthy dose of overtime assignments. "It's a matter of finding time," she said.

Siverson, the production supervisor who oversees dock workers, the as-is store "and whatever else comes my way," said the pace there is "usually easy going." With considerable work experience at thrift stores and kennels, she said St. Vincent's is "a fun place to work."

There is a down side when it comes to quality control, however. Siverson said that some people use the store's collection boxes as a trash dump. "Our monthly garbage bill is usually \$5,000 to \$7,000, but it can get as high as \$10,000 in the summer."

St. Vincent de Paul's main store and as-is store is located at 2901 E. Trent.

The newly-remodeled facility in the Hillyard area is at 3019 E. Diamond.

A grand opening last month christened a new store location on the Northside, at 2824 N. Monroe.

Community center target of break-in

Quick police response to an alarm may have prevented further loss or damage to Spokane's gay community center last month when a burglar or burglars broke into the building and stole cash and merchandise.

"Police responded promptly when the alarm went off" at 12:40 a.m. on April 21, said Sharon O'Brien, chairwoman of the board of directors for the Rainbow Regional Community Center.

O'Brien said all the money in the cash register was taken, along with merchandise from the store counters. The money had been left in the till overnight to cover payments due the following day, she said.

The Rainbow Regional Community Center is located at 508 W. 2nd Ave. Broken glass indicated the thief or thieves broke in from the alley joining Stevens and Howard streets. The sheet

glass door panel was broken out of the rear entry to a storage room and the glass door to the community center game room was shattered, scattering shards of glass across two game tables and the floor.

"It's important for people in the community to realize that this is their center and to take ownership, to be aware of what's going on at the center and to participate as often as they can," O'Brien said.



staff photo

Volunteer Barbara Lampert assesses the damage at the Rainbow Center.

Participation could include renting a video, checking out a book or shopping the Pride Store. For more active participation, in addition to serving as a volunteer, positions are open on the board of directors.

Donations, of course, are always appreciated, she said.

O'Brien asked that anyone with information about the crime call and leave a message on the Rainbow Center's answering machine. The telephone number is 489-1914.

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For twenty years SAN has been reducing the impact of HIV/AIDS in the Inland NW.

Hot weather refresher:

Beer taps likely new Pride Day attraction

Online group sign-up: www.outspokane.com

Committee members are tying up a few loose ends this month in anticipation of fashioning a fancy bow on the package of festivities they plan to present to the community as Pride Week.

An online Web design, which will handle registration and sign-up for the Pride Parade, vendor booths at the

Rainbow Festival and wedding nuptials during the Pride Celebration, is taking a little longer to complete than first anticipated.

OutSpokane chair Bridget Potter said she hopes the registration forms will be available on the group's Web site at www.outspokane.com by the end of April, a full month before Pride Day on Saturday, June 11.

Potter said, "We're also about 95 percent sure we're going to have a beer

garden" at the festival in Riverfront Park, which would be a first for Spokane's 14th edition of the celebration that marks Pride Day. There also will be a separate play area for children this year.

Tickets for the Kathy Griffin comedy show at the Big Easy on June 10 – OutSpokane's major fundraiser of the year – will go on sale May 6, Potter said. The venue seats 800 and tickets are priced in \$10 increments from \$25 to \$75 and may be ordered through TicketsWest by telephoning 325-SEAT (7328). The \$25 ducats are for standing room only.

After the show, Potter said Griffin will move across the street to Dempseys to sign copies of her DVD album.

Groups and organizations that plan to participate in the parade, which allows motorized vehicles for the first time, are asked to register on OutSpokane's Web site. Individual participation is at-will.

Online registration also is necessary to reserve booth space at the festival and for couples who want to participate in the wedding ceremony, Potter said.

This also is the first year for sponsors to be associated with Pride Day. As Stonewall News went to press, official sponsors included Northern Quest Casino and Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane.

Web purchases can benefit Rainbow Center

The producer of Spokane's Gay and Lesbian Film Festival recently suggested a shopper's "blue light special" that will translate into a donation to Spokane's gay community center.

"If you ever buy anything from Amazon.com – and I am sure many of you do – I would like to ask you to please first go to the Rainbow Community Center Web site at www.spokanerainbowcenter.org," said film fest founder Barb Lee.

"When you click on one of the Amazon.com links on this Web site, to enter Amazon and then make a purchase, the center gets a five percent kickback. You can also shop at Wolfe Video to make a contribution," Lee said.

"What a great and easy way to support your community center," she suggested.

Minorities question need for gay district

Spokane Police Chief Roger Bragdon foresees no special problems in the areas of public safety and law enforcement should a gay district be established in the city.

"I don't see any (police) problems with a gay district. There's no link to crime. The only safety issue is protecting gays from homophobic individuals," Bragdon said at April's monthly meeting of the Police Advisory Committee, an ad hoc board of representatives of minority communities.

For members' edification, Bragdon added: "It's no secret, we have 15 to 30 officers who are gay, and they're some of our finest."

Responding to a question about city jurisdiction, Spokane City Councilman

Joe Shogan who attends sessions to become better informed, said, "It's not a fiat from the council to say how or not how a special designated district develops. Our concern is zoning."

A public forum on Spokane's gay district, previously announced for May, has been postponed because "There's not enough time" to plan the event, said INBA Vision Committee cochair Bonnie Aspen.

While committee members acknowledged the existence of ethnic enclaves in other cities, they questioned why gays in Spokane would want a district of their own.

The people involved in a segregated gay district would be less likely "to learn about the broader community," said Marilou Baun, who moved to the United States from the Philippines in 1967. "I would encourage gays to think outside the box," she implored, "not only to educate yourselves, but other people."

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KATHY GRIFFIN

at the **Big Easy** ← Part of Pride Week 2005

June 10, 2005

Self-Proclaimed D-List Celebrity says:

"I love my Gays!"

If you have not yet seen her DVD, *Allegedly*, brace yourself! Griffin's new comedy special, *The D-List*, is on Bravo and her ascerbic observations will make you howl with laughter.

Tickets go on sale May 6, 2005 at TICKETSWEST. 1.800.325.7328. This 2005 Spokane Pride Parade and Rainbow Festival Fundraiser is sponsored by:

DOMESTIC PARTNER BENEFITS

Continued from front page

ronment. Legal marriage does not prevent abuse," she said.

To speakers who reminded the council that the country was founded by Christians, and those who invoked the reference to "one nation, under God," Verner said, "I'm a Christian. If I was of a different religion, would you want me to vote any differently?"

Apple warned the bill "creates a potentiality for a criminal act. What if a partner offers (these benefits) to obtain a partner? It promotes prostitution."



Brad Read

Stark objected for economic reasons. With recent city cutbacks in services and employees, it "further deepens our budget challenges," he said. Earlier, he had proposed more than a half dozen amendments. At least two were rejected.

Hession said the ordinance, to him, is about respect, dignity, justice and equality. Invoking one of Rodgers' earlier comments, he said, "This is really about how we treat each other."

Among scores of jubilant supporters reacting to the council's approval of the ordinance, Brad Read, former chairman of the Human Rights Commission, who has championed its passage for the past three years, finally allowed a smile, then a grin and handshakes around.

Due to space limitations at press deadline, Stonewall News Northwest will present a more definitive story that includes significant individual presentations in the paper's next issue.

SENATE APPROVES BIGOTRY

Continued from front page

Vowed Cheung, "Equal Rights Washington will work tirelessly to make sure that we elect fair-minded legislators."

Spokane, Seattle, Tacoma, Des Moines, Olympia, Pullman, Vancouver and other cities have enacted basic protections for gay men and lesbians, as have Clallam, Clark and King counties. The statewide nondiscrimination bill would have provided all Washingtonians with the same protection.

"The lesbian and gay community, to say the least, is hurt and angry and suffering at this moment," said Rep. Ed Murray of Seattle, who sponsored the bill and is one of four openly-gay lawmakers in Olympia. "But this for us is not a time to be angry. It is a time for action."

Similar legislation was first introduced into the Legislature nearly 30 years ago. State Senator Cal Anderson championed the bill until his death in 1995, when Murray took over the charge. The bill has come close to passing in previous years, but was stymied through procedural maneuvers.

The Microsoft Corp., at the forefront of corporate gay rights for decades, came under fire from gay rights advocates, politicians and its own employees for withdrawing its support for the bill after a prominent evangelical leader

threatened to organize a nationwide boycott of the company, Murray said.

Ken Hutcherson, pastor of a church near Microsoft's Redmond campus, said the company "backed off," after he told company officials, "I was going to give them something to be afraid of Christians about."

Microsoft spokeswoman Tami Begasse denied that the meeting with Hutcherson factored into the company's decision to change position on the legislation. But the president of the Washington, D.C.-based Human Rights Campaign didn't buy in to that explanation.

Said Joe Solmonese in a letter to Microsoft CEO Steven A. Ballmer, "That position belies your own policies and those of countless other companies who believe firmly that workplace protections for all are essential to maintaining a competitive business environment. Successful businesses embrace diversity not just because it is the right thing to do, but because it is the right thing to do for their business."

Murray, who has championed the legislation for a decade, said just bringing the measure to a vote in the Senate was progress because it forced lawmakers to reveal their true feelings. The bill has passed the House several times, including this session, but had never come to a vote in the upper chamber.

"We have furthered the cause of justice," Murray said. "We have exposed bigotry and prejudice in this state and we will win."

Senate Majority Leader Lisa Brown, D-Spokane, said all was not lost. "The people of Washington want to know what we believe and how we vote on these issues," she said.

Another senator from Spokane, Republican Brad Benson said there was little evidence that employers, landlords or bankers are discriminating against gays and lesbians. But prohibiting such abuse would open the door to litigation and increase the cost of rental housing or cause employers to do business elsewhere, he said.

"We may actually be hurting poor people," Benson declared.

The claim that Washington doesn't have a problem with discrimination simply is false, countered Michele Thomas, a community organizer with the Tenants' Union.

Thomas recalled one woman who was evicted from her apartment several months ago when her landlord discovered she was a lesbian. A preliminary check by the union revealed that the woman had been a model tenant, never late with her rent, but lacking any legal recourse, was forced to move.

"There was nothing we could do," Thomas said. "All you can say is, 'I'm sorry you've been discriminated against. It's perfectly legal.' It's awful to tell people that."

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- 5th - **Gay Bingo** at Dempseys
hosted by Friends of SAN.
- 6th - **Rainbow Awards** by Pride Foundation.

June 9th
Eyecons
Starring
Christopher Peterson
at **Northern Quest Casino**



June 10th

Kathy Griffin

at the
Big Easy



OutSpokane
Pride
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- 10th, 11th - **GLBTQ Midnight Movie** at the Garland
- 11th - **Seattle Men's and Women's Chorus** at SFCC
- 12th - **Captain Smarty Pants** performing at Unitarian Universalist Church



OUTSPOKANE

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Regional Calendar

May events:

■ May 5-8 – **Okanagan Spring Wine Festival**, Kelowna, British Columbia, Eagle's Nest B&B: (866) 766-9350.

■ May 8 – **Mother's Day**. New York jazz vocalist **Daryl Sherman** and **Spokane Jazz Orchestra**, Empire Theater, **Tekoa**, 3 pm, (509) 284-5000; and **PFLAG-Sandpoint** meeting, United Methodist Church, 2 pm, (208) 263-6699.

▼ May 13-15 – **Seattle Men's Chorus' Gentlemen Prefer Blondes**, 5th Avenue Theatre, **Seattle**, \$29-\$50, (206) 323-2992.

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

■ May 20 – Artist reception for **John-Dan Key**, Gold Mountains Gallery, **Republic**, 5-9 pm, free, (509) 775-3731.

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

Plan ahead for June:

▼ June 4 – Emmanuel Metropolitan Community Church's **Pride Cruise, Lake Coeur d'Alene**, 6 pm, \$18, (509) 838-0085; and **Captain Smartypants** and **Sensible Shoes** concert, Benaroya Hall, **Seattle**, 8 pm, \$25, (206) 323-2992.

▼ June 9 – Female impersonator **Christopher Peterson** presents *Eyecons*, Northern Quest Casino, **Airway Heights**, 7 pm, (509) 343-2329.

▼ June 12 – **Seattle Men's Chorus' The Courage to Love**, **Yakima**, 3 pm, (206) 323-2992; and **PFLAG-Sandpoint** meeting, United Methodist Church, 2 pm, (208) 263-6699.

▼ June 17-19 – **Montana Pride Celebration, Helena**.

▼ June 17-19 – **Portland Pride Celebration**, John McCall Waterfront Park.

▼ June 24 and 25 – Seattle Men's and Women's choruses' **Pride Concert**, Meany Theatre, **Seattle**, \$20-\$52, (206) 323-2992.

▼ June 25-26 – **Seattle Pride Festival**, Volunteer Park.

▼ special interest ■ general interest

Regional

PFLAG salutes Montana Republican

BILLINGS – PFLAG members here may be disheartened by the Legislature's rejection of gay rights bills this session, but they still support the process and appreciate the leaders who support human rights and equality.

Five bills related to gay rights met with defeat by session's end in April. The Senate passed three bills, only to have them die in the House. One House bill died in committee and another was killed on the House floor.

"At least one part of the legislative body realizes we must change the laws and expand our understanding (of civil rights)," reflected Lt. Gov. John Bohlinger to the group that had gathered to honor him.

Some two dozen members and guests of Parents, Families and Friends

of Lesbians and Gays met at First Presbyterian Church on April 9 to thank Bohlinger for his longtime support of



PFLAG-Billings honoree Lt. Gov. John Bohlinger, left, and Democratic Gov. Brian Schweitzer.

diversity and human rights, according to The Billings Gazette.

Chuck Walter, who helps lead the local chapter, introduced Bohlinger by saying, "John realized that all Montanans deserve respect as individuals and equal rights as citizens. He has tirelessly supported our cause of equality while in the Legislature." Acknowledging the uphill struggle to gain equal rights for gays in Montana, Walter turned to Bohlinger and said, "Please allow us to give you a heartfelt thank-you."

Fourteen years ago – during his first year in the Senate – Bohlinger introduced a bill that would have added

sexual orientation to the Human Rights amendment. He testified this session on behalf of the Hate Crimes bill.

In thanking the PFLAGers, Bohlinger said he has seen progress since he first arrived at the chamber. The Legislature, he said, "is a place where the citizens of Montana have the opportunity to send representatives from our communities to advocate for us."

Continued the pro-life, Catholic, Republican lieutenant governor: "My belief is people don't make choices. We are what we are, as God created us and, as God's children, we are entitled to protection. I congratulate you for not giving up on this (legislative) process, and working with us to make a difference."

He encouraged his audience to become engaged politically and "support candidates who support our views."

Trio convicted in Capitol Hill assault

SEATTLE – Three Whatcom County men were convicted this spring of felony malicious harassment and assault in an attack on a gay Seattle man during Pride Week last June.

Vadim Samusenko, 21, David Kravchenko, 20, and Yevgeniy Savchak, 18, were convicted in King County Superior Court in a June 27, 2004, attack on Micah Painter. Samusenko was convicted of two counts of second-degree assault; Kravchenko and Savchak were each found guilty of fourth-degree assault for being accomplices. Prosecutors had charged all three with first-degree assault.

According to court documents, the defendants were driving in a truck and spotted Painter, now 24, walking with his partner near a nightclub in the city's Capitol Hill neighborhood after the annual Seattle Pride March. The defendants began yelling insults at Painter because they believed he was gay.

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Four area organizations earn grants

SEATTLE – Three organizations in Idaho and Montana and one in Spokane are among 22 organizations designated to receive grants from the Pride Foundation's spring awards program for 2005. All told, 22 organizations serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community will receive a total of \$80,000.

According to Jeff Hedgepeth, the foundation's grant manager, the Idaho recipients, all of Boise, include:

■ **Idaho Voices for Diversity**, \$5,000 to support a joint concert with the Seattle Women's Chorus and Captain Smartypants, a comedy ensemble of the Seattle Men's Chorus. The group said the concert will provide an chance to showcase the talents of more than 130 gay and allied performers, promote a sense of pride and dignity for gay Idahoans, and provide an opportunity to further establish Idaho Voices for Diversity as a respected member of the Boise performing arts community, giving it an opportunity to recruit members and engage in fundraising.

■ **The Community Center**, \$3,200 to support relocating the facility to better accommodate the needs of a growing community. The wish list for the new site includes better handicap accessibility, increased meeting space, a better kitchen and improved parking. Local officials said the community center's meeting room is so small that attendance for a youth meeting often spills out onto the steps or patio, and that social events are strictly a stand-up affair because only one picnic table and a few chairs can be accommodated.

■ In Helena, the **Montana Human Rights Network** will receive \$5,000

to expand its work creating safe school environments through school districts. Building on liaisons established with three districts in the state, the Human Rights Network plans to work with two new school districts to raise awareness about gay youth issues. The group's documentary, *The End of Silence: Montana Gay Youth Speak*, will be shown to teachers and administrators, and educators will be encouraged to seek additional training with the network and the Montana Safe Schools Coalition.

■ The Spokane designee is the **Gay Straight Alliance of Central Valley High School**, which will receive \$1,000 for start-up funds, advertising and social events. The program includes a poster campaign, guest speakers and support activities from Odyssey Youth Center.

Wine festival could include wedding cake

KELOWNA, British Columbia – Designated one of Canada's best small festivals, locals here tout their Okanagan Spring Wine Festival as "a perfect marriage of wine and culinary tourism," a slogan that could have double appeal to gay couples in the Inland Northwest. The festival is scheduled the first weekend of the month, May 5-8, to offer a "tantalizing experience for anyone who loves fabulous wine accompanied by fine cuisine."


More than 100 events are scheduled during the four-day festival throughout Okanagan Lake wine and vacation country, and the proprietors of Eagle's Nest Bed and Breakfast – Alan and Gary Warren – can recommend the special don't-miss activities as well as assist guests with any wedding plans they might have. For information, telephone Eagle's Nest toll free: (866) 766-9350.

Governor to urge marriage benefits for civil unions

SALEM – The Oregon Supreme Court on April 14 nullified nearly 3,000 marriage licenses issued to same-sex couples by Multnomah County a year ago.

The court said that while the county can question the constitutionality of laws governing marriage, they are a matter of statewide concern and the county had no authority to issue licenses to gay couples.

Gov. Ted Kulongoski, who earlier had advocated adding sexual orientation to the state's nondiscrimination laws, said he will work to pass a civil unions law that will grant gay and lesbian couples marriage-like rights in Oregon.



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SJO makes the Tekoa-NY connection

Spokane Jazz Orchestra and New York's Daryl Sherman will swing to the music of Mildred Bailey at the Met on May 7

Spokane Jazz Orchestra's final concert of the season features New York jazz vocalist Daryl Sherman singing many of the hit songs made popular in the swing era of the 1930s and '40s by jazz sensation Mildred Bailey. But there's more to the connection than jazz. Bailey was born and reared in nearby Tekoa, a small rural town about 35 miles south of Spokane at the Idaho state line.

After a move to Spokane, in 1915 the family relocated to Seattle, where the Bailey inauspiciously launched her career in music as a song demonstrator at Woolworth's department store. Her popularity soared and she hit the big time – named Esquire magazine's top female jazz vocalist in both 1945 and 1946, ahead of such luminaries as Billy Holiday and Ella Fitzgerald. To Bailey's fans, she was The Rockin' Chair Lady, an affectionate nod to her 1932 hit of the Hoagy Carmichael classic.

Saturday's Mildred Bailey Comes Home! show is scheduled at the Met on May 7 beginning at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$26.50 and available at all TicketsWest outlets or by calling the reservations line at 325-SEAT (7328).

Tickets for a 3 p.m. matinee at the historic, art deco Empire Theater in Tekoa are available by calling (509) 284-2078.

Following her marriage to Red Norvo, the great xylophone player whose career developed in the Chicago area, Mildred and Red often were introduced as Mr. and Mrs. Swing.

In addition to their renditions of Bailey's music, Spokane Jazz and their guest artist also will present Bailey's original arrangements from the Red Norvo Collection, which is housed in the Yale University Music Library.

Although SJO has performed a number of historically-authentic and significant concerts before, this performance is expected to be exceptional.

"Because of her early death, the great Mildred Bailey has almost become forgotten," said SJO Music Director Dan Keberle. "For us to also perform her music in her home town of Tekoa and, in a sense, to 'bring her home,' makes this concert a very special occurrence for all of Eastern Washington."

Bailey was widely known as a performer, recording star and associate of many jazz musicians in the swing era. Her early career in the Northwest and



Daryl Sherman

in California, with the Paul Whitemen Band, led to her regular billing as the first female singer to perform with a big band. Following World War II, Mildred and Red parted ways, the recordings stopped and she died in 1951 at the age of 48.

Sherman, a sparkling presence and mainstay of Manhattan nightlife, regularly performs on Cole Porter's Steinway at the Waldorf Astoria. A recent European tour included a dazzling third return engagement in London, and concerts in Wales, Leeds, Scotland and Berlin.

Equally at home in the worlds of jazz and cabaret, Sherman's many recordings have received high critical praise and airplay internationally. She was described in the McDonough Wall Street Journal as a "smart New York singer" who is the "main disciple" of Mildred Bailey. The Village Voice said of her performance at New York's Algonquin Hotel, that "No one has done more than Sherman to keep the disarmingly light, ardently swinging sound of Mildred Bailey alive."

According to The New Yorker, Sherman "has yet to meet a standard whose charms she couldn't extract ... and manages to find contemporary resonance in everything."

Republic goes daffy for Bugs

Souvenirs for everyone attending art reception

REPUBLIC – Spring is here and insects soon will be flying, crawling and hopping around again. Just as soon, we'll be waving them away from our faces and our food, which begs the question: Is there anything good about bugs?



John-Dan Key

Artist John-Dan Key believes so, and demonstrates through his digital

prints the beauty and subtle humor of living with insects. Key's *Bugs* will be the first featured-artist show at the Gold Mountains Gallery here, which opened last year.

Bugs will run May 18 to June 13. An artist's reception is scheduled May 20 from 5 to 9 p.m. Each person attending will be given a *Bugs* gift. Admission to both the reception and the show is free.

John-Dan Key is fascinated by geometric shapes and their relationships and loves color. With *Bugs*, he breaks away from his mostly-abstract preference and creates nearly representational pieces.

"I've always liked bugs because they are small, compact and they have a different appearance and approach to life," said the artist. "I've taken the insects that fascinate me the most, whether because of their

appearance or behavior, and I'm holding them up and showing people how beautiful and amazing they are."



John-Dan Key's Eye to Eye (lacewing)

Said Key, "The juxtaposition of line and form is at the core of my artwork. By placing disparate elements with one another, I forge them into an interrelated whole. In doing so, I demonstrate

the 'interconnectedness' of individuals, the reliance of individuals upon society and the dependence of humanity upon the cosmos."

Key's models for this exhibit embrace dragonflies, beetles and waterstriders, a diversity that also is reflected in the varied styles he employs to depict the creatures. Some are very nearly abstract. Others approach a realistic appearance.

Quipped Key, "I hope we can all share a good laugh and not be so frightened of them (the bugs)."

Key's show will be the first-ever solo show of the Ferry County artist's cooperative known as Gold Mountains Gallery. The gallery, at 852 S. Clark St., is open daily except Mondays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and will feature a new artist each month.

Get your tickets for a musical May

If you want to play around this month – and who doesn't – here's a snapshot look at three suggestions that will bring music to your ears:

Opening May 13:

This classic Levi zips Civic season

Don't base your judgment of *Hello Dolly!* on the movie. The 1969 Barbra Streisand-Walter Matthau film was a critical and financial failure. The stage production, however, which opened five years earlier at New York's St. James Theater, wooed audiences and won a passel of awards.

Now, Dolly Gallagher Levi takes the stage again, this time in the season's finale at Spokane Civic Theatre. *It Only Takes A Moment to Put On Your Sunday Clothes* and make reservations to say *Hello, Dolly!* between May 13 and Pride Day June 11. Telephone the



Gays more tuned in to cable TV programming

ROCHESTER, N.Y. – Gay, lesbian and bisexual adults are more attuned to cable networks than their heterosexual counterparts, according to a recent nationwide online survey.

Gay adults (76 percent) frequently or occasionally watch basic cable, compared with two-thirds (67 percent) of heterosexual adults, according to the survey. Similarly, six in 10 (62 percent) gay and bisexual respondents said they frequently or occasionally watch specialty cable networks (compared with 56 percent of heterosexuals). Nearly half (45 percent) said they frequently or occasionally watch premium, or pay cable networks, compared with 37 percent of heterosexuals.

The survey was conducted in March by Harris Interactive, a worldwide market research and consulting firm, in conjunction with Witeck-Combs Communications, a strategic public relations and marketing communications firm with special expertise in the gay market. The polling included 2,630 adults, of whom 177 self-identified as gay, lesbian or bisexual.

Civic box office for tickets: \$19, with discounts for seniors and students. The number is 325-2507.

Returning May 21:

CenterStage reprises '50s tunes

Audience acclaim for *Forever Plaid* has prompted CenterStage to extend the run of this award-winning musical, postponing the previously scheduled *Spitfire Grill* until next season. The delightfully funny musical refers to The Plaids, a Fifties male singing group who reprise a time when the only four-letter word in a song's lyrics was "love," and its decibel rating didn't even register on the Richter scale.

The production is directed by Kathie Doyle-Lipe, with a cast that includes Russell Seaton, Max Kumangai-McGee, Darin Jones and Greg Pschirrer. Music director is Leslie Ann Grove. Added dates begin May 21, with a final performance on Pride Day June 11. Dinner and show tickets are \$35, \$10 off the previous ticket prices. Show-only tickets are \$17, with discounts for students. For reservations, telephone the theatre box office at 747-8243.

Opening May 26:

Interplayers flips tuh-MAW-tows

Interplayers concludes its season with a hearty ha-ha at the lordly differences between British and American attitudes and manners that surface in an unlikely romantic liaison.

You Say Tomatoes is a laugh-packed comedy by Bernard Slade, author of *Same Time, Next Year*. It's scheduled for a three-week run beginning May 26 and continuing Tuesday through Saturday through June 18. Tickets are \$16 to \$20, with discounts for seniors and students. For reservations, call the theatre box office at 455-PLAY (7529).

Group to view *Donorboy* before *Dancing Naked*

Brendan Halpin's *Donorboy* will be reviewed by Spokane's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Book Group when it meets May 4.

Facilitator Julie Smith said review sessions are held in the second floor conference room of Auntie's Bookstore beginning at 7 p.m. Visitors are welcome. Next month's review, June 1, will be *Dancing Naked at the Edge of Dawn* by Kris Radish.

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Coast is queer for 5th annual Aqua Girl

MIAMI – High-voltage comic Marga Gomez headlines a night of comedy during a weekend of elegant to steamy dance events and parties planned for the 5th annual Aqua Girl celebration here May 12-15. Attendance is expected to top 4,000 gay women from all walks of life.

Aqua Girl is produced by the Women's Community Fund to promote the equality, strength, health and visibility of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered women through education, awareness and a grants program. For information, use the Web site at www.aquagirl.org or telephone the Aqua Girl hotline at (305) 532-1997.

Mr. Leather fans gather Memorial Day weekend

CHICAGO – The annual International Mr. Leather conference sched-

uled here May 26-30 will feature the 27th International Mr. Leather contest at a new venue, the grand ballroom at the Navy Pier. Leather clubs from around the world will participate in the Parade of Colors at closing ceremonies.

Once an event that appealed primarily to hardcore leathermen, IML has expanded in recent years to include a more diverse crowd, from the experienced to the curious. Last year's conference drew more than 13,000 participants. Registration information and contestant applications are available online at www.imrl.com.



Sci-fi at 11 is the news

At three bucks a pop, there just wasn't enough money to pay the projectionist to spring his clock ahead one hour in April. So, *The Worst Midnight Movie Series Ever* continues at CenterStage this month, only at 11 p.m. daylight time, which, if you subscribe to the theory, is the "real" midnight.

This month's movie bombs trigger the launch of an outer space scenario:

■ **May 7: *I Married a Monster From Outer Space*.** Think *The Bachelorette*, without the proper background check. Marge marries Bill then realizes he is not the same person she married. That's because Bill is a man possessed – of an alien. The alien's planet was destroyed, but somehow all the males (but not the females) escaped. Finding a new home in the bodies of Earth men, they now can mate with down-to-Earth women. Marge is somewhat alienated by all of this. She wasn't quite prepared for a relationship that is truly out of this world.

■ **May 14: *Queen of Outer Space*** with Zsa Zsa Gabor. Three male astronauts crash land on the estrogen-heavy planet Venus, populated only by women in stiletto heels and miniskirts

who consider ray guns a fashion accessory. All their men have died and Queen Yllana, not a big fan of testosterone-heavy Earth, plans to destroy it. But scientist Talleah (Zsa Zsa, darlings) striving for hormonal balance, is out to stop her. Can our heroes escape their captors? Well, let's see. As the only men on a women-only planet ... hmmm.

■ **May 21: *Journey to the Seventh Planet*.** No matter how you pronounce it, Uranus is a bizarre word. So it stands to reason that a space expedition to the planet would discover bizarre goings-on. Even more bizarre is the master plan by the planet's master, a giant, pulsating brain. Watch out what you think. Your thoughts could come back to you – in the worst way.

■ **May 28: *Target Earth*.** Oh, what to do when your city has been invaded by Venusian robots. You could be smart and evacuate. But you're a scientist, so you stay behind to study the nuts and bolts of the situation. And where can you do your best thinking? At an abandoned hotel – where a psychopathic killer is more than willing to help you check out.

Unlike the time, *Midnight* tickets are still \$3 per person and may be purchased at the door the night of the show. Since radiation, robots and ray guns can't be battled on an empty stomach, cocktails, beer, popcorn and snacks will be available.

Aw, nuts: Dinner is now chips, popcorn

Snacks will replace the light meal served at *Dinner and a Movie* events at the Rainbow Center – at least for this month. The altered menu was necessitated when someone broke in at the center and stole all the money kept in the locked cash register, said event producer Timothy Phillips. (Related story on page 4.)

Friday events at the gay community center kick off on May 6 with the gallery showing of artwork by Rich Baker from 5 to 8 p.m., a program in conjunction with *First Fridays* in Spokane.

The movie schedule, now with sackeroos, resumes with the following:

May 13: *Just One Time*.

May 20: *Connie & Carla*.

May 27: *Camp*.

Films start at 6 p.m. and are free.

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Spokane in May

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Sunday the 1st – Bloomsday.

Thursday the 5th – Join our brothers and sisters south of the border in celebrating *Cinco do Mayo!*

Saturday the 7th – The Spokane Jazz Orchestra features New York jazz vocalist Daryl Sherman in its season finale *Mildred Bailey Comes Home* at the Met at 8 pm.

Sunday the 8th – Mother's Day.

Friday the 13th – The Spokane Civic Theatre begins its month-long run of *Hello Dolly!* with shows Wednesdays thru Sundays.

Sunday the 15th – The Spokane Lesbian Association hosts *Game Day* at the Rainbow Center at 11 am.

Thursday the 26th – Interplayers closes its season with the comedy *You Say Tomatoes* with shows Tuesdays thru Sundays through June 18.

Saturday the 28th – The Emperor and Empress of the Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane present a special show to raise funds for student scholarships at Dempseys at 9 pm.

Monday the 30th – Memorial Day.

Pre-Concert Lecture on Mildred Bailey by historian and journalist, Jim Price at 7:15 PM in the Met

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Mildred Bailey Comes Home

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Homophobia costs tiny Texas town \$100,000

DALLAS—An East Texas school district fired its champion basketball coach after learning she is a lesbian,

but the price of hypocrisy and hatred came with a price tag.

When coach Merry Stephens' high school girl's basketball team won the area, district and regional championships last year, Bloomburg exploded with hometown enthusiasm and a

celebration that included giving its victors a parade. But now, the town of 375 residents on the Arkansas state line no longer counts the coach in its population. The school district fired both Stephens and her partner, the district's lone bus driver.

One school board member said that Stephens "doesn't deserve to live here" because she is a lesbian. Stephens settled her legal challenges with a \$100,000 buy-out of the two years remaining on her contract.

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National

Gay man faces trial for not revealing HIV status

POMEROY, Ohio – A grand jury here has indicted a gay man for failing to disclose that he is HIV-positive when he had sex with another gay man. His trial is set for July 26.

Larry Drake, 34, was arrested Feb. 17 and charged with felonious assault for allegedly infecting former boyfriend Steve Lantz, 36, with HIV while the two lived together.

Drake was charged under Ohio's controversial 2000 law requiring people who "knowingly" have HIV to disclose their status to their sexual partners "prior to engaging in the sexual conduct," according to the Gay People's Chronicle. Drake faces two to seven years in jail if found guilty.

California NAACP endorses gay marriage

SAN DIEGO – Noting that "in a place like California, you can not possibly work for rights if you don't work for gay rights," the president of California's NAACP said her chapter is endorsing a bill that would legalize same-sex marriage.

Though the national NAACP has not taken a stand on the issue that has divided the black community, Chairman Julian Bonds has gone on record as supporting the legalization of same-sex marriage, according to the San Diego Union-Tribune.

Gay GI awarded Purple Heart wants to return to Iraq

COLUMBUS, Ohio – A soldier wounded in Iraq has announced he is gay and wants to return to duty there. Military officials contacted Army Sgt. Robert Stout after they learned of his contact with the media and ordered him not to give further interviews, Stout said. The Army refused to comment on Stout's status.

Stout's desire to remain in the military as an openly-gay soldier brings him into conflict with the Pentagon's Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy.

Stout, 23, told the Associated Press that he has not encountered trouble from fellow soldiers and would like to stay if not for the policy that permits gay men and women to serve only if they keep their sexual orientation a secret.

"I know a ton of gay men that would be more than willing to stay in the Army if they could just be open," Stout said in an interview with the AP. "But if we have to stay here and hide our lives all the time, it's just not worth it."

Stout, of Utica, Ohio, 30 miles northeast of Columbus, was awarded the Purple Heart after a grenade sent pieces of shrapnel into his arm, face



Sgt. Robert Stout, with his Purple Heart and certificate, wants to serve as an openly-gay soldier in the military.

and legs while he was operating a machine gun on an armored Humvee last May.

He is believed to be the first gay soldier wounded in Iraq to publicly discuss his sexuality, said Aaron Belkin, director of the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military at the University of California-Santa Barbara.

"We can't keep hiding the fact that there's gay people in the military and they aren't causing any harm," said Stout, who says he is openly gay among most of his 26-member platoon, a part of the 9th Engineer Battalion based in Schweinfurt, Germany.

Stout served in Iraq for more than a year as a combat engineer. By acknowledging he is gay, Stout said he could be jailed and probably will be discharged before his scheduled release date, May 31.

"The old armchair thought that gay people destroy unit camaraderie and cohesion is just wrong," Stout said. "They said the same things when they tried to integrate African Americans and women into the military."

Before the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy, enacted in 1993 under the Clinton administration, the Pentagon had explicitly barred gays from military service. At least 24 countries, including Great Britain, Germany, France, Australia, Canada and Israel, allow gays to serve openly.

In an e-mail following the AP interview, Stout said he had been ordered not to speak to the media. "I guess they found out somehow that I was talking to the press and now they are having a fit. I will try to get everything straightened out," Stout wrote.

Martha Rudd, an Army spokeswoman at the Pentagon, said soldiers who are discharged under Don't Ask, Don't Tell typically receive honorable discharges, although the timing would be up to the individual's commanding officer. She declined to comment about Stout, saying the Army doesn't comment on specific cases.

The issue of whether gays should be allowed to openly serve in the military has received increased attention in recent months as the Army has struggled to meet its recruiting goals. Twelve gays expelled from the military sued the government in December, citing a Supreme Court ruling that declared unconstitutional state laws against homosexual sex.

The Bush administration has asked a federal court to dismiss the lawsuit.

Army Secretary Francis J. Harvey has said he opposes changing the policy, although Pentagon figures show a sharp decline in the number of U.S. military members discharged for making it known they are homosexual, falling from 1,227 in 2001 to 653 last year.

A recent congressional study on the impact of Don't Ask, Don't Tell said that hundreds of highly skilled troops, including many translators, have left the armed forces because of the rule, at a cost of nearly \$200 million, mostly for recruiting and training replace-

Continued on next page



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Pride
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Continued from previous page
ments for 9,500 troops discharged between 1994 and 2003.

Gary Gates, a statistician at UCLA, estimates there are about 65,000 gays and lesbians currently serving in the military, accounting for about 2.8 percent of all personnel. He estimates that at least 25 gay soldiers have been killed in Iraq.

Elaine Donnelly, president of the Center for Military Readiness, a conservative advocacy group that opposes gays serving in the military, said a better way to avoid the cost of replacing soldiers who are discharged for being gay is to make it very clear to people who enlist in the military, including Stout, that they are ineligible to serve if they are gay.

"I honor and respect his service to this country, but the fact that he's wounded really doesn't change the underlying fact ... He is not eligible to serve," Donnelly said. She said there are many reasons why people aren't eligible to serve. "This is just one of them."

Stout said he suspected while in high school that he was gay but didn't acknowledge it until later. "Then I noticed that it wasn't a phase or anything. This is me." Stout enlisted in the Army after graduating in 2000.

"The Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy, when it first came out, was a good stepping stone, but it's outlived its usefulness," he said. "We've progressed past it both as a military and as a society."

Recent media polls indicate some increased public acceptance for allowing gays to serve openly in the military, with more than six in 10 Americans supporting the idea, while about half supported it a decade ago. An Annenberg poll taken last fall among members of the military showed a majority opposed to such service, though half of junior enlisted personnel said gays should be allowed to serve openly.

Life sentence meted in beating death of gay man

TUCSON, Ariz. — A 22-year-old man faces life in prison for the beating death of a gay man in 2002. Judge Frank Dawley last month sentenced David A. Higdon to "natural life" in prison. He also sentenced Higdon to serve 15 and three-quarters years for armed robbery. A Pima County Superior Court jury three months earlier had found Higdon guilty of the first-degree murder in the death of Philip Walsted, 24.

Walsted was found alive after having been beaten with a baseball bat near his home on June 12, 2002. He died later that day at University Medical Center. Prosecutors said the attack began as a robbery but that Higdon's neo-Nazi beliefs led to the murder. Walsted was struck in the head with the bat up to 20 times.

Gay faith leaders see little hope of Catholic Church casting out homophobia

compiled from various reports

The elevation of German Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger to pope did little to raise the hopes of gay people of faith that the Roman Catholic Church would become a welcoming institution. Ratzinger, 78, took the name Pope Benedict XVI.

Election of the staunch conservative to the church's highest office 17 days after the April 2 death of Pope John Paul II, was greeted with coolness by gay men and lesbians familiar with his opposition to gay people, let alone his opposition to marriage for priests, the ordination of women priests and artificial contraception.

"We have to be realistic about this," said DignityUSA President Sam Sinnett, explaining that gay Catholics did not expect a significant shift in policy with the election of a new pope.

Observed Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, "Gay and lesbian Catholics are going to be very hurt by this election." Foreman blamed the new pope for the church's increasingly strident language regarding homosexuality.

The Rainbow Sash Movement, equally, was deeply disappointed with the choice of Ratzinger as pope. "We had hoped for a pastor and shepherd; instead we get a doctrinal enforcer," said U.S. Convener Joe Murray. "Cer-

Mayor steps down with announcement he is gay

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Mike Rundle stepped down as mayor of Lawrence, Kansas, in April in protest of the recent statewide vote to amend the Kansas Constitution by banning gay



Mike Rundle

marriage and civil unions for same-sex couples. Said Rundle, "It is with dignity and pride that I acknowledge that I have been ... in all likelihood, Lawrence's first gay mayor."

He added that he didn't acknowledge his sexuality earlier because he wanted to keep the political focus on his quest for good government and avoid triggering a barrier of prejudice that might detract from those goals.

"I think, perhaps, that is less of a concern today than it was 18 years ago," said Rundle, who continues to serve as a commissioner on Lawrence's city manager form of government.

tainly this pope will continue with the worldwide anti-gay agenda."

Soulforce leaders recalled trying to meet with Ratzinger on a visit to Rome in 2000. "He not only refused to meet with us, but his administrators threatened to call the Swiss police," they said. "His refusal to meet with us indicates his unwillingness to even acknowledge the spirit evident in the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people."

In a press release, Soulforce pointed to "The Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith, the office from which (Ratzinger) was promoted, was the old office of the inquisition. Now he brings the inquisition to his appointment as pope."

To counter religious and political oppression, Soulforce called on "Catholics of good will to take stand for justice and equality within the church and society."

From West Hollywood, Calif., Rev. Troy D. Perry, moderator of Metropolitan Community Churches, recalled when he and the vice moderator of MCC met the cardinal at a Bilateral Dialogue during Pope John Paul II's visit to South Carolina. "At that time," Perry said, "we were filled with hope that the relatively new Pope John Paul II would usher in a new era of openness for God's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered children. That did not happen."

Added Perry, "We held out hope that the (recent) selection of a new pope would bring greater openness and acceptance to the Roman Catholic Church. With this election, that did not happen."

"In fact, over the past three decades, Cardinal Ratzinger has served as the

author of many of the Roman Catholic Church's policies that embody overt hostility to (all gay) people and preclude women from full participation in the life of the church.

"We share a deep sadness that one of the world's most homophobic religious leaders has been elevated to the papacy, and regret that his policies will continue to devalue the rich spiritual gifts of gay people and women of faith," Perry said.

SECRET LIFE OF JOHN PAUL

Did his struggle for homosexual rights cost him his life?

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International

Gays say gay-men-only policy discriminatory

CAPETOWN, South Africa – The owner of two guesthouses for gay men only will close them before he will allow heterosexuals, women or lesbians. Michiel Spaapen, who owns gay-men-only guesthouses in City Bowl and Sea Point faces investigation by the South African Human Rights Commission following a complaint by the Gay and Lesbian Alliance that the gay-men-only policy is discriminatory, according to the Cape Times.

“This is not about discrimination,” Spaapen told the Times, “it is about a niche market. We have nothing against straight people; we are simply creating an environment where gay men feel comfortable. Our resorts allow gay men to be together.”

Honduras bans gay marriage, adoptions

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras – Honduran lawmakers have unanimously approved a constitutional amendment prohibiting gay marriage and adoptions by same-sex couples.

The National Assembly vote in April came just months after the government formally recognized several gay civil rights groups, a move that outraged church leaders in this overwhelmingly Roman Catholic country, according to the Associated Press. The amendment also refuses to recognize same-sex marriages or unions that occurred legally in other countries.

The AP noted that gay marriage receives almost no recognition in Latin

American countries, hindering the ability of same-sex couples to adopt children. Two exceptions are Colombia and Brazil, where initiatives to extend legal rights to same-sex couples have emerged recently.

Lesbian visitation victory seen as landmark case

LONDON – A lesbian’s legal victory to visit her former lover’s biological children conceived while the two were a couple also is seen as a landmark for other gay couples. In reversing a lower court’s ruling, the deputy head of the Family Division approved a joint residence order for the woman, according to news sources here.

“What has been said about the importance of fathers is of equal application in same-sex parents,” the judge said, according to United Press International.

The woman, 46, gains shared parental responsibility for the two girls, ages 6 and 3, by winning joint residence, the UPI said. The woman also has a 16-year-old biological son and lived with the girls as their mother since 1995. The biological mother of the children, 31, has a new partner, since her relationship with the 46-year-old woman ended in May 2003, to court records.

Tourist’s island vacation extended for having sex

NADI, Fiji – An Australian tourist has been sentenced to two years in jail after being found guilty of what a judge



Bartender Julio Capeletti prepares for his cover shot for the current issue of G, a popular men’s magazine in Brazil.

here called a “shameful” and “disgusting” homosexual act.

According to a story published by the New Zealand Herald, retired university lecturer Thomas Maxwell McCoskar, 55, and a 23-year-old Fiji man pleaded guilty in April to having sex during the Easter holiday. They also asked the court for leniency because gay sex in Fiji is illegal and carries a sentence up to 14 years.

The Herald quoted Magistrate Syed Muhkhar Shah as saying the crime was “something so disgusting that it would make any person vomit” and that McCoskar’s actions bordered on pedophilia.

Saudis flog, sentence gay men for dancing

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates – The Human Rights Watch charged in April that Saudi Arabia is violating basic human rights – including the right to privacy, fair trial and freedom from torture – by incarcerating and flogging accused gay men, according to the Associated Press.

Saudi authorities detained more than 100 men at a March 10 party in the Red Sea port city of Jiddah, sentencing many of them in closed trials without representation to up to two years in prison and 2,000 lashes, for “unreported offenses,” the New York-based group claimed.

A government-affiliated Internet paper, Al-Wifaq, on March 16 said the men were “dancing and behaving like women,” implying they were convicted due to “gay behavior.” The paper claimed that security forces “ambushed” the men after surrounding a rest house next to a wedding hall where they had been given a tip about “a marriage between two men.”

Saudi officials could not be reached for comment, the AP said.

Italy, Montana share recipe for Pride fetes

MILAN, Italy – Italy and Montana may be on opposite sides of the globe, but they share a novel approach to developing Pride Week activities. Both select a different city each year to host the celebrations.

Milan will be the focal point of this year’s Gay National Pride Italy celebrations June 3-8. The country’s Pride Parade is scheduled June 4, according to Alfred J. Cahak of Gay National Pride Italy Milano 2005.

On this side of the world, Montana’s Pride Celebration will be held in Helena June 17-19.

Hormel to keynote annual law conference

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Lesbian and Gay Law Association announces its annual Lavender Law Career Fair and Conference for the Westin Horton Plaza Hotel in San Diego Oct. 27-29. More than 500 gay attorneys, law professors, law students, judges and other legal professionals are expected to attend.

James C. Hormel, former dean of the University of Chicago and the first openly-gay man appointed ambassador of the United States, will deliver the keynote address. Details are available on the law organization’s Web site at www.LavenderLaw.org.

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STONEWALL
News Northwest

No pay raise? Try more sex!

ATLANTA – If you're spending long days at the office in hopes of a raise, you may want to consider going home early and jumping into the sack. A new study finds that more sex with a partner is likely to make one happier than more money.

The research, by two economists who looked at what makes people happy, found that increasing sexual activity from once a month to once a week was roughly equivalent to a \$50,000 per year raise in generating happiness. The study, *Money, Sex and Happiness: An Empirical Study*, submitted to the National Bureau of Economic Research, found no difference among gay and straight relationships.

The findings came from English economists David Blanchflower of Dartmouth College and Andrew Oswald of the University of Warwick, who are leaders in a growing field known as "happiness economics," which includes research on how such things as unemployment or the position of an employee's desk affect happiness.

"People are interested in questions about what gives people satisfaction," Blanchflower said. "We, as economists, look at money and marriage."

In their 2004 study, Blanchflower and Oswald analyzed self-reported sexual activity and levels of happiness of more than 16,000 American adults who participated in surveys since the early 1990s.

"I think it says more money is not going to bring you as much happiness as a good family life," Blanchflower said.

Furthermore, their study found that a lasting marriage offers about \$100,000 worth of happiness a year. That translates to a single person needing to earn an extra \$100,000 annually to be as happy as the married person with the same education and other characteristics.

The research also found no difference in the amount of happiness from being in a gay relationship, but that, regardless of sexual orientation, the most happiness came from having just one partner.

Authors Lynda and William Talmadge, Atlanta marriage and sex therapists, said the research on sex and marriage provides food for thought but oversimplifies the complexity of intimacy.

"I think it really depends on the context. How good is the marriage? And with sex, it requires both sides having a positive attitude and being open to changing the frequency," said Lynda Talmadge.

"That said, I think it is very good for driven Americans, who are taught that material things will buy them happiness, to pause and reconsider, because it's the richness of relationships that makes us happy," she added.



Tell Trinity

How to discover if your 'PAL' is really a lesbian

Hello Trinity,

My roommate keeps pushing me to get dressed up when I have an interview or a date. But shouldn't I be liked and accepted for who I am, not for who I make believe I am?

Yours, First Take
Albuquerque, N.M.

Hello First Take,

When first meeting someone, you have 30 seconds to win them over; after that it's all just frosting or burnt crust. Some books even talk about the first three seconds, i.e. the first handshake, smile or eye contact.

If you're lucky enough to get a second meeting, you have to become even more impressive, not less. Thus, if you make it through the first 30 seconds, then the next 10 minutes, then the next interview or date – and all the way up to your fifth encounter – then and only then can you start to relax. And yes, honey, being your (best) self is key in any interaction ... unless you have a split personality.

Love, Trinity

Dear Trinity,

Lately my girlfriend has been acting weird. So the other night, when she said she was meeting a friend at the bar, I decided to investigate. When I arrived, she was not with that friend but talking to other friends. After 30 minutes, I said hi. She was glad to see me, but now I feel guilty. Was I wrong?

Sincerely, Caught Spying
Provincetown, Mass.

Dear Caught Spying,

You have a right to trust your instincts and protect your interests

as long as it's a harmless investigation, like checking up on someone at a bar. So kill the guilt. Sometimes you have to do what you have to do, which often means acting first and apologizing later.



Dating Dilemma No. 31

Dear Trinity,

Sometimes my boyfriend can't get excited in bed. Could it be me?

Come On-Get Up
Savannah, Ga.

Dear Come On,

Yes, Pumpkin, sometimes it might be you. So ask straight out, "How can I be more attractive?" And then listen quietly before doing everything he says.

Sometimes it's not you but things you can change, like the bed sheets, the room temperature, your undergarments or your lazy attitude. Of course it may also be his work, stress, family or ... he's sleeping around.

Good Luck, Trinity

Hey Trinity,

I'm sure my best friend is a lesbian but she doesn't know it yet.

I have lots of lesbian friends I could introduce her to but I don't want to make her uncomfortable. What would you do?

Thanks, Lesbian In DeNile
Billings

Hey LID,

Sometimes it's hard to say, "Follow the yellow brick road." Besides sharing the wonderful aspects of lesbianhood, like never having men controlling her, why not read her:

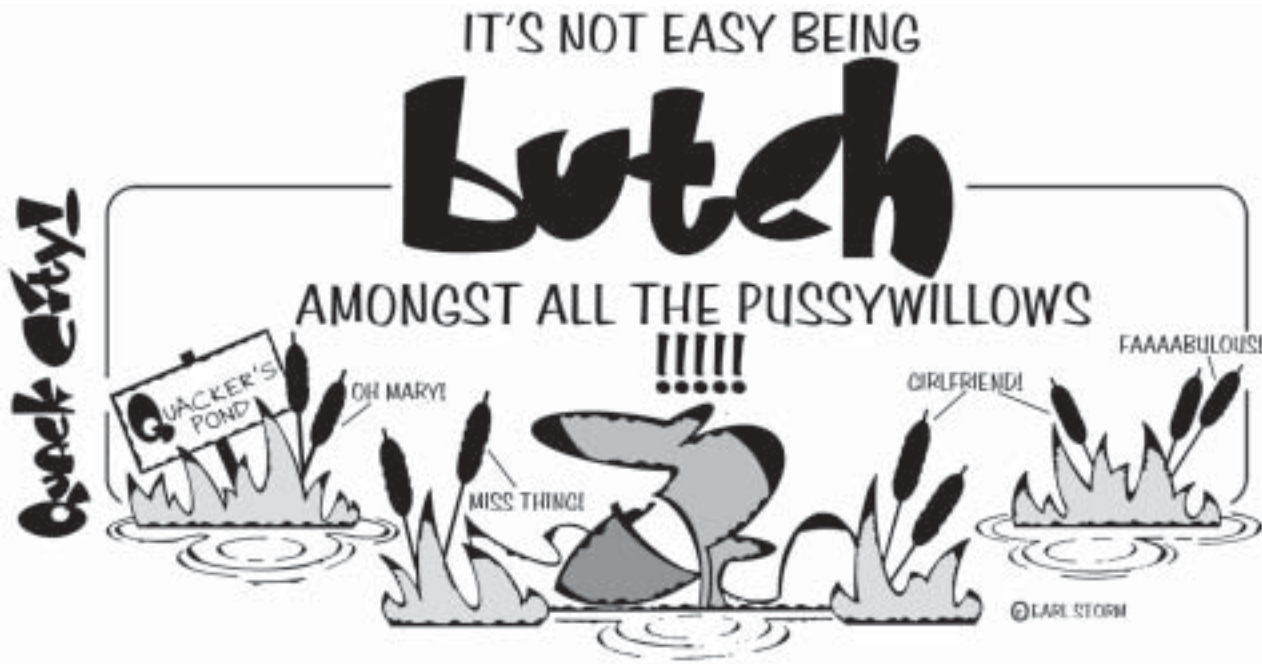
Trinity's Strong Suggestions For Knowing if (YPAL) You're Probably a Lesbian

1. When your wardrobe consists of one simple dress for every 10 flannel shirts, button-down oxfords and khaki slacks well, YPAL.
2. If on your desk at work sits a beautiful photograph ... of your dog or cat, hey YPAL.
3. So you've been with the same woman for 300 years, yeah YPAL.
4. Always wanted to be a cop, fireman, pilot or electrician? That can only mean one thing, Butchy!
5. So you hate shaving your legs and armpits, hate letting your hair grow past your ears and hate how your feet look in pumps, well guess what?
6. So you cried when Rosie left her talk show *but* threw a huge potluck when Ellen (DeGeneres) aired her show ... YPAL.
7. Owning the DVDs *Boys Don't Cry*, *Go Fish* and/or *Kissing Jessica Stein* basically means YPAL.
8. If your CD collection also includes Indigo Girls, Melissa Etheridge and/or k.d. lang, well guess again?
9. So you like sports, camping, fixing cars and playing guitars ... hello in there, Joe!
10. And, lastly, when your elbow stays in the air while you're puffing on a cigarette ... YPAL.

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

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NEW ENGLAND STATES

Continued from front page

the governor as he signed legislation to add sexual orientation and gender identity to a Maine law that bars discrimination in employment, housing, credit, public accommodations and education.

In Washington state, the Legislature adjourned without taking final action on a similarly-drafted bill approved by the lower House, allowing it to die in a Senate committee.

“This act not only offers essential civil rights, but serves as a welcome,” said Maine’s Democratic governor, who submitted the legislation. “Our doors are open to all people. This is a proud day for Maine,” he told cheering supporters who packed the State House Cabinet Room.

The law, which received final House and Senate passage the night before Baldacci signed it, takes effect in late June, 90 days after adjournment of this year’s regular legislative session.

The new law exempts religious organizations that do not receive public funds. It also makes clear that the law does not condone or authorize gay marriages.

Opponents, who asserted that the bill was rushed through the legislative process and should have been sent to voters, did not give up their effort to derail the law.

The Christian Civic League of Maine, which helped to organize two previous, successful referendum campaigns to undo gay rights laws in the state, is expected to try to stop the newest law through a “people’s veto” referendum. Groups challenging the law have until June 28 to collect some 50,000 voter signatures to force a statewide vote in November, state election officials said.

MURPHY'S MANOR

by Kurt Erichsen



Classifieds

PEOPLE and EVENTS

11-Special Person:

APRIL B.
YOU MISSED the magic 5-0 on 5/5/05 by six days and we almost missed wishing you a happy birthday on April 30th. But then, you probably would have been named May. Fab wishes belatedly. Love ya, B.L. and friends.

MY OLD FLAME

MAY 9TH: Happy Birthday Leebo. How do I love thee? Let me count the candles. Oh my, we're not younger than springtime any more, are we! Love all the same, Jay D.

DAVID H.

MAY 21 and welcome to the heady Stratus-phere of another birthday. Happy days ahead, always. Love, B.D.

CLIFFY D.

TOPETY NOTCHETY birthday wishes on May 27th. Hope you have many, many more Happy Birthdays. Love, from U-NO-WHO!

Deadline for the June Classifieds is Tuesday, May 17. Call 456-8011.

PEOPLE and EVENTS

13-Volunteers:

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

LIVING

21-Housemates:

WANTED MALE ROOMMATE to share split-level home on upper South Hill, very private. Prefer mature man, nonsmoker. Steve: 534-3412.

PERSONALS

76-Body Work:

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

Miscellaneous

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

PERSONALS

78-Pen Pals:

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

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

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

SWM, 5-3, 190, desperately seeking committed transvestite-transgendered pen pal. Race open, age 18-30, wt 165-200. My hobbies are letter writing, reading, walks in nature. I'm lonely. Reply to: Jesse Henry #51174, ISCI Unit 14 D-41, PO Box 14, Boise, ID 83707.

BiWM, 5-11, 215, shoulder-length brn, brn, looking for mature females, males in Spokane, Sandpoint, CdA for pen pals, possibly more. Reply to: Troy D. Alonzo #33205, IMSI J-2-37-A, PO Box 51, Boise, ID 83707.

PERSONALS

78-Pen Pals:



SGWM, 27, 6-2, 158, brn, brn, 8.5 cut. Convicted of forgery, full-term release 3/09. Many interests, esp giving oral. Seeking SGWM, 18+, for friends, possible LTR. Willing to relocate. Photos (no Polaroids) appreciated. Reply to: Damian Ayarzagotia #66184, IMSI B-Blk, PO Box 51, Boise, ID 83707.

Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous

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Weekly Calendar of Events

SUNDAYS

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

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

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

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

THURSDAYS

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

FRIDAYS

2-8 pm: **RAINBOW REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER.**

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

Spokane's entertainment and meeting calendar for May

May 2005

Birthstone: Emerald

Flower: Peony

Astrological Guide: Taurus to May 20; Gemini from May 21

6

Friday

First Friday in Spokane, 5-9 pm, features the art of Rich Baker at the Rainbow Regional Community Center. Free

7

Saturday

Jewelry enthusiasts should register as early as possible for today's 4-hour *Beaded Chain Bracelet* workshop at Spokane Art School at 10 am. \$22 plus lab, equipment fee

For Mother's Day weekend, MAC presents its 16th annual *Historic Neighborhood Tour* of the Audubon Park area from noon to 4 pm today and Sunday. \$10-\$15

11

Wednesday

The monthly luncheon meeting of the **Inland Northwest Business Alliance** at **Europa** opens with networking at 11:30 am. \$15-\$18

12

Thursday

Former Marine Corps major and UN weapons inspector in Iraq **Scott Ritter** will be guest speaker at a *Support the Truth - Save the Peace* community gathering at the **Met** at 7 pm sponsored by PJALS, the **Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane**. \$10

15

Sunday

Today is the final opportunity to view *An Impressionist Eye*, a remarkable collection of impressionist art mostly from the 19th century, on tour at the **Museum of Northwest Arts and Culture** from 11 am to 5 pm. \$7/S/s

The **Spokane Lesbian Association** hosts *Game Day* at the **Rainbow Center** from 11 am to 3 pm. Free

Parents and their children, ages 3-17, are invited to **Community Family Club** at the **Rainbow Center** from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. This is a joint project of the **Campfire Boys and Girls Club** and the **Rainbow Center**. Free

Featuring musicians from Mexico and Chile, **Grupo Condor** entertains at the **CenterStage** dinner-theatre at 7 pm, following dinner at 5:30. \$43, show-only \$22/s

18

Wednesday

Inland Northwest Equality, Lambda Legal and The Alliance at Spokane Falls Community College will show the documentary *Tying the Knot* at the college at 7 pm.

20

Friday

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

21

Saturday

Everyone's Yard Sale at the **Fairgrounds** from 9 am to 4 pm, sponsored by **The Spokesman-Review**, will benefit the **Food Bank of St. Vincent de Paul**. 50¢ or a can of food

CenterStage reprises last month's musical hit, *Forever Plaid*, on a mostly Thursday thru Saturday schedule through **Pride Day June 11**. Dinner and show \$35; show-only \$17/s

A couple of hours later - at 11 pm - **CenterStage** goes out of this world with its *The Worst Midnight Movie Series Ever* that features *Journey to the Seventh Planet*. \$3

22

Sunday

Unity Church presents *No One Is Against Me* with **Gary and Jane Simmons** at 1 pm. Donation

26

Thursday

Interplayers closes its season with a laugh-filled romp that pits British versus American attitudes and manners in *You Say Tomatoes*, Tuesday through Sunday, thru June 18. \$16-\$20/S/s

ISCS will hold an *Open Forum* related to the **Gay Spokane Pageant** at **Dempseys** at 7:30 pm.

27

Friday

Camp is the selected film for tonight's *Movie Night* at the **Rainbow Center** at 6. Free

28

Saturday

The **Emperor and Empress of ISCS** present a special show to raise funds for student scholarships, at **Dempseys** beginning at 9 pm.

The Worst Midnight Movie Series Ever at **CenterStage** offers us a look into the future tonight at 11 with the discount drama *Target Earth*. \$3

30

Monday

Memorial Day holiday.

1

Sunday

Bloomsday. Racing starts at 9 am.

Spokane-Kootenai Pride hosts *Bunko* as a fundraiser at **The Merq**. Social hour and "how to play" at 2 pm; games 3-5:30 pm. \$10 donation suggested

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

Violinist **Jason Moody** will be featured with the **Spokane Symphony** as it concludes its *Homecoming* series with a concert at the **Met** this afternoon at 3 and on May 3 at 7:30 pm. \$13-\$24

2

Monday

Today is the last day to submit nominations for Spokane's *Rainbow Awards* to be presented during *Pride Week*. Info: 327-8377

OutSpokane (the *Pride Day* committee) meets tonight and every Monday until *Pride Day* at 6:30 at the **OutSpokane Center**, 817 S Madelia St.

3

Tuesday

Inland Northwest Equality will meet at the **Rainbow Center** at 5:30 pm.

Pre-register by today for a 3-hour *Impressionist Painting Discovery* workshop, hosted by the **Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture** and **Corbin Art Center**, at the **MAC** on May 7. \$20, phone: 363-5306

Othello continues its run at **Interplayers** tonight through Thursday at 7:30, concluding with Friday and Saturday performances at 8 pm. \$16-\$20/S/s

4

Wednesday

The **GLBT Book Group** will tackle *Donorboy* in the second floor conference room at **Auntie's Bookstore** beginning at 7 pm. The group's next meeting will be June 1, to explore *Dancing Naked at the Edge of Dawn*.

5

Thursday

Cinco de Mayo.

Dance to "ol skool" mambo-jazz and salsa with **Johnny Conga and Tumba Caliente** from 8-midnight at **CenterStage**. \$15 per person

8

Sunday

Mother's Day.

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



The first public rally for gay rights - 40 years ago at Independence Hall in Philadelphia - is the subject of next month's Pride Week movie, Gay Pioneers. Note that protest organizers required women demonstrators to wear skirts and the men to wear shirts and ties. Among the courageous participants, Barbara Gittings, foreground and inset, will be the featured celebrity guest at the opening event for Pride Week at the EWU Riverpoint Auditorium on June 3, courtesy the Spokane Gay and Lesbian Film Festival committee.



scene from *Gay Pioneers*

Noted New York jazz vocalist **Daryl Sherman** joins the **Spokane Jazz Orchestra** in its season finale, *Mildred Bailey Comes Home*, featuring song hits of the '30s and '40s, at the **Met** at 8 pm. \$26.50

Singer **Lee "God Bless the USA" Greenwood** joins **Spokane Symphony** for tonight's *SuperPops* concert at the **Opera House** at 8 pm. \$17-\$38

If dancing is more your style, head to **CenterStage**, where the 10-member salsa band **Milonga** will play, from 8 pm. \$10/s

Moved from straight-up-midnight to 11 pm, **CenterStage** continues its movie madness in *The Worst Midnight Movie Series Ever* with the showing of *I Married a Monster From Outer Space*. \$3

13

Friday

Movie Night at the **Rainbow Center** at 6 pm will focus on the film *Just One Time*. Free

Hello Dolly! opens at **Spokane Civic Theatre** for a month-long run, Wednesday thru Sunday, through **Pride Day June 11**. \$19/S/s

14

Saturday

Members and guests of **OWLS (Older and Wiser Lesbian Sensations)** will gather for lunch at the **Old Country Buffet** at 11:30 am.

Sex, Fries and Duct Tape is the title of a comedy show tonight at 8 in the upstairs lounge at **The Merq**. \$10

The **Emperor and Empress of ISCS** will present a *General Fund* fundraising show at **Dempseys** at 9 pm.

If you can't seem to get your fill of Zsa Zsa Gabor movies, take heart: **CenterStage** continues *The*



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CHRISTOPHER PETERSON

JUNE 9TH 7PM

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