

Queer Sounds on the airwaves

Broadcasting live from KYRS Thin Air Community Radio in Spokane WA, Queer Sounds features music written and performed by gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender artists.



Irey and Bob hosting Queer Sounds

Photo by Joyce Crosby

By Joyce Crosby
Special to Stonewall News Northwest

Queer Sounds radio show host Irey, 37, looks like somebody's little brother, and after making an on-air quip about the Scissor Sisters sounding like Elton John, she giggles like a star-struck teenager. Then when Irey comments that co-host "Bob," 30, doesn't sound like a Bob, both women's laughter carries across the airwaves into the night. Once the mike is turned off, Irey smiles at me and says, "We are crazy!" She's right. They are...in an offbeat entertaining way.

Queer Sounds is broadcast live from KYRS Thin Air Community Radio in Spokane WA and features music written and performed by gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender artists. Irey was instrumental in getting the three-year-old show on the air. As a child, Irey dreamed of being a DJ. So when she heard that a low power FM community radio station was going to be built in Spokane, she developed a show that is of a progressive, liberal nature, with music and information of interest to the GLBTQA community. However, Irey, who volunteers her time and talents, is much more than a DJ. Her official title is Programmer because she's the one who develops the play list, writes the scripts, schedules and conducts interviews and produces the show.

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**Fly your Flags
on Fridays!**

Local Gay-Lesbian History Project underway

By Joyce Crosby
Special to Stonewall News Northwest

While working at Odyssey Youth Center as a Ready*Corps VISTA member of AmeriCorps, Maureen Nickerson envisioned a wall at the center covered with memorabilia of local GLBT groups, as well as individuals who have made contributions to the community. The mission of Nickerson's project is to piece together accurate pictures of what it was like to be gay in the Inland Northwest in the 20th century. With the support of the GLBT community, the idea of an exhibit at Odyssey has progressed into a major historical project.

While our GLBT youth have the opportunity to connect with one another and adult mentors through Odyssey, Nickerson wants to provide the youth who gather there a "much broader sense of history and identity." She feels that if the GLBT community fails to record its history for future generations, its reality will be lost forever. All that will be saved is society's somewhat distorted opinion of GLBT life.

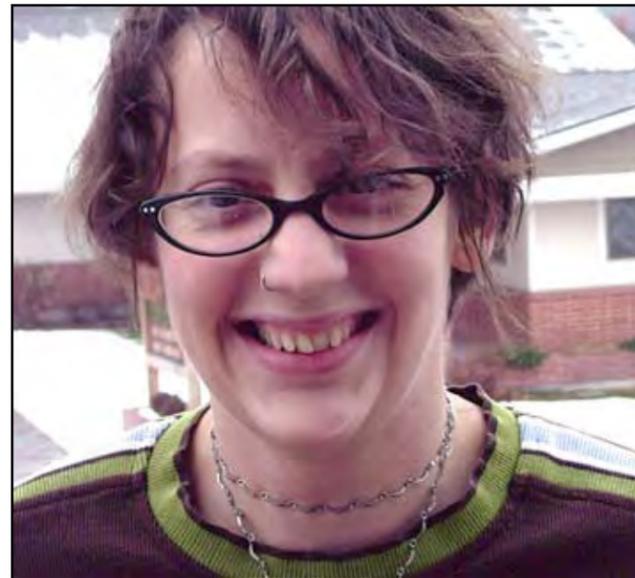
This is why, since her service as a VISTA volunteer ended in November, Nickerson has devoted most of her time and attention to the project. Each generation has the generation before it to thank for the progress that has been made with regard to inclusion and acceptance of LGBT persons. "It is important to know

whose shoulders you are standing on," Nickerson states. "And the more information you have about them, the higher up you can start."

Nickerson has already identified individuals from the area's past to include in the project. One was a Native American woman, a Kootenai, who took a wife and lived for a time at the Spokane House in the 1800s. Because she and her wife acted as guides for French and English trappers and explorers, several entries referencing her can be found in their journals.

Another historical figure was a doctor who was born a woman, and in 1918, became a man. He practiced medicine in the Northwest and lived in Spokane for about 18 months before he and his wife moved back East.

Nickerson has interviewed about a dozen elders from the local GLBT community. She has heard and recorded many fascinating stories, but the historical accounts she has documented thus far are "just a handful of pieces in what must be an enormous puzzle." She is looking for people born before 1960 who would like to tell their stories. "We had to



Maureen Nickerson

Photo by Joyce Crosby

draw the line somewhere in defining who is considered an elder," Nickerson says.

Nickerson wants people to know that "you don't have to be totally out to participate in this history project. We realize it is still difficult for people to be out, particularly in outlying areas. It is possible to remain anonymous and still take part and help to round out the history of our queer community." According to Nickerson, there is a different set of criteria for GLBT elders from "way,

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Voices

Letters to the Editor

AIDS alive and thriving

Dear Stonewall,

World AIDS day has come and past by the time you read this...

But I wanted to add some comments to help focus on the current cultural scope of HIV and AIDS in the region and nationally.

I was appalled with on December 1st, 2006 - the Spokesman Reviews Editors found that a concern over e-mails on Kootenai County employee's computers was more important than focusing on a top killer of today's young people.

Much to many folks dismay HIV is still alive and thriving in the world, it is infecting and impacting people of all ages. The

newest high risk group? Teens and Early twenty something's of all orientations. No longer do you worry about your buddy at the bar contracting HIV, through a drunken night with a stranger- it is your son, daughter, niece, nephew or the kid next door you need to worry about. Based on current studies individuals are contracting HIV in their mid teens, not their late 20's as originally thought. Obviously the fact the kids are the new "risk group" missed the local news papers news search- instead they focus on the stupid—Who cares that off color emails are sent across government computers? When people are contracting a life denying infection? Oh I guess the Spokesman-Review.

HIV in this Millennium has fulfilled all our prophecies of the last - it continues to spread, it continues to infect the innocent and it continues to be preventable - but the powers at be don't want to discuss HIV prevention because it upsets the "Religious

Wrong", vocal minority and means that nasty letters to the editor will be sent. For the last 6 years we have had a president too stupid to realize that education is the key to prevention, a president who is or was so afraid his religious buddies might bark about non Christian sexual activities- that he wasted untold millions of dollars on abstinence based sex education programs that don't work. A president who banned federal sites from discussing the most effective models of HIV prevention for sexually active individuals. A president who in his supposed wisdom assumed that all Americans care about the book of Christian myth and writings from a thousand years back.

Reality is in the World of HIV we are back to square one, we need to look back at what worked in the 80's and re-implement that now, programs encouraging the

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Tessa's Advocates for Youth 2006 Urban Retreat Trip

By Contessa "Tessa" Medina
 Spokane, WA



It was three in the morning on September 14th, 2006 and I was awake and feeling scared, nervous and ecstatic all at the same time. My name is Contessa Medina and I am born and raised in Spokane, WA. On this day, I was flying to the East Coast for the Advocates for Youth Urban Retreat. I had never been to the East Coast and here I was going on my own.

In years past, Odyssey Youth Center has sent two youth to this retreat about building youth activist leadership to impact adolescent reproductive and sexual health policies at the state and local level. There was only one spot available this year and given

the opportunity, I took it - but very hesitantly. Now I don't see why I was so hesitant.

Going to this retreat not only gave me in-depth information about the issues I have been involved with for almost three years but it also opened my eyes even more to our right as youth to be responsible for our own choices. Teenagers aren't just the irresponsible, hormonal time bombs some adults seem to think we are. As an eighteen year old, I am better prepared to step up, and I encourage others to do the same. Everyday more and more youth are challenging the abstinence-only-until-marriage-based sexual education programs in schools all over the United States.

Locally, Odyssey Youth Center gets together yearly and goes to Olympia to lobby our legislators on the state level for comprehensive sexuality education in our public schools. We have the right to access full and complete information

that actually applies to each and every individual. What this means basically is that we want EVERYTHING!

I'm amazed by all I learned and experienced in Washington, D.C. I loved the city. Our hotel was located just about two city blocks from the gay district. I explored many stores there and especially enjoyed shopping at a small Pride store. I really hope that one day someone will open a shop like it in Spokane.

At the end of the five days, it was hard to say good bye to my roommates and everyone else I met at the retreat. I found myself wishing I could just take everyone back to Spokane with me. I will never forget this experience and cannot thank Odyssey Youth Center enough for the chance to attend. I only wish that I can inspire other youth to become activists in hopes that the cycle of moving forward and making change will continue!

Spokane & Regional

SAN seeks volunteers for holiday food boxes

Spokane AIDS Network is asking for volunteers to help prepare and deliver holiday food boxes to those in need. On Saturday December 16th, SAN volunteers will meet at 9:30 am at Centenary United Methodist Church, 1012 S Freya Street, to set up and begin sorting and bagging food.

Then volunteers will deliver the holiday boxes from 11 am to 3 pm and return any leftover food to SAN between 3 and 4:30 pm. If you are able to donate your time please call Cherie Moss, Volunteer Coordinator, Spokane AIDS Network at 455-8993.



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HISTORY

continued from FRONT PAGE

way back," because it may have been impossible for them to be out at that time and, "It is extremely important to show that they existed."

However, for more recent historical figures to be considered, they must be out. This is the message Nickerson wants to send to the children. "Living an authentic life is the healthy way to go," she stresses. "And we want to encourage that."

Nickerson will be posting the oral histories she collects on TINCAN's Living Memories Regional History Database. TINCAN is an organization that provides technological support for community, social and economic development. She is currently working to develop a central repository either at the library or a museum for the collection, indexing, copying and safely keeping of local GLBT history.

Nickerson is also looking for people to help with research, fact verification and interviews. It is her hope that the history project will become a galvanizing force in the community, bringing diverse people and generations together. "Otherwise, you are really alone," states Nickerson.

For more information or to participate in the history project, Maureen Nickerson can be reached at Odyssey Youth Center 325-3637 or sehkmet546@yahoo.com.

The Toilet Brush Christmas Tree

by Tim Anderson

I am not sure how most folks remember Christmas 2005. I remember it was the season of "Narnia," "Rent" on film and "Brokeback Mountain." It was the season where a President still couldn't explain his response to Hurricane Katrina, Iraq and no child left behind. It was a season of political contradictions and uncertain economic news.

It was also the first Christmas season my family celebrated Christmas eve in my sister's new house. It was the first Christmas I spent with my boyfriend Kevin. It was the first Christmas that my three year old niece, Kelcy, really seemed to get the whole Grinch, Rudolph and Frosty the Snowman brat pack thing. Sadly, it was the first Christmas without my beloved grandmother, Agnes "Billie" Lopeman. Oh yeah, it was also the first season in nearly a decade that I didn't post a Christmas Story.

I'd started the story, but just could not finish it. I was in no mood to try to pull something out of my stockings hung with care that just obviously was no longer there. There had to be something more to tell about Go Tell It on the Mountain than out clichéing the cliché. For some reason, I just could not get with the Christmas spirit program.

It's an understatement to say my family enjoys our Christmas traditions-traditions that probably rival most people's definition of addictions. There is the annual compulsive decorating blitz, the assembly of competing artificial Christmas trees, the 24 days of indulgent Norwegian Christmas baking, the stringing of two million lights and finally, there's the painstaking set up of all of my mother's various Christmas villages.

Because we are Lutheran, and we are addicted to Advent liturgical rituals, we excel in overdoing everything. We are a stubborn people. We light too many candles, bake too many sweets, and decorate, knowing we are destined to repeat the same electrical mistakes year after year.

Every December, after all the lights are strung on the house, we trudge outside to marvel at the glory made possible through Washington's cheap access to nearly unlimited hydro electrical power. Within minutes, my parent's entire house goes dark—if not the neighborhood.

My father, the semi retired preacher, is famous for leading us through the valley of the shadow of "This year it will be different." He bravely tests all the lights, balances on ladders in the rain, untangles light chords in the wind and finally after getting everything plugged in, tells everyone to go outside and be amazed.

So we go outside. We look up in wonder. We are amazed. Then the breakers blow. My father then repeats the proud tradition of years past, feeling his way out to the garage, while once again shouting at my mother that no matter how many times he flips the breakers, the electrical overload is still too great and that something will have to be unplugged before the ten million Christmas lights that remain will stay lit.

My mother is not one to easily accept reality.

As if on cue, we will trudge back inside. Pretending in amazement that such a thing could have happened to us again, we stand bewildered that God would not honor our display. Feeling our way against the walls, we find the door, and wait for my father's signal that he's found the electrical panel.

Lutherans believe in second chances, a doctrine we call Grace. The Anderson's also believe in second chances, a doctrine



Anderson family Toilet Brush Christmas Tree - circa 2005

we call dances with extension chords. If grace is the bedrock of the Lutheran Christmas liturgy, Home Depot is the bedrock of the Anderson's.

Lutherans do a lot of kneeling, standing, sitting, standing, sitting and standing as a part of their worship experience. Incorporated into this ritual is the repetition of phrases like "Amen," "hear our prayer Lord" and such. For the Andersons, instead of standing and kneeling and repeating Amen and hear my prayer Lord during the holiday, we repetitively utilize a variety of ladders, Christmas lights and ladder-to-roof prolonged stress positions. This too involves prayer.

My parents argue about what should be unplugged—the lighted and animated Bambi deer grazing in the yard, or the Icicle Lights dangling from the roof. We've repeated these rituals many, many times and everyone has their role. This is how the Anderson's find salvation: ladder, breaker box, ladder, breaker box, emergency room.

Hear our prayer, Lord.

Some have found that as with Lutheran liturgical experience in general, the Anderson Christmas Ritual can lead to spiritual exhaustion.

So as I was saying, I'm not sure how most folks remember Christmas 2005. But I remember it for one thing—I finally hit bottom. Despite Bing Crosby, Starbucks and Cranberry Bliss Bars, nothing but nothing could rescue my Christmas Mood. I was so ok with that.

There would be no Christmas Story. No decorating. No snow. I embraced no!

no! no! instead of ho ho ho. I felt just as ugly and worn out as my parent's ancient artificial Christmas tree. The one my mom just referred to as "That Thing". Dating back to the late 60s, the tree once represented the wonder years of "life-like". These days, it resembles a giant green toilet brush in still life.

The branches are worn, the plastic needles having decomposed to the point of becoming brittle and prickly. One wears gloves to put it together. The color coding swatches that allow an assembler to easily discern the placement of each branch are long gone. Standing six feet tall, the top is mostly missing after a few too many angel verses star family tree-topper battles. Gaping holes define its form. My father likes to claim our toilet brush Christmas Tree is "vintage."

In 2005, my father chose the artificial Christmas tree as "his" line in the sand. The replacement of the sacred ancient toilet brush Christmas tree was, as dad put it, "over my dead body." Representing that final Christmas consumption battlefield he was willing to die over, mom took his proclamation as a bluff. My mother insisted we would finally replace the old tree.

My father said the old tree was just fine. My mother said it was an embarrassment, and that it should be replaced.

Dad wouldn't budge. The family began choosing sides. When it was all said and done, Dad's vote stood alone on the side of saving the old tree. My dyed-in-the-wool Republican, Lutheran father was staging his first direct action protest to save an old growth tree. My father had unwittingly just founded CHRISTMAS FIRST!

a direct action group dedicated to saving old growth plastic.

While the rest of the family was gone shopping, my father acted out. He snuck the toilet brush Christmas tree out of the garage and frantically assembled it behind mom's back. Upon her return, my mother was not amused. Despite Dad's attempt to hide all the bare metal, and despite his attempts to "shape" the tree, and despite the fact he was nearly bleeding to death from the effort, the tree still did not resemble anything close to a "life like" seven feet tall Scotch pine.

Because this is your basic Christmas story, and we all know your basic Christmas tale always has some sort of great ending, a moral moment of sanity, and a this-is-what's-really-important tah-duh, I won't let you down.

My father prevailed, and the tree was not replaced. After a few hours, my mom gave up and started speaking to him again. The family rallied, and we decorated the old girl.

Mom took some of her "good" ornaments from the "formal" tree in the living room, and we began to give our toilet brush tree an extreme make over-Drag queen, Dempsey's diva style.

I won't say it was easy. More of the branches broke, coming off in our hands when we attempted to mold them. My father affixed the tree topper with bailing wire, after what remained of the tree top finally disintegrated. Yet there is a Christmas Miracle to this story. The tree finally began to look like a legitimate Scotch pine—albeit one covered under a lot of crap.

But don't get me wrong, the Christmas miracle here isn't that a ton of smells and bells, bright and shiny pretty stuff, or queer eye for Christmas tree saved the old girl from the dump. Rather, a toilet brush Christmas tree has a lot in common with a certain humble manger, ugly beginnings and a certain Christ child born in the most common and undignified of places. Sure you can dress it up, and romanticize it, but the beginning of one of the world's great religions begins in a barn.

During a season of ugly Betty and ugly Black Fridays, the grace of hideous beginnings and finding redemption no matter where you come from, is the Christmas message to end all Christmas messages. It's not what you get for Christmas, how indebted you end up come January, or how bling-bling you make your grand entrance for the Men's Chorus concert, but what's shining at your core. For many gay Christians, endlessly rejected by their faith as not good enough, not straight enough or not saved enough, the brightest and best hope we have remains found in the simple humility of a manger. On a night filled with the essence of scandal, an impossible virgin birth, and an unsightly maternity ward, I see the arrival of Christ not exactly exceeding the expectations of the perfectly perfect religious set.

But I do see barnyard-born Jesus as pretty dang impressive and meaningful for the rest of us. In that light, the toilet brush Christmas tree seems a most fabulous way to accessorize an already great faith-based faith moment. Mangers and toilet brush Christmas trees represent a most beautiful dynamic duo introducing the greatest story ever told. One that just keeps on getting better, increasingly gorgeous, and more meaningful with each passing year.

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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Anything but Straight

A Religious Test

by **Wayne Besen**

A couple of weeks ago I railed against the Religious Right for turning Santa Claus into a wedge issue with their obnoxious and offensive "War on Christmas" initiative. Through a pressure campaign, extremist groups forced major retailers, including Wal-Mart and Walgreen Co. to replace inclusive "Happy Holiday" greetings in stores with the more in-your-face "Merry Christmas."

While I love the joyous "Christmas spirit," my main point was that the insidious purpose behind this campaign was to force non-Christians into paying homage to the right wing's pale-skinned, suburban, Republican Jesus. After all, if you are Jewish, and a well-meaning, broad grinned store clerk bellows, "Merry Christmas," how else can you reply but, "Merry Christmas?"



Well, you can get into a tit-for-tat by barking "Happy Chanukah," but that tactic gets tiresome and silly when you are snarling at a store employee that has been ordered to greet you that way.

In response to this column, several letter writers pilloried me by claiming I was a big liberal crybaby who was reading too much into this campaign. The last thing the fundamentalists would ever want to do, they pleaded, was force their beliefs on anyone. The issue, they said, was about religious freedom and allowing God back into the public square.

The question is, whose God?

The Leviticus-spouting loons are now up in arms because Rep. Keith Ellison, D-Minn., has said that he wants to take his Congressional oath with his hand on the Koran instead of the Bible.

This makes perfect sense, considering a Muslim taking an oath with his hand on the Koran has infinitely more meaning to him than using another religious text. The question is why any rational person would object to this reasonable request? Unless, of course, the hidden agenda is to send a message to religious minorities that Christianity is the supreme religion in America.

The American Family Association - a group behind much of the War on Christmas farce - wasted no time launching a campaign against Ellison. The AFA breathlessly urged supporters to "take action" by bullying members of Congress to "pass a law making the Bible the book used in the swearing-in ceremony of Representatives and Senators."

Again, why would a Christian group want to compel a Muslim to swear on the Christian holy book?

Right wing columnist Dennis Prager answered this question on AFA's website by ranting that Ellison's use of the Koran "undermines American civilization." It is interesting that the same hysterical verbiage used to prohibit same-sex

marriage has now become a club against others who disagree with the fundamentalists.

Prager went on to make the outrageous claim that only one holy book represents America, even though there are literally thousands of religious belief systems in this nation.

"Forgive me, but America should not give a hoot what Keith Ellison's favorite book is," wrote Prager. "Insofar as a member of Congress taking an oath to serve America and uphold its values is concerned, America is interested in only one book, the Bible. If you are incapable of taking an oath on that book, don't serve in Congress."

So, there you have it in a nutshell. The "War on Christmas" and the "War on Gay Marriage" and the "War on Rep. Ellison" are cut from the same intolerant cloth. If you don't submit to the will of the right wing, the penalty is persecution and exclusion from civil society.

If you want to shop in December, you will say Merry Christmas and listen to Silent Night. If you want your relationship recognized, you will marry a person of a gender approved by the AFA's Bible. If you desire serving this nation in Congress, you must swear by a book you don't believe in. Sounds like a free country, doesn't it?

Prager and his ilk have a poor understanding of America and seek to make this nation the Christian version of Iran. The only time Prager makes sense is when he argues that if we allow Ellison to take an oath on the Koran, it will open the door to other religious texts in such ceremonies. But so what if this happens? It would only strengthen America and our tradition of religious freedom.

In the same vain, the family of an American soldier recently killed in action had to continue fighting for his rights even after his death. They wanted to have on his marker the Wicken symbol denoting his spiritual belief. Although his family's wishes were upheld, they should not have even been questioned.

In America, there can be no religious test for patriotism or public office, but that is exactly what busybodies like Prager are proposing. If this ruinous vision ever prevails, America, as we know it, will have ceased to exist. And I swear by that, on whatever book I so choose.

Wayne Besen is a columnist, author and the founder of Truth Wins Out, www.TruthWinsOut.org

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National & International

The Sit-In at the Altar: No 'I Do' Till Gays Can Do It, Too



Mary Lunetta and Max Hartman.

By Kayleen Schafer
The New York Times

LAST July, Kelly White and her boyfriend became engaged. They had a cozy picnic of wine and cheese on a hill before he presented her with a watermelon-flavor Ring Pop and asked her to marry him. "I'd rather not say if he got down on one knee or not," she said. "It's embarrassing."

A couple of the same mind: Charlize Theron and Stuart Townsend.

But they won't end up at the altar anytime soon: they said they would not marry until gay and lesbian couples are also allowed to.

"I usually explain that I wouldn't go to a lunch counter that wouldn't allow people of color to eat there, so why would I support an institution that won't allow everyone to take part," said Ms. White, 24, a law student at the University of California, Davis. "Sometimes people don't buy that analogy."

Whether it makes sense or not, some heterosexual couples, mostly in their 20s and 30s, are protesting the inability of gay and lesbian couples to marry by putting off their own marriage. Unless wedded bliss is available to everyone, in every state, they say, they want no part of it.

These couples have gone mostly unnoticed (except by parents waiting to send out wedding announcements).

Then Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie took up the cause. In an Esquire article in October called "(My List) 15 Things I Think Everyone Should Know," Mr.

Pitt writes, "Angie and I will consider tying the knot when everyone else in the country who wants to be married is legally able."

They are not the first celebrity couple to have the idea. In 2005 on the television show "Extra," Charlize Theron said of her relationship with the actor Stuart Townsend, "We said we would get married the day that gays and lesbians can get married, when that right is given to them."

A number of the heterosexual holdouts live in California, where in February 2004, Gavin Newsom, the mayor of San Francisco, issued marriage licenses to same-sex couples. Some couples cite that act as the catalyst for their protest.

Some of those delaying marriage are cynical types who seem happy to stick it out. They think the idea of marriage is antiquated and want to be tied to a spouse as much they might want to move in with the in-laws after the honeymoon.

"I didn't have the wedding fantasies some little girls have," said Sarah Augusto, 25, a sociology graduate student in Davis, Calif., who has been committed to Jon Bell, 26, a museum exhibit designer, since college graduation three years ago.

But some honestly wish they would walk the aisle, Mr. Bell for one. "Sarah has changed the way I thought about things a ton," he said. "I was really excited about

getting married. Going into high school that was the goal, to meet a nice girl and get married to her."

Gay and lesbian organizations working to have same-sex marriage legalized don't officially sanction what these couples are doing. They said the gesture is sweet, but don't want anyone to put off marriage.

"The people we represent want to get married," said Susan Sommer, the senior counsel at Lambda Legal. "It's not like we encourage different-sex couples who want to get married not to. We recognize the legal rights of getting married and the cultural benefits."

Molly McKay, a founder of Marriage Equality U.S.A. in Oakland, said its goal is to increase the number of people who have the protections that come with marriage. "We love weddings," Ms. McKay said.

Those delaying marriage also meet resistance from friends and relatives who say they are using politics to avoid real commitment. Some of Mr. Bell's family and friends say he and Ms. Augusto are not serious about their relationship because they haven't exchanged marriage vows.

"I don't feel like I can meet anyone more wonderful than her," Mr. Bell said. "But I can't clearly communicate that to everyone around me until we're married. I think that my family thinks that once we love and care for each other enough, that our politics will break down."

Mary Lunetta's grandmother, 77, doesn't understand why her granddaughter is putting off marriage, either. Ms. Lunetta, 24, a community studies major at the University of California, Santa Cruz, explained to her grandmother that she is waiting to make it official with Max Hartman, her boyfriend of five years, because her aunt, who is a lesbian, can't marry.

Ms. Lunetta said she did not expect her grandmother to get it or agree. "And she didn't." Her grandmother, though, did tell her about Mr. Pitt and Ms. Jolie. "They're copying us," Ms. Lunetta said.

According to the Government Accountability Office, a marriage license comes with 1,138 federal rights, including the ability to claim a dead spouse's Social Security benefits and to make medical decisions for a spouse in an emergency. Massachusetts is the only state that allows gay marriage. In 44 states it is forbidden by statute, constitution or both. Still, most unmarried heterosexual couples acknowledge that it would be easy for them, unlike a same-sex couple, to pass for husband and wife if they need to.

Andrea Ayzavian and Michael Klare at their home in Massachusetts. Despite having a son, 18, they are among the couples who say "not yet" to marriage until gays and lesbians have the same right to marry as heterosexuals.

"As we continue together, people will just assume we're married," Mr. Hartman said. "If I'm sick in the hospital, and she says she's my wife, they're not going to ask for documentation."

Most of these couples don't have children, but said they wouldn't cave in when they did.

The stance tends to be entirely personal. Holding a picket sign in front of the local courthouse isn't on the agenda.

But some couples see no point in resisting marriage unless they're going to publicize it. They do so mostly by

Please see ALTAR page 10

Court decision: Poway School District not protecting gay & lesbian students

Jury decision found former Poway High School gay & lesbian students subjected to relentless harassment

(San Diego) --- In papers submitted November 21, 2006, Lambda Legal urged the California Court of Appeal (Fourth District) to uphold a jury decision that found that former Poway High School students were subjected to relentless harassment because they are gay and lesbian.

"All parents expect that their children will be safe and protected at school and all schools in California are required to take effective measures to achieve that environment," said Brian Chase, Lambda Legal Staff Attorney based in

its Western Regional Office and lead attorney on the case. "Even after their mothers complained about their kids being harassed because they are gay and lesbian, the school district did little to nothing to protect Joey or Megan, which is why the jury in the trial court ruled against the Poway Unified School District."

Joey Ramelli and Megan Donovan were students at Poway High School, a school in the Poway Unified School District in northern San Diego County. Over the course of their junior year other students relentlessly taunted them with antigay slurs and Joey was even physically assaulted and his car was vandalized. The harassment suffered by Megan and Joey was so brutal that they both had to drop out of Poway High School and completed studies toward their high school diploma at home.

Although Donovan and Ramelli reported the harassment to school officials, the jury in the trial court found that the officials took "minimal or no action at all" when they reported the incidents. Further, the jury found that

the harassment that Joey and Megan suffered was so "severe and pervasive" that they awarded a combined \$300,000 to the students.

"I kept a log of the times when I was called 'fag' and other derogatory words and when I was physically assaulted or my life was threatened," Ramelli said. "Hardly a day went by that I didn't get shoved or called a name, so there was no way that anyone could question that what was happening to me was a serious, constant problem. I don't want future gay and lesbian students at Poway

to suffer from the same harassment I went through."

Joey and Megan's case is the latest lawsuit Lambda Legal has taken on to help secure a safe environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) students

at school. Lambda Legal has created a tool kit to help LGBT students know their rights at school and to help educators and other adults become aware of some of the issues that LGBT students face. The tool kit can be found on Lambda Legal's "Out, Safe & Respected" Web site at http://www.lambdalegal.org/cgi-bin/iowa/osr/index.html?page=osr_index.

Staff Attorney Brian Chase, based in Lambda Legal's Western Regional Office in Los Angeles, is the organization's lead attorney on the case. Lambda Legal's Deputy Legal Director Hayley Gorenberg and cocounsel Paula S. Rosenstein and Bridget J. Wilson of the law firm Rosenstein, Wilson & Dean, P. L. C. in San Diego, join him on the case.

The case is Donovan and Ramelli v. Poway Unified School District.

Although Donovan and Ramelli reported the harassment to school officials, the jury in the trial court found that the officials took "minimal or no action at all" when they reported the incidents.



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Body of gay rights 'hero' languished after death

After sodomy case win, Garner died in poverty



Tyron Garner

By Joshua Lynsen

Mitchell Katine still remembers the time gays opened their wallets to help Tyron Garner.

It was 1998. Garner and another man, John Lawrence, had been arrested after Texas police looking for an armed intruder barged into Lawrence's apartment bedroom.

Garner and Lawrence were charged under the state's sodomy law.

Against all odds, they decided to challenge the statute.

"There were many people who wanted to be involved and contribute money toward the fight," said Katine, who was Garner's attorney in Texas.

Donations to the case, *Lawrence v. Texas*, poured in from across the nation. The money helped bring the case to the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled in 2003 that state sodomy laws were unconstitutional.

But three years after the \$750,000 case ended and gay activists declared the plaintiffs heroes, Garner died in poverty of complications from meningitis.

Please see GARNER page 13

Romney's hypocrisy on Gay Rights

By Adam Nagourney and David D. Kirkpatrick

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8 — Gov. Mitt Romney, the Massachusetts Republican who has built a presidential campaign on a broad appeal for conservative support, is drawing sharply increased criticism from conservative activists for his advocacy of gay rights in a 1994 letter.

Mr. Romney's standing among conservatives is being hurt by a letter he sent to the Log Cabin Club of Massachusetts

saying that he would be a stronger advocate for gay rights than Senator Edward M. Kennedy, his opponent in a Senate race, in a position that stands in contrast to his current role as a champion of a state constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage.

"We must make equality for gays and lesbians a mainstream concern," Mr. Romney wrote in a detailed plea for the support of the club, a gay Republican organization.

The circulation of the letter by gay rights groups in recent weeks has set off a storm of outrage among social conservatives, and by Friday was looming as a seri-

Congress approves Ryan White reauthorization

(Washington) The House late Friday night passed a compromise version to reauthorize funding for the Ryan White CARE Act. The program, since 1990, has provided critical care and treatment to low-income Americans living with HIV and AIDS.

The bill passed the Senate earlier in the week and now heads to the White House for President George W. Bush's signature.

"Today is great day for people with AIDS in the U.S.," said Michael Weinstein, President of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation.

"Opportunities for people living with HIV/AIDS to obtain medical care and get on lifesaving antiretroviral drug treatments should increase significantly with the passage of this bill."

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY) had held up renewal of the act because, in its original form the reauthorization would have reduced federal grants to New York State. The measure also would

have cut federal spending in California, Florida and Illinois. The money would have been redirected to rural states, mainly in the South.

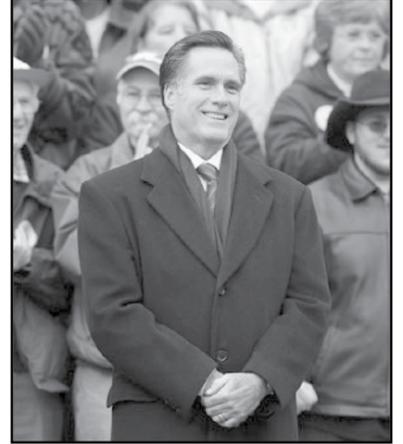
Late Tuesday afternoon Clinton struck a deal Tuesday with GOP leaders that would see a reduction in the cuts to the larger states while still giving more money to rural areas.

The original bill would have seen New York State lose \$100 million and the other big states about \$70 million each.

Clinton said 100,000 New Yorkers infected with HIV should not have been forced to suffer cuts in order to spread money elsewhere.

Under the revised version New York will see \$8 million chopped.

"As this bill faced being caught in a political play at the eleventh hour, thousands of those in our community flooded the U.S. Capitol with calls demanding passage," said Joe Solmonese, President of the Human Rights Campaign.



Gov. Mitt Romney of Massachusetts, at a rally last month in Boston against same-sex marriage.

ous complication to Mr. Romney's hopes.

Aides to Mr. Romney, who did not dispute the letter's legitimacy, said that the governor's opinions on gay issues had not changed. They said Mr. Romney had always been an opponent of same-sex marriage, had always opposed discrimination against gay men and lesbians and had been consistent in his views about allowing them to serve in the military.

"Governor Romney believes Ameri-

Please see ROMNEY page 10



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

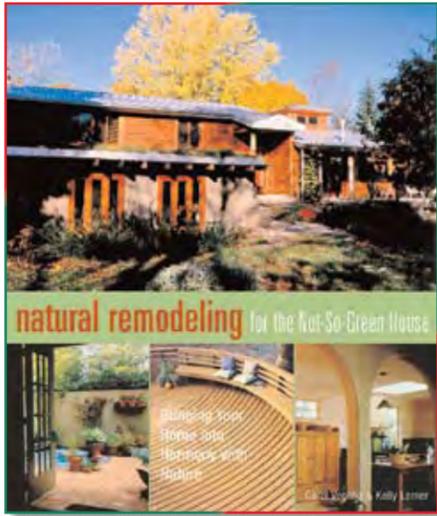
Christopher Lawrence, A & E Editor

HOLIDAY GIFTS THAT CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Natural Remodeling for the Not-So-Green House

by Kelly Lerner & Carol Venolia
Lark Books, a division of Sterling Publishing

Let this be a gift for anyone who cares about the environment and their home. Local green eco-architect Kelly Lerner has co-written this full-color, lavishly illustrated guide with Carol Venolia about bringing your home into harmony with nature.



You might remember that last year, Kelly earned the prestigious 2005 World Habitat Award for her work introducing energy efficient straw-bale construction to China. We are always happy to support such progressive work from a local "family" member.

Inside you will find how to change the home you have into an eco-paradise—on any budget. Learn the simple step-by-step process to sort through the confusing array of green options, focusing on strategies to create your own unique,

green, dream home. You will find help at all levels, from small green changes that you make today to more advanced moves for larger projects. Understand how your home can function in harmony with the earth's natural systems. Who would not want to come home to a haven that nurtures them, restores their vitality and helps them lower their energy bills now and forever?

With over 400 color photos, detailed case studies of eco-remodels in every climate, and an extensive resource list, this book will educate, inspire and empower you to make your next home-improvement project a green one! More information is available at www.naturalremodeling.com.

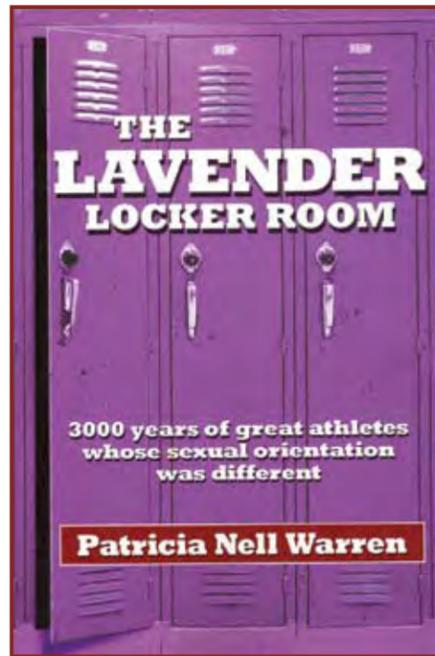
Buy local! Think global!

The Lavender Locker Room

by Patricia Nell Warren
Wildcat Publishing

Most of us have friends, "family" and relatives who are athletic or are sports fans or at least hunger after the athletes who play various sports. **The Lavender Locker Room** is the perfect gift for them, "family" and non-family alike.

This history of GLBTQ athletes begins 3,000 years ago with Achilles and Patroclus and a lively telling of Homer's **The Iliad** sans the sanitizing influence of Hollywood. The passion and dedication of these two warriors and lovers was common knowledge, as was their same sex orientation. War games were the beginning of what we know as competitive sports and the Olympic Games today.



stars, ballet dancers, golfers, air racers, swimmers and baseball and football players are all discussed in the forum of GLBTQ orientation.

Challenges to dress codes, behavior on and off the fields and courts, and the politics of changing the rules of established sports to include women and transgender players add to the fodder that lights up the imagination of what it must have been like

in the popular sporting competition of jousting that brought Joan of Arc to the attention of the Duke of Alencon, who in turn helped her gain the attention of Charles, the Dauphin of France. She was also gifted with incredible swordsmanship. Her spirited abilities, in combination with an innate understanding of the organization of armies, changed the course of European and world history.

Tennis champions, figure skating

in other times.

Patricia's faculty for bringing these stories to life is unerring. She creates an intimacy within each story of our sporting heroes that compels the reader to turn to the next page. She enlightens us about the unspoken heritage from our forerunners who changed the face of social politics and sports by being true to who they discovered themselves to be. This one is a must-read. Enjoy.

One Voice

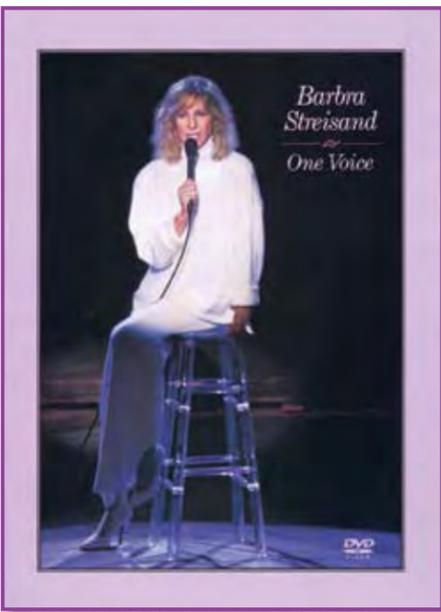
Barbra Streisand
Rhino Entertainment

This 20th Anniversary DVD edition showcases Barbra performing many of her best-loved songs in a uniquely intimate setting and with a new introduction.

Since it was created, **One Voice** has raised more than \$7 million that has been channeled through the Streisand Foundation to charities committed to antinuclear activities, environmental preservation, civil liberties and human rights.

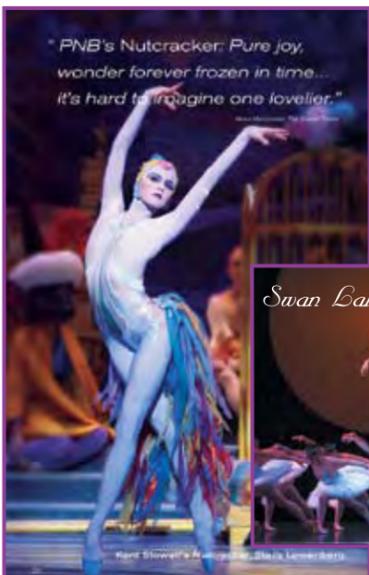
Giving this gift is doubly meaningful to anyone who supports civil rights and loves Babs as so many of us do.

She 'gives great pipes.' Every song is a gem. Make someone's holiday especially cheerful with this newly released version.



Fill Those Dance Cards

Consider getting tickets to the **Nutcracker**. This is a definite Northwest favorite "family" holiday tradition that has been dazzling the young-at-heart each holiday season for nearly a quarter of a century. Treat your family and friends to the memories and magic of Pacific Northwest Ballet's inimitable **Nutcracker**—only at McCaw Hall in Seattle! Created by PNB Founding Artistic Director Kent Stowell and world-famous children's author and illustrator Maurice Sendak (**Where The Wild Things Are**), **Nutcracker's** brilliant blend of costumes, sets and choreography creates an en-



chanting storybook world enjoyed by children and adults alike. PNB's masterful holiday production is considered to be one of the best in the entire world.

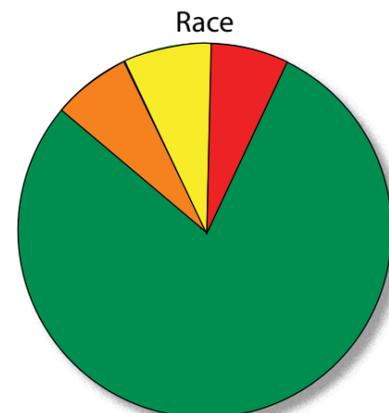
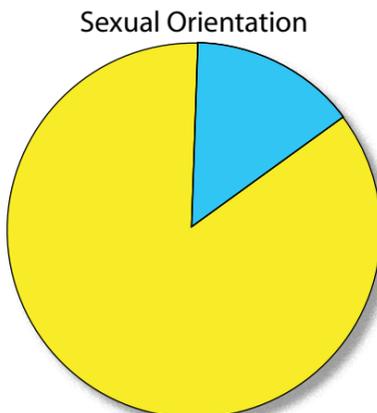
Add a ticket to **Swan Lake**, long believed to be the greatest classical ballet of all time. It has a fantastical plot filled with romance, sorcery and betrayal.

How incredible will it be to hear and see Tchaikowsky's amazing score brought to scintillating life.

On the other hand, maybe it would be better to get the complete remaining season tickets and watch the faces of those you have gifted light up with joy! To purchase tickets, call (206) 441-2424.

GLAAD's Report of GLBTQ on Broadcast TV

- "The Class," CBS – Sean Maguire plays Kyle (gay/white)
- "Brothers & Sisters," ABC – Matthew Rhys plays Kevin (gay/white)
– Luke MacFarlane plays Scotty (gay/white)
- "Desperate Housewives," ABC – Shawn Pyfrom plays Andrew (gay/white)
- "ER," NBC – Laura Innes plays Dr. Kerry Weaver (lesbian/white)
- "Fashion House," MyNetworkTV – Garrett Swann plays Harold (gay/white)
– Tony Tripoli plays Hans (gay/white)
- "Help Me Help You," ABC – Jim Rash plays Jonathan (gay/white)
- "The Office," NBC – Oscar Nuñez plays Oscar (gay/Latino)
- "The Simpsons," FOX – Hank Azaria plays Waylon Smithers (gay/white)
– Julie Kavner plays Patty (lesbian/white)
- "Ugly Betty," ABC – Michael Urie plays Marc (gay/white)
- "Big Day," ABC – Leslie Odom, Jr. plays Fred (gay/African American)
- "Grey's Anatomy," ABC – Steven W. Bailey plays Joe (gay/white)
- "The War at Home," FOX – Rami Malek plays Kenny (gay/Middle East-American)



■ 2 Lesbians (13%) ■ 12 Gay Men (87%) ■ 12 White (79%) ■ 1 African American (7%) ■ 1 Middle-Eastern American (7%) ■ 1 Latino (7%)

REVIEWS & PREVIEWS

BOOKS – VIDEOS – MUSIC

Christopher Lawrence & Graham Ames

Little Miss Sunshine

Jonathan Dayton, Valerie Faris, directors
Fox Home Entertainment, 99 minutes

This could have been no more than another clichéd comedy about a painfully dysfunctional family-on-the-road picture. The budget is low and yet the great direction and perfectly cast actors rise above the mundane and deliver off-beat performances that evoke both mirth and sadness for the human condition. Well worth watching.

Steve Carell (*The 40 Year Old Virgin*, "The Office") plays the gay uncle; a Proust scholar who recently attempted suicide and seems to be the only one to comprehend the insanity around him. His performance is filled with remarkably subtle humor and insight. Greg Kinnear (*As Good As It Gets*) plays the overreaching father who is obsessively trying to market his "fool-proof" nine step success plan. Toni Coletter (*The Sixth Sense*) plays the overly honest mother and Alan Arkin is the curmudgeonly grandfather of the adorable young Abigail Breslin who desperately wants to be crowned *Little Miss Sunshine*. Paul Dano is her brother who has taken a vow of silence until he can qualify for flight school and dwells in teen-angst-hatred-of-all-things-family. Each of them have achingly painful self realizations on their journey from Albuquerque to California for the pageant.

How many families' members exist side by side, day by day without meaningful interaction? This movie examines that question.

The camera peers at the shallow proceedings of this family. Much is conveyed without words. The alienation and withholding that mark obvious aspects of a family's dysfunction creates a piercingly real experience on some levels. Granted, satire is the form of expression most often used here, but only as a veneer for the underlying truth.

Haltingly, in fits and spurts, each character realizes his/her own inner truth and resentments begin to fall away revealing the common emotions they share.

Let's I give too much away, be assured that the end results are heartwarming and affable. Even the death of a loved one can afford the possibility growth laced with humor.

Presented together in both wide screen and full screen version, the DVD of *Little Miss Sunshine* is packed with bonus materials, including four alternate endings that lend some insight about the directors' editing process for retaining the authenticity of the story.



Too Cool for Christmas

Sam Irvin, director
Regent/here! TV, 92 minutes

Brooke Nevin plays the part of Lindsay, whose two dads are presented in this Christmas tale as if such a thing were not at all unusual. Typical of Christmas comedies, two-dimensional characters (including the two dads) populate the story, and the message is a tad heavy handed, but the vehicle works mostly because of the professional quality and unexpectedly interesting double transformation of the two main characters.

I wasn't sure what to expect when I realized George Hamilton (*Love at First Bite*) turns out to be the interesting and convincing Santa who is disguised as a mall Santa. He strikes a deal with Lindsay to let her transform him from a dumpy old Claus to a tanned and dapper younger self who has a remarkable resemblance to Hollywood star and debonair hawker of Ritz and Wheat Thins Toasted Chips on TV. The tongue-in-cheek send-up is amusing, and Hamilton puts the "S" in suave.

Donna Mills ("Knot's Landing") plays Mrs. Santa Claus, a secondary character who is important to the plot, because she and Mister Claus seem to have grown apart over the years. Will the younger and more handsome edition of Santa revive their sagging romance? You betcha!

The hidden truth, of course, is that Lindsay learns just how important her relationship with her family really is, and therein lies the true transformation.

Michael Gelbart seems to have written this comedy more for families with children than adults.

Peter Allen's music is pleasant and an above-average score for the genre, but clearly not Allen's best work.

This is all easily forgiven. Just let go and enjoy this newest addition to the growing family of holiday movies. Fantasy keeps us young.

Rent this one for you and the youngsters in your life.



Cool Yule

Bette Midler
Columbia Records

When I got my review copy of Bette Midler's first ever holiday album, I really wasn't that excited. Ever since the resurgence of Christmas music about twenty years ago, it seems as if everyone imaginable is putting out a collection of carols and holiday tunes. Many of them are languid at best, and most of them are downright abysmal. After several listens, I am pleased to say that this newest offering from *The Divine Miss M* is worthy of inclusion in anyone's music collection.

Bette has taken on a decidedly jazzy bend of late, and this album is no exception. Full orchestra provides the backdrop as Midler takes on Yuletide tunes, mostly secular, mostly familiar, but with a few surprises along the way. One real treat is Bette's duet with Johnny Mathis on "Winter Wonderland/Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow." Mathis shows surprisingly modern hipness for someone who has been recording for 50 years, and the two dig into their creative merging of the two songs with contagious spirit. Midler makes certain to include the oft-excluded verses from familiar songs such as "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas," "I'll Be Home For Christmas" and "What Are You Doing New Year's Eve?"

If I have any complaints about this album, it would be in its length (only eleven tracks) and its lack of emotional daring. Those familiar with the heartbreak of her '70s recordings, such as "Shiver Me Timbers," will wonder where that bravado has gone. Surely there was similar depth to plumb in some of these tunes. But if you are looking for a comfortable collection of holiday songs that might underscore a party or work well as a soundtrack for gift opening on the 25th, this is a great record.

The real gems are the songs that aren't familiar. "Cool Yule," "Mele Kalikimaka" and "I've Got My Love To Keep Me Warm" are great additions to the canon, and only Bette could bring them to us like this. I still haven't decided whether "From A Distance (Christmas Version)" is delightful, or is just a gimmick allowing Miss M to capitalize on past success for current profit. Perhaps in a few years, it will become clear whether this track was a great idea or not.

Overall, *Cool Yule* is a fun album which may not provide any outstanding moments, but that deserves to be included in any Christmas collection. It will probably work best shuffled in with other holiday offerings, but is certainly a nice listen all on its own. Give it as a gift this year, and perhaps you will be lucky enough to receive a copy of your own in your stocking in return.



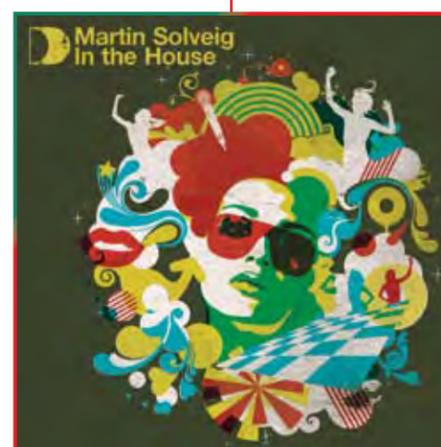
Martin Solveig In The House

Martin Solveig
Defected Records

Have you grown a bit weary of all the holiday music cropping up everywhere these days? Do you feel the need to shake a little bootie, even though you may not be a computer-animated penguin? Well, those kind folks at Defected Records have released a truly must-have album for all you danceophiles out there. French producer Martin Solveig's two disc DJ set *Martin Solveig In The House* is the most engaging album of its type to grace my stereo since I started writing this column.

Solveig opens his first disc with an intro track that slyly begs for attention, and soon Mr. V's "Put Your Drink Down" sets to work establishing the open groove which dominates the set. These aren't dense Eurotrance songs, full of synths and thumpa-thumpa beats without end. Solveig is smart enough to let the music breathe, all the while maintaining a get-up-and-dance vibe. Full of Latin and African rhythms, Solveig flows through some of his own songs ("Jealousy," "Something Better"), includes label mate Bob Sinclar's "For You," from his "Western Dream" album (reviewed here July 2006), and even has the courage (or good sense) to revisit some songs in order to tie the set together better. It is a wonderful sonic journey that excites without exhausting, and leaves the listener ready for more.

The second helping is full of funk and R&B, deep and delightful. At times very modern, as in Lee Fields' opening track "I Got A Woman," and then completely retro with The Jackson Sisters ("I Believe In Miracles") and The Chi-Lites ("Are You My Woman?") Even George Clinton makes an appearance. If Quentin Tarantino owned a dance club, this would be



blasting for the writing masses. The next time a doubting friend tries to disparage DJ mix albums, just slip disc two into a player and watch their disrespect evaporate with each sly transition. By the time the final song plays, either they will have been converted, or they have no soul.

By mixing both modern and classic dance tracks and giving each its own disc, Solveig has put together a perfect double-A side album. Each has its own mood, yet each demands the same body response.

If there were ever a perfect reason to throw a dance party, this is it. Nearly three hours of music, spread across 33 expertly mixed tracks. I would love to see how a large group of unsuspecting yet willing bodies would respond; I could hardly sit still long enough to write this, alone in my living room.

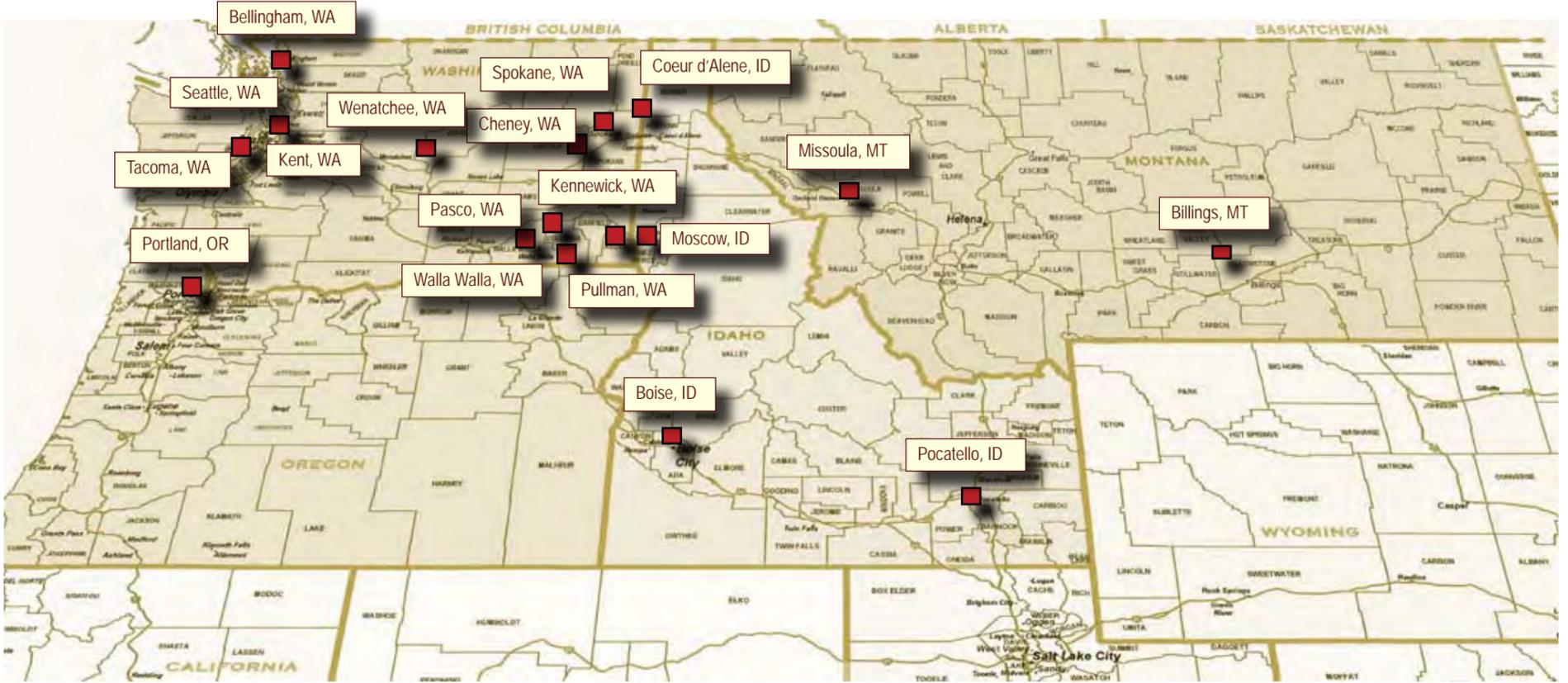
GLBT Book Group

Spokane's GLBT 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.

The upcoming review session is *Dingo Dilemma* by Claire McNab on Jan. 3.

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ROMNEY

continued from PAGE 7

cans should be respectful of all people," said Eric Fehrstrom, his spokesman. "However, over the past four years as governor, Mitt Romney has not advocated or supported any change in the military's policies and he has not implemented new or special rights in this area."

Mr. Fehrstrom, echoing the language that Mr. Romney has frequently used on the campaign trail, said Mr. Romney had been "a champion of traditional marriage" and "fought the efforts of activist judges

who seek to redefine marriage."

Nonetheless, the breadth of the letter's language and the specificity of many of the pledges stunned conservative leaders. Many of them had turned to Mr. Romney as a conservative alternative to Senator John McCain, Republican of Arizona, whose position on issues like abortion had been considered suspect.

"This is quite disturbing," said Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, who had praised Mr. Romney as a champion of traditional values at the group's conference in late Septem-

ber. "This type of information is going to create a lot of problems for Governor Romney. He is going to have a hard time overcoming this."

Paul Weyrich, a founder of the modern conservative movement, said: "Unless he comes out with an abject repudiation of this, I think it makes him out to be a hypocrite. And if he totally repudiates this, you have to ask, on what grounds?"

The letter, and Mr. Romney's effort to reconcile it with the way he had presented himself on the campaign trail, reflects what has been one of the central challenges facing him in his campaign: how to move from winning an election in one of the most liberal states in the union to becoming the presidential candidate of a party whose nominating process is dominated by social conservatives.

As it is, he has shifted his position on abortion rights. Last year, Mr. Romney wrote an op-ed article for The Boston Globe saying that his views had "evolved and deepened," and that he opposed abortion and thought decisions on its legality should be left to states.

The 1994 letter followed a meeting with the Log Cabin Club. Mr. Romney wrote, "I am not unaware of my opponent's considerable record in the area of civil rights.

"For some voters, it might be enough to simply match my opponent's record in this area," he said. "But I believe we can and must do better. If we are to achieve the goals we share, we must make equality for gays and lesbians a mainstream concern. My opponent cannot do this. I can and will."

Mr. Romney, recounting in the letter the promises he made in the meeting with the club, said he had agreed to help sponsor a bill barring discrimination against gay men and lesbians if he was elected to the Senate and to broaden it to include protections for housing and credit.

He said he supported the "don't ask, don't tell" military policy created by former President Bill Clinton, and described it as "the first in a number of steps that will ultimately lead to gays' and lesbians' being able to serve openly and honestly in our nation's military."

Rich Tafel, who was the executive director of the club at the time, said he was stunned by what he described as the contrast between how Mr. Romney came across in their meeting and how he appeared on the campaign trail now.

"I've never seen anybody change like this," he said. "It really does concern me."

Viewed from some angles, Mr. Romney's positions on gay rights seem consistent. He still says he opposes discrimination against gay men and lesbians and he always said he opposed same-sex marriage.

But his emphasis has shifted in the last two years. As he moves into this new phase of his career, Mr. Romney rarely talks about the need to protect gay men and lesbians from bias, instead presenting himself as a conservative stalwart in the fight against same-sex marriage, arguing that legally recognizing same-sex unions endangers the cultural support for heterosexual families.

The doubts being raised could improve the prospects of two fellow Republicans who have been seeking conservative support in bids for the presidential election: Gov. Mike Huckabee of Arkansas and Senator Sam Brownback of Kansas.

ALTAR

continued from PAGE 6

correcting people who assume they are legally married.

Sam and Fawn Livingston-Gray of Portland, Ore., have the same last name and wear matching white-gold rings engraved with Celtic designs. Still, when someone refers to Sam, 31, a computer programmer, and Fawn, 33, an administrative assistant, as husband and wife, they point out the mistake, even if it's the guy at the car-rental counter.

"I go out of my way to say we're not," Ms. Livingston-Gray said. "It's a really important dialogue with people I wouldn't get to talk to otherwise."

Referring to each other as "partner" usually helps avoid the misperception, but that can be tricky, too. When Ms. Augusto, the sociology graduate student, speaks of her partner, people ask if she's a lesbian. "I say, 'My partner is male,'" she said. "We're not getting married because it's not a universal right, and I feel that the word boyfriend trivializes our relationship.' It's really shocking to the people I tell that to. Probably as shocking as if I were a lesbian."

Ms. McKay of Marriage Equality U.S.A. said heterosexuals can be instrumental in the push for gay marriage. "It's a very powerful decision to stand up against discrimination in a system where you benefit," she said. "There's no more powerful way of saying, 'I object.'"

Not everyone appreciates the sacrifice. There are gay people who oppose marriage and the conventional family values supposed to go with it. But those delaying marriage insist they are not trying to force marriage on anyone.

"Maybe they think there are other issues we should be working on," Ms. Livingston-Gray said. "But gay marriage has been a wedge issue for me. This right is really important and has been used to wedge people apart."

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 All Saints Chapel
 in St. John's Cathedral, 12th Ave. Entrance

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 509.487.7064

Even in Massachusetts, at least one couple holds out. Andrea Ayvazian, 55, a United Church of Christ minister, and Michael Klare, 64, a professor, who have been together since 1985, are still choosing "not yet" as same-sex couples all around them are saying "I do." (Their 18-year-old son teases them for being so stubborn.) "We had long ago decided that we're not just going to break ranks over one state," Mr. Klare said.

As for Ms. White, she ate the candy ring her boyfriend gave her up on the hill in Santa Cruz in July. After all, she said, "It's a very long engagement period."

QUEER SOUNDS
continued from FRONT PAGE

When Queer Sounds debuted in the fall of 2003, the play list was mostly mainstream music by GLBT and allied artists such as Melissa Etheridge, Elton John, and Madonna. The focus of the show has made a gradual transition to music written and performed by alternative GLBT artists who don't get played on corporate radio stations. Irely reports allied artists as well but "only the

cool ones." Irely reports that her favorite part of the show is "finding the music." Occasionally an artist will send in some music, but she buys nearly all of the music heard on Queer Sounds herself and brings it into the station. As the Queer Sounds programmer, Irely "doesn't discriminate" in the type of music played. Using the station's four CD players and two turntables, she plays music from all genres and all eras. Everybody from k.d. lang to Swan Island can be heard on the show. According to Irely's own estimate, she now has a "huge" collection of music by GLBT artists.

Irely is also enthusiastic about playing listener-requested music. The only requirement is that the artist be LGBT or queer-friendly. Halfway through the two-hour show, Irely announces events and news of interest to the GLBTQA community. Irely and Bob are both clamoring for more community involvement in the program. Bob remarked that without input from the GLBTQA community, "it's just the Irely & Bob show." They sincerely want people to call in while they are on the air, or send them

e-mail so they can be confident that they are reaching the desired demographic. It would be helpful if local organizations and individuals would e-mail their event announcements and requests to Irely at queersounds@kyrs.org in advance of the show so she can get the news out to the listeners. To reach a wider audience, Irely "would like to do podcasts in the future."

Occasionally Irely has done shows on specific topics of interest to the GLBT community, such as coming out, World AIDS Day, and Pride. Early next year, Irely plans to host a show focusing on transgender issues, and she hopes to interview some members of the transgender community live on Queer Sounds. There may also be a drag king show in the works as well.

Irely's co-host, Bob, is a recent addition to the show. She was previously involved in community radio in Salt Lake City. So when she moved to Spokane, Bob volunteered at KYRS during the station's November fund drive. When asked to do a promotion, it seemed natural for her, a lesbian, to do the spot

on Queer Sounds. The promotion was a success; Irely and Bob earned \$725 for the station. Since that day, Bob grins, "Irely hasn't been able to get rid of me!" Bob is involved in the show because "being able to talk openly and unapologetically about queer issues on the radio is so powerful."

Since the beginning, community feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Irely reports that when listeners who don't know Queer Sounds plays primarily a GLBT music call to request a song and learn of the show's format, they are almost always supportive. Irely says that suggestions from listeners are always welcome.

Irely and Bob are funny, intelligent and entertaining. Their show is comfortable, just like sitting in a bar chatting with your friends. Queer Sounds can be heard every Thursday from 6-8 pm on KYRS 89.9 and 92.3 FM or on-line at www.kyrs.org. To talk to Irely during the show call 747-3807 or email her anytime at queersounds@kyrs.org. Queer Sounds can also be found at www.myspace.com/queersounds.

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

Web site: <http://iceberg.ewu.edu/safe/safe.htm>

EMCC -

Emmanuel Metropolitan Community Church

Christian church with outreach to the GLBT community.

Call: (509) 838-0085

Web site: www.emmanuelmcc.com

Friends of SAN

Fundraising organization for people living with HIV/AIDS to improve the quality of their lives.

Write: 1212 E. Front Ave. Spokane, WA 99202

Gay/Lesbian Info Line

Call: (509) 489-2266

Immediate Crisis: (509) 838-4428

GLBT Book Group

Discusses selected works at Auntie's Bookstore at 7 p.m. the first Wednesday each month.

Call: Julie Smith: (509) 838-0206

Gonzaga University

GLBT Resource Center

For information and to contact resource organizations on the GU campus, September-May.

HERO (Helping Educate Regarding Orientation) gay-straight alliance.

SODA (Sexual Orientation Diversity Alliance) law school support group.

Direct line: Bryce: 323-5847

Hospice of Spokane

Physical, emotional and spiritual care for the terminally ill and loved ones; bereavement support and HIV/AIDS counseling services.

Call: (509) 456-0438

ISCS -

Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane

Call: (509) 251-1242.

Web site: www.iscspokane.com

INBA -

Inland Northwest Business Alliance

A Professional GLBTQ/Allied Business Alliance. Monthly luncheon meetings and annual community resource directory.

Write: PO Box 20163, Spokane, WA 99204

Voice mail: 509-455-3699

E-mail: info@inbaspokane.org

Web site: www.inbaspokane.org

Inland Northwest Equality

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

Call: Krista Benson: 838-7870

Web site: www.icehouse.net/pjals/issues/inwe.html

Integrity

Gay and lesbian Episcopalians meet monthly for communion and simple meal.

Call: Chuck: (509) 326-7707 or Ann: (509) 624-6671

Lutheran Community Services-SafeT Response Center

Call: (509) 747-8224

Crisis line (509) 624-7273

Lilac City Men's Project

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

Web site: www.lilaccitymensproject.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: Ramon or Bonnie: (509) 325-3637

Outreach Center

Condoms, needle exchange, AIDS information. Open M-F, 3-5 p.m. at 1103 W. First Ave.

Call: (509) 838-6859

OutSpokane

Committee organizes annual Pride march and celebration and other community events.

Web site: www.OutSpokane.com

Papillon

Social support group for the transgender community.

Call: (509) 292-8852

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

Support group for parents, family, friends and members of the GLBT community.

Call: (509): 624-6671

Web site: www.pflagspokane.org

PJALS -

Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane

Independent, membership organization building foundations for a just and nonviolent world.

Call: (509) 838-7870

Planned Parenthood of The Inland Northwest

HIV antibody testing and counseling.

Call: Clinic for Appt.: (800) 788-9128

Administration: (509) 326-6292

Pride Foundation/Inland Northwest

The Pride Foundation connects, inspires and strengthens the Pacific Northwest GLBTQ community in pursuit of equality by awarding grants and scholarships and cultivating leaders.

Call: Spokane office (509) 327-8377 or (888) 575-7717

E-mail: outreach@pridefoundation.org

Website: www.pridefoundation.org

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

Ryan White CARE Consortium

HIV care education and planning group.

Call: Tarena Coleman: (509) 444-8200

E-mail: tc Coleman@chas.org

Rainbow Regional Community Center

Support services for GLBTQ community and individuals exploring their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

Call: (509) 489-1914

Web site: www.spokanerainbowcenter.org

SAN -

Spokane AIDS Network

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

Web site: www.spokaneAIDSnetwork.org

Spokane County Domestic Violence Consortium

A private, nonprofit organization with members from a variety of professions who have come together to end intimate partner violence.

Call: (509) 487-6783

Spokane Falls Community College - The Alliance

GLBT and allies group to provide a safe space; to educate our community.

Call: (509) 533-4507

Spokane Human Rights Commission

Call: Equity Office: (509) 625-6263

Spokane Regional Health District

Providing health services and referrals for the public. HIV testing.

Call: (509) 324-1542 or 1-800-456-3236

Web site: www.spokanecounty.org/health

Stonewall News Northwest

Flagship publication for the gay and lesbian community and the Inland Northwest.

Call: (509) 570-3750

Fax: (509) 267-6309

Web site: www.stonewallnews.net

Unitarian Universalist Church

Gay, lesbian resource committee.

Call: (509) 325-6383

Web site: www.uuchurchofspokane.org

Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery

Call: 535-3155

Web site: www.vanessabehan.org

Women and Friends

Women-only activities and events in the Spokane area.

Call: (509) 458-4709

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 with, affected by HIV.

Call: (208) 665-1448

Web site: www.nicon.org/niac

North Idaho College

Gay-Straight Alliance

E-mail: [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: [NIGMA@yahoo.com](mailto: NIGMA@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

PFLAG - Sandpoint

Support, education and advocacy group for Sandpoint gay people, parents, family and friends.

Call: (208) 263-6699

Planned Parenthood of The Inland Northwest

HIV antibody testing and counseling.

Call: Clinic for Appt.: (800) 788-9128

Administration: (509) 326-6292

LEWISTON/CLARKSTON

PFLAG - Lewis-Clark

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

Planned Parenthood of The Inland Northwest

HIV antibody testing and counseling.

Call: Clinic for Appt.: (800) 788-9128

Administration: (509) 326-6292

Washington State University Gender Identity/Expression and Sexual Orientation Resource Center

Call: Heidi Stanton (509)335-8841

E-mail: [hstanton@wsu.edu](mailto: hstanton@wsu.edu)

Web site: www.thecenter.wsu.edu

Washington State University GLBA Student Group

Fun, fellowship and socializing.

Call: (509) 335-6428

Web site: <http://cubwsu.edu/GLBAP>

Out There

Safer-sex information and supportive programs for young men who have sex with men.

Call Melinda: (509) 335-6428

University of Idaho Gay-Straight Alliance

Promoting a fabulous, positive and inclusive environment for all people on campus and encouraging individual growth and understanding by developing outreach programs, improving visibility and recognition of queer issues and history.

Call: (208) 885-2691

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Call: (Pasco) (509) 547-9737, ext. 234

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River of Life Metropolitan Community Church

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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

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

Call: (509) 529-5320

Write: 527 E. Oak

Walla Walla, WA 99362-1248

E-mail: [pflag_walla2wash@hotmail.com](mailto: pflag_walla2wash@hotmail.com)

Web site: www.wwpflag.0catch.com/

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Call: (509) 525-0202

WENATCHEE

SHINE

An organization that strives to eliminate all forms of prejudice and discrimination by promoting awareness, education, and self-empowerment through the use of the arts.

Call: (509) 860-7354

E-mail: [shine_org@yahoo.com](mailto: shine_org@yahoo.com)

YAKIMA

PFLAG - Yakima/Yakima Valley

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

Web site: www.flatheadvalleyalliance.org/index.html

GARNER*continued from PAGE 7*

Family members wanted to give Garner a casket and grave, but could afford neither. In desperation, they turned to Garner's friends for help.

Katine, the Human Rights Campaign and Lambda Legal, which bankrolled Garner's legal battle, all sought donations to help the family. Few came.

Weeks after Garner died Sept. 11, little more than \$200 had been donated. The balance included \$100 Katine gave when he opened the memorial account.

"People sent in contributions, but they sent them in much smaller amounts than I imagined," he said. "People were sending \$10 contributions and \$20 contributions."

Katine said the response was so poor that Garner's family eventually abandoned their hopes. The body was surrendered to local officials Oct. 18 for cremation by the state — an unceremonious fate that most often befalls the indigent or forgotten.

Garner's remains were given to his brother, Darrell. The memorial fund afforded him a metal urn.

"I think it's sad," said Katine, who's gay. "I'm not being critical of the gay community. I'm saddened by it. I'm just saddened by not having a better response from the community."

H. Alexander Robinson, executive director of the National Black Justice Coalition, whose organization is now working to memorialize Garner, agreed.

"It was really a tragic misstep on the part of all of us in the community," he said. "If we're going to hold people up as heroes, we should certainly treat them that way."

Efforts to fund Garner's burial started at Lambda Legal, which sent an appeal to its Texas donors.

"It was a Texas case, so the thought would be that we could take care of our own," said Dennis Coleman, the regional director for Lambda Legal in Dallas.

But the limited appeal yielded limited results. One week after the appeal was made, the account balance was \$200. Katine said just a few donations trickled in after that.

"I didn't know what to do," he said. "So I told the family, 'I'm sorry. The response was not as great as I'd hoped it would be.'"

HRC spokesperson Luis Vizcaino said the organization tried to help Garner's

12 - Announcements & Notices

Items Wanted. Odyssey Youth Center has an ongoing need for bus token donations. There is also a need for a soda dispensary machine, gift cards/certificates to use as youth rewards and incentives, and an X-Box 360 video game console. To donate these or other items please call Odyssey Youth Center, 509/325-2627.

13 - Volunteers

Spokane AIDS Network Needs Volunteers
Contact Cherie at 509/455-8993

OUTSPOKANE IS LOOKING for community-minded people to help with the 2007 Pride

Call Christopher at 509/624-9639 for details on meeting the 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month.

44 - Travel

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E-mail Ads: You may submit your Classified Ad at Stonewall's Web site at www.stonewallnews.net. Click on the Classifieds link to enter your information on the E-mail. Your payment will need to be received by Stonewall at least one week before publication.

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

Personals: If your Personal ad uses an address, Stonewall will only use a PO Box or a Stonewall Personal Blind Box (PBB). For a PBB, add \$5 to the cost of the ad. Stonewall will assign a code for your PBB and will forward replies weekly for up to two months after your ad runs.

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

Deadline: Classified ads must be received by Stonewall by the 8th or the 20th of each month for following 15th or 1st of the month publication.

Mailing Address: SNN, PO Box 2704, Spokane, WA 99220

Website: www.stonewallnews.net **E-mail:** mail@stonewallnews.net

family by announcing the memorial fund in the gay Houston magazine OutSmart, but the effort had little impact.

Coleman said he and others in his office donated additional funds, boosting the account total to about \$760. Even with those donations, though, the account couldn't fund a funeral.

Katine said Garner's family, under pressure by morgue workers to dispose of the body, turned Garner over to state officials for cremation Oct. 18.

"I think many people thought that we wouldn't have any problem raising ... whatever was needed," Katine said. "But I think everybody thought somebody else

was going to do it."

Robinson said the National Black Justice Coalition, like most national gay groups, was unaware of the family's need until it was too late to help.

"It's something for which we've taken responsibility," he said, "and done some self-examination about what we will do to honor his memory."

Robinson said the coalition is now considering how it can best remember Garner.

"We're thinking of something along the lines of scholarship programs," he said, "to focus on black gays and lesbians look-

ing at going into the legal field."

Vizcaino said HRC, meanwhile, is planning to send \$1,000 to the Tyron Garner Fund at Preferred Bank in Houston. All money donated now goes to Garner's family.

Robinson said it's vital that gays across the country never again let their heroes go unsupported.

"Make sure that you support those people," he said. "Make sure you know what their needs are. Make sure you support their family, and that if ever a circumstance like this happens again, don't assume that everything is handled."

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DECEMBER 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2006 CALENDAR

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Spokane, WA

Friday, December 1st

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm **World AIDS Day Commemoration** (at WSU Riverpoint campus Bookie) Action Makes a Difference! This year's WAD will commemorate 25 years of HIV/AIDS in America. Speakers, a photo-documentary of people living with HIV, and candlelight vigil are some of the events happening this year.

Contact: Cherie Moss
Email: cheriem@san-nw.org
Phone: 455-8993
More Info: www.worldaidsday.org

8:00pm – 10:00pm **Friday Night OUT!** FNO is a social hour for LGBTQ and allied individuals to get together for fun and friendship. There will be no politics, no fund raising. So come and meet some people and have some fun!

Contact: Jim Jones
Email: jim.jones90@comcast.net
More Info: www.choiceofthepeople.blogspot.com

Sunday, December 3rd

12:30 pm – 3:00 pm **Gay/Bi Men's Bowling Group** (at Northbow) Come hang out with the guys and bowl. Ten bucks gets you two hours of bowling and shoes. Space is limited, so reserve your spot early by calling 267-9444 and leave a message for Mark or just mention Bowling Group.

Contact: Mark
Email: markg@san-nw.org
Phone: 267-9444
More Info: www.lilaccitymensproject.org

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm **Emmanuel MCC Evening Service** (at Bethany Presbyterian)

Contact: Len Mace
Email: emmanuelmcc@qwest.net
Phone: 509.838.0085
More Info: www.emmanuelmcc.com

Tuesday, December 5th

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm **INWE Meeting** (at the Community Building)

Wednesday, December 6th

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm **Vision Committee Meeting** (at Northern Exposures Studio) Meetings are informal potlucks at Northern Exposures Studio on the first Wednesday and third Monday of each month. We work on projects to help the visibility of Spokane's GLBTQA community. Currently working on a local billboard project.

Contact: Bonnie Aspen
Phone: 509.838.3866

Thursday, December 7th

7:15 pm – 9:00 pm **OutSpokane Meeting** (at RiverPark Square) Meetings are the Kress Gallery on the 3rd floor of RiverPark Square each Thursday from 7:15 to 9 pm. Located next to and behind the food gallery near the theater ticket outlets.

More Info: <http://www.outspokane.com>

Friday, December 8th

4:00pm – 6:00 pm **HIV/AIDS Support Group** (at Maple St CHAS Clinic) Community Health Association of Spokane (CHAS), in conjunction with Ryan White Title 3 Community Advisory Board, is offering monthly educational/support groups for people living with HIV/AIDS and their friends and families. Topics will vary by month and time will be provided for discussion and support. Snacks provided.

This month: Surviving the Holidays
Contact: Tarena
Phone: 434-0313 x3132

Saturday, December 9th

9:30 am – 10:30 am **PFLAG Moms Group** (at Conley's Restaurant) The MOM'S Group, an informal support group welcomes and supports mothers (and occasionally grandmothers!) of gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered children. It meets monthly, on the second Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. for breakfast at Conley's Restaurant on east Sprague. Call the PFLAG help line 509.624.6671 for more information.

Phone: 509-624-6671

Sunday, December 10th

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm **Emmanuel MCC Evening Service** (at Bethany Presbyterian)

Contact: Len Mace
Email: emmanuelmcc@qwest.net
Phone: 509.838.0085
More Info: www.emmanuelmcc.com

Monday, December 11th Stonewall goes to press

Tuesday, December 12th

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm **RRCC Board Meeting** (at SAN) Board meetings are open to the public, but please contact at least one week in advance with requests to be on the agenda. Meetings will be at SAN until further notice.

Contact: RRCC
Email: info@spokanerainbowcenter.org
Phone: 489-1914

Wednesday, December 13th

11:30 am – 1:00 pm **INBA Luncheon** (at Europa Pizzeria)

There is no planned topic or speaker for the luncheon, just a chance for members to socialize and share community information with one another. INBA Outreach will also be conducting a fundraiser to benefit INBA scholarship fund. Each year INBA Outreach awards scholarships to gay and gay-friendly students in Eastern Washington, Idaho, and Montana. We will also have a few words from one of last year's scholarship recipients and INBA intern Jeremy Bolton.

Contact: INBA
Email: info@inbaspokane.org
Phone: 509-455-3699
More Info: <http://www.inbaspokane.org/>

Saturday, December 16th

10:30 am – 12:30 pm **OWLS Brunch** (at Old Country Buffet-Franklin Park Mall) OWLS Brunches will be held the 3rd Sat. of the month (Sep-May) at 10:30am at The Old Country Buffet in Franklin Park Mall on N. Division. If you are the first to arrive, ask the cashier where we can pull tables together for approx. 20 women. Then ask the cashier to direct arriving OWLS to that area. (Schedule for Jun, Jul, & Aug to be announced)

Contact: Ginny
Email: way2qt_99@yahoo.com

Sunday, December 17th

12:30 pm – 3:00 pm **Gay/Bi Men's Bowling Group** (at Northbow) Come hang out with the guys and bowl. Ten bucks gets you two hours of bowling and shoes. Space is limited, so reserve your spot early by calling 267-9444 and leave a message for Mark or just mention Bowling Group.

Contact: Mark
Email: markg@san-nw.org
Phone: 267-9444
More Info: www.lilaccitymensproject.org

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm **Emmanuel MCC Evening Service** (at Bethany Presbyterian)

Contact: Len Mace
Email: emmanuelmcc@qwest.net
Phone: 509.838.0085
More Info: www.emmanuelmcc.com

Monday, December 18th

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm **Vision Committee Meeting** (at Northern Exposures Studio) Meetings are informal potlucks at Northern Exposures Studio on the first Wednesday and third Monday of each month. We work on projects to help the visibility of Spokane's GLBTQA community. Currently working on a local billboard project.

Tuesday, December 19th

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm **PFLAG Monthly Meeting** (at UUCS)

We meet the third Tuesday of every month at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane at 7 PM. 4340 W. Fort Wright Dr. Spokane WA 99224 Our mission is to provide support, education and advocacy for GLBTQ family and friends.

Contact: Tiina Buckaloo
Email: info@pflagspokane.org
More Info: www.pflagspokane.org

Thursday, December 21st

7:15 pm – 9:00 pm **OutSpokane Meeting** (at RiverPark Square) Meetings are the Kress Gallery on the 3rd floor of RiverPark Square each Thursday from 7:15 to 9 pm. Located next to and behind the food gallery near the theater ticket outlets.

More Info: <http://www.outspokane.com>

Friday, December 22nd Winter Begins

Sunday, December 24th

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm **Emmanuel MCC Evening Service** (at Bethany Presbyterian)

Contact: Len Mace
Email: emmanuelmcc@qwest.net
Phone: 509.838.0085
More Info: www.emmanuelmcc.com

Monday, December 25th Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 26th Stonewall goes to press

Sunday, December 31st New Years Eve

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm **Emmanuel MCC Evening Service** (at Bethany Presbyterian)

Contact: Len Mace
Email: emmanuelmcc@qwest.net
Phone: 509.838.0085
More Info: www.emmanuelmcc.com

AIDS

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practice of Safer Sex for all, programs that preach real prevention not abstinence, Programs the empower folks to take charge of their sexual health, Programs that teach people how to have fulfilling safer sexual experiences, Programs that start Safer Sexual education before children need it (Safer sexual education needs to begin in the 9 and 10 year olds now to instill effective behaviors by the time they become sexually active in their teens)

I have been an STD and HIV Prevention and Education Specialist over 25 years and as I look at the current state of HIV and STD prevention I shudder. I see programs wasting money on out reach to the wrong groups, I see government funders not supplying free easy access condoms to those needing them (the number one reason folks don't have use a condom is they don't have one handy or they are too expensive). I see a continued stigma on HIV testing and limitations on accessing those

Tri-Cities, Pullman/Moscow, Walla Walla, Yakima, WA

Friday, December 1st

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm [Yakima, WA] **First Fridays** (at 1st St Conference Center) Yakima's gay social group welcomes you and your friends to our monthly gathering.

Email: 1st-Fridays@gayakima.com
Phone: 509/576-0276
More Info: <http://www.gayakima.com/1stfridays.html>

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm [Moscow, ID] **NIGMA First Friday** (at University Inn Quiet Bar) NIGMA (North Idaho Gay Men's Association) Visit us on the web at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NIGMA> for more information.

Sunday, December 3rd

10:30 am – 11:30 am [Kennewick, WA] **River of Life MCC** (at 2625 Brneau Place Ste A)

Email: info@riveroflifemcc.org
More Info: <http://www.riveroflifemcc.org>
6:30 pm [Yakima, WA] **Rainbow Cathedral MCC** (at 225 N 2nd St)
Phone: 509/457-6454

Monday, December 4th

7:30 pm – 8:30 pm [Kennewick, WA] **Rainbow Sobriety AA Meetings** (at ROLMCC)

Contact: Edna Mae W.
Email: fiddlebanjo@charter.net
Phone: 509-546-2626

Wednesday, December 6th

7:30 – 9:00 pm [Pullman, WA / Moscow, ID] **NIGMA Coffee Social** NIGMA's Coffee Social is a weekly event and is held on alternating weeks in either Moscow or Pullman. When in Moscow the Coffee group meets at the One World Cafe on the corner of Main and 6th streets. When in Pullman we meet at the Daily Cup near the corner of Main St. and Grande Ave. For information on location please visit us online at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NIGMA>

Sunday, December 10th

10:30 am – 11:30 am [Kennewick, WA] **River of Life MCC** (at 2625 Brneau Place Ste A)

Email: info@riveroflifemcc.org
More Info: <http://www.riveroflifemcc.org>

11:00 am – 1:00 pm [Pullman, WA / Moscow, ID]

Second Sunday Brunch NIGMA (North Idaho Gay Men's Association) Second Sunday Brunch is held in Moscow or Pullman at the homes of NIGMA members. The Brunch location is changed monthly for information on the brunch please visit us online at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NIGMA>

6:30 pm [Yakima, WA] **Rainbow Cathedral MCC** (at 225 N 2nd St)

Phone: 509/457-6454

Monday, December 11th Stonewall goes to press

7:00 pm [Walla Walla, WA] **PFLAG Monthly Meeting** (at First Congregational Church Fellowship Hall)

Contact: Carol
Email: pflag_walla2wash@hotmail.com
Phone: 509-529-5320
More Info: <http://www.pflag.0catch.com/>

7:30 pm – 8:30 pm [Kennewick, WA] **Rainbow Sobriety AA Meetings** (at ROLMCC)

Contact: Edna Mae W.
Email: fiddlebanjo@charter.net
Phone: 509-546-2626

Wednesday, December 13th

7:30 – 9:00 pm [Pullman, WA / Moscow, ID] **NIGMA Coffee Social** NIGMA's Coffee Social is a weekly event and is held on alternating weeks in either Moscow or Pullman. When in Moscow the Coffee group meets at the One World Cafe on the corner of Main and 6th streets. When in Pullman we meet at the Daily Cup near the corner of Main St. and Grande Ave. For information on location please visit us online at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NIGMA>

Sunday, December 17th

10:30 am – 11:30 am [Kennewick, WA] **River of Life MCC** (at 2625 Brneau Place Ste A)
Email: info@riveroflifemcc.org
More Info: <http://www.riveroflifemcc.org>

6:30 pm [Yakima, WA] **Rainbow Cathedral MCC** (at 225 N 2nd St)
Phone: 509/457-6454

7:00 pm [Yakima, WA] **PFLAG Monthly Meeting** (at First St Conference Center)

Monday, December 18th

7:30 pm – 8:30 pm [Kennewick, WA] **Rainbow Sobriety AA Meetings** (at ROLMCC)

Contact: Edna Mae W.
Email: fiddlebanjo@charter.net
Phone: 509-546-2626

Wednesday, December 20th

7:30 – 9:00 pm [Pullman, WA / Moscow, ID] **NIGMA Coffee Social** NIGMA's Coffee Social is a weekly event and is held on alternating weeks in either Moscow or Pullman. When in Moscow the Coffee group meets at the One World Cafe on the corner of Main and 6th streets. When in Pullman we meet at the Daily Cup near the corner of Main St. and Grande Ave. For information on location please visit us online at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NIGMA>

Friday, December 22nd Winter Begins

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm **NIGMA Fourth Friday Wine Tasting**

NIGMA (North Idaho Gay Men's Association) Wine tasting is held at private residences and is only open to those who are 21 and over. Please visit us online at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NIGMA>

Sunday, December 24th

10:30 am – 11:30 am [Kennewick, WA] **River of Life MCC** (at 2625 Brneau Place Ste A)

Email: info@riveroflifemcc.org
More Info: <http://www.riveroflifemcc.org>

6:30 pm [Yakima, WA] **Rainbow Cathedral MCC** (at 225 N 2nd St)

Phone: 509/457-6454

Monday, December 25th Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 26th Stonewall goes to press

Wednesday, December 27th

7:30 – 9:00 pm [Pullman, WA / Moscow, ID] **NIGMA Coffee Social** NIGMA's Coffee Social is a weekly event and is held on alternating weeks in either Moscow or Pullman. When in Moscow the Coffee group meets at the One World Cafe on the corner of Main and 6th streets. When in Pullman we meet at the Daily Cup near the corner of Main St. and Grande Ave. For information on location please visit us online at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NIGMA>

Thursday, December 28th

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm [Tri-Cities, WA] **PFLAG Monthly Meeting**

Check website for meeting location
Email: info@tcpflag.org
More Info: <http://www.TCPFLAG.org>

Sunday, December 31st New Years Eve

10:30 am – 11:30 am [Kennewick, WA] **River of Life MCC** (at 2625 Brneau Place Ste A)

Email: info@riveroflifemcc.org
More Info: <http://www.riveroflifemcc.org>

6:30 pm [Yakima, WA] **Rainbow Cathedral MCC** (at 225 N 2nd St)

Phone: 509/457-6454

tests(cost, time frames , and un-necessary pretest screening). I see big money drug companies delivering wrong messages around HIV treatment for the sake of selling their products and I see a general sense of cultural lethargy and apathy related to HIV and STD's.

One of the solutions – is to look to the HIV experts- the gay community – and that means re-involvement and re-empowerment of the gay community in HIV prevention. It means that the gay community must take an aggressive stand and begin preaching to our straight and bisexual family and friends about HIV prevention (you know you may upset Aunt Mary or your sisters husband – but better they be upset than you have to attend another funeral cause your Nephew died at age 25 of HIV related complications leaving behind an HIV positive life partner and child). Taking the time to attend the school board meetings when sex education is being discussed and pushing a sex positive agenda of education not abstinence (remember it is your

Tax dollars funding that education whether you have kids or not), and writing letters to the editor of the paper when press coverage is lacking-(squeaky wheels will get oiled in most cities), Hold your local Health departments and Health boards to the task of Real HIV prevention – not just treating those infected and Finally help to instill in today's youth that a long life is beautiful thing and they should strive to live to be over 100 –Many of today's youth see that a cure for HIV is soon coming and if they contract they don't have to worry there will be a shot or pill to fix it. They don't remember the horrors of HIV deaths in the 80's. Those same youth (especially gay youth) see no value in living past 30 or 40 – that to be old means you don't have fun. Show them life is fun and there is meaning in it past 40 –but that is a topic for another writing. Please heed the message presented and take a proactive stance in pushing for an HIV free world.

Cameron Lewis
Spokane, WA



THANK YOU to all of our sponsors and all who attended! Your support will help fulfill the mission of the Odyssey Youth Center and enrich the lives of our LGBTQA youth.

Odyssey Masquerade

www.odysseymasquerade.com

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GRAND PRIZE GIVEAWAY
DECEMBER 20, 7:30PM

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Rick Springfield

December 30



FRANK SINATRA JR

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December 3 |

New Year's Eve Party!

January 1 Show 8:30pm



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TICKETS FOR ALL ACTS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE NORTHERN QUEST CASINO BOX OFFICE, BY PHONE AT (509) 340 - 6700, OR CALL TICKETSWEST AT 325 - SEAT (7328). TICKETSWEST TICKETS ARE SUBJECT TO A SERVICE CHARGE.

All events are 18 years and older unless specified.

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