

Community Spotlight...

Whether pets are regarded as children, as they are for Marvin Reguindin, or as just part of the family, as Paul Tiesse sees them, Lori McAllister, dog trainer and all-around pet advocate, can guide you toward a better 'fit.'

Page 10

World AIDS Day Commemorated

City rejects West

Spokane voters recalled Mayor Jim West Dec. 6, opting by a margin of nearly two-to-one to oust the controversial city leader. The Spokane County Elections Department certified the vote Dec. 16, and West left office that day.

City Council President Dennis Hession became acting mayor under the succession procedure set forth in the City Charter and was unanimously elected by the City Council Dec. 19 to complete West's term of office, which expires at the end of 2007. He is expected to be sworn in as mayor Jan. 3.

Hession, pictured in the upper left corner of the photo collage on this page, read the City Proclamation acknowledging World AIDS Day.

The final vote tallies were as follows: 40,575 for the recall (64.96 percent) and 21,888 against (35.04 percent). Voter turnout approached 57 percent.



"We are as one" or "You hurt, I hurt," proclaims a revered native chant shared by Dave Red Antelope Brown Eagle at the World AIDS Day candlelight vigil Dec. 1. Fellow speakers included Unity's Claire Austen and SAN's Susan Fabrikant, above, left to right.

Photos by Pat Devine

by Christopher Lawrence and Catherine D. Willis

About 70 people braved a snowstorm and icy roads Dec. 1 to participate in the 2005 World AIDS Day candlelight vigil at the Museum of Arts and Culture in Spokane's Browne's Addition.

Lay pastor Len Mace of Emmanuel Metropolitan Community Church stepped forward to organize the 18th such gathering when funding cutbacks prevented longtime sponsors, the Spokane Regional Health District and Spokane AIDS Network, from spearheading the annual memorial.

A full table of hors d'oeuvres and other treats greeted attendees. A slide

show furnished by SRHD honored many area residents who have passed on due to AIDS. Friends and supporters wrote the names of their lost loved ones as well as special notes to and about them on a banner to be used at future events.

"We should be occupying the Coliseum," declared Dave Red Antelope Brown Eagle, who presented the first formal commentary of the program after welcoming remarks by Mace. The Spokane tribal member recounted his decision to become an ally years ago when he realized the degree to which AIDS was devastating the native community. He offered a spiritual

message rooted in hope.

After the City Proclamation was read, Elaine Eagle, an advocate from SRHD, gave a stirring history of AIDS awareness education, prevention and intervention efforts in the Inland Northwest (see full text, page 4).

"As a community we still have a great deal of work to do on reducing and eventually eliminating the stigma and discrimination of HIV/AIDS," said Susan Fabrikant, executive director of SAN. She talked about the changing face of funding for HIV/AIDS services and expressed deep gratitude for the efforts

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ERW geared up for 2006, offers Equality Day transportation for Inland Northwest advocates

Equal Rights Washington is ready for this year's short (60-day) legislative session, which opens in Olympia Jan. 9.

Getting an anti-discrimination bill through the Legislature is high on the advocacy group's priority list. Community representatives have been lobbying lawmakers nonstop since last year's effort, HB 1515, failed to pass by a single vote. Supporters believe such a bill will prevail this year if legislators get sufficient input from GLBTQA voices.

Toward this end, and to educate about other equality-oriented issues, including marriage, Equality Day has been set for Monday, Jan. 23, in Olympia. ERW and the Religious Coalition for Equality will be co-sponsoring the multipart event along with other groups and individuals. (For sponsorship options, go to www.equalityday.org.)

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Fridays are our Flag Day!



Show everyone that we are here and proud. Let's make a statement at least once a week.

Photos by Pat Devine

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Voices

In My Opinion

A healthy community: If we build it, will you come?

by **Cat Carrel**

Community. What does this word mean to you? Is it a thing, a feeling or a physical place? Is it where you live, work or go to church? Does it include your family and friends? Or is it the feeling you get when your plane is coming in to land and you sigh, "I'm home"?

Someone with whom I used to work often described the word "community" as a verb—an *active* verb. Because *community* requires an engaged, committed force of people who have a vision. Because *community* takes time, energy and chutzpah. Because, unlike [you-know-what], *community* doesn't "just happen." *Community* happens when people take charge of their own future, concern themselves with their friends' and neighbors' welfare, respect and honor their youth and elders, and celebrate togetherness.

When *community* emerges, and we engage and participate in our own destiny, something great happens. We begin to feel good about ourselves. We feel empowered. We begin to realize that there is more to life than fear and self-loathing. Medicating ourselves with alcohol and drugs, taking sexual risks and staying in abusive situations begins to contrast with our internal, emerging well-being. We seek more and better for ourselves. We come out of the closet. We live an honest and happy life.

There are some who would have you believe that the term "healthy gay community" is an oxymoron, a contradiction of terms that can't coexist. I would say those people have never seen it or participated in it. Many GLBT people have not experienced what a healthy, vibrant, gay community feels like, so would we even know what it looked like if it was sitting here before us?

Spokane has all the great bones of a healthy gay community. First and foremost, we have a substantial, GLBT-owned and operated newspaper. We have the Inland Northwest Business Alliance (our "gay chamber of commerce"). There's OutSpokane and the "Let's Get Visible!" campaign, the Imperial Sovereign Court, and Gals and Pals. There's Quest, Odyssey and the Rainbow Center. There's Papillon and the Gender Center. There's the Lilac City Men's Project (LCMP). There are all these projects and organizations, but still, there seems to be an incredible vacuum of regularly occurring "healthier options" away from the bars and cliquey martini parties. What our bones

seem to lack is the cohesive skin to bring us all together into a living breathing entity. That skin is *community*.

I began my work here at Spokane AIDS Network by talking to men within my immediate circle of contact – around 20 men who are friends, SAN clients and peers – about what their ideal gay Spokane would look like. The answers were strikingly similar: "need more social outlets," "there's nothing to do here," "need things to do outside of the bars," "more activities." You get the idea.

I am new to HIV-prevention work, but I'm an old veteran at community building. The project I am currently working with, the Lilac City Men's Project (formerly called the MPowerment Project), is a funded program that strives to build a healthy GLBT community, with a focus on the gay/bisexual men's community. What may look like just another peer-to-peer prevention program (yawn!) is actually a dynamic model that weaves regular social events, informational seminars, community wellness workshops, weekly get-togethers and yes, potlucks, into the fabric of the GLBT community. In other words, it creates stuff to do.

The Lilac City Men's Project creates "stuff to do" but not only for the gay men's community. All the big events are planned for the GLBT community at large. In addition, the Project invites collaboration with other GLBT organizations to plan, promote and put on events for the whole community. Through these events, community members are informed about future smaller events and ultimately, men are recruited to volunteer for the Project or attend wellness seminars that cover topics such as relationships, negotiating safer sex, involving themselves in their own health and expressing concern for their friends' health and welfare. Hopefully over time, the wellness message will spread out and reach men who would never have heard it otherwise.

The Lilac City Men's Project is but one organization, one bone in this GLBT community's diverse body. To make our body walk and breathe will take a lot of work. But it will be worth it when we can all look around, smile at each other, and sigh "I'm home."

Cat Carrel is the HIV Prevention Program Coordinator at Spokane AIDS Network.

To get involved with The Lilac City Men's Project, e-mail info@lilaccitymensproject.org.

Watch for the launch of the Web site: www.lilaccitymensproject.org.

Letters

We want to thank the Stonewall team for the article on Kelly Lerner's award-winning straw-bale project and the excerpt "Energy Efficiency at Home" from Kelly's upcoming book *Natural Remodeling for the Not-So-Green House*.

We hope the article sparked your interest in energy efficiency and green building. To find out more about natural remodeling, sustainable building, and the China project, log on to: www.one-world-design.com.

We appreciate the vision of Stonewall's new management and their commitment to becoming the voice of the Inland Northwest's GLBT community. It's great to see real discussion of political issues that affect

us daily and profiles of "out" individuals that are making a difference and changing narrow attitudes with their positive lifestyle examples.

In the two-and-a-half years that we've lived in Spokane, we've seen exciting changes in the GLBT community: a new visibility, a new dialog with government and businesses, and most importantly, a new understanding that when we work together we can do great things for ourselves and for all of Spokane. Thank you, Stonewall, for creating a forum for our community.

Sincerely,
Kelly Lerner and Deborah McCandless
One World Design Architecture

Letter from the Editor

Happy New Year... Let's get to work!

Brokeback Mountain. You will find numerous mentions of this independent film phenomenon throughout this month's Stonewall, but there will be no analysis here. At some later date, when I have seen the movie, I may comment. For now, what occupies my attention is this new year we face, 2006.

Serious issues confront us. The Legislature begins a short session. Forces behind the scenes cajole and connive to get an anti-discrimination bill like the one we almost won last year enacted. Will they succeed? Only time will tell. But there's a greater likelihood lawmakers will vote for what's right if they actually hear from us – and our friends and relatives, co-workers and neighbors.

This is no time for diffidence or reticence. If having legal protections against arbitrary and unequal decisions in such important day-to-day realms as housing and employment means anything to you, then pick up the phone, go to your computer, shout from the mountaintops if you need to, but let your voice be heard. Make contact now. Today. This minute. Break in that fancy new endless talk-time cellular you got for whatever holiday you celebrated at the end of December.

Then clear your calendar for Monday, January 23, **Equality Day** in Olympia. Equal Rights Washington and the Religious Coalition for Equality are sponsoring the day-long event. And you don't have to drive over the Cascades to be a part of the programming. ERW has generously offered to supply a bus or a van to get Eastern Washingtonians to the state capital. (Granted, you will have to get up extra-early to make it to the 11:45 a.m. rally, but you can sleep on the way over, or use the time to polish the message you plan to share face-to-face with your elected representatives.) Register online at www.equalityday.org by Jan. 10 if you want a ride over; otherwise, you may wait until the last minute, Jan. 22, to let sponsors know you're coming.

On the subject of waiting, the couples involved in the combined case challenging the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act have been portraits of patience since March 8, 2005, when the Washington State Supreme Court heard arguments in the matter. Will they affirm the present, restrictive definition of marriage or open the door to equal marriage for all who

call the Evergreen State home? Stay tuned.

We at Stonewall try our best to be on top of things, to keep our readership informed and engaged. If you haven't visited our Web site lately, please do. Publisher Mike Schultz has worked very hard to upgrade our Web persona. To better gauge your needs and desires, he set up an easy-to-complete online survey, and a print version is included on page 18 of this issue. Please take a few moments to share your views with us. We are listening.

One online reader chastised us for failing to cover what he deemed an important community event. The truth is, we discussed that particular celebration, and would have sent someone if we had someone to send. Let me be blunt here: The Stonewall is a small operation. Mike handles the business, advertising, Web site and general vision aspects of the publication. Christopher Lawrence wears two hats; he crafts our Arts & Entertainment and Reviews & Previews pages *and* he shepherds page layout and design from concept to completion each month. And I'm the words wizard, the person who writes a good deal of the copy you see in our pages, edits what comes in and chums for story ideas and willing contributors day in and day out, to the point that many of my friends and neighbors are afraid to make the slightest suggestion (for they know I'll ask them to follow through on the idea).

I return to a point made here last month: If there's news you want reported in these pages, please tell us about it. Going to an event you'd like to read about? Let us know. If our tiny but intrepid team can't make it, we'll give you tools to collect the information needed to sufficiently inform others. Start with the basics – who, what, when, where, how and why – and give us a few contact names and numbers so we can solicit follow-up comments. Deal?

Check out the stories we're working on for 2006 (far right column on this page). Review details of the Stonewall's upcoming **Community Forum, Saturday, Feb. 4, from 2 p.m.-4 p.m. at CenterStage** (details below). Remember to show your colors – fly your rainbow flag on Fridays.

Catherine D. Willis
Editor

Can't write the story? Then be the story

The Stonewall has changed in big and small ways since Mike Schultz took the helm last June. We've added several regular and some rotating columns.

"Letters of the Law" debuts this issue; the topic is self-explanatory. Reader-generated questions will drive the discussion.

Please send law-related *general* questions to: mail@stonewallnews.net and attorney Jerry Davis will respond to as many of them as he can in coming months. He cannot address specific cases or offer personalized legal advice.

"Healthier Options" began in December. Initially we wanted to create a forum for frank discussion of HIV/AIDS issues, but we have learned that the GLBTQA community desires a broader approach to health information. If you or someone you know is a health professional with a different take on living well, feel free to pitch your angle. Cat Carrel and Cameron Lewis have agreed to write occasionally in 2006. A family counselor and a massage therapist may offer input too.

"Illuminations" launched in August. Bryce Hughes has contributed two spirituality-based commentaries from the Catholic perspective. We seek diverse viewpoints. Are there no Buddhists out there willing to connect their faith experience with GLBTQA life? Jews? Wiccans? Unitarians? Presbyterians? Friends? Evangelicals?

"Be Our Guest" represents an open-ended opportunity for self-expression and the promotion of various group agendas. It's a catch-all category; we'll consider any GLBTQA-friendly topic of discussion.

"In My Opinion," represents an extension of the last column, only geared to community action, in essence a guest editorial.

Stories in the works for 2006 also cover a mix of subjects, some serious, some fun, all pertinent to GLBTQA community life.

In honor of Valentine's Day, the "Family" pages of our February issue will look at committed love. We are seeking couples, especially those in relationships of 10 years duration or more, willing to tell their "how we met" stories.

Before April 15, preferably for our February or March issues, tax advice from a local accountant would be a useful addition to our pages. Any takers?

In anticipation of spring, when home sales typically emerge from their winter doldrums, we plan to do an overview of the real estate market from the GLBTQ vantage point.

Paul Gilmore did some excellent preliminary research for a series on lesbian health. We hope to have the first installment ready for you in April.

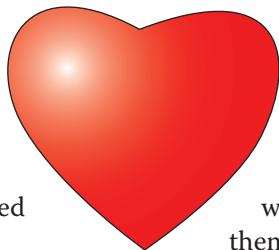
This is an important election year. How congressional races go may suggest the nation's mood as we move toward the 2008 presidential campaign. Stonewall runs stories presented to us by Stonewall Democrats and other progressive groups. We would like to balance our news and opinion fare, but have yet to find a GLBT conservative willing to carry the GOP, or even an independent, flag.

Would-be writers or story subjects should contact: editor@stonewallnews.net as soon as possible.

Stonewall forum on marriage equality Feb. 4

Readers and participants in our November forum on the Jim West story and the Dec. 6 recall vote asked for – and now get – another opportunity for public discussion of a topic dear to our hearts: the question of marriage equality.

Stonewall's second Community Forum will be held once again at CenterStage, 1017 W. First St. in downtown Spokane. There will be an opening panel presentation, followed by a Q&A exchange among panelists and the



audience. The program is free and open to all voices. Civil discourse will be required.

The Stonewall staff is currently recruiting potential panelists. If you or someone you know can articulate a unique, thoughtful and intelligent perspective, please contact us at our Web site, www.stonewallnews.net, or e-mail us: mail@stonewallnews.net. We will select panelists by Friday, Jan. 20, to give them plenty of time to prepare their statements.

DOMA WATCH

No one knows when the State Supreme Court will rule in the case that could make Washington the next Massachusetts. Regardless of outcome, Inland Northwest Equality and affiliated organizations will rally in front of the Federal Courthouse, 920 W. Riverside Ave., Spokane,

at 5 p.m. that day. Contact Krista Benson, PJALS/INWE coordinator, about speaking at the event.

Check www.courts.wa.gov/opinions/?fa=opinions.notice to learn the status of *Castle & Anderson vs. the State of Washington*.

Spokane

Activist recalls promises made

by Elaine Eagle

Editor's note: Elaine Eagle's speech was so moving, we decided our readers deserved to see the full text. It has been edited slightly for style and fit, but nothing substantially pertinent to her message has been changed or omitted.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you on this 18th World AIDS Day. When I began educating about AIDS nearly 19 years ago, I never imagined we would still be engaged in the fight to win over this senseless disease.

Some in this room are too young to recall the beginning of AIDS in the United States and what it was like here in Spokane during those early years. In thinking of this year's theme, "Stop AIDS: Keep the Promise," I'd like to take a few minutes to share with you what it was like working in HIV/AIDS during those early years and two promises that I have made.

My first promise came in June 1988, when I came to Spokane to begin the AIDS program at the then Spokane County Health District. I made a promise along with Dr. Luther, the health officer, that we would do what was needed to fight AIDS in Spokane. We recognized some things we did, or wanted to do, would be controversial and we knew we were entering uncharted waters.

What a journey it has been! The Spokane community climate was quite different back in 1988:

AIDS was not a topic most folks felt comfortable mentioning. Basically, only 2 doctors were treating persons with AIDS—fewer still were the number of physicians in the 11 eastern counties of Washington outside of Spokane who were willing to treat persons with HIV. They did not want to be labeled as the "AIDS doctor" for fear of losing other patients.

Very few persons who were HIV-infected or had AIDS would go public. In the beginning, we had to "import" speakers from Yakima or Seattle to speak in local high schools or at conferences. There was no Speaker's Bureau.

I can remember the first time someone locally with HIV agreed to speak to high schoolers about what it was like to live with AIDS. Finally! Someone had the courage to speak publicly. We could move beyond the statistics to putting the human face to this disease. But there were stipulations on who could speak—schools and groups did not want someone who was gay—only "innocent victims" as we often heard people say.

No persons of color would come forward to admit they were gay, let alone that they were infected. The health



district tried to organize a women's support group, but it failed. Not enough women felt "safe" to admit they were infected.

No videos or films were available for purchase commercially which showed how to properly put on a condom. The videos only talked about the science of the disease.

There was no syringe exchange in Spokane. When the health district announced we would begin a syringe exchange, the Spokane County Prosecuting Attorney stated he would jail me and Dr. John Beare, the health officer, if it started. He felt that it was illegal under the state's drug paraphernalia law. So the local Board of Health decided to sue

syringe exchanges began in several other communities in Washington state.

A major step forward for GLBTQ teens was the establishment of Odyssey in 1992. For seven years, the SRHD sponsored Odyssey under the radar of the Spokane community until it could become its own 501(c)3 organization.

The majority of our schools was just beginning to address HIV/AIDS and was struggling to put together curriculums that met the requirements of the state's AIDS Omnibus Bill. Teachers were untrained in HIV/AIDS and/or unwillingly being forced to teach HIV/AIDS by their schools. I can remember one English teacher telling me, "I went to college to teach Jane Eyre, not AIDS."

*"Prayer brings hope.
Meditation brings hope.
Friendship brings hope.
Anything that we believe in
brings hope."*

—Dave Red Antelope Brown Eagle

the prosecuting attorney to determine the legality of a syringe exchange. One year and \$120,000 later, the Washington State Supreme Court ruled in favor of the health district and the syringe exchange began the next day on May 17, 1991.

Last year, SRHD exchanged over 485,000 syringes. After that ruling,

In 1989 the downtown Outreach Center opened on West First Avenue and services have continually expanded. It became apparent that there was a need for an outreach effort in the east part of Spokane. In 1990, one night a week, two staff distributed condoms and provided AIDS education out of the back of their

car to prostitutes and drug users on East Sprague. Today the Outreach van offers a syringe exchange, HIV testing, education and other services to clients on East Sprague.

Through the years, SAN and SRHD have successfully partnered on many projects. AIDS case management in Spokane expanded greatly with the receipt of Ryan White funding. Today nearly 250 individuals receive case management through SAN and SRHD.

When Joyce Claypool and her daughter Kara came forward to talk about their lives with AIDS, I saw the Spokane community open its eyes to the human impact of this disease. Hospice of Spokane was a model and leader among hospices nationally as they worked in the HIV/AIDS arena. Gradually more and more folks in the Spokane community began to know someone, or of someone, with HIV/AIDS. The epidemic was slowly becoming a part of the Spokane landscape.

As far as we've come, there's still a lot more work to be done. Too much stigmatization and discrimination still exists which interferes with prevention and treatment services. This epidemic is far from over and prevention remains our best chance for controlling this disease.

We cannot give up the fight.

Tonight I challenge each of you to make the promise to continue to fight until this disease is no more. Do not tire during the battle, but celebrate the strides we have achieved and embrace the journey before us.

Beginning [this month] a restructuring within the SRHD will make this the first time in 17 years, that I have not provided oversight to the local HIV/AIDS Program. But that will not diminish my interest in and support of the HIV/AIDS effort.

The last promise I want to share with you was made to Gordon Cheney, whom many of you knew. I left the [office] mid-afternoon on Nov. 19, 1996, and drove to Sacred Heart Medical Center to visit Gordon, my staff person, who was hospitalized with AIDS. I shared with him that I had driven by Lewis and Clark High School, where tree limbs were falling from ice on them. As we continued to talk I could see fewer and fewer cars on the streets below. Finally I told Gordon I needed to leave because it appeared the weather was worsening and I wanted to get off the road before dark. That was the day of the Ice Storm.

But before I left him that day, Gordon made me promise I would not stop fighting the AIDS battle until there was a cure. That was the last time I saw Gordon because he died a few days later. But tonight, Gordon, on this the 18th World AIDS Day, I renew my promise to continue to fight the battle.

WORLD AIDS DAY

continued from page 1

of Mace and EMCC in making the World AIDS Day (WAD) event possible.

WAD was as much about educating as it was about remembering the infected and the deceased, she noted. "My commitment is to reach outside of my circle of friends and acquaintances to educate with conviction and compassion." She proposed that each person there bring someone next year who wouldn't otherwise attend.

Jim Breedlove, executive director of the regional HIV/AIDS Speaker's Bureau, shared some thoughts, as did Joe Lockridge, and the Rev. Claire Austen, from Unity Church of Truth, made the final speech before the candlelight ceremony outside.

"AIDS is a health issue. AIDS is a political issue. AIDS is a spiritual issue," said Austen. "It calls us to rise up as human beings. It calls us to love, for we are all one living, breathing soul. It calls us to divine action."

Mace led the candlelight vigil, during which participants burned the "I keep the promise" messages they wrote beforehand on slips of paper. "Fire is the coming together of elements that profoundly change the environment," Mace explained. "We have come together to bring change to a world living with AIDS."

"When we can no longer see the promise on paper, through the burning, we know it has changed form and is now at work on the invisible or spiritual plane. The promises will now live within us. Through the burning, the letting go and releasing of whatever it is in each of us that must be released, be that fear, prejudice, our own insecurity, or whatever, we become free to move proactively forward in our goals to 'Stop AIDS' and 'Keep the Promise.'"

Promise to...

- **Continue education and awareness**
- **Treat people with respect and dignity**
- **Remember and honor those who have lost the battle**
- **Continue the fight for those living with HIV/AIDS**

Adieu, Bob Evans



In passing...

Spokane's GLBTQA community lost a good friend and respected servant last month with the death of Robert "Bob" Evans in Las Vegas.

This talented man shared his skills, his time and his very big heart with a wide range of friends and colleagues, but especially with our area's children and youth. He was an artist and a teacher.

Though his career began in a middle school in Platteville, Colo., Evans spent the first part of his working life as a soil scientist with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources and then the USDA Soil Conservation Service here in Spokane.

He earned his bachelor of fine arts in 1990 and in 1992 added a bachelor's degree in art history, both from Eastern Washington University.

Evans taught at Spokane Art School, Discovery School and Spokane Falls Community College, but he particularly savored his work with young people through Community Art Reaches in the public schools, after school classes at East Central Community Center and Libby Teen Center, and special events art activities such as Art Fest and Family-A-Fair.

He is survived by his partner, Sherill Grounds, with whom he enjoyed everything from community fund-raisers to political forums to a night at Dempsey's. Both were dedicated volunteers at Spokane AIDS Network. Evans regularly donated original artwork for the annual Oscar Gala auction.

A founder of the Gay Men's Adventure Group, Evans continued to organize camping and rafting expeditions to the North Clark Fork well after GMAG disbanded.

A camping buddy, Paul Tiesse, recalled that he was such an important figure in these events that campers placed his framed picture on the picnic table at one such gathering when he had to miss the fun to be with his family in Colorado.

GLBTQA groups: Who's on first?

Editor's note: As a new year dawns, new opportunities and unforeseen challenges inevitably arise. Inland Northwest GLBTQA organizations face unique difficulties. The community is small to begin with and hard to define. Because so many members remain closeted, or partly so, achieving large-scale engagement is problematic. Many of the same people provide the creative energies that drive the various groups everyone relies on, perhaps even takes for granted.

Stonewall News invites readers to explore local service choices and consider making a commitment in 2006 to one or more of the entities overviewed in these pages. At the very least, it's appropriate to recognize those who give their time and resources to enrich our lives. We thank them and hope you will too.

Organizations are listed in the order in which they responded to our request for information. Some groups were not contacted because of time constraints or insufficient or outdated contact information. Groups that wish to be highlighted need only ask.



Mission statement: Serving the Inland Northwest GLBTQA Community to plan and organize Spokane's Annual Pride Celebration.

Goals for 2006: Organizing and financing our 15th Annual Pride Parade and Rainbow Festival for June 10, 2006

Wish List: Color laser printer, sponsors to help with financing our 15th Annual Pride Parade and Rainbow Festival

Board of Directors (elected July 2005)

Chair: Denise Marie Thomas

Co-chair: Christopher Lawrence

Secretary: Jeremy Bolton

Treasurer: John Brindle

Directors: Bonnie Aspen, Bryce Hughes, Bridget Potter, Francie Rapier, Jill Sanders

Meets: 1st and 3rd Thursdays each month.

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

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

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No Rest for the Wicked

Southern-fried butch

by Joan Opyr

For the past two weeks, I've been trapped in a bad movie. It's called "Whatever Happened to Baby Joan?" My mother-in-law is Bette Davis, and I'm poor, bed-ridden, loopy Joan Crawford, trapped at home, eating fried rat.

OK, it's not that bad. I'm not really trapped, and my mother-in-law has yet to offer me a fricasseed rodent. I am, however, recovering from open gallbladder surgery, and I'm not allowed to drive for six weeks. Six weeks; no wheels. I'm beginning to feel a great deal of sympathy for my 83-year-old grandmother who, though technically and legally she can still drive, for the sake of Raleigh's bicyclists, motorcyclists and pedestrians, avoids the driver's seat the way George W. Bush avoids press conferences. She's not up to the task and she knows it. The down side is that if Granny wants to go anywhere – the grocery store, the mall, or that damned Michael's crap (I mean craft) store – she has to ask one of her younger sisters or my mother for a ride.

I'm in exactly the same position. If I want to go to town – if I want to go to the Food Co-Op, or Tri-State, or the Slurp and Burp – I have to beg my mother-in-law for a ride. Have you ever ridden shotgun with a woman who spent 40 years driving a stick but has recently made the switch to an automatic? Rose can't tell "Drive" from 1, 2, or, my favorite, R as in Reverse. Hell's bells! She forgets the handbrake is on, she doesn't believe in turn signals, and she thinks slowing down to make a hard right turn is for sissies. In short, she is an Idaho driver par excellence. The only part of the car my mother-in-law works with ease is the cigarette lighter, and believe you me, she works that baby to death. My mother-in-law's car is an ashtray on wheels, the Doral Light Menthol Wagon of Death.

Cough, cough, coffin nail. I went to town with Puff Daddy today, wheezing all the way. Why? Because I wanted to get the Sam Hell out of the house, that's why. I'm sick of being sick. I'm out of new CDs and SpongeBob videos, and if I keep shopping on ebay for entertainment, my wife will divorce me. Listen: I'd ride on a combine harvester driven by a stogie-smoking Charles Manson just to get out of the house.

Don't get me wrong: I love my mother-in-law. Rose is kind; she's considerate; she's concerned in a rough-and-tumble Western sort of way. She trained as a nurse

during the Crimean War – you may have read about her in history class, Florence Nightmare? Inventor of the "Cowboy up!" theory of rest and recuperation? This is my mother-in-law first thing in the morning: "It's eight o'clock. Up, up, up! What's the matter with you – got a bone in your leg?" Yes, of course I want to shoot her, but to be brutally honest, I need this kind of treatment. I need to recuperate in the House Without Pity. Why?

Because I'm a Southerner, that's why. I was raised from birth to milk each and every illness like it's Bessie the Cow. A Southern woman will never let a chance to wallow in self-pity pass her by. She doesn't have much choice. If you're a straight Southern woman, the only way your husband, Mr. Bubba R. Neck, is going to pay more attention to you than to his Camaro, his guns, and his coonhound, Beauregard, is to pretend that you are Melanie Wilkes and this is The End. Got a hangnail? Call for a mint julep and Percoset. This is the only holiday you're going to get from gutting what Bubba shoots or hooks or spears, so you'd better enjoy it.

As you can imagine, I am deeply conflicted. I'm a Southern butch lesbian living in the Wild, Wild West. I don't know whether to faint or farm, to pitch a fit or plow the back forty. And so I've decided to compromise. I won't drive, but neither will I take to the bed. In fact, two nights ago, I removed my own surgical staples with a pair of needle-nose pliers. Cowboy up? You bet your sweet bippie!

And no, I didn't do this with the aid of Percoset. I'm saving those for my trips to town with Florence Nightmare.

Joan Opyr, AKA Auntie Establishment, is a Moscow area fiction writer, the author of the novel Idaho Code, and the Northern Idaho Editor for New West Magazine. She invites your questions, comments, mint julep and rat recipes at joanopyr@moscow.com.

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WSU School of Education stymied by student's stand on diversity

by Susan Rydeen

Ed Swan is an elementary education major at the Washington State University College of Education, a straight-A student and a self-described conservative Christian. Swan is against gay adoption. He is against gay marriage and he has admitted writing "DIVERSITY IS PERVERSITY" in the margin of a textbook. He also claims that he is capable of being a good teacher and that his deeply held attitudes and beliefs will not affect his ability to teach and to treat students fairly. His professors at WSU think differently, and believe that the views Swan expressed are cause for concern.

Washington State University, like most other institutions of higher education, uses Professional Disposition Evaluations (PDEs) to determine whether a future teacher exhibits an understanding of the complexities of race, power, gender, class, disability, sexual orientation and privilege in American society.

In spite of high grades, Swan failed his PDE evaluations four times during the school year 2004-2005. To help him better develop his ability to work with

diverse populations, the College of Education referred him to diversity counseling. Swan was also asked to sign an agreement to respect community norms and appreciate diversity. He refused, and instead contacted the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE), asserting that the

request violated his rights. FIRE agreed with Swan's assessment of the situation and took up his case.

David French, outgoing president of FIRE, said that the Swan case is a matter of free speech and freedom of expression and that Swan is being persecuted for his religious and political beliefs.

Swan's abilities should be judged by his upcoming student teaching assignment, said French. "Student teachers are supposed to be evaluated on their performance in the classroom, not their political opinions," he further noted. "If Ed or any other student teacher treats students unfairly, then that will be reflected in their evaluations."

French challenged the supposition that for such biases to be noted by the supervising teacher, some child would have to be on the receiving end of a teacher's prejudice. He thought this

would be obvious long before any child would be hurt.

When told of French's comments, one WSU Professor of Education, speaking on condition of anonymity,

observed, "Any student teacher with an iota of common sense is going to be on his or her best behavior during their student teaching, so how can one's ability to keep personal prejudice out of the classroom be judged by that? Look, PDEs are not perfect, but they are the best tool we have at the moment

"Should a teacher have any less right to freedom of expression or freedom of association than people in other professions?"

– David French,
Foundation for Individual Rights
in Education



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Rodriguez seeks state chair

Washington Democrats have a chance to choose a forward-thinking, politically savvy party leader, who also happens to be 'family.' Greg Rodriguez sought the post of state party chairman last January but was defeated by longtime incumbent Paul Berendt.

Berendt is stepping down from the job, and state party leaders – committee men and women from each legislative district and county organization – will be called upon to elect his replacement at the meeting of the Democratic State Committee Jan. 28 in Ellensburg. Party members wishing to influence the selection process should call, write, e-mail or visit their county and district representatives.

Rodriguez promises to be a proactive state chairman, a common-sense leader. He was elected treasurer of the King County Democrats in 2000 and has been chairman of that body since 2002. Prior to that he was active in precinct and district level operations in the 5th, 45th and 37th legislative districts.

His biography reads like a movie script. Born in Huntington Beach, Calif., his parents divorced when he was five. His mother attempted to raise him and a medically fragile sister alone. His sister's needs exceeded resources, so she left for West Virginia to live with her father, and two years later young Rodriguez moved to Boise with his mother.

His high school years in rural America introduced him to the plight of the American farmer and the economic uncertainties faced by small-town

business persons. He learned to respect the environment and to take an active role in public affairs.

Hardships interrupted his education at Gonzaga University in the '80s; he completed his bachelor's degree in 2003 at Seattle University.

"Eastern Washington made me a Democrat," he has reported. "No one can tell me that those east of the mountains do not share in the same Democratic beliefs as other Democrats throughout this country."

Rodriguez worked in the hospitality field and has extensive experience in restaurant management and customer services. Computerized record-keeping is his forte. "We should work to develop a database system that targets constituencies," he said. He would also move quickly to upgrade the Democrats' Web site. That includes having vital information translated into many different languages.

Greg and his partner of nine years, John Rodriguez, serve the greater good in another, very specific, manner: They became foster parents to Greg's sister's medically troubled infant, Zachary, and in 1998 adopted him. Three years later, they took in another hard-to-place child, and adopted him as well. The boys, now 8 and 9 years old, have thrived in the Rodriguez home.

Candidate Rodriguez offers Washington Democrats an experienced business mind and a generous heart. For more info.: www.gregrodriguez.com.



Meeting Notice

The Pullman chapter of Washington State Stonewall Democrats will be meet Saturday, Jan. 7, from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Daily Grind, 230 East Main Street, Pullman, Wash.

OUT! In the Middle of Nowhere

Time for cowboy love

by Tim Anderson

*Life in the Inland Empire offered its fair share of surprises in December. Spokane Mayor West got canned by an even larger majority than expected. The Seahawks truly looked all Superbowl bound for the first time, um... ever. And, according to many conservatives, the release of the movie **Brokeback Mountain** launched a new attack on "American values" by those pesky elite Hollywood types. Seems those dang liberals are once again trying to promote the dreaded "homosexual agenda." Could it be that the last sacred American image – the "ultra straight cowboy" – was somehow hijacked?*

News flash: As anyone who's ventured out in the gay bars of the Intermountain West can attest, plenty of real gay cowboys, truckers and ranchers were already out there under all that big sky.

In mid-December, film critic and self-proclaimed social commentator Michael Medved appeared on CNN to dis **Brokeback Mountain**, not on technical merits but on moral grounds. While acknowledging that the "fictional" film offered outstanding performances and showcased stunning locations, Medved took issue with the story itself – that both men in the film were committing, drum roll, please, "adultery."

Huh?

In classic neo-con bait-and-switch style, Medved changes the subject, desperately wanting moviegoers to forget about the haunting and compelling love story portrayed between the cowboys in the movie. This was not a real heartland story but a pie-in-the-big-sky, agenda-based, Hollywood-inspired force-feeding. Medved even cleverly sidestepped the social reality of the times. In the early '60's high schools didn't have gay-straight alliance clubs, there weren't gay rodeo circuits or any number of positive organizations that would have lent support to such a union.

Instead Medved focused all his attention on **Brokeback's** adulterous cowboys, outraged that Hollywood portrayed such an immoral story. Following his logic, viewers had to set aside the yawning reality that adultery seems to be the theme of every other Red State Country Western song. Still, the conservative response to **Brokeback** translates into a quid pro quo equivalent of "No Special Rights II."

When unconventional gay storylines ignite the public imagination as **Brokeback Mountain** obviously has (the film broke industry records even in its limited engagement opening), conservatives rush to distract us away from the real message of this movie: That two men can fall in love, have a deep emotional and sexual connection spanning the entirety of their lives and that neither "chooses" this leaning. Certainly Medved doesn't want to see this theme resonate among moviegoers.



Spinning the subject toward adultery, conservative commentators like Medved rush to change the subject. If they can't divert our attention, they'll find themselves answering the same uneasy questions moviegoers across the country are bound to be asking. What logical reason does society have to prohibit the recognition and support of same-sex unions?

Destruction of family?

Not hardly. If anything, **Brokeback Mountain** demonstrates that many closeted gay men wouldn't pursue marriage if they felt they had other stable, culturally legitimate and socially recognized options to pursue. As **Brokeback Mountain** suggests, if society were more tolerant of gay relationships, two fundamentally dishonest marriages would have been avoided. Maybe in a different social climate, even a time like the present, the two frightened ranch hands would have permanently joined hands rather than try to deny themselves (and their loved ones) the legitimacy of their bond. Regardless of the what-ifs, **Brokeback** has the nation talking about what the film and same-sex love means.

Americans uniquely identify in one way or another with the independence and self-reliance of the American cowboy. Americans also understand the hard choices most relationships encounter. Expose these viewers to a relationship whose challenging dynamics they can visualize and understand and our sense of fairness overcomes our intolerance.

What conservatives fear most is that **Brokeback Mountain** will demonstrate that gay love stories are just as intense and romantic as their straight counterparts and as this Oscar and Golden Globe contending movie tragically explores, there is undeniable human fallout that results anytime we live closeted and secretive lives.

Spokane has recently seen plenty of proof detailing the carnage the closet defines. Now that's a meaty subject for Medved and his gang to really sink their conservative teeth into.

A writer, horseman, truck driver, and graduate of Seattle Pacific University and Lutheran Bible Institute of Seattle, Tim is the president of the Gay Truckers Association. For more in-depth information about him, visit www.highmountainranch.com, which won Web site of the Year from www.roadstaronline.com.

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National & International

News in a nutshell

Will EU Nation Ban Gay Marriage?

Vilnius (365.com) – Lithuania could become the second member of the European Union to ban same-sex marriage.

Irena Degutiene, a member of the conservative Homeland Union Party announced Monday she will begin collecting signatures in January to force the issue to a vote.

Lithuanian law already defines marriage as as union between a man and woman but Degutiene said that isn't enough. She said that Latvia did the right thing last week when it amended its constitution to bar gay marriage.

–Malcolm Thornberry

<http://365gay.com/Newscon05/12/122605lithuania.htm>

Gay kiss-in creates terrorism?

(Washington Blade) Pentagon officials spied on student groups opposed to the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" ban on openly gay military personnel, according to media reports.

A February protest at New York University was one of the events under government surveillance, NBC News reported last week.

The network reported that the law school's gay advocacy group, OUTlaw, was classified as "potentially violent" by the Pentagon.

–Andrew Keegan

<http://www.washblade.com/2005/12-23/news/national/pent-peep.cfm>

Tony Blair: Gay opposition was downright spiteful

UK (The Independent Online Edition) Across the country last month, hundreds of couples will be celebrating a major milestone in their lives. They will be followed by thousands more in the coming months as same sex couples take the opportunity to gain legal recognition and protection for their relationship.

<http://comment.independent.co.uk/commentators/article334427.ece>

Congress cuts AIDS programs

by Lou Chibbaro, Jr. (Excerpted from a larger article)

Abstinence funding increased

The DOH appropriations bill, meanwhile, calls for cuts in the fiscal year 2006 budget for the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention's HIV prevention programs. While approving the prevention cuts, Congress also approved an \$11-million increase in funding for President Bush's "abstinence-only-until marriage" AIDS education program.

AIDS activists charge that abstinence-only programs are ineffective in curtailing the spread of AIDS among at-risk populations, especially young people — both gay and straight.

"With most new HIV infections occurring in youth and women, particularly in communities of color, ignoring the effectiveness of prevention programs while allowing abstinence-only programs to promote ideology over science is negligent and puts young lives on the line," said David Harvey, executive director of the AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth & Families.

The Senate action on the budget reconciliation bill follows an announcement by House Republican leaders that the House would likely extend its holiday recess until the end of January.

This would give AIDS advocacy organizations and other groups opposed to the Medicaid cuts — including the politically influential American Association of Retired Persons — nearly a month to put pressure on moderate GOP House members as well as some Democrats to vote against the reconciliation bill.

If the House votes against the bill, Congressional leaders would be forced to go back to the drawing board

to devise a new version acceptable to opponents. AIDS groups are hoping the new version would eliminate or significantly reduce the Medicaid cuts.

"There is an effort to reduce the Medicaid cuts to the beneficiaries," Schmid said, referring to a proposal for reducing Medicaid expenses by trimming administrative costs.

Before the House and Senate votes on the budget reconciliation bill, a conference committee removed from the bill a clause calling for providing some Medicaid coverage to people with HIV through a pilot program. Under current Medicaid rules, people with HIV cannot qualify for Medicaid until they progress to full-blown AIDS.

AIDS activists argue that allowing people with HIV to obtain Medicaid coverage would save the government money by preventing the onset of AIDS among large numbers of people who lack health insurance. They cite data showing that it is less expensive to treat people with HIV, who usually remain healthy and capable of working, than it is to treat those with AIDS that often require hospitalization.

Ryan White also cut

The Dec. 21 Senate vote came two weeks after Congress approved a separate, fiscal year 2006 appropriations bill for the Department of Health & Human Services that cuts funding for AIDS prevention programs. The appropriations bill provides for a \$10-million increase in the Ryan White CARE Act program, but AIDS groups call that amount marginal and inadequate.

Lou Chibbaro can be reached at lchibbaro@washblade.com.

News in a nutshell

Gay 'marriage' battles rage on into third year

US (The Washington Times) –At least 16 states likely will wrestle with same-sex "marriage" in 2006 as the issue enters its third year at the forefront of national debate since Massachusetts' high court ordered the state to become the first in the country to "marry" homosexual couples.

As many as 10 states could see campaigns on amendments to uphold traditional marriage as the union of a man and a woman, while homosexual couples in seven states have filed lawsuits seeking the right to marry.

–Cheryl Wetzstein

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20051225-114001-1901r.htm>

US warns Emirates on gay arrests

Austin(gay.com) –A group of US House representatives sent a warning on Wednesday to the United Arab Emirates' ambassador in Washington about his government's "crackdown" against gay men.

"We must tell you that this kind of state-led effort to seek out and persecute adult gay men who are doing no harm to anyone is not the kind of behaviour we expect from an ally, and we urge you to stop it," read the letter to Ambassador al-Asri al-Dhahri.

–Christopher Curtis

<http://uk.gay.com/headlines/9415>

N.O. bars spared wrath, community center in peril

New Orleans (Houston Voice) A few conservative Christian leaders blamed gays for Hurricane Katrina, noting that it hit immediately before New Orleans' famed "Southern Decadence," a gay street party.

But in reality, they gayest parts of the Big Easy were about the only areas that weren't severely damaged by massive flooding from broken levees. And more than three months later, the New Orleans gay scene appears to be bouncing back faster than the rest of the city.

–Rex Wockner

<http://www.houstonvoice.com/2005/12-23/news/national/life.cfm>

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WHO'S ON FIRST?*continued from page 5***Rainbow Regional
Community Center**

Mission statement: The Rainbow Regional Community Center provides educational and support services to the GLBT community in the Inland Northwest.

Goals for 2006: The Rainbow Center is currently planning a restructuring of space so that we can more effectively serve our community and the groups that use the RRCC.

Wish List: Office supplies, paper towels and toilet paper.

Board of Directors (elected Dec. 2005)

Chair: Bonnie Aspen

Secretary: Lorin Miller

Treasurer: John Brindle

Members-at-Large:

Sharon O'Brien, Jeff Buckner

Contacts: 509/489-1914 or e-mail: info@spokanerainbowcenter.org.

Pride Foundation

Mission statement: Pride Foundation works to connect, inspire and strengthen the LGBT community through grants, scholarships and leadership development. The Pride Foundation Inland Northwest Steering Committee works to fulfill Pride Foundation's mission in Eastern Washington and North Idaho.

Wish List: Increased donations from residents of E. Washington and N. Idaho.

Inland Northwest Steering Committee

Chair: Jim Mohr

Members: Dan Brown, Diane Emehiser, Rosmond Langberg, Jenne Lee, Mary Maxfield, Bridget Potter, David Victor, Rose Wardian, Tammy Warren

Contacts: Kevan Gardner, Regional Outreach Manager, 509/327-8377, 888/575-7717 or e-mail: outreach@pridefoundation.org.

Spokane AIDS Network

Mission statement: The Spokane AIDS Network is a community based, nonprofit agency dedicated to minimizing the impact of, and maximizing awareness about, AIDS and other consequences of HIV infection on communities and individuals in the Inland Northwest.

Wish List: Free Web design services for the Lilac City Men's Project; graphics software (Adobe InDesign or similar); new furniture for lobby area; new meeting table

Board of Directors

President: Barrie Ryan

Vice president: Paul Tiesse

Secretary: Andrea Zacher

Treasurer: Lynn Hurley

Board members: Diane Crow, Jim Jones, John Matthews, Dale Severance, Michael Wernz

Board committees: fund development, board development, finance

Contacts: 509/455-8993 or e-mail: info@SpokaneAIDSNetwork.org.

**Quest Youth Group
aka The Gay Youth Association**

Mission: Inspiring, encouraging and supporting gay and bisexual youth in the Inland Northwest.

Goals for 2006: To start a youth group to serve and meet the needs of young bisexual and lesbian women, aged 18-25; to obtain a facility from which to operate our three youth groups (Quest, Quest H.S. and our new youth group for bisexual and lesbian young women); to expand our donor base and obtain more involvement from the community as a whole; to establish a crisis intervention program through which both youth and their parents can obtain the resources and counseling they need; to better advertise the Gay Youth Association and its programs and services to both Spokane as a whole and the Inland Northwest region; to hire additional staff to assist in day-to-day operations and to supervise our new youth group for lesbian and bisexual young women; to have Quest members log at least 1,500 hours of community service in the greater Spokane area in 2006.

Wish List: TV, DVD/VCR; copy machine/printer; computers; GLBT-themed resources, books for the library; office/meeting space for group operations; gift certificates (for rewarding successful youth).

Board of Directors

President: Casey Jackson

Vice President: Greg Stevens

Secretary: Josh Gana

Treasurer: Andrew Daniels

Youth liaison: Tyler Whitesides

Directors: Travis Mayfield, Betsy Ressa, Bruce Rogers, Tonia Schiffner, Jennifer Sweet, Susan Sweeney

Volunteers: Adult mentors, aged 27 years and older, men and women (bi, gay or straight); passionate about reaching out to/supporting youth; willing to attend training, submit to background check, abide by agency policies; able to participate in at least two events per month.

Contacts: 509/290-3519 or e-mail: ryan@questyouthgroup.org.

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“Family”

Pets, like children, need guidance as well as love

Family features by Catherine D. Willis

Lori McCallister’s “how we met” story unfolded as she described her work as a dog trainer. “I met her [partner Cheryl] in a dog training class. I was her instructor. ...I can picture it in my head exactly – where she was, the whole thing. She had a German shepherd who ended up being my German shepherd. We had four at one point,” she mused.

McCallister was born in rural Minnesota to a family that favored German shepherds. Her grandmother’s dog, Ivan, used to retrieve her from the cornfields as a toddler, gently grasping her arm and leading her back to the house.

“We always had wonderful dogs,” she recalled. In fact, she had no idea dogs could be as troubled as they sometimes are until she rescued a dog that had been abused by neighbors. They gave her the animal when she confronted them. The dog, Bazzle, was so traumatized it took McCallister one full year of weekly dog training classes to break her of her numerous unacceptable behaviors. “Every single thing you can think of that you wouldn’t want in a dog, she had,” she said. “But that’s how I learned.”

McCallister enjoyed the challenge and decided to cultivate her incipient talent. She has been a professional trainer for about a dozen years now. She is a board member and instructor at Lilac City Dog Training Club, is an Eastern Region Invisible Fence brand certified trainer and is endorsed by the National Association of Dog Obedience Instructors.

She is one of a handful of local professionals who provide home-based, private lessons. These run \$40-\$50 per session. But she is also available Saturdays at the Spokane County Regional Animal Care and Protection Services (SCRAPS) Shelter in the Spokane Valley – and her work there, one-to-one and group instruction, is cost-free to the public, whether or not the pet being trained was acquired there.

SCRAPS staff wants to place every dog that ends up in the shelter and keep others from being “released” by owners to the shelter. Pet owners give up their dogs for many reasons, she said, but many rejected animals have *correctable* behavior problems: They bark, they jump, they chew or they dig. These are “puppy behaviors” and generally reflect a lack of training, she explained.

“I’ve found that I don’t personally have to save them all. I can save some. The next person can save some. Thinking that you have to save every one yourself is too overwhelming. So you take the wins...”

– Lori McCallister

“When we get a dog in and it’s going up for adoption, we want to assess the dog to see what kind of a home, what would be a good ‘fit’ for the dog, so we can place the dog in a ‘forever’ home,” she

said. “A lot of dogs that come in have had no training at all. They’ve probably just been in a back yard.” She continued, “We don’t want to adopt dogs out that are going to be back yard ornaments. If they’re not going to be part of the family, I’ll try to talk people out of getting a dog. If they’re determined that they’re going to have a dog, then they must know how much work it’s going to be, how much time

“Spectacular, sweet-hearted dogs get put down because there aren’t enough homes.”

– Lori McCallister

they’re going to have to spend... and the expense.” Energy level is a key element of ‘fit.’ High-energy dogs are frequently released because owners cannot abide the dog’s elevated need for engagement. Temperament and trainability factor in as well.

Prospective pet owners should do their homework, McCallister advised. “Some people get the wrong dog.” Each breed has known characteristics, and it is difficult, if not impossible, to counter-

“Dogs are companion animals ...they don’t need a big yard. Dogs don’t run laps in their back yard.”

– Lori McCallister

train natural personality traits. “It takes nine days for a shelter dog to show its true self.” She added, “It’s three to six months before they get acclimated.” Most annoying propensities can be managed, however. The price is patience. “When everyone comes in the first night [of class], I say, if you can just tough it out for eight weeks, we can solve your main problem – whatever it is – with your dog. We can get a handle in eight weeks. If you want a stellar companion,

the kind of dog you can take anywhere, anytime, with no worries, it’s going to take a year. You have to plan on a year of training. Give it a year, once a week. Go to class.”

McCallister is passionate about the welfare of dogs, and is willing to go to great lengths to protect them.

She abhors “puppy mills” and once set up an undercover “sting” to catch those who exploit the canines she so loves. Friends, who feared for her safety, dissuaded her from actualizing her plan.

“An iffy dog with an oblivious owner is a lot more dangerous than a really aggressive dog with a skilled handler.”

– Lori McCallister

SCRAPS is a gay-friendly workplace with many GLBTQA employees.

McCallister wants Stonewall readers to know that there are many options

available to pet lovers in the community. She will present gay-only classes in the future, as she has in the past, if folks will communicate their interest to her. Leave a message at SCRAPS (see contact information on page 11).

PEtiquette is Teachable!

Adapted from an article by Lori McCallister and Patricia Simonet

The doorbell rings and your “well trained dog” barks ONCE to alert you and then sits calmly at the door, watching you and waiting for further instruction. You open the door, greet your guest and send your “well trained dog” to his bed to STAY while you and your guest have coffee.

Or is this more your reality? The bell sounds and before the reverberation has reached your ears, your dog has already lost a toenail getting enough traction to blow past you, sliding like a motocross racer into the front door. Barking at headache-decibel levels, he starts remodeling the molding on your front window. While struggling to push the dog out of the way, you open the door a crack, apologizing to your guest, who has by now made the mistake of stepping inside your home.

The “mugging” starts. Your guest, trying her best to be polite, smiles while she scuffles with your dog as she makes her way into your kitchen. Then the dog leaps upon the dining table, devours the hors d’oeuvres and spills the coffee.

If you want to achieve scenario one, you will need to provide your dog with the appropriate tools and skills to be the angel dog that he truly is. These tools or skills, taught in small steps, are a few simple commands that represent a powerful arsenal:

- Quiet (i.e., don’t bark or whine)
- Doorway Control (i.e., wait)
- Sit for Petting
- Leave It
- Go to Bed or Down/Stay

Desired behaviors can be taught using gentle, positive methods. For example, to teach WAIT at the door,

you must walk to the door, ask the dog to sit, give a stay command (open palm in front of the dog’s face), and pivot to the front of your dog, then invite your dog to follow you to the door. At the door, repeat the stay command. Open and close the door and give the dog big praise and a super-deluxe treat for staying in position. Each time you do this, the dog learns that doing as he is told earns rewards and the privilege of accompanying you to the door.

Each of these basic behaviors is taught in a similar fashion, in little steps, until you can put them all together, and your dog can deliver a polite greeting at the door.

You can teach each behavior as a stand-alone action, using fun and games, treats and praise.

If you want to learn how to teach your dog these skills, visit us at SCRAPS Shelter and look for our PETiquette Training Series in our lobby literature rack. We have dog trainers to assist you with your training questions every Saturday from 1:00-4:30 p.m. Private consultations with dog trainers are available by appointment each Saturday, and group classes are offered on the first and third Saturday of each month (except for holiday weekends).

Lori McCallister is the canine behavior professional featured on this page. She lives on Five Mile Prairie with her partner, two teenagers, two rescued kittens, three adopted German shepherds and a fish named Indy.

Patricia Simonet is a research scientist and applied animal behaviorist with more than 20 years of training experience. Simonet holds professional memberships in the Animal Behavior Society, the American Psychological Association and Delta Society. She lives in Spokane with her husband, three dogs, two cats and two birds.

Two civic-minded men, a dog, and a memory

A photograph in Marvin "Marvo" Reguindin's downtown office caught Stonewall publisher Mike Schultz's eye a few weeks ago, and he mentioned it in a staff meeting when the topic of pets as family arose. (A version of the picture is reproduced on this page.)

"They're my children," Reguindin declared. "Paul (Tiesse, his partner) will tell you—he has said, 'Well, you know that your dogs come before I do' and I've said, 'yes.'"

Asked if he really meant that, he responded emphatically, "Yes... I had them before he came along."

He used the plural pronoun them several times in the course of the interview, though one of his beloved canines, Elroy, died a couple of years ago. His presentation suggested a dynamic common among parents who've lost children: They often hold onto the deceased by continuing to speak of them in the present tense.

Andre, the dog he dotes upon now, has assumed a wholly different character since Elroy's departure, explained Reguindin. "Elroy had a big personality. ...Elroy basically ruled the house. He was always the one that wanted to go do something and Andre was secondary to him, but after Elroy passed away, then Andre's personality came out. And now he's pretty demanding himself, in his own way. He's not quite like Elroy."

Tiesse wore an expression of patient amusement as he listened to this exchange, and eventually shared his less saccharine perspective. "I grew up with animals. They're part of the family but they're not the family."

He continued, "I grew up with dogs and cats, chipmunks, turtles, fish, birds – you name it, we had it ... I grew up with the farm mentality. Cats and dogs live outside. They didn't live in the house. Their job is to get rid of predators."

Born in Wenatchee, Tiesse has lived most of his life in Spokane, where his family ran a grocery store, not a farm (though his parents hail from Deer Park and own a farm in Hartline). Nevertheless, he developed a pragmatic attitude toward pet ownership. "I think



"Andre (the Newfoundland, above) has clothes, little boots. The dog's got everything..." teased Paul Tiesse (above right), but Marvo Reguindin (above left) noted later, "He dotes on Andre just as much as I do."

animals are a real responsibility," he said, and he likened a puppy to a helpless baby. He spoke of the care needs of dogs and wondered whether it made sense for busy single people to go out and get a dog and then leave it cooped up in a basement all day.

A reference to the billions of dollars Americans spend on food, clothing, toys and assorted services for their pets almost sparked some discord between Tiesse and Reguindin when the former raised the notion that the devotion of dogs may make them more appealing to love-starved humans than other humans.

"Oh, so that means I don't love you enough?" Reguindin returned.

Tiesse backtracked slightly. "No, I didn't say that..."

The two have been together for eight years and earlier laughingly referred to themselves as "an old couple." They were speaking of their tendency to forget things, or to remember events quite differently, but they also engaged in the testy banter often observed in folks who have been together long enough to know each other's weaknesses.

Reguindin's version of their meeting emanated from an AIDS walk fund-

raiser he participated in; Tiesse was serving on the sponsoring agency's board, or perhaps the event committee. Afterward, the organization sent our thank-yous to contributors. Tiesse scribbled a personal note on the one he sent Reguindin: "Do you want to have dinner?"

Tiesse's recollection centered on his attempt to get Reguindin to go to a bar with him, which Reguindin wouldn't do. So he asked him to dinner instead.

"You did," Reguindin affirmed. "You wrote me a note."

Both men are active in business and community groups, a reflection on values both hold dear. "We'll disagree about a lot of things, but one of the things that we have in common is that we both give back to the community," said Reguindin.

Tiesse is the vice president of the board of directors of the Inland Northwest Business Alliance and a director of the group's newly formed scholarship program, INBA Outreach. He also serves on several committees within both organizations.

Vice president of the Spokane AIDS Network board, he sits on the annual Oscar event committee and is

responsible for the Hollywood portion of the auction. He is a member of Friends of SAN as well.

In addition, he has been involved with Knights of Columbus and with the Southeast Lions Club.

Reguindin is a director and past president of INBA, co-chair of its offshoot Vision Committee and the creative force behind INBA's annual business directory for the past 10 years. He is a member of the African-American, Hispanic, Asian, Native American business and professional association (AHANA), the Spokane Public Relations Council, the Spokane Advertising Club and the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. He just completed his second and final term with the Spokane Downtown Partnership.

Both belong to the Human Rights Campaign and to the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD).

Unlike Tiesse, who's lived all but one year of his life in the Inland Northwest, Reguindin has called many places home. His father came from the Philippines and joined the U.S. Navy to attain citizenship and build a career for himself and his family. Reguindin was born in Seattle but resided in San Diego for much of his youth. He went away to college, California State University, Fullerton, to facilitate his coming out, and remained in the Greater Los Angeles area after graduation. Then he moved to Missoula, Mont., and, in 1991, to Spokane.

Reguindin owns Thinking Cap, an award-winning graphic design firm, and is an adjunct instructor in the School of Business at Gonzaga University.

A graduate of Washington State University, Tiesse has been a real estate agent in Spokane for 20 years. He takes an active interest in local politics, regularly attends city council meetings, and writes to council members whenever issues inspire him.

Andre handles home security for Reguindin. The partners are considering a home purchase when they can find the time to locate a mutually satisfying abode.

Looking to adopt a canine or feline friend?

You don't have to put out big bucks to grow your 'family.' All you need is a loving heart and, as Lori McCallister stated, a lot of patience.

Spokane County Regional Animal Care & Protection Services
2521 N. Flora Road
509/477-2532
www.spokanecounty.gov

Spokanimal Shelter
710 N. Napa St.
509/534-8133
www.spokanimal.org

Spokane Humane Society
6607 N. Havana St.
509/467-5236
www.SpokaneHumaneSociety.org

Kootenai Humane Society
11650 N. Ramsey Rd., Hayden, Idaho
208/772-4019
www.spokanecounty.gov

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

by Christopher Lawrence

Cowboy tale opens hearts, changes American minds

Brokeback Mountain

by Annie Proulx

Random House, 64 pages

I realize that most of America and the world, for that matter, have been hearing more about this movie than all the other movies combined for some time. Nevertheless, I think it is important to understand that it was this groundbreaking short story that started the train of events leading us to the present fuss and notoriety – to the 'ground zero' of the highly controversial movie by the same name.

Who could have dreamed that this woman, well into her 80's, would write a story that might change the minds and hearts of millions of people worldwide about the true nature of same-sex love/orientation?

Just a few short years ago, this woman, who was raised in the Midwest, wrote an incredible and exquisitely painful story of love that springs up between two cowboys tending a herd of sheep on Brokeback Mountain during one harsh winter.

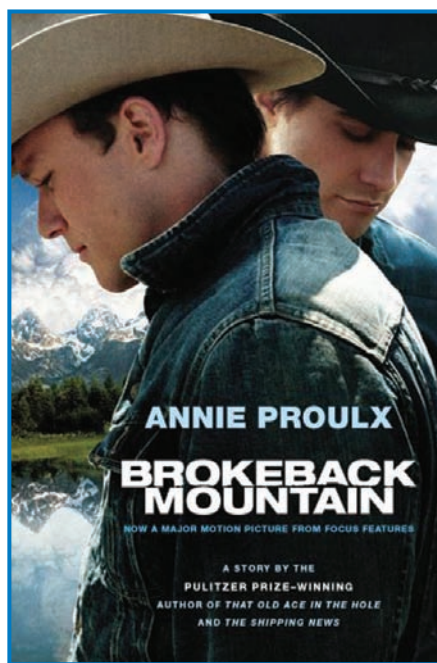
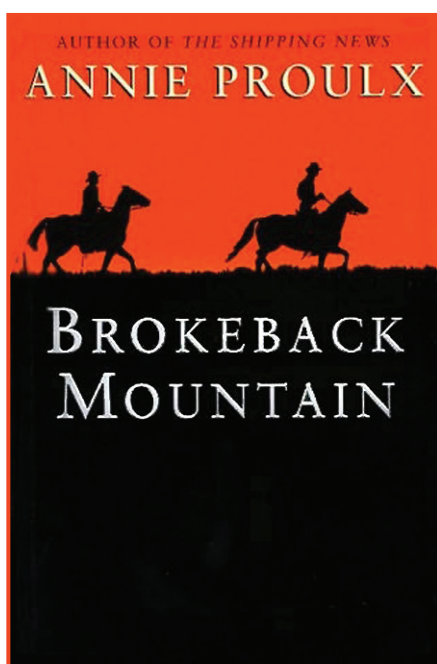
The dialogue and text are hard-hitting and passionate.

According to the author, Proulx (pronounced Proo), this was to be one of three or four stories about offbeat and difficult love situations, but she never wrote any of the others. "I had to get away from it. It just got too intense, and too much on my mind. That's when I wrote the book *That Old Ace in the Hole*, but I may have to write the other stories just to clear my mind, as it were. As it is right now, it stands out rather like a sore thumb in comparison to the rest of the work, so I think I have to do those other stories."

Annie Proulx has written some of the most original and brilliant short stories in contemporary literature, and for many readers and reviewers, *Brokeback Mountain* is her masterpiece. She has earned 18 awards for her writing, including a Pulitzer Prize. Ten separate honors, fellowships, grants and residencies have been bestowed on her for her thoughtful work.

One of my friends, after reading the story said: "I couldn't believe how much detail she crammed into those 64 pages." I must agree.

How amazing is it for us to see a phenomena that could make sweeping



changes in how same-sex orientation is viewed? Not only is this a landmark short story, it is a landmark movie and may be a cultural touchstone.

As for the movie version, credit must also go to Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana, who prepared the screenplay, and director Ang Lee, because they fleshed out the details and managed to stay completely true to the characters, style and ambience of this gritty, rural Midwest cowpoke experience.

The two ranch hands, Ennis del Mar and Jack Twist, are played respectively by Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal. From everything reported, these two young actors moved beyond the labels and saw this truly as a love story.

Ang Lee has always been an ally of the gay community. I cannot recall any film he has ever made that did not demonstrate his commitment to creating equality.

How refreshing is it to see a representation of our gay community that has been invisible for so long? No stereotyping of gay here. Homophobia is addressed by these cowboys in such a familiar way, that most of us can empathize no matter how 'femme' or 'butch' we may choose to be.

I believe that we all need community and this may encourage enough of a change in society to see that we are all part of one community.

To recognize it has garnered seven Golden Globe Award nominations, the most for any film this year, is only to scratch the surface of its success. The Los Angeles Film Critics association named it best picture of the year and Ang Lee best director. Altogether, *Brokeback* has received 24 awards at various film festivals from Venice to San Francisco to Dallas to New York.

Focus Features, the production arm of Universal Studios that is in charge of

Brokeback is staggering the release in order to keep the buzz alive, which in turn is helping to ensure that it will reach markets like Spokane. In Seattle, lines are forming all the way around the block for every showing. AMC Theaters tells me that it will reach our market in late January or early February.

Paul Tiesse, featured in our 'Family' section, recommends that we call the manager of AMC and ask for it to be brought here sooner. I am told the AMC people in charge of that decision are reachable in Kansas City (that's (Brokeback) Mountain Time) at 1 (800) 262-4849.

If enough of us voice our encouragement we might actually have it sooner so, MAKE THAT CALL!

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. and visitors are welcome.

Upcoming reviews include: *All the Bold Days of My Restless Life* by Sharon Stone on Jan. 4 (Stonewall review on page 13) and *Line of Beauty* by Alan Hollinghurst on Feb. 1.

Two Nights OUT

The Lion King was amazing. The performers and crew gave us their all, musically, visually and through sheer force of energy. The entire cast seemed steeped in the culture of Africa (as interpreted by Broadway, of course) and the flavors of this incredible offering still tease me in retrospect. The pageantry and puppetry blended into a consummate production that packed the Opera House for a month's worth of shows. Cast members were seen cavorting and mixing with Spokane's gay nightlife and reported that Spokane was a beautiful and memorable city with the friendliest natives.

The next week I went to see *The Fantasticks* at interPLAYERS with our music reviewer. We enjoyed John Frazier as El Gallo, the lothario-like narrator, and both Troy Nickerson and Christopher Bange were standouts in a cast full of talent (some with really good vocal skills). Bange, as the mute, proved that good acting is not necessarily reflected in the lines one speaks.

The sets at interPLAYERS are often sparse and the audience is invited through the actions of the characters to fill in what could not be created. This works fine, but it would be nice to see a greater budget for props and music. interPLAYERS operates on a shoestring, as do many of our Inland Northwest theaters, and would fare better with stronger patronage by the local community.

Abba's exciting *Mamma Mia!* is the next Broadway favorite headed our way. The show opens at the Opera House Jan. 3 and runs through Jan. 8.

A reader's theater presentation of *To Kill a Mockingbird* will run from Jan. 12 through 16 at interPLAYERS.



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

Showing: *Eating Out* at 7:15 on January 10
Tickets \$5

Drawings to win Theater Tickets for current productions each month and more!

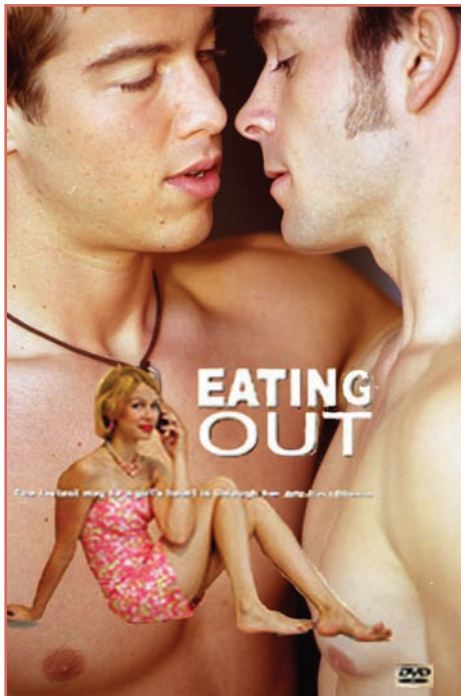
1017 West First Street (ph) 74-STAGE

Eating Out

Writer/Director Q. Allan Brocka

Posh Pictures, 90 minutes

The story line might have come straight (you should pardon the expression) from the secret diaries of a mad psychiatrist. After all, if you are one 'hunky hetero' guy who wants to meet a girl, what else WOULD you do except pretend to be gay in order to attract a woman who seems to fall for gay men?



Somewhere in all this hilarity one might imagine Rock Hudson turning over in his grave that this story line runs parallel with so many of the screwball and equally illogical romantic comedies he shared with Doris Day.

Caleb, played by Scott Lunsford, is still feeling a bit injured from his last bad relationship and wants to meet a nice girl, so he goes to a party with his gay best friend and roommate Kyle, portrayed by Jim Verraros, a first season "American Idol" finalist who wrote and performed most of the fresh songs in the film's soundtrack.

When Caleb sees Gwen (Emily Stiles) throw her latest gay boyfriend out of the bedroom, Kyle explains to Caleb that Gwen only seems to like gay boys and he convinces Caleb he must pretend to be gay to get Gwen's attention...and it does.

Caleb is so convincing that Gwen decides to fix Caleb up with HER best gay friend, Marc, played by Ryan Carnes, whom you may remember as Justin the muscled and smooth, super-stud gay gardener on "Desperate Housewives."

The phone sex scene is great and if you keep your eyes open you will get to see brief full frontal nudity.

As with many Indie films, some of the acting is uneven and the cinematography mirrors the low budget and 10-day shooting schedule.

Still, the results are often comical and it's 90 minutes of enjoyable scenery. Grab some popcorn and put your feet up.

What is fresh, gay and heard all over?

This has been an unprecedented year for growth in gay media sources, some of which I have explored in previous issues. This is the latest information:

LOGO, the only 24/7 Gay television channel, is only available on Direct TV in this area, so feel free to call and request it from DISH Network and Comcast Cable or do it online if you prefer.

Here!TV is available through Comcast On Demand, Direct TV on Ch. 190 and DISH TV on Ch. 537 at \$3.99 per show, but has some excellent programming as well.

GayTV which is a regularly scheduled Gay News Hour on FSTV (an equality network with accurate national and international news and is available only on DISH on Ch. 9415

Some of you may wonder why we should care about gay programming at all. Seeing and hearing others in our community can remind us that we have power and worth. Many of your youth live in constricted and closeted environments and need to have a wide variety of role models and ideas to help them find a diverse community and become the people they are meant to be. ...And to be downright honest, queers are remarkably creative entertainers who

can present a compelling alternative perspective on almost anything.

On January 14, 2006, we can welcome the first national, gay commercial radio brand, "TWIST." Created for a target audience of gay men and lesbians and those who love them, the weekly two-hour show will offer "Radio with a TWIST" on key stations and on the Internet everywhere at AOL Radio.

Matt Farber, the brains behind the new programming, is president of Wilderness Media and Entertainment and is also the founder of LOGO.

Hosts Dennis Hensley, Will Wikle and Melissa Carter will feature music, celebrity interviews and entertainment reports, along with relationship and lifestyle experts, advice and news in a 'morning show' format.

L.A.-based Dennis Hensley is an accomplished writer and a Hollywood insider who recently appeared in "Kathy Griffin: My Life on the D-List" as one of Kathy's 'gays.'

Will Wikle is a "Big Brother" alum and host of LOGO's "Round Trip Ticket" and former *Instinct* magazine cover boy. I am talking easy on the eyes and the ears.



Melissa Carter is known and loved from "The Bert Show" on Q100 as America's first OUT lesbian on a major morning radio show.

Some of the weekly features will include:

"The Big Gay 5" – a countdown of the week's top five songs as selected by TWIST listeners; "Ask Maya" – relationship, dating and coming out advice from therapist Maya Kollman; "Famous Friend" – gay or 'gay adjacent' celebrity guests; "Spotlight On" – a highlight segment on a U.S. city with the 'must-dos' and 'must-sees' for gay visitors; "This Week in Gay History" – reviews of headlines and chart-toppers from years past; "TWIST Tips" – information and commentary from experts in a variety of lifestyle areas, from financial and legal matters to entertainment and fashion advice; and "Coming Out Party" – a featured song from a new gay or lesbian artist. Sounds like a great round up to me.

For more information, visit www.RadioWithATwist.com

While we are on the subject of gay radio, don't forget that "OUT Loud Gay Youth Radio" is featured locally on KYRS 95.3 FM every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. and in Kettle Falls on KITR 101.5 FM Saturdays at 6 p.m. and Sundays at 8 a.m.

If you enjoy a favorite gay media not mentioned, please drop me a line: a-e@stonewallnews.net

NEW Pride & Joy Movie Night

...is offered as an alternative social venue for the GLBTQA community on the second Tuesday of each month.

Join us on Jan. 10 for the 6 p.m. social and 7:15 p.m. showing of *Eating Out*, a gay bedroom farce with handsome hunks, bare chests and where confusion reigns above all the laughter.

Ticket holders for Pride & Joy Movie Night are offered drink specials, a 25 percent discount on all food from *ella's Supper Club* and drawings for free theater tickets and more.

The privilege of watching a primarily gay film with an amiable group of diverse types from the gay community is very freeing and enjoyable. Bring some friends and join us at the 'family-friendly' CenterStage Theater for a great evening.

A POPE FOR GAY MARRIAGE

Did his struggle for homosexual rights cost him his life?

look for "Murder in the Vatican" Auntie's Books • 402 W. Main • Spokane

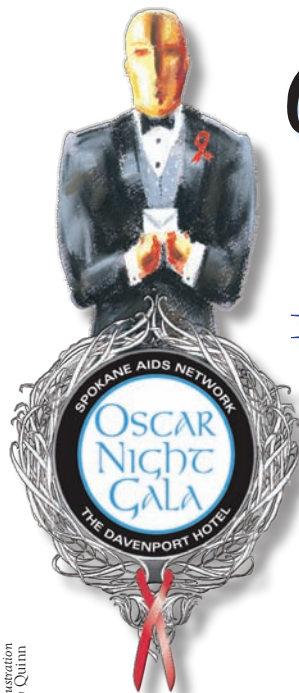
You are invited to the Spokane AIDS Network

8th Annual

Oscar Night Gala

at the Historic Davenport Hotel

Sunday, March 5, 2006



Doors open at 5:00 pm

Live Academy Awards Telecast at 5:30 pm

Elegant Plated Dinner at 6:30 pm

Silent Auction

Formal evening attire recommended

Tickets \$125 per person

Twenty years of serving the Inland Northwest, reducing the impact of HIV and AIDS
... for more info visit our website at www.SpokaneAIDSNetwork.org

REVIEWS & PREVIEWIEWS

BOOKS & VIDEOS

Christopher Lawrence, A & E Editor

Slutty Summer

by Casper Andreas

TLA Releasing, 85 minutes

This film is billed as a 'somewhat romantic comedy.' The title suggests that this might be in the pornography 'genre,' but far from seamy, it is more reminiscent of a VERY low-budget version of a gay "Sex in the City."

Andreas, the writer and director, also stars in this tale of a young gay writer whose lover has cheated on him. In an attempt at personal repair, he leaves the cad and takes a job as a waiter for the summer, where he finds himself surrounded by co-workers who draw him into the overlapping worlds of dating and casual sex. He has forgotten how to navigate and he has clearly stumbled onto a 'somewhat' truth about being young and single.

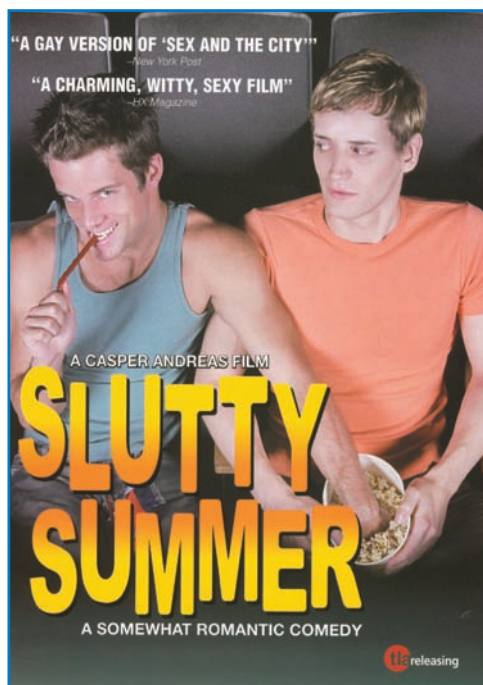
A diverse group of characters represent a partial spectrum of single models/actors/waiters living in a metropolis. The cynical, romantic and the needy are all equally, but not deeply examined. Even the fear of commitment rears its familiar head for life lessons.

Plenty of skin and passion are displayed as well as some of the seamier sides of meaningless encounters. It certainly takes the chill away from watching characters who seem to be playing life as if there were no consequences. Most of the acting is fair, if not always consistent.

Still, it is a sweet effort and the plot itself is intelligent enough to overlook minor distractions.

Andreas has a slight Swedish accent and his acting is above average for this kind of film. His writing might have been better served had someone else done the editing. The cinematography is less than even. But this first directorial effort is laudable.

Expect a light evening of comedy that is more than 'somewhat' worth seeing. I have a notion that we may be re-discovering a couple of these actors in future productions as their talents become more highly polished. -C. L.



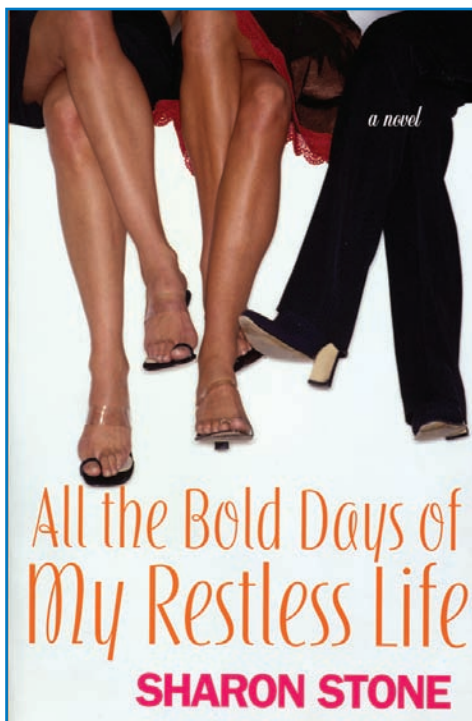
All the Bold Days of My Restless Life

by Sharon Stone

Alyson Books, 244 pages

What could be campier than the soap opera life of a soap opera writer? In the hands of a less talented storyteller, such a premise might fall painfully flat, but veteran Hollywood scribe Sharon Stone (not the actress!) pulls it off with sassy style, clever word choice and, in places, laugh-out-loud humor.

"All the Bold Days of My Restless Life" has been a daytime ratings giant for the NBS television network for 30 years. Bailey Connors has headed up the show's writing team for six years. Things have gone well in the current season, thanks to the casting of the aging but revered movie great,



Morgan Gable, a viewer favorite. Unfortunately, the soap's longtime headliner, Derek Young, resents his co-star's enormous popularity, so Bailey's crew has to rework half a year's worth of storylines in a couple of months to satisfy the impetuous top dog's unyielding demands. Intrigue follows.

Work stresses are nothing compared to Bailey's love-life problems. Having just lost her girlfriend, the bereft writer turns to her staff assistant, a gay Mr. Fixit not unlike one of the "Queer Eye" guys, who sets about finding her the perfect match.

Well-meaning Peter Dalton, it turns out, is the matchmaker from hell. Bailey endures three absurd dates, each worse than the last.

At 38, she is a brilliant and successful wordsmith, but no one would mistake her for a glamour babe. Bailey's pear shape

gets considerable attention; the constant big-butt jokes at first annoy then become an accepted, even endearing, part of the novel's charm. It's refreshing to encounter a heroine with less-than-ideal dimensions and everyday foibles we all can relate to.

Bailey's turbocharged libido leads her down paths others would not travel. Silly surrounding circumstances give the sexual elements a soap opera feel, the author's intent, it would seem.

Classy literature this is not, but soaps are supposed to be over-the-top and peopled by wacky characters we can love and hate and cheer and berate with joyful abandon. Stone delivers. The narrative moves forward at a pleasant pace and in the end leaves the reader smiling.

-C.D. Willis

The Hole

by Walsh West

TLA Releasing, 80 minutes

Whether or not you have seen the nerve-wracking, high-anxiety horror film, *The Ring*, there is a lot to enjoy in this humorous gay send-up of that classic Japanese story. The original premise was that anyone who watched an urban legend video and seeing an image of the 'ring' would immediately receive a mysterious phone call telling them that they were doomed to die within seven days.

West, who also directed *The Fluffer*, twists the tale into an urban legend video that, when any handsome, muscle jock has seen the image of the 'hole' while watching it would immediately receive a phone call that in exactly seven days, they were doomed to be gay.

The HORROR of it all!

The story is clever and works well. The humor is in the dialogue and not the delivery as with many films that try to reach a sexually sophisticated queer audience. This tongue-in-(errr)cheek take-off is easy on the eyes. All the men have extraordinarily beautiful bodies, fabulous tans and are generously endowed. One or two of the bodybuilder/pornstar/actors really should consider discontinuing the use of steroids so that their skin can shed that tell-tale texture of 'roid' acne. On the whole, they are boy-next-door, drop-dead-gorgeous hunks who portray to the best of their limited ability the fear of being turned gay. The results are hilarious.

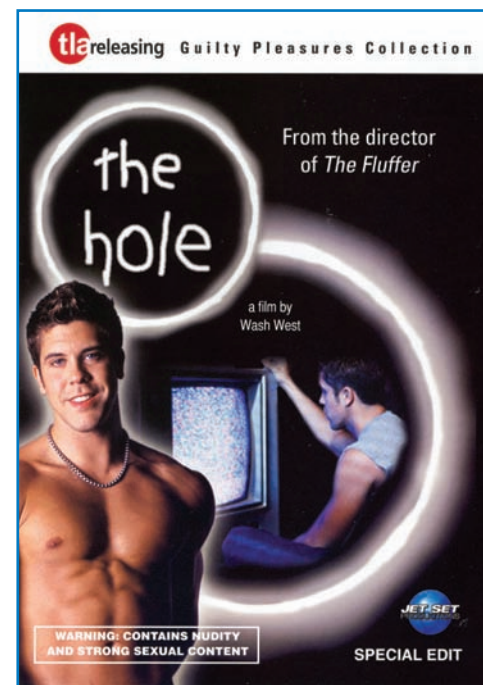
The 'acting' clearly becomes moot during the sex scenes, which are very similar to what we have seen in *"Queer as Folk."* Long, undulating, throbbing interludes of lust, full of steam and sweat (as each of them succumbs to their gay affliction), but without showing any money shots or actual handling of forbidden 'equipment.' The story moves back to the plot and the search for answers.

Is it possible that if they find the origin of the video they can stop this horrible affliction from taking over their lives?

Some of the dialogue contains clever intentions, bringing to light the bigotry of how so many heterosexuals seem to regard homosexuality. These intentions do work and all of the humor that bubbles through helps to mask the less than stellar

talent of the cast. I will leave it to you to find out what talents these guys have in abundance. I must assure you that it is worth the price of the video to experience them.

You may find that you can't get through the whole plot in one viewing. Then again, this can also serve as a lusty tool for reawakening that romantic flame between you and yours. It may be carnal but if your sensibilities are not in tune with the raunchier variety of such films, this may just do the 'trick.' -C.L.



REVIEWS & PREVIEW

MUSIC

Reviews by Graham Ames

The Breakthrough

Mary J. Blige
Geffen Records

It is the final track on Mary J. Blige's seventh studio album, ***The Breakthrough***, which proved to be the key for my rock-and-roll hearing. Hearing her "soul hip-hop queen" vocal skills applied to U2's "One," I suddenly comprehended Blige's genius. She took this tired, overplayed anthem and breathed a life into it that had me stunned once again at its lyrical and musical power.

This vocal intensity is present on every one of the 16 tracks, making for an impressive, if perhaps exhausting, listen. Blige is head-over-heals in love, and a lot of this album celebrates that love, albeit always with the penchant for introspection and questioning for which MJB is known. Blige declared "No More Drama" a few years ago, and the resulting peace in her life has allowed her to dig into inner conflicts and the theatrics found in life's quieter moments.

Melodic hip-hop, classic Motown, Aretha-style vocals that carry the listener along – there is no limit to the musical territory Blige sets out to conquer. Working with producers such as Will.i.am (Black Eyed Peas) and Jimmy Jam & Terry Lewis (Janet Jackson), MJB weaves deeply textured melodies over a hip-hop base of samples, always with surprising results.

Blige is an artist I know more by reputation than her body of work. Crawling around in this album has opened my ears to an enormous talent. If ***The Breakthrough*** represents a new turn in MJB's career, I am very happy to have come across her just now. Over the course of 70 minutes, she reminded me how much power and emotion can be contained in the human voice.

<http://www.mjblige.com/>



Morningwood

Morningwood
Capitol Records

Declaring an age of "Nü Rock" with the demand, "Come on, get over it. Come on, get into it. It starts right now!" Chantal Claret dares you to ignore this popular New York City quartet's debut album. Their loud, brash, punk pop rock is impossibly infectious. These 11 tracks

swagger and pose their way out of your speakers and set up party headquarters in your brain.

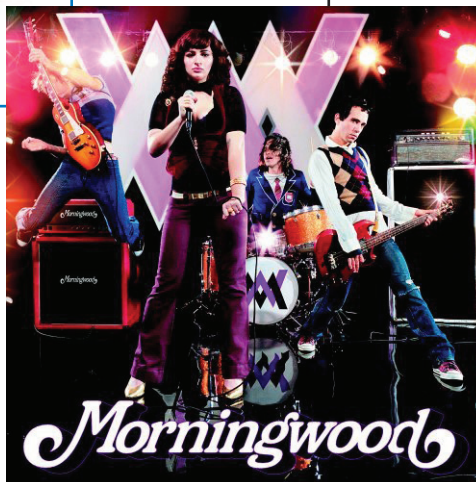
"Take Off Your Clothes" nearly becomes too nasty by its

end, never deviating from the central demand of its title. "Nth Degree" is such a classy piece of dance pop, who cares if it is almost Archie's bubblegum sweet? The nearly psychedelic "Body 21" maintains its surprisingly punk core, and "Babysit" has a cheeky lewdness provided by Claret's onstage persona.

Claret brazenly fronts the band, with Pedro Yanowitz on bass (formerly a drummer for Wallflowers), ex-Cibo Matto drummer John Paul Keenon O, and Spacehog veteran Richard Steele on guitar. Their live shows have drawn responses running from instant convert to repulsed out the door. I can't wait to see them play live, based on what I've heard so far.

With musicians who are simultaneously inventive and retro, this is playful, sexual, party music. Just look at the band's self-description – "a monster truck having sex with a Bond girl." Who am I to argue? ***Morningwood*** will be hitting store shelves January 10. I suggest you rock into the new year with your own copy and decide for yourself.

<http://www.morningwoodrocks.com>



Aerial

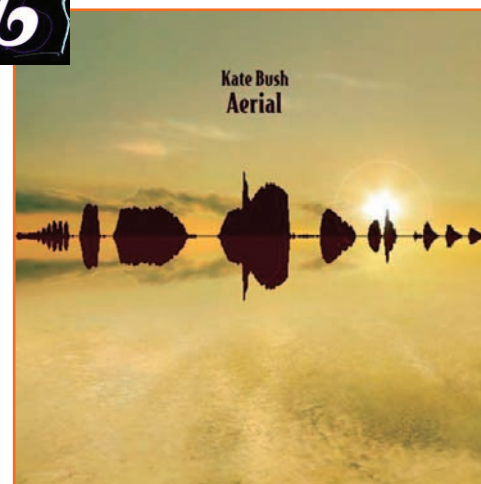
Kate Bush
Columbia Records

When a friend recently asked me, "So, what's this about a new Kate Bush album?" I responded with skepticism. It has been 12 years since Kate last released any new material. The only news received from her was that she was leading a private life, raising her son, and didn't want to be thrust back before the public eye. Imagine my surprise when I was actually holding a copy of ***Aerial***, Kate's new double-album release.

Kate's musical legacy is much larger than her recording catalog. She paved the way for artists such as Tori Amos, Alanis Morissette and Dido, and has been cited as influential by a wide range of acts, from Coldplay to Jewel. She has cross-pollinated her craft by working with Peter Gabriel, Eric Clapton, David

Gilmour, even Prince. And now, after an absence so extended that most had assumed she retired, she offers up this 16-track, two-part work so delightful and delicious it's easy to forget she was ever even gone.

Disc 1 ("A Sea Of Honey") is seven tracks, each meditating on a different, perhaps



obscure, topic such as Elvis Presley ("King Of The Mountain"), the calculation of π , a washing machine or Joan Of Arc. The soaring beauty and whimsy of these songs alone would make for a welcome listen. But it is "A Sky Of Honey," the second disc, where we remember why we love Kate. The nine-track concept album chronicles an afternoon's fade into sunset, night, and on until dawn with contagious joy, delight, wonder

and humor. The shifting textures of music reveal the emotion of the moment so clearly I am reminded of Debussy's remarks about music being able to portray color. As the BBC's Darren Waters writes, disc 2 "is the album Pink Floyd might have made if Kate Bush had been their lead singer and lyricist in 1979."

Aerial is a welcome, triumphant return for Kate. She once again reminds the listener of just how expansive and quirky music can be, proving her genius has not burnt itself out. Instead, she has composed her self-imposed role of mother and housewife into a deeply satisfying examination of life and how small moments become big ones when lived with understanding and joy.

<http://www.katebush.com/>

Chicken Little

Walt Disney Records

If it didn't wear the Disney brand, I would swear this album is subversive. Fifteen tracks, nine of which are just good rock-and-roll tunes. Parents, break them in early with the likes of Barenaked Ladies, Five For Fighting, Diana Ross and R.E.M. Even the cast karaoke remakes of "Wannabe" and "Don't Go Breaking My Heart" aren't terrible. Rounding out the album are six instrumental tracks from the movie score, each a clever pastiche on a different scoring style, but none of which really stands out. In all, a great CD to have if there are kids around. They're never too young to learn "It's The End Of The World As We Know It (And I Feel Fine)."

<http://disney.go.com/disneyrecords/soundtracks/chickenlittle/index.html>



Be Our Guest

Locker room gay

by Rebekah Largent

There is a nasty rumor going around in schools all over America. Everywhere, teenagers are believing that gay kids are staring at them and lusting after them in the locker room. They live in fear that they will either be exposed as being gay or that a homosexual will throw a heated stare their way. They try to root out who it may be, using tests of either masculinity or femininity similar to the Salem witch trials. I remember almost losing the friendship of a popular friend because I could not appropriately apply eyeliner in the car. In 8th grade if you didn't own enough pairs of ankle-length socks you were assumed to be too masculine. I never knew what the next test could be. I was always on the defensive.

Eversince I was subjected to changing for gym class I have believed in the "speed change." Glancing only at my own smelly gym clothes, I zip and tie, the goal being to limit the amount of time my own body is exposed to mere milliseconds. I pretty much dread the locker room, and that leaves no time for lusting of any sort.



Most gay and bisexual teens I have talked to feel the same way. For some, the fear is compounded because after changing into athletic gear they have to engage in athletics. I, for one, believe firmly that my volleyball teammates counted me as a negative player and thought I would have been more productive to them as a weight holding the net down.

But I have broken conventional rules of gayness in the locker room. I came out.

What is a locker room full of girls to think of a girl who likes girls? The rumors have always been there, but that was more for inflicting pain on a social outcast than for actually rooting out a queer.

When I first started taking gym class at my new school, nothing was different from when I was in the closet. I hate changing and I am terrible at sports.

But then the rumors started to trickle down that I was gay. I got a few extra

looks then, not a lot. But I'm not shy, and if people ask me I will tell them. Now anyone who cares to know simply asks.

People could say, "Girl, you are so gay."

And instead of defending myself I'd just say, "Yeah, so?"

I am stared at in the locker room. It's awkward, almost like people have never seen a girl change before.

No, I don't have a neon sign on my back which brightens up to say "lesbian." No, my underwear is not made of flannel. Yes, my gym clothes are dorky.

So I was thinking, if one were to go by stereotypes, a good number of the girls in my class are gayer than me. After all, they are the ones staring at a changing female.

I know eventually I will cease to be interesting or fun to look at. All I can hope is for that day to come before we choose up sides for kick ball.

Rebekah Largent is a senior at North Central High School in Spokane and an active participant in the Odyssey Youth Center. She plans to begin her studies at Spokane Falls Community College and eventually intends to become a lawyer.

The Stonewall invites organizations and individuals representing GLBTQA-friendly interests to submit for consideration items suited to the "Be Our Guest" column or "In My Opinion" (Voices).

Pre-written articles are welcome, but there is no guarantee of publication and no payment. Queries: editor@stonewallnews.net

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ERW GEARED UP

continued from page 1

A rally on the steps of the Capitol is scheduled for 11:45 a.m. Participants from all parts of Washington are expected to gather, their civil rights messages punctuated by the famed tone and harmony of the Seattle Men's and Women's Chorus.

Attendees will have an opportunity to meet with legislators beginning at 1:15 p.m. A reception follows at 3 p.m.

Morning advocacy workshops will provide training for effective changemaking, including tips for making the most of the afternoon meetings with lawmakers.

Inland Northwest residents who want to be a part of Equality Day, but lack the resources to get there or prefer not to hassle driving alone or in twos and threes over the Cascades in winter, can take advantage of transportation offered by ERW (a bus or a van, depending upon interest). **To reserve a seat; sign up online at www.equalityday.org by Jan. 10.** To facilitate event planning, registration is also requested for those making the journey on their own; sign up by 8 p.m. Jan. 22.

In other news, ERW has grown to be the largest GLBT political advocacy organization in the state. Executive director Fran Dunaway, hired in August, has been joined by Matthew Lee, whom she calls "the world's best office manager," and by Lee Frankl, named to the full-time post of associate executive director Nov. 22.

Frankl brings an extensive business background to the effort. His primary focus will be development – building ERW's membership and donor bases. Said Dunaway, "Lee has hit the ground running."

House parties have already been set up throughout the state, and a fleshed-out development plan for 2006 is in process. A signature event will be held sometime this spring.

A native of New England, Frankl worked in political campaigns in the Boston area. He sees his role at ERW as the beginning of a long-desired career advancing social justice.

ERW will soon hire a political director. Equality team leaders are being recruited statewide. Volunteers are serving 10-15 hours per week nights and weekends at the organization's new Seattle headquarters, 209 Harvard Ave. East, on Seattle's Capitol Hill.

Dunaway expressed satisfaction with her "very passionate team of individuals committed to ending discrimination against and ensuring equality for everyone in Washington."

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Tell Trinity

Is Fear Of Rejection Stopping You?

Hello Trinity,

Being single is OK but sometimes it seems so much easier to stay home than to go out just to be ignored. And when I do date it only lasts a while anyway. Rejection sucks so why bother trying?

Rejecting Rejection
—Boulder, CO

Hello Rejection,

Sure, rejection sucks compared to acceptance. You remember acceptance, that promise of love and the moon until one day you get a rejection letter, call or e-mail leaving you devastated yet again. Well news flash! Rejection has nothing to do with you but rather with what someone fantasizes about you at the time they meet you. Someone's acceptance, rejection or reality of you is not, never was and never will be about YOU but rather about their own rules and regulations. If you're someone's "type" you're in, period, if not, you're out, end of game. So Honey, get out and live a rejectionless life because it's about playing with rejection not fearing it!

XOXO Trinity

Hey Trinity,

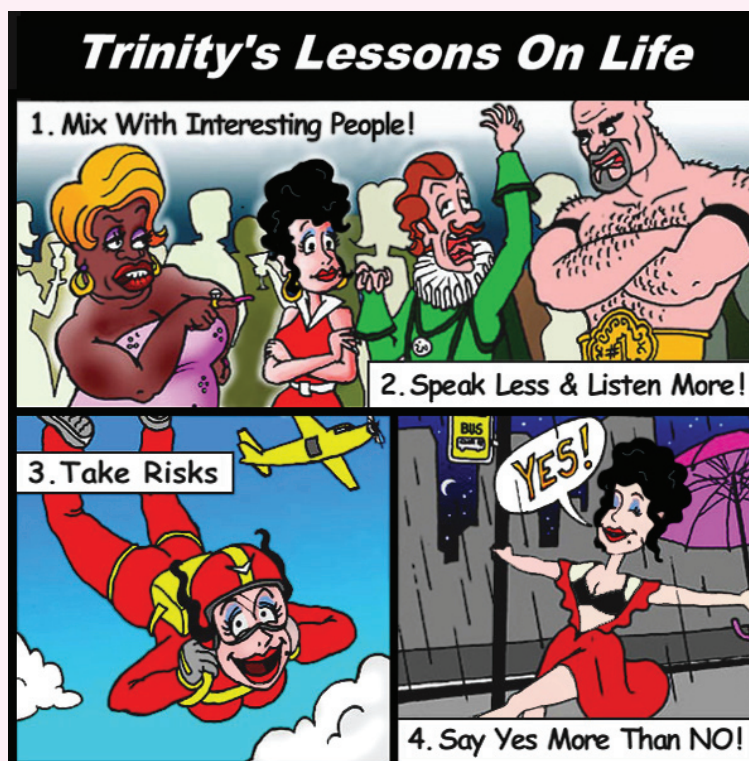
How did you learn everything you know?

Tell Me More—Salt Lake City, UT

Hey Tell Me More,

Besides living in six U.S. states plus Europe and Canada, studying for two masters degrees and knowing when to go to bed at night, I always follow four simple rules, 1) listen with an open ear, 2) be adventurous, 3) spend time with interesting people and 4) keep saying "yes"!

XOXO, Trinity



DATING DILEMMA #139

Dear Trinity,

I was dating someone who I caught stealing money from me. I'm trying to move on but I just can't get rid of the anger. Any ideas?

Releasing The Putz—Toledo, OH

Dear Releasing,

It's not easy but you must try a little everyday to move on. Here's a trick. In your head imagine a flat color picture of him or her, then change it to black and white then let it get blurry and lastly let it fade into the distance until it disappears. It could be a headshot or their entire body (lying in a coffin. I didn't say that). What typically happens with Neuro Linguistic Programming is that their image becomes distant and unclear in your head and eventually in your heart. Oh, and next time Pumpkin, hide your money!

Good luck, Trinity

Hey Trinity,

Why on earth would a couple have an open relationship if there's nothing really wrong?

Why Open—Portland, OR

Hey Why Open,

Yes, "if it's not broken don't fix it" but if it's boring, stale or in trouble why not fix a martini and read:

Trinity's Thought Provoking Tips: Why And Why Not To Have An Open Relationship

Why have an open relationship?

1. Because it may only take a few encounters to put the sexual spark back into your relationship.
2. Because you've been with the same nonsexual slob for years and it's time to spice up the soup or toss it out.
3. Because you're incredible together except sexually and this may introduce you to new positions, I mean possibilities for being even more together.
4. Because you've tried everything else to please each other like food and fetish toys and this may be wonderful.
5. Because your spouse keeps pushing you to do it and instead of spending time at a lawyer's office filing for divorce why not spend time in bed trying something new.
6. Because it's just one more thing getting in the way of the lack of sex drive in your relationship.

Why not have an open relationship?

7. Because you just want to be single anyway so you'd be wasting everyone's time making believe you really want this relationship.
8. Because it may destroy your relationship altogether.
9. Because someone may just get emotionally hurt or destroyed.
10. Because you might as well just break up, count your losses and start a relationship with someone who WANTS to have sex with just you.

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

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Letters of the Law

Making strides

by Jerry J. Davis

The battle for marriage equality or civil unions continues to rage on. Here in Washington, while our state Supreme Court ponders a decision to extend the rights of marriage to our community, a momentous step toward recognizing gay relationships has silently fallen into place. Thanks to the ruling in the case of Gormley, decided in the Court of Appeals, Division III, our state courts now allow same-sex couples to be seen as having a meretricious relationship, the same as our unmarried heterosexual counterparts.

Put simply, Washington, unlike a majority of states, does not recognize common law marriage (where couples are considered legally married if they have been together for a certain amount of time, normally after seven years). Instead, there is a meretricious relationship doctrine that is used by the courts to determine division of property when unmarried couples separate. Until recently this doctrine was not available to gay couples, because one of the elements of the doctrine was "having the ability to actually marry." This element has now been eliminated and gay couples, upon separation, now can go before the court and ask for the court's assistance in dividing property.

Gay couples, like unmarried heterosexual couples, must meet several elements to be considered having had a meretricious relationship. These elements include: continuous cohabitation, duration of the relationship, purpose of the relationship, pooling of resources and services for mutual benefit, and the intent of the parties. None of these elements are dispositive, and each is weighed on a case-by-case analysis.

Continuous cohabitation means how long a couple has lived together in a stable manner. Duration is just that - how long the couple has been together. Purpose of the relationship is more ambiguous, but boils down to the couple holding themselves as just that, a couple. Pooling of resources and services is very important, and means things such as joint savings or checking accounts or other such financial instruments. This could also mean the parties going in together for home improvements or joint trips. The intent of the couple really mirrors the purpose element.

If a meretricious relationship is found, then the court will move onto its next task, the division of property. Unlike the situation of married couples, where the court is constrained by community property law (basically the 50-50 split theory), the meretricious relationship doctrine is governed by the theory of fairness. This is extremely important and is what makes this doctrine so fact specific. A judge can hear anything and

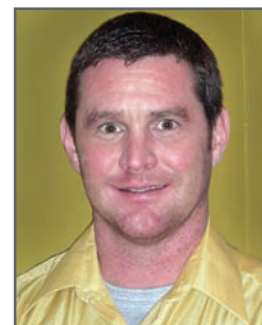
everything from either party to ensure a fair outcome. With this in mind, a judge can place value on everything from domestic chores to education to monetary contributions.

Be wary, however, of what many heterosexual couples have found out the hard way - that having an objective third party dissect a relationship in a cold and calculated manner can leave them feeling empty and bitter. It is very hard to put a price on non-monetary contributions, but if we ask the courts to do it, then they will.

This case law is extremely new and will continue to grow and redefine itself with each case that uses it as precedent. I envision that in the future we will see this doctrine expand, challenging things such as wills and trusts and custody matters.

With this in mind, keep good records and be organized. The downside of the ability to marry is the likelihood of divorce, but this is a reality. Though this doctrine is not to be misconstrued as a community property doctrine, it is a tool now recognized to divide property for gay couples.

Jerry J. Davis, J.D., has practiced law in Washington for three years. His Spokane office caters to the general law needs of the GLBTQA community.



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Healthier Options

‘Sugar blues’ begone

by Karen M. Nielsen

So you have eaten too many goodies, maybe had too much Christmas cheer and inevitably made a New Year’s resolution to be healthier. If you just want to recover from holiday overdo or if you have more serious health goals, here are three diet tips that can help you get started.

Tip 1: Since you’ve probably had too many sweets, begin by limiting refined sugar. Sugar has a bad name because it’s high in calories and can wreak havoc on your biochemistry. Quick spikes in blood sugar can give you temporary energy but unless you have a good, balanced diet, blood sugar will drop, leaving you tired and edgy. Important fact: Protein, fat and fiber slow the body’s conversion of carbohydrates to sugar.

A balanced diet includes protein, vegetables, whole grains, dairy and fruit. To help your body maintain energy and biochemical balance, make a point to eat a variety of healthy foods at each meal or snack.

If you know you won’t skip cookies, candy or other treats completely, plan for one treat a day. If you want to lose weight, make that treat less than 150 calories. Combine your treat with a protein such as milk or nuts or have it after a meal and you’ll be less likely to suffer from sugar highs and lows.

Tip 2: Don’t skip meals. You need nutrients every few hours to maintain blood sugar and meet the demands of your body and mind. Breakfast is especially important. Start your day with a good breakfast to give yourself the fuel you need to think, function and handle stress. A study of those who had successfully maintained weight loss for over a year found they ate an average of five times a day and they always ate

breakfast. Plan your meals and snacks and you can avoid grabbing whatever is convenient (usually candy or high-calorie snacks) to satisfy sudden hunger pangs.

Tip 3: Start your new year diet off right – the key is to drink plenty of fluids. No, this is not the “drink eight cups of water a day” advice you’ve read over and over again. Too much water can actually diminish your electrolyte and mineral levels and make you feel more thirsty and tired. Drink a variety of fluids, including water, milk, soup, broth or juice. Tea or coffee also count, but keep in mind they actually have a diuretic effect, so more than two cups can be dehydrating. The amount of fluid each person needs each day can vary, but a good rule is to drink 8-16 ounces with each meal, the same amount between meals, and another 8-16 ounces in the evening. Drink more if your hands or feet are cold.

Follow these tips and you will lay the groundwork to tackle tougher goals like weight loss or quitting smoking. Your body will have the nutrient density and fluid balance to help you avoid cravings and deal with stress. Make 2006 a healthful and productive year!

Karen M. Nielsen, M.Ed., is the owner of Chembalance, a health company that provides individualized counseling using the Life Balances Program. She is a lifelong resident of the Spokane area. For more information visit www.chembalance.com



WSU SCHOOL OF EDUCATION STYMIED

continued from page 6

for trying to make schools safe and comfortable for all children.”

Openly gay 16-year-old T.J. knows firsthand how a teacher’s personal beliefs can spill over into a school setting. Last year, T.J. was stopped by a substitute teacher in the hallway of his former high school, in full view of other students, and told that he is going to burn in hell for being homosexual and that he needed to change his life before it was too late.

When T.J.’s parents lodged a formal complaint, they were told that the incident would be investigated, but that they would not be informed of the outcome because any disciplinary actions against teachers are confidential.

“We tried to do the right thing to keep [the teacher] from doing the same thing to some other kid,” said Amanda J., T.J.’s mother, “but we have no idea if the school even investigated the complaint.”

Cases such as T.J.’s are just what PDEs are designed to prevent. The Washington State Safe Schools Coalition, a watchdog/advocacy group that monitors such situations but has no intervention or enforcement powers (<http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org>), has documented numerous complaints of bias incidents. Some recent examples are a teacher who proclaimed in class that all gay and lesbian people would die of AIDS; a teacher proposing that all gays be quarantined “on an island somewhere”; a teacher suggesting that all gay people be shot; an acting principal threatening a young man, “If you ever get hurt [for being openly gay], I’m not going to help you because it’s your fault,” and, perhaps most chilling of all, a principal asking a student to compile for him a list of her gay and lesbian classmates.

Said Beth Reis, of the Safe Schools Coalition, “It is absolutely the role of a school of education to try to help would-be teachers understand the distinction between their own personal beliefs and their professional obligation to make every child feel welcome, respected and safe in their classroom, and to screen out of the profession individuals who cannot make such a distinction and whose attitudes could endanger the young people entrusted

to them. Not being privy to the specific information in this case, I can’t speak to Mr. Swan’s attitudes or abilities, but in a general sense, the Safe Schools Coalition would commend WSU for taking both responsibilities

“The first amendment guarantees people’s rights to their own opinions and beliefs. Our PDE forms don’t address personal opinions and beliefs, but rather, they address professional issues, such as the ability to teach all children.”

**– Judy Mitchell
WSU College of Education**

seriously.”

When asked whether the use of PDEs steps on future educators’ free speech rights, WSU College of Education Dean Judy Mitchell stated, “Our PDE forms don’t address personal opinions and beliefs, but rather, they address professional issues, such as the ability to teach all children. If there are concerns by two or more faculty about a teacher candidate’s professional fitness to teach, a conference is held with that student as a counseling session to bring these professional matters to their attention and to offer more information and other assistance. I can assure you that the ability to teach all children and to have positive effects on children’s learning is extremely important to the faculty at WSU even though our teacher candidates may have a wide range of political and personal beliefs.”

Swan’s educational journey continues despite the unresolved conflict. He is set to begin his student teaching in Othello this month. Whether or not he gets his teaching credential will depend on his performance in the classroom as judged by his supervising instructors.

News worth sharing...

The Stonewall and the Inland Northwest’s GLBTQA community congratulate longtime ally Joe Reilly and his wife Kim and daughter Sojourner Hope on the arrival of Adia Grace Reilly, born December 17, 2005, at Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane.

The proud father is vice president of communications for Washington State Stonewall Democrats and a member of Inland Northwest Equality.

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Sat., Jan. 8th at Noon

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

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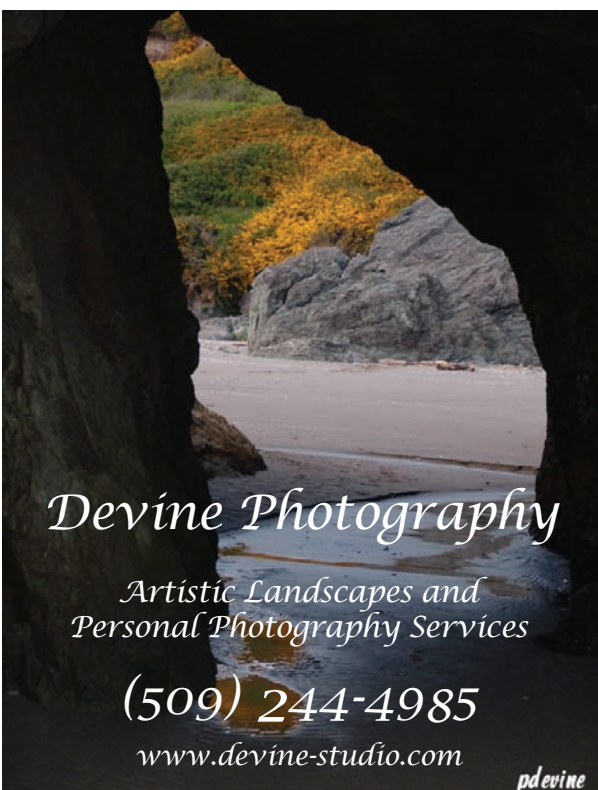
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Weekly Calendar of Events

SUNDAYS
9 and 11 am: Worship services at UNITY CHURCH at 29th and Bernard.
Noon-1 pm: Counter Crisis meets at RAINBOW REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER
1-2 pm: Radical Cheerleaders meets at RAINBOW REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER
2-6 pm: RAINBOW REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER.
5 pm: EMMANUEL METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH worship service in sanctuary of Bethany Presbyterian Church, 301 S. Freya.
WEDNESDAYS
6-8:30 pm: RAINBOW REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER.
7 pm: GLBTQ AA meets at Emmanuel MCC/Bethany Presbyterian Church, 301 S. Freya.
THURSDAYS
5:30-8 pm: RAINBOW REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER.
5:30 pm: PEER TO PEER SUPPORT GROUP meets at Rainbow Center.
FRIDAYS
2-8 pm: RAINBOW REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER.

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

Sunday Jan 1
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Tuesday Jan 3
Inland Northwest Equality (INWE) 5:30-7:00 pm, Rainbow Center

Wednesday Jan 4
Vision Committee Meeting 5:30-7:00 pm

Thursday Jan 5
Lilac City Men's Project (formerly MPowerment) 6-7 pm, Rainbow Center
The Lilac City Men's Project seeks to build the health and well-being of Spokane's GLBT community, with a focus on the gay/bi men's community, by planning regular social opportunities, informational workshops, wellness groups, and weekly activities. Come to a meeting to check us out! All are welcome to plan events.

OutSpokane Meeting 6:30-9:00 pm

Friday Jan 6
Reception / Combined Art Exhibit 5-8 pm, Rainbow Center 5-8pm Rainbow Center
The "Combined Current Work of Jayme Aumann, Janmarie Danielson, Cliff Hall, and Linda M. Lawrie"
This exhibit is a combination of different technique and styles brought together by four local artists.
The exhibition will show from December 2nd 2005 until January 27th 2006

Friday Night OUT! 6:30-9:30pm Ella's Supper Club at CenterStage
Kick off the New Year right! It is the FIRST FNO of the year!
This is a social hour for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and allied people of the Inland Northwest. There will be no agenda, no fund raising, no politics!

Spokane's entertainment and meeting calendar for
January 2006
Birthstone: Garnet
Flower: Carnation
Capricorn until Jan. 21, Aquarius begins Jan. 22

Tuesday Jan 10
Pride & Joy Movie Night - Social at 6 p.m. Showtime for Eating Out at 7:15 p.m., CenterStage
Every second Tuesday of each month at 7:15pm, CenterStage hosts this GLBTQA activity night to showcase films that directly portray, support, nurture and challenge the GLBTQcommunity and allied supporters.

Admission is only \$5 for adults and \$3 for students. All ages are welcome. Doors open at 5:30 pm. Enjoy a 25% discount on food at ella's Supper Club before and after the movie with your paid admission. Drink specials are available and there's a full bar for the over-21 crowd.
LAST DAY TO REGISTER online for transportation to Equality Day in Olympia

STONEWALL News Northwest
Your Community.
...Online
Image of a laptop displaying the Stonewall News Northwest website with various news articles and a calendar.

www.stonewallnews.net

Sunday Jan 15
Spokane Area Lesbians 11 am - 3 pm, Rainbow Center

Monday Jan 16
Vision Committee Meeting 5:30-7:30 pm

Tuesday Jan 17
PFLAG Monthly Meeting 7-9 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church

Thursday Jan 19
LilaC City Men's Project (formerly MPowerment) 6-7 pm, Rainbow Center (please see listing on Jan 5 for details)
OutSpokane Meeting 6:30-9:00 pm

Saturday Jan 21
OWLS Brunch 10:30 am - 12:00 pm, Old Country Buffet - Franklin Park Mall
If you are the first to arrive, ask the cashier where we can pull tables together for about 20 women. Then ask the cashier to direct arriving OWLS to that area.

Monday Jan 23
EQUALITY DAY in Olympia.

Thursday Jan 26
OutSpokane Meeting 6:30-9:00 pm

Friday Jan 27
Fourth Friday Wine Tasting 7-9 pm
NIGMA's (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

Saturday Feb 4
Community Forum at CenterStage from 2-4 p.m. Topic: Marriage Equality

Tuesday Feb 14
Pride & Joy Movie Night - Social at 6 p.m. Show time for Eating Out at 7:15 p.m., CenterStage
Every second Tuesday of each month at 7:15pm, CenterStage hosts this GLBTQA activity night to showcase films that directly portray, support, nurture and challenge the GLBTQ community and allied supporters.
Admission is only \$5 for adults and \$3 for students. All ages are welcome. Doors open at 5:30 pm. Enjoy a 25% discount on food at ella's Supper Club before and after the movie with your paid admission. Drink specials are available and there's a full bar for the over-21 crowd.

NATIONAL CONDOM WEEK OF ACTION 14-21

We would love to include your organization's events in this Calendar!
Please visit the GLBTQA Calendar at www.stonewallnews.net to request your own name and password for posting events!

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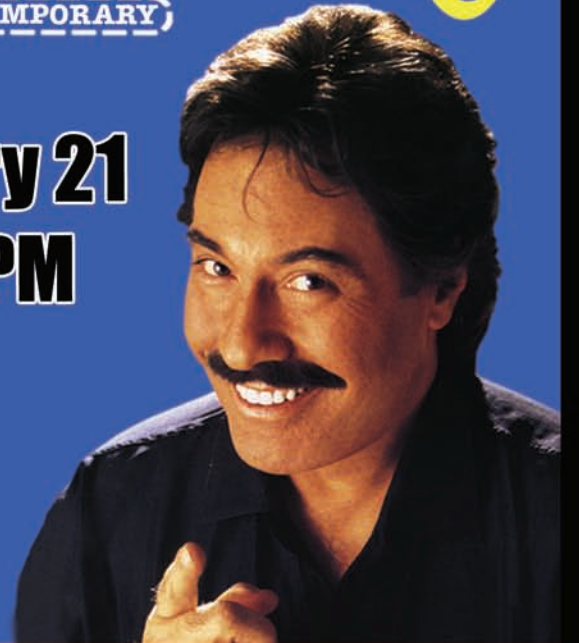


SEE CAMAS CLUB FOR DETAILS!

ENTERTAINMENT

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**January 21
8:00PM**



FOREIGNER
January 28 8:00PM

(ROCK N ROLL)

**JANUARY 8
7:00PM**

**THE BIG GAME
TRIP!**

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SEE CAMAS CLUB FOR COMPLETE DETAILS!

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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