

## Community Spotlight...

We use an alphabet soup to describe ourselves. Some Native Americans honored "Two-Spirits." See our new Culture section.

p. 18

# STONEWALL News Northwest

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Serving the GLBTQA Community of the Inland Northwest since 1992

March 2006

## Marriage equality: Is it a war worth waging?

by Catherine D. Willis

A panel discussion on marriage equality drew about 60 participants to the main floor ballroom at CenterStage Feb. 11 for the 2nd Quarterly GLBTQ Community Forum sponsored by Stonewall News Northwest. Six panelists addressed the hot-button topic from diverse perspectives.

The frequently posed option of civil union versus traditional marriage garnered much attention. Some spoke of rights, some of religion. Some explored complex social and political traditions. There were calls for radical action. And several encouraged alliance-building and well-considered dialogue with opponents.

"God is Love," declared the Rev. Dr. Richard Erhardt, minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane, an ally and the first panelist to deliver an opening statement. He moved from the First Letter of John to an Old Testament reference to same-sex love [see sidebar on page 20] and then spoke of the joy of walking down the street



The Rev. Dr. Richard Erhardt, Brooks Goode, Dr. Beth Jones, Cameron Lewis, W. Sagen Smith and Marge Ballack served on the panel that addressed the topic of marriage equality Feb. 11 at CenterStage. Insets, counterclockwise from top, left: Chris Aumack, Robert Cochran and Marvin Reguindin asked questions from the audience; and panelist Beth Jones responded to many of them.

Photos by P. Devine

## Fly your Flags on Fridays!

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hand-in-hand with his wife. He rued the fact that his gay and lesbian friends cannot engage in this same mundane act without inviting harsh judgment, even bodily harm.

He raised this scenario again in the question-and-answer portion of the program when audience member Jill Wagner asked whether time-honored methods of activism had lost their efficacy in our present world. Responded Erhardt, "I really do believe that the simple stuff can be so radical. Just think about it. If every GLBTQ person would just hold hands while walking down the streets of the city of Spokane. Could you imagine what would happen if the City Council tried to pass an ordinance against holding hands?"

Panelist Brooks Goode, a longtime legal assistant, generally focused his

remarks on the intricacies of the law. A proponent of civil unions, he cautioned against a push for marriage. Acknowledging the state high court's pending decision on the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), he said, "I'm not sure how the Supreme Court is going to rule, but I would note

**Do we need Pride? Yeah, we do...  
And when they get rid  
of the St. Patrick's Day Parade,  
they can get rid of ours.  
- Cameron Lewis**

that in my lifetime we have already seen one major change in marriage law in the state of Washington that occurred in the mid-70s, when we established

what's called 'no fault divorce.' The consequences of that were disastrous for women and for children."

Beth Jones, Ph.D., Gonzaga University assistant professor of political science, looked at history. "The institution of marriage itself is undeniably and fundamentally a state or civil issue. Even in Puritan New England, where most people think of the state being almost a theocracy, in many senses, marriage was removed from the position of the church and magistrates – civil magistrates – performed the ceremonies."

She challenged civil unions as they are currently defined in law as an unfair compromise. "To offer a second, secondary status, union to gay and lesbian couples raises questions of the validity, the value and the significance of their

Continued on page 17

## Join the Journey ...Come OUT Spokane!

**A community service announcement:**

This year marks the 15th anniversary of Spokane's annual Pride Celebration. Northern Quest Casino has already jumped on board with OutSpokane to help create the most ambitious Pride Celebration Spokane has ever hosted.

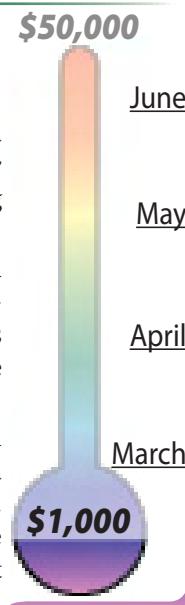
Look for the OutSpokane thermometer to the right each month to see our progress toward the \$50,000 goal for sponsorships and donations.

The Pride Parade and Rainbow Festival will be held on Saturday, June 10. Other Pride Celebration offerings already scheduled throughout June include **two** EMCC Cruises; PFLAG's Mom and Pop Breakfast; Pride Foundation's Rainbow Awards; events featuring Patricia Nell Warren, acclaimed GLBT Hall of Fame author of *The Front Runner*; the Imperial Sovereign

Court of Spokane activities; a performance and community forum featuring transgender entertainer S. Bear Bergman; and surprises we will be revealing in upcoming weeks.

Negotiations are in process to bring both regional and national celebrities to help us commemorate this 15th anniversary in style. Announcements will be made and names will be named as soon as the contractual ink is dry!

Join in the planning of this monumental celebration. OutSpokane meets the first and third Thursdays of each month from 7:15 p.m.-8:45 p.m. in the 3rd floor Kress Gallery, Riverpark Square Mall, 808 W. Main Ave. For more information visit [www.outspokane.com](http://www.outspokane.com) or call (509) 893-1667.



# STONEWALL

News Northwest

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## LETTERS POLICY

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

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# Voices

## Letter from the Editor

### Growth and change with every issue

Spokane's GLBTQA community lives! Sometimes we're not always sure. I've written how many requests for news sources and story subjects since I moved into the editor's chair in October? Responses have been a bit disappointing. But interest in the passage of HB 2661 delighted me. I thought it was an anomaly of history. Maybe not...

The Rainbow Regional Community Center had been getting about as much attention as my story appeals. Its board was tired and talking about calling it quits toward the end of 2005. The handwriting seemed to be on the wall.

Could a reprieve be in store for the long-suffering non-profit? I've been surprised by the number of e-mails I've received since the RRCC board voted Feb. 14 to give our community notice that they planned to shut down the center if big change did not occur by March 14. I don't know whether the flurry of e-mails will translate to action, but the buzz alone is intriguing. We will all learn the outcome as this story unfolds.

We here at Stonewall News are listening. Folks have been asking us to bring back the Classifieds. So, beginning this month, you'll find them on page 20. We continue to grow the paper to meet the diverse needs of our diverse readership. We want to provide news, analysis and topical information in a family-friendly manner. Ads that don't meet this standard will not be accepted for our print edition; off-color

subject matter may be considered for online publication.

We'll be offering online extras to our printed stories whenever we can. This month, you'll find a transcript of the Feb. 11 Forum and a nice bibliography supporting Peter Perkins' contribution to a new section, "Culture," page 18.

New as well is "Business," a nod to those in our community who risk everything to bring us products and services we may (or not) enjoy. From time to time, the same page will feature a restaurant review under the column heading, "Eating OUT." We won't reveal the identity of The Sisters. We think they can bring you more accurate information if they remain anonymous.

Anonymous too is the person who helped us with this month's proofreading. She particularly enjoyed Helen Bonser's "Healthier Options" column on coming out. Feel free to share it with some of the hundreds of people we all know here in the Inland Northwest who are out but not.

Finally, I want to tip my hat to a very classy woman, actress Patty Duke. We hear so much about self-important stars who behave rudely when they are intruded upon in public places. Ms. Duke could not have been more gracious to my colleague Christopher Lawrence, who approached her after a show at CenterStage. Thanks for your generosity.

Catherine D. Willis

## Letters

I have been volunteering at the Rainbow Center for two years, and I have seen growth in both the community and the center. I have been open in my belief that the Rainbow Center is needed. I do believe that changes are needed, but I do not believe that this means the center needs to close.

We do provide very valuable services to the community, even if this may go against some people's beliefs: We have more than 1,000 books and 800 videos in our resource library (many GLBTQ titles). We get on average 200 phone calls and walk-ins per month for resource information. We have a gallery where GLBTQA artists can showcase their work. We offer low-cost or free meeting spaces for other organizations in our community. We are the only PRIDE store in Spokane. And we are one of few nonprofits whose 501(c)3 is used by our community when the support of a nonprofit is needed.

Does our community really want to lose all of this? I do not believe so. When I first started volunteering at the Rainbow Center, I believed that there was a lack of support for the center in the community. Now I do not believe this is entirely true. I feel that the Rainbow Center lacks visibility within the community. I have lost count of how many times that I have heard someone say, "I didn't even

know this place was here." People are interested in the center, and closing it would affect the community.

Volunteers from the Rainbow Center and members from other organizations that use that center are working together to keep the doors open. It is for this reason we have decided to have a community meeting on Tuesday, March 7, at 7 p.m. at the Rainbow Center.

This will allow the community to have a voice concerning this matter and to discuss the three options that were outlined by the center's board Feb. 14: 1) to close, 2) to restructure through the election of a new board, and 3) to restructure by allowing another organization to assume the Rainbow Center's 501(c)3 status. (There is an organization already considering taking the necessary steps to provide a stable foundation under this option. They are reviewing the community input and will decide what course of action that they will take after the March 7 meeting.)

We invite everyone to attend this meeting.

Timothy Phillips  
Spokane, Washington

The Rainbow Community Center has struggled for the last decade to keep its doors open – not because there has not been a need but because of the problem all nonprofits face: finances. It is very difficult to keep the doors open in an all-volunteer organization without an executive director, and that difficulty has been reflected in the ebb and flow of the Community Center's utilization.

Another consideration that is reflected in the ebb and flow of the Community Center is that the center's primary utilizers are those who are newly coming out, just moving to the Spokane area, questioning their orientation, people seeking first-time information for family/friends and those who have not yet developed a safe, nurturing support

system. If Center participation drops off, does that mean the center is no longer necessary? Or does it mean that a client's needs have been successfully met?

I would urge anyone who believes Spokane's GLBT community has benefited from the Rainbow Community Center, or not benefited from the Community Center, to attend the board meeting on Tuesday, March 14 at 6 p.m. and make your feelings heard.

Hope to see you there.

Sharon O'Brien  
RRCC board member  
Spokane, Washington

# A simple matter of rights – more than 1,000 of them ...

by **Connie Sagona**

I am deeply in love. In 2003 my husband and I decided to create a new branch of our birth families by joining together in a dedicated and loving relationship – to get married. Our freedom to marry means others recognize our family and our commitment to one another, both legally and socially. We have a state-sanctioned civil document that recognizes our relationship. Our future together is eased because we're entitled to the over 1,138 federal rights, benefits, privileges and responsibilities of legal marriage.

Among the rights and benefits our legal, civil marriage gives us are tax advantages, the automatic right to inherit, Social Security spousal and survivor's benefits, and pension and health insurance benefits. With my document, I moved from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and was still married when I reached Spokane where the state of Washington granted me community property rights. With my document, I am accorded the privilege of sharing in the parenting of my husband's son. With my document, I am automatically permitted to visit my husband in the hospital should he become ill and to have the honor of being with him at the moment of last parting. I will be permitted to carry out his final wishes and will be afforded the grieving responsibility of widowhood.

For now, we walk down the street holding hands and strangers smile at us. He publicly kisses me hello when he meets me at our favorite restaurant after a long day of work. We live our lives with an expectation of privacy in which no one wonders about our sex life. The strength of our marriage is unthreatened by the marriages of other couples – even ones that take place in Massachusetts. As a woman of this century, I am grateful that I do not feel the necessity of marriage; but that I have the luxury of being married to the person I love.

For us, the best part of being married is celebrating every day together and looking forward to growing old, safely together at the end of life.

As a bisexual person, I wonder why I would not be afforded any of these same rights, benefits, privileges and responsibilities if I had fallen in love – this time – with a woman. I am the same person, but when the gender of my beloved matches mine, I am unprotected by my Constitution and denied my fundamental civil right to marry. Yet I am still me.

Waiting patiently for others to bestow equality on us won't help us get it. Dialogue and publicity will help. Putting a face on the word family will help. Talking to your family and friends will help. Talking to legislators

and other religious and community leaders will help. Donating time and money to local groups who are working to secure our rights will help.

Push the envelope. Fundamental rights and equality must not be defined by the gender of those we love. I urge us all to TAKE ACTION and to remember the words of Dr. Martin Luther King: "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." The reward is sweet. The reward is equality.

*Connie Sagona is director of development and marketing at Spokane's CenterStage. She also records voice-overs for the telecommunications industry and for commercial radio. Before moving to Spokane, Connie was associated with The Freedom to Marry Coalition of Massachusetts, for whom she produced Boston's First Annual GLBTQA Valentine's Day Dance, now in its seventh year.*

Among the many organizations working for our civil rights are The Legal Marriage Alliance of Washington at [www.lmaw.org](http://www.lmaw.org); the national Freedom to Marry organization at [www.freedomtomarry.org](http://www.freedomtomarry.org); Equal Rights Washington at [www.equalrightswashington.org](http://www.equalrightswashington.org); the Human Rights Campaign at [www.hrc.org](http://www.hrc.org); and the Religious Coalition for Freedom to Marry at [www.religiouscoalition-wa.org](http://www.religiouscoalition-wa.org).

## Letters

At the last board meeting of the Rainbow Center, a motion passed calling for a vote at the March board meeting [Tuesday, Mar. 14] on closing the Rainbow Center. This is not the time for pep talks or for dirges. There are reasons, good reasons, to keep the center open and there are reasons, good reasons, to close the center.

For many years, the center has been a part of the gay community of Spokane. Whatever one may think of it, good or bad, it deserves either a decent life or a respectful burial.

The GLBTQ community needs to express how it feels. I am not asking what it wants in a community center. That question has been asked too many times. To me the problem is not in the question but in our asking it over and over.

The center is not perfect but it does give something to the volunteers and provides a meeting space to organizations. More importantly, it has become a place of service and belonging for many who are not involved in what one could call the mainstream of our community.

The fate of the center will ultimately rest with the five board members who will vote. I am begging the community not to let this decision be made in indifference. I am asking people to express themselves now. Let board members know how you feel.

If there is the support within the community for the center – not suggestions or opinions but true support – then perhaps the present board should resign and let a new board move the center forward.

John Brindle  
RRCC treasurer  
Spokane, Washington

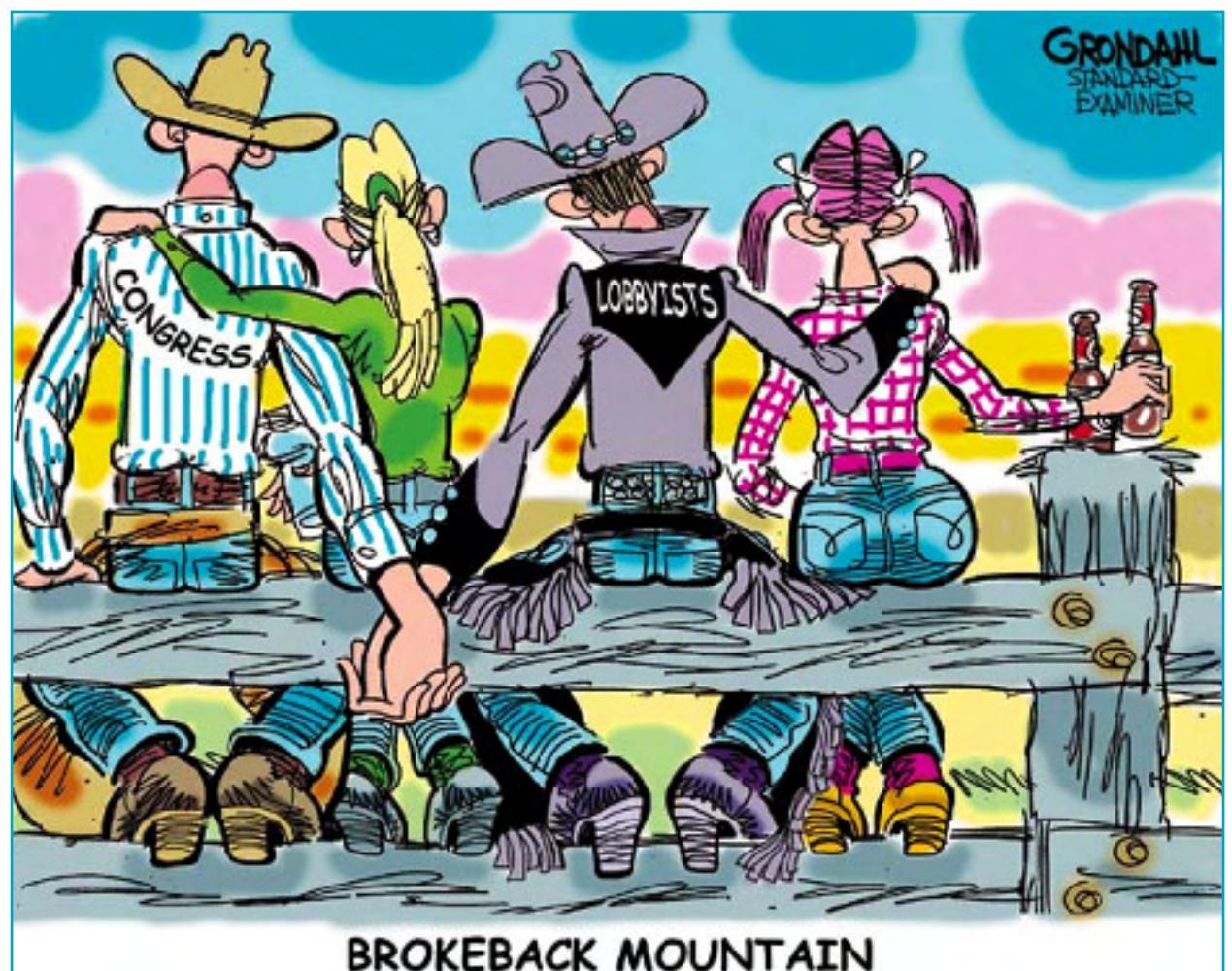
## DOMA WATCH

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, if you have a compelling desire to speak at the event.

To check the status of *Castle & Anderson vs. the State of Washington*, go to: [www.courts.wa.gov/opinions/?fa=opinions.notice](http://www.courts.wa.gov/opinions/?fa=opinions.notice).



# Spokane

## Rainbow Center faces crucial vote

The Rainbow Regional Community Center is on life support, board members acknowledged Feb. 14. Board chair Bonnie Aspen went so far as to ask if it was time to "pull the plug" on the long-suffering center. Her motion to shut down died instead; there was no second.

Treasurer John Brindle moved to continue operations for 30 more days, and his motion carried. All current board members were present: Aspen, Brindle, Jeff Buckner, Lorin Miller and Sharon O'Brien. They will revisit the substance of Aspen's motion at the RRCC's next regular board of directors meeting, Tuesday, March 14, at the RRCC, 508 W. Second Ave. As always, the meeting will be open to public observation and comment.

"I am not comfortable with five board members making this decision without giving the community the opportunity to express an opinion, so I hope people will come to the meeting and tell us how they feel," said Brindle.

Brett Bailly, Timothy Phillips, Paige LaReva, Julie Amo and Kim Stankovich attended the February meeting. Some of them spoke passionately for the center's survival.

"If the center is to continue, it has to stand on its own feet. It needs financial support. It needs more involvement from other members of the community. It needs new board members," Brindle noted.

"I know many volunteers (myself included) and supporters in the community who are not ready to have this board give up on the center and close it," Barb Lee told Stonewall News via e-mail. "I know there are applications from individuals who wish to join the board that have unfortunately not been addressed, and in many ways, despite the burnout of the current board, the center is more viable and busy than it has been in the four years I have been involved with it."

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PFLAG hosted a Game Night fund-raiser at its Feb. 21 meeting at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane. The organization is one of many local nonprofits that has chosen to partner with Chum Chum Game Company to earn a share of the proceeds on sales of toys and games. Read more about Chum Chum Game Company in Stonewall's new Business section, page 9.

## SFCC lectures scheduled

Spokane Falls Community College Alliance will host a bimonthly lecture series beginning April 11.

"GLBT Images in Popular Culture" is the inaugural program. Dr. Ann Ciasullo and Dr. Barbara Williamson, film and literature scholars, will chronicle the presentation of GLBTs in both visual and written media.

On April 25, experts from the Spokane Regional Health District will

give a self-explanatory talk, "Safe Sex." This event, co-sponsored by Associated Women's Students, is meant to educate men and women of all orientations.

"The Marriage Movement" is set for May 9. Gay marriage supporters and opponents will overview the history and context of the equal marriage movement and debate its advantages and disadvantages.

Then, on May 23, the topic will be "Sexuality and Sexual Freedom." Representatives of various GLBT subcommunities will discuss their marginalization within the already marginalized larger GLBT community, as well as the psychological safety of their members.

The fluid nature of gender will be covered in a talk entitled, "Gender Identity" on June 6.

All lectures will be held in Building 17, the Student Union Building, at SFCC and are free and open to the public.

## EMCC introduces young adult services

Emmanuel Metropolitan Community Church has begun to develop programming targeting the young adult segment of the GLBTQ community. An initial gathering is scheduled for Tuesday, March 7, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Rainbow Center downtown.

GLBTQs aged 21-30 years are invited. A spaghetti dinner will be provided. People of all religious faiths are welcome. The event is free.

"EMCC has been actively searching for additional ways to outreach into the community, and we believe including young adults in that outreach is one of the most important aspects of all," said Julie Amo, EMCC's director of young adult ministries. "Too often these young adults are still struggling with the coming out process, and feel that the bar scene is the only option left available to them once they turn 21. We want to provide an alternative and to show by example that being LGBTQ and a spiritual Christian is not mutually exclusive."

EMCC's loosely defined and still unnamed program will fill a gap for the young, adults left unsupported when Odyssey Youth Center revamped its service focus last fall.

## Domestic violence series set for April

Thanks to a grant from Spokane-Kootenai Pride, Lutheran Community Services will offer a 10-week group for members of the GLBTQ community whose lives are impacted by domestic violence.

The meetings will be held Wednesdays from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. beginning April 12. Pre-registration is required. Contact LCS at 747-8224 and ask to speak with someone in Intake.

This group has been developed in response to requests from the community and will focus on the struggles associated with being in an abusive same-sex relationship.

"Domestic violence in all intimate relationships is about power and control and the GLBT community is no exception," said Sharon O'Brien, M.S.W., who will facilitate the group.

About one in four gay and lesbian people experience some form of domestic abuse, said O'Brien. Abusive same-sex relationships are sometimes called "the second closet," she explained, because couples caught up in them often do not seek out needed help. "They are concerned about the reaction of a predominantly heterosexual society."

The new group is open to residents of the Greater Spokane Area and can accommodate eight to 10 participants. If more interest is expressed, additional groups will be formed. There is no charge for the service.

Ongoing support will be available when the 10 sessions have ended.

The Lutheran Community Services office is located at 210 W. Sprague Ave.



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*Odyssey youth in Olympia: Zenaida Alfonso-Ono, Megan Bennett, Ashley Bercier, Kat Blom, Charlene Brown, Cassy Claassen, Ashley Concie, Chris Erickson, Britney Feldman, Faith Feldman, Derek Gerow, Misty Rose Hendricks, Josie Jordan, Jacinda Klein, Becca Kunz, Kali Kunz, Tessa Medina, Cherise Robbins, Scott Shoup, Jenny Sines, Courtney Strandhagen, Barbara Summers, Amber Treat and Courtney Van Winkle. Adult supervisors: Ramon Alvarez, Bonnie Aspen, JR Long, John Olsen, Megan Cuilla, Jim Breedlove, Hanna Whitmore and Teague Griffith. Special participants: James Wagner, president and CEO of Advocates for Youth; Kayley Harrington, state policy coordinator, Advocates for Youth; Melinda Maureen; and Rep. Ed Murray (D-43rd).*

## Odyssey moving – in Olympia, Spokane, at Ferris High

Odyssey Youth Center took 25 young people to Olympia Jan. 30 for a day of lobbying legislators around the issue of comprehensive sexual education. The journey was sponsored by Advocates for Youth, which supplied funding and technical support for the event.

The bill, commonly known as the Healthy Youth Act, would require every school district that offers sexual health education to incorporate the January 2005 Guidelines for Sexual Health Information and Disease Prevention created through the Washington State Department of Health and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Odyssey and Advocates for Youth believe that achieving healthy sexuality is a developmental process from birth to senior adulthood; so is learning about sexuality. The goal of sex education is safe and healthy people. As a youth agency that serves LGBTQ people, Odyssey sees the negative impact that inaccurate and biased sexual education has.

“The Healthy Youth Act specifically addresses our youth in that it directs schools to ensure that all sexual education materials be age-appropriate and appropriate for use with all sexual orientations. This is a very large step forward in providing accurate, evidence-based information to all youth,” said Ramon Alvarez, Odyssey’s executive director.

The trip was organized by Derek Gerow, Odyssey youth intern for the Advocates for Youth-funded project. Youth were divided into groups, each accompanied by two adult chaperones. They met with Representatives Alex Wood (D-3rd), Tim Ormsby (D-3rd),

Jim Moeller (D-49th) and as a large group with Ed Murray (D-43rd), the prime sponsor of the Cal Anderson bill which added sexual orientation to Washington’s anti-discrimination laws.

attended by about 125 gay and straight kids from all over the city.

There was no fee for the festivities. Community donors covered all costs; pizzas were courtesy of One World De-

sign, sandwiches from Subway, coffee from Starbucks, soda and chips from Albertsons, and Wendle’s supplied large decorative balloons.

“There were no incidents. It was a great success,” reported Ramon Alvarez.

Odyssey Youth Center’s Feb. 18 Open House was also successful. About 20 visitors donated \$1750. Another \$13,000 is needed to complete renovations and meet costs toward the center’s relocation, which was

approved by their board Feb. 13. The move should be complete by mid-April.

See Classifieds for volunteer and in-kind needs.



*Above, left to right: Odyssey facilitators Marie Littleton and Cassidy Read shared a moment of intimate ‘mugging’ at the youth group’s Valentine’s Day Dance; Devin Timpson, Derek Gerow and Josie Jordan partied too; so did Tessa Medina and Courtney Van Winkle.*

What a difference a year makes... Odyssey Youth celebrated Valentine’s Day in style Feb. 14 in the cafeteria at Ferris High School. The dance, which ran from 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., was coordinated by Corinna Verdugo and

## GAP New Year’s Eve ball was a success

Approximately 100 people attended the Gals and Pals (GAP) New Year’s Eve masked ball at the Unitarian Universalist Church.

DJ IREY provided a wide range of music and kept folks dancing to everything from the Electric Slide to the Macarena. Sue Spence took pictures. Guests were given noise makers, masks, some snacks and punch. GAP members decorated using archways, balloons, and lights that were taken down from their homes and brought in for our use.

There was a 50/50 drawing, door prize drawings and a “Who’s Face Is It Anyway?” contest in which attendees attempted to match a mask made of

plaster from Ginny’s face to a group of photos of GAP members. “This seemed like a fairly hard thing to do. I don’t think the mask looked that much like me,” said Ginny, “but almost everyone put their guess in my cup.”

After expenses, GAP donated \$200 to Odyssey Youth Center and the Rainbow Regional Community Center.

Thanks to GAP members and others who provided assistance with set up, clean up, pictures and security, and especially Angie Valdes, Susie Thompson and Nickie Owen.

Ginny has a ring someone lost at the ball. Contact her at way2qt\_99@yahoo.com to identify and claim it.

## “Opening Night” Jams

The Lilac City Men’s Project presented “Opening Night,” an Oscar Pre-funk party, Feb. 25 in the Holley-Mason Building. The multimedia experience blended Oscar-nominated film trailers with floating retro sex-ed imagery for a pulsating kaleidoscope of color and sound. DJ Sam spun the hiptronic mixes and project volunteer Kenny Capps keyed the three-projector set-up for the visuals. About 50 people attended.

“We wanted to provide an alternative to the bar and chat scene,” said Cat Carrel, who oversees the project, a program of Spokane AIDS Network. “What we have heard over and over again is that there are not enough alternative social opportunities in Spokane for gay guys.”

The party raised awareness about the Lilac City Men’s Project and was free to the GLBT community. Attendees entered a free raffle, which offered Starbucks gift certificates, a “got lube?” t-shirt, a pair of tickets to a baroque concert and the grand prize: two tickets to Spokane AIDS Network’s Oscar Night Gala at the Davenport Hotel. The “Lilac Lounge” served free non-alcoholic cocktails as well as energy drinks, sodas and water. Food was also provided.

“Project volunteers have worked for two months planning this event,” Carrel said. “Our next event will be even bigger, so look for the Art Orgy during Pride Weekend in June,” she added.

The Lilac City Men’s Project seeks to build community while focusing on gay and bi men’s health and HIV prevention, and creating healthy social opportunities for gay/bi men. For more information, go to [www.lilaccitymensproject.org](http://www.lilaccitymensproject.org) or call (509) 267-9444.

# Regional

## No Rest for the Wicked

### All about *that* kind of funny

by Joan Opyr

My first novel will be published at the end of this month. It's called **Idaho Code: Where family therapy comes with a shovel and an alibi**. It's a black comedy, a story about family, murder, life in a small town and – here's the kicker – it's about lesbians. And gay men. And people of color. **Idaho Code** is a perfect trifecta of Southern Baptist horrors.

All of which has my Southern Baptist grandmother worried. Not that she's told me she's worried. Instead, she's been quizzing my sisters.

"What is Joan's book about? Is it something I can share with my friends at Sunday School?"

"Well," they hedge. "It's a murder mystery. Joan says it's funny."

"What kind of funny murder mystery?"

"The kind about dead people," my sisters reply.

"Hmmp," says my grandmother. "I'll bet it's about *those* people."

I've given them a perfect answer for this, but they've refused to use it. "Tell her **Idaho Code** is about *those* people, and it's about negroes, too." So much for my Sunday School sales.

I love my grandmother; I really do. I've arranged for Amazon.com to mail her a copy of **Idaho Code** as soon as it's published. It's the decent thing to do, and besides, I have no fear whatsoever that she'll actually read it. My grandmother hasn't read a book since 1971 – a sleazy exposé called **Teddy Bare** about Senator Kennedy's troubles at Chappaquiddick.

My grandmother has a thing about the Kennedys – Ted, JFK, Jackie, Bobby, Caroline, the late John Jr., and the long-dead Mary Jo Kopeckne. Why? Who knows? Perhaps it's because while they're "those people" they're not *those* people. The Kennedys are famous for "you know what," but not for *you know what*. They're not *funny*.

I am *funny*; I am also funny. I am funny ha-ha and funny gay, just like my book. **Idaho Code** is very gay – it's as gay as a goose, as queer as Dick's hat band, as bent as a dog's hind leg. If **Idaho Code** were any more gay, you would have to tie it down to read it. The pages would waft up to the heavens on an airy cloud of lavender.

Not that **Idaho Code** is graphic. I



don't do pornography. I don't object to pornography; I'm just not any good at writing it. Given a choice between Fanny Hill and the Three Stooges, my heart belongs to Larry, Curly and Moe. There are sex scenes in **Idaho Code**, but you won't learn any new techniques by flipping ahead to the steamy

bits. Still, I have written sex scenes, and those sex scenes are between women. Straight friends have read and enjoyed **Idaho Code**, but as characters, they don't get much play. What I write is queer. It's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered. I don't write about *those* people; I write about our people. I'm a lesbian writer in all senses of the word.

If Granny gets past the acknowledgments page, she'll find this out – hell, all she has to do is read the back cover. According to the blurb by Val McDermid, "Joan Opyr is the most entertaining new voice in lesbian mystery." Lesbian. Mystery. Funny and *funny*. Take that, Grandma's Sunday School.

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](mailto:joanopyr@moscow.com).

### The Lilac City Men's Project (formerly MPowerment)

...build community...

...find community...

socials...outdoor activities  
wellness groups...relationships  
staying healthy...having fun

Meetings on the 1st & 3rd Thursday of every month.  
For more information: [info@lilaccitymensproject.org](mailto:info@lilaccitymensproject.org)  
Web site coming soon at [www.lilaccitymensproject.org](http://www.lilaccitymensproject.org)  
LCMP is a program of Spokane AIDS Network

## Foundation raises advocacy money

Pride Foundation has announced a new resource, the Pride Foundation Advocacy Fund, which will provide rapid-response grants to organizations in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington to address the needs of GLBTQA organizations working on equality issues in the Pacific Northwest.

Pride Foundation plans to raise at least \$50,000 before March 31. A core group of the foundation's donors has contributed \$25,000 to match donations made to the Advocacy Fund. Initial grants are expected to be determined by April 1.

"It is and will continue to be a history-making year in Washington state," said Audrey Haberman, executive director of the Pride Foundation, celebrating

the passage of HB 2661 and denouncing Tim Eyman and team's immediate filing of paperwork to overturn the long-fought-for rights through the state's referendum and initiative processes.

"Pride Foundation is going to do what we have always done best – provide resources to as many organizations working on these issues as possible," said Pride Foundation's Spokane-based regional outreach director, Kevan Gardner. "We'll do the fund-raising so they can do the work. The groups that are helping youth, educating the public and creating safe communities are already working with limited resources, so we will continue to support their great work and create additional opportunities when extraordinary circumstances arise."

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](mailto:editor@stonewallnews.net)

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## State Democrats to caucus March 4

Washington State Stonewall Democrats have issued a reminder to the community that the state's Democrats are holding caucuses Saturday, March 4.

Local activist Joe Reilly, a Stonewall Democrats board member, recently quipped, "Our community can consider the passage of the Anti-Discrimination bill to be the proverbial engraved invitation to join the party."

He cited a descriptive passage from the party's Web site: "The Democratic caucus system is truly a grass-roots process. It's extremely important that

citizens become involved to have their voices heard. We will discuss the political issues of the day, and pass resolutions indicating the meeting's official position on those issues. Finally, we will re-establish relationships between the neighboring Democrats attending, and begin building and strengthening the organization for the year's campaigns ahead."

To find your Caucus location, visit <http://www.wa-democrats.org/caucus/>. Spokane residents can get this information from the Spokane County Democrats at (509)324-8525.

## OUT! In the Middle of Nowhere

# 'I want to tell you something'

by Tim Anderson

*These singsong words carry down the stairs announcing that my four-year-old niece Kelcy has something to say. "Uncle Tim, I want to tell you something!" often translates in a multitude of ways. Maybe she's hoping to manipulate a postponement of her nap or bedtime or heralding a discovery that must be shared "Now!" With each pronouncement, I'm reminded that when I hear "Uncle Tim" suspended on my ears, I know that whatever comes next will surely be a course in miracles and magic.*

For a guy who doesn't exactly know his way around The Wiggles, Jo' Jo's Circus or Blue's Clues, this is a huge admission. Prior to four years ago, kids terrified me.

Since Kelcy's birth, I am ever amazed at the intricate dance of life demonstrated daily by a child. Each moment defines discovery. And although I know this sounds clichéd, as we embark on this journey toward a place called Five, I am not sure who is learning more.

My sister told me after Kelcy's birth that having a child "changed everything" – including family priorities, schedules, values and even some of their dreams. My sister has always been big-hearted and generous; indeed, she's one of the most compassionate women I know. Yet she and her husband never planned to have children. Now, four years later, my sister skillfully navigates parenthood with grace and humor. She's a natural.

I'd like to boast that I've mastered "unclehood" with the same flair. But I can't make these claims. Diapers, bedtime, and learning how to lose at Duck-Duck-Goose-Goose are all acquired tastes. Kelcy's arrival into my life also changed everything.

Kelcy doesn't register words like gay or straight. What registers to her is that when she knocks on the guest bedroom door to wake us, Uncle Tim and partner Kevin will be twice as slow as she is bounding down the stairs but she knows that no one understands the fun of being a kid, the magic of permanent markers, and that temporary tattoos were made to cover belly buttons better than we.

On my last visit to Seattle, my sister was clearly troubled. Explaining nervously that we needed to talk, I sat down at their kitchen table. Kelcy is about to start preschool yet the local public school district is a failure. Even elementary schools are prone to gang- and gun-related violence, and few parents would want their child to be enrolled there if they could avoid it. Then came the true bombshell: The best and most convenient preschool they'd found to enroll Kelcy was a private and very conservative Christian school. And I mean way, way conservative. Think Bob Jones University type of Conservative.



For a second, I didn't know what to say. As my sister recited toddler test scores rivaling my pre-college SATs, all I knew was fear. Would this school try to influence Kelcy? Teach that repressing gays and marginalizing us was God's will? Would her teachers try to ruin Kevin's and my relationship with Kelcy?

I eventually came back to planet reality. My sister's decision was right – this preschool offered the safest environment and a staff committed to each child's education and welfare.

I understood my sister's determination and her courage. Rather than running from these confrontations, progressive Christians can stake our claim. Christianity and a decent education need not only belong to bigots. Many kids raised in religious homes also have openly gay relatives and, as I myself experienced while attending conservative Seattle Pacific University, many students half my age no longer believe homosexuality is incompatible with their faith.

Suddenly, Kelcy ran into the room. Kevin, grinning ear to ear, followed close behind. "Uncle Tim, I want to tell you something!" she beamed. In my mind, I saw her one day, raising her hand in class to talk about her gay uncle. I saw her on the playground refusing to accept anything but tolerance. I saw her better equipped than most kids, ready to dismiss the rubbish of homophobic doctrines.

I could especially see her in the most surprising of environments – standing and saying for all to hear, "I want to tell you something."

*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](http://www.highmountainranch.com), which won Web site of the Year from [www.roadstaronline.com](http://www.roadstaronline.com).*

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# "Family"

## Odyssey youth could be state's first openly lesbian legislator

by Catherine D. Willis

The Odyssey group had made the rounds at the statehouse. They had toured the building. They had met with several legislators. The visit to Olympia was winding down when they ended up in a meeting room with Rep. Ed Murray (D-Seattle), the powerhouse behind the anti-discrimination bill, HB 2661, that had finally won passage in the Senate the previous Friday.

"I was excited," Ashley Concie recalls. "He is a gay legislator, one of only four, and he said, 'I can't wait to see the first lesbian legislator in Washington,' and I said, 'That will be me,' and I looked around and everyone was pointing at me at the same time."

The Odyssey kids have come to know her as someone who sets her mind to something and then goes after it with unbridled passion.

After returning from Olympia, she had a conversation with her stepfather's friend about her interest in politics, to which he responded cynically, "I'm 42 years old and I have never had a voice in this country."

She told him, "If you want your voice to be heard out there, you have to put yourself out there. You have to work really hard."

Ashley, whose friends call her "Kitten," speaks with the exuberance of youth, but with a bit of an edge. "Since I was little, I have had 'the opinion,'" she half laughs. She says she has always been



Odyssey's Kitten Concie, Faith Feldman, Cherise Robbins and Jacinda Klein enjoyed Olympia.

clear about what she wants.

Getting it is a different story. Her life of 15 years has not been easy. Family finances have always been limited, and she has shuttled back and forth from her mother's house to her stepfather's. She knows a lot about the misfortune drug problems bring to families.

Born in Spokane, the youngest of six children, Ashley now lives in north Spokane with her stepfather, "the only real parent I've ever had." Although she sees her biological father from time to time, she is closer to the man she describes as "just amazing. He's a great guy. He totally takes me as his own."

Asked how her family has responded to her coming out as a lesbian, she says, "My mother thinks I'm confused and my father thinks I'm bisexual."

Having been exposed to many GLBTQ people in her early years (her

aunt was an AIDS counselor), she was not overwhelmed by the realization that she is a lesbian. "I never saw anything wrong with it [being gay] until my grandmother started saying, 'Gay people are going to go to hell.'"

So coming out to her grandmother was hard. The elder woman's response? "Are you sure?"

Ashley avoids the labels people insist on using. "Lesbian, gay, bisexual – they're all stereotypes," she proclaims with a confidence beyond her years. "You never know who you're going to fall in love with."

For now, the teenager is content to set her sights on resuming her high school education. Sidelined for a while by a health condition, she is enrolling in one of District 81's alternative programs.

When the time comes, she hopes to attend Gonzaga University, eventually earning the law degree that could help her reach the statehouse.

Until then, Ashley writes poetry and lends a hand whenever possible at Odyssey Youth Center.

"I'm really grateful for everyone here at Odyssey," she finishes.

### Be Our Guest

## Heroes and dreams

by Ashley Concie

You walk by a group of teens and what do you expect they are talking about? Sex, drugs, and rock and roll, right? Not at my youth center (Odyssey). On Jan. 29, I boarded an Alpha Omega bus with 25 other youth on our way to Olympia. The fun, six-hour bus ride filled with games, movies, singing and sleeping could not have prepared us for this experience of a lifetime...

Every year Odyssey brings a group of youth to Lobby Day. This Lobby Day we went to talk to legislators about the Healthy Youth Act. Many of the legislators were very friendly and also very supportive of our bill.

Before we talked to the legislators, I think in all we had about five hours of training to use when we got to the capital. But when we finally got to the Capitol steps, oh, what a feeling! My heart was beating fast and I was even sweating. Not because it was hot out but because I felt so small. But I am not small. My voice counts! But does it really?

Through my childhood years I have never had a hero. And maybe I sound crazy but politicians are now my heroes. Why, of all people, are politicians my heroes, you ask? I believe with all my heart that politicians are there because they want to change their community; they want to be their own change in the world. The one thing I have always wanted to do since I was a small child was change the world. Whether it be in Washington, the U.S. or the entire Earth. I want to become the change in my own back yard.



This whole experience has changed my life as well as others, but has also changed my outlook. I used to think politicians were evil and full of scandal. But whose life is not at times horribly scandalous? To me, scandal is life.

People look at me and see a party girl, a rebellious girl, a girl with no future goals – and for a long time I was that girl. The truth is you never know who is going to be the change in your world. Whether they are gay, straight, bisexual, transgender, black, white, yellow, orange, green, blue, or have a mohawk like me. All I know is from this experience I now know I have a voice, I know it counts and I intend to use it.

Through the teenage drama, the food, the fighting, the crying and laughing, I know this is an experience I will never forget. Thanks to Odyssey Youth Center's Lobby Day trip I now know what I want to be when I grow up.

My name is Ashley. I Am 15.  
I want to be a hero.  
I want to be a politician.  
I want to be the change in my world.

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# Business

## Playtime means profit for entrepreneurs and favored NPs

Charles Smaltz calls Jennifer Jacobs, his vice president at Chum Chum Game Company, a "brainiac." He should know, she counters; he's one too. No argument there. The 41-year-old entrepreneur developed "Politics," a board game, when he was 16.

Friends and family have been playing the single, handmade version ever since. In fact, Jacobs has been providing refinement tips since she was 11. (She met Smaltz through her sister, to whom he was married for six years.)

Born and raised in Michigan, with intermittent residencies in Iowa, Smaltz grew up in a politics-savvy environment. Politically oriented games then on the market were too boring or too challenging for his friends, so one day he decided to devise a more user-friendly product. It took him but three days to come up with the prototype.

"I wanted to create a game where you could actually be the mayor, be the president, be a senator," he said.

Smaltz has toyed with the notion of marketing "Politics" for years but was too involved in other pursuits to make the commitment of time and



Chum Chum Game Company uses the Internet and the home or office party marketing technique perfected by Tupperware™ half a century ago. Right, Chum Chum's president, Charles Smaltz, demonstrates some of his products at a PFLAG fund-raiser.

resources start-ups require. Moreover, he was initially thinking along the lines of simply selling the concept to a big company.

In 2003, when the company he was working for closed down, he met with a graphic artist to get "Politics" ready for commercial marketing, and took the first steps toward securing a patent and trademark (former is pending, latter in hand). He pulled together a group of backers, brought Jacobs in as vice president, and in September they attended the Las Vegas Toy and Ventures Forum, returning with a "roadmap" for Chum Chum Game Company, which

was formed in December.

Last year they went to New York, where they discovered a wealth of independent game companies all trying to sell one or two outstanding products. From this emerged AlwaysGreatGames.com, a division of Chum Chum Games that features a collection of 270-plus products for online sales and nonprofit fund-raising partnerships.

Smaltz has worked extensively with area nonprofits for years, among

them the Inland Northwest Business Alliance, North Idaho AIDS Coalition and Pride. He knows how hard it is for NPs to raise the money needed to keep their doors open. So Chum Chum Games has adopted the "party" sales model made famous by the folks at Tupperware™ and will allot up to 20 percent of sales generated to the sponsoring nonprofit or to any NP designated by individuals holding a game party. The same offer holds for online sales if the buyer inputs the NP's code at the time of purchase.

Spokane PFLAG held such a fund-raiser Feb. 21. The Rainbow Center and Action Northwest will host one March 17. West Valley High School's band is earning money toward a trip to Washington, D.C., through game sales.

More than 2,000 units of "Politics" have been sold. For more information, go to [www.chumchumgames.com](http://www.chumchumgames.com) or [www.alwaysgreatgames.com](http://www.alwaysgreatgames.com).

### Eating OUT

## Dining worth the price tag

by The Three Sisters

Located in historic Browne's Addition, Café Marron is industrial whimsy at its finest. Polished concrete floors and garage doors opening onto the patio view with soft lighting and muted colors to provide an intimate, hip dining experience.

The sisters arrived in typical unannounced glory to be seated immediately in spite of the lack of the recommended reservation. Promptly offered the extensive wine list, Sister Vino was thrilled to discover a delightful Duck Pond Merlot poured from the bottle by attractive and attentive wait staff. All the sisters were overjoyed with the eye candy of both sexes, which functioned as a great appetizer.

For more substantial fare, the sisters began with a grilled flatbread crudité platter, which included seasoned raw vegetables and cilantro pecan hummus, mixed olives and artichoke tapenade (\$12).

After more wine and reviewing the fairly *foo foo* menu, we ordered Steak Frites (\$18), Shrimp a la Diabla (\$19), Chicken Penne (\$15) and Gorgonzola Burger (\$10). We were not being piggy-girls; we were only thinking of you. The order took perhaps too long to arrive, but the wine passed the time, along with visits to the most fabulous unisex restroom in Spokane.

**Café Marron**  
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You really must visit.

Like its eclectic surroundings, the food itself ranged from bland (the penne) to brilliant (the burger). The steak, while slightly overcooked, looked so appetizing that an older gentleman from the next table asked one sister for a bite of her meat. She happily complied, and he too was pleased.

The desserts, which the sisters were forced to sample for the sake of our readers, were orgasmic. Do try the warm apple and pear crumb crisp with vanilla ice cream and caramel; it's worth the extra sit-ups. The espresso chocolate custard and the caramelized banana tart were also to die for.

Café Marron will impress your latest conquest. The attentive wait staff and eclectic ambiance made up for the restaurant's slightly higher (than Spokane standard) prices. It's a great place to start a night on the town. And don't forget the live DJ Friday and Saturday nights. If you're lucky, someone may ask for a bite of your meat.



### People visit our gay business district every day.

Before we began the movement to create a physical gay business district in Spokane we established one on the web. Now we are looking to compliment our popular printed directory by increasing web listings and categories with more GLBTQA business and services in the Spokane and Coeur d'Alene corridor, and the entire inland Northwest.

The Inland Northwest Business Alliance provides GLBTQA businesses and professionals the opportunity to network, advance their careers and become more visible in the community. We have alliances with the GLBT business chambers in Seattle and Portland and the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. Visit our web site to advertise online and find out how you can become an INBA member today.

It's time you join the INBA



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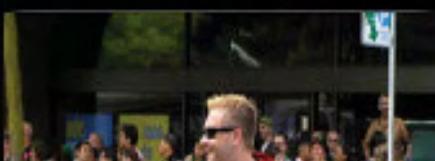
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# National & International

## News in a nutshell

### Russian Muslim chief predicts violence if gay parade allowed in Moscow

MOSCOW (Mosnews) – Russian Muslims can stage violent mass protests if gays and lesbians attempt to hold a pride parade in Moscow this spring, Chief Russian Mufti told Interfax.

“Muslims’ protests can be even worse than these notorious rallies abroad over the scandalous cartoons,” Chief Mufti of Russia’s Central Spiritual Governance for Muslims Talgat Tajuddin said.

Tajuddin said the protest actions could bear physical threat to homosexuals.

“The parade should not be allowed, and if they still come out into the streets, then they should be bashed.”

<http://www.mosnews.com/news/2006/02/14/gayparade.shtml>

### Crowd rallies for marriage equality as high court hears arguments

TRENTON, N.J. (Washington Blade) – Waving signs and chanting slogans, dozens of activists for and against gay marriage rallied Wednesday [Feb 15, 2006] outside New Jersey’s Supreme Court, where justices were hearing arguments over whether same-sex unions are protected under the state Constitution.

About 40 gay rights activists from groups such as Garden State Equality and the National Organization for Women waved black and orange signs reading “Marriage Equality” and chanted slogans including, “Two, four, six, eight, we’re the state that doesn’t hate.”

<http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/newjersey/ny-bc-nj--gaymarriage-ralli0215feb15,0,1754619.story?coll=ny-region-apnewjersey>

### ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’ costs \$364 million

(Washington Blade) – It cost the federal government just under \$364 million to discharge and replace about 9,500 gay service members during the first decade of the Pentagon’s “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy.

The figure is 91 percent more than previously estimated, according to a study conducted by a panel of military experts assembled by the University of California.

[http://www.washblade.com/thelatest/thelatest.cfm?blog\\_id=5137](http://www.washblade.com/thelatest/thelatest.cfm?blog_id=5137)

## Catholic Church launches personal campaign against gay-friendly prime minister

by *Malcolm Thornberry, 365Gay.com European Bureau Chief*

(Madrid) – A leading Catholic bishop is comparing Spanish Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero to the Roman Emperor Caligula over Spain’s legalization of same-sex marriage.

Spain became the third country in the world to sanction gay marriage when it passed a marriage equalization law last year. (story) [See also August 2005 issue, Stonewall News Northwest]

The Church is in open warfare with Zapatero over the gay marriage law but [last month’s] attack by Bishop Antonio Algora is the most personally vicious.

Caligula, who ruled Rome in the first century is considered one of the most depraved leaders in world history.

He forced soldiers and nobles alike to have sex with him, engaged in sadism and bestiality and reportedly raped his sisters. In the year 41, at the age of 29, after having been in power only three years and ten months, he was assassinated.

“If Zapatero wants to become Caligula, it’s up to him,” Bishop Algora was quoted as saying in Spanish language newspapers.

“But without doubt people will have to learn who Caligula was and what customs he imposed on Rome, it’s as simple as that.”

In 2004, shortly after Zapatero announced he would bring in the gay marriage legislation, he was summoned to Rome for a lecture by Pope John Paul. (story) Nevertheless, Zapatero and his government refused to bow under the pressure.

The Church organized a massive rally in Madrid shortly before the Spanish parliament voted on the marriage bill and a spokesman for the Spanish Bishops Conference, Antonio Martinez Camino, said that allowing gay marriage was like “imposing a virus on society - something false that will have negative consequences for social life.”

The attacks have continued under Pope Benedict. The pope, speaking through Cardinal Alfonso Lopes Trujill, head of the Pontifical Council on the Family, said Roman Catholics should be prepared to lose their jobs rather than cooperate with the law.

## News in a nutshell

### Anti-gay amendments fail in two states

WASHINGTON (365gay.com) – Proposed amendments to state constitutions to blocking same-sex marriage failed to get enough support to advance in West Virginia and New Hampshire.

In West Virginia the House of Delegates voted largely along party lines in a procedural vote to kill a proposed amendment defining marriage as between a man and a woman.

Opponents said the issue of preventing same-sex couples from marrying is already covered under a law passed in 2000. The law was upheld by the state Supreme Court in 2004.

<http://www.365gay.com/Newscon06/02/021606bansDie.htm>

### Judge rules lesbian couple can be foster parents

KANSAS CITY (The Kansas City Star) – Missouri cannot block an openly gay Kansas City woman’s efforts to become a foster parent because of her sexual orientation, a Jackson County judge ruled today [Feb. 17].

In her decision, Circuit Judge Sandra Midkiff ruled the state arbitrarily denied Lisa Johnston’s petition to become a foster parent because she is a lesbian.

Johnston and partner Dawn Roginski sought to become foster parents in 2003, but their efforts were stymied by an unwritten state social services policy prohibiting gays from becoming foster parents.

<http://www.topix.net/content/krd/4621978974858619981>

### Researchers expect GLBT buying power to hit \$641 billion this year

WASHINGTON (365gay.com) – The total buying power of the American LGBT adult population will reach \$641 billion this year, up almost \$30 billion from the year before, according to an analysis by a gay research and marketing consortium.

“Estimating buying power is a standard business tool for companies and policy decision-makers,” said Bob Witeck, CEO of Witeck-Combs Communications. “This offers us a snapshot of the dynamic economic activity of America’s diverse gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender population.”

<http://www.365gay.com/Newscon06/02/021406buying.htm>

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**Watch for new features on this page.**

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

by Christopher Lawrence

## Civic has *Cat, Life* and *Private Lives*

The Spokane Civic Theatre is offering a full schedule and some hits that should be worthy of our taking time out of busy evenings for well deserved and entertaining distraction.

Running through March 11 is ***Cat on a Hot Tin Roof***. This is a gritty Tennessee Williams drama with raw steamy scenes of anger, lust, jealousy and suspicion of closeted homosexuality, an underlying theme in many of his works.

If you have never seen this masterpiece on stage then it is time to see what this writing was really all about without the sanitized result we were given by Hollywood in the 1950's.

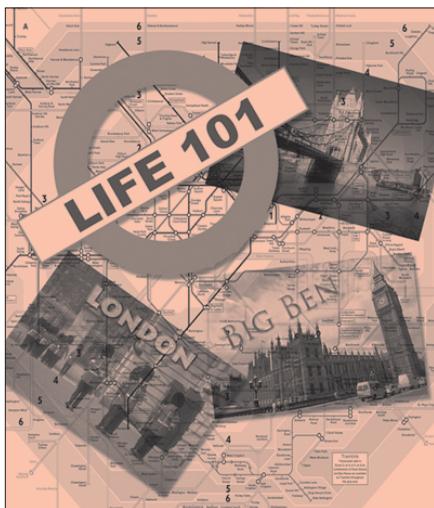


burgh Guide reported it as "inspirational, uplifting and one of the best shows [the reviewer had] ever seen."

From March 31 through April 23, the wonderful classic comedy ***Private Lives*** by 'family' member Noel Coward will open on the main stage. Coward is always sophisticated and complicated.

Recently divorced and each on a honeymoon with their new spouses, a couple find themselves choosing the same place to vacation. Passion and fireworks are guaranteed but with whom? Interesting examinations of mistakes and regrets turn these two honeymoons on their heads.

The Northwest Premiere of an internationally acclaimed musical-dramedy runs from March 10 through April 1, in the Firth J. Chew Studio Theatre. ***Life 101*** is directed by Yvonne A.K. Johnson, written by Donovan Stohlberg and Yvonne A.K. Johnson with lyrics and music by L.B. Hamilton and Donovan Stohlberg. Donovan is clearly multitalented in other areas because he has also been the director of marketing and sales for the Civic since last summer. I am looking forward to seeing the choreography by Michele Whalen to this new and original score.



A diverse group of seven university students from the United States sign up for a course entitled "Life 101: Spring in London." The course and their lives are about to become much more complicated than any of them would have dreamed, thanks to their professor's hidden agenda. The Edin-



Find out what happens when the new spouses realize that the honeymoon isn't the beginning of marriage bliss!

Coward always has an interesting turn of phrase, turn of intent and turn of character to keep the audience amused.

Expect to laugh and savor some unexpectedly wistful moments.

This 1930 play set the bar high for the genre. Other popular bedroom comedies on stage and in movies during the many decades that followed really owe much of their success to the Coward crowd of 'literati.'

You can find Spokane Civic Theatre at 1020 N. Howard St. across from Veteran's Arena.

For tickets and show times, call (509) 325-2507 or 800-466-9576

Online tickets are available at <http://ticketswest.rdln.com/Venue.aspx?ven=CVC>.

## Live it up at *CenterStageLIVE!*

The new variety show at CenterStage Theater is a very enjoyable evening of entertainment. The pacing is quick and lighthearted with a few exceptions for the occasional 'Chanteuse of the evening' alternately crooning and belting to give a little break to the ensemble cast who share the stage in various combinations throughout the show.

Most of the sketches and gags are about local politics, locally infamous characters and other unique submissions intended to tickle the funny bone.

Some are more far-reaching and one song manages to lampoon the local Catholic diocese's scandals and bankruptcy with that old favorite: "Bishop, Can You Spare a Dime?"

With few exceptions they nail most of the skits and musical numbers.

It was great fun to listen to them lampooning some of our local television newscasters and weather forecasters who seem to dramatize typically normal events and weather to the point of ridiculous comedy. What else can you do with frustration over empty television fare except to make fun of it? They take the task to heart and do it well.

If the Inland Northwest is fortunate enough, perhaps some of our local stations will pay attention and deliver us from that particular hell of local television. Never give up hope.

Head writer Reed McColm is aided and abetted in his twisted comedic fare by writers Tim Behrens, Leslie Ann Grove and Janean Jorgensen.

Darrin Jones is the standout vocally. A wonderful singer with great timing and a full and powerfully vibrant voice.

There were highlights that stood head and shoulders above some of the material, but I suspect that with the ever changing nature of the show this probably varies according to the evening one attends.

Angela Snyder, the guest artist that night was excellent as usual. She always has a tough and gritty presence, a strong grasp of comedic timing and vocal strength.

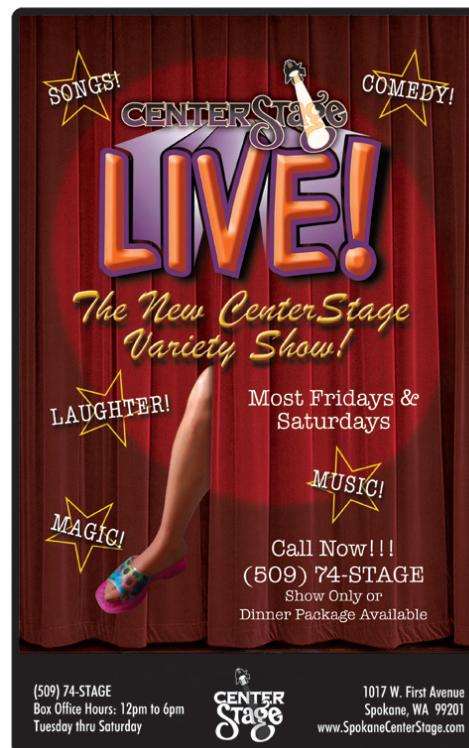
The cast is shameless and energized; poking fun at themselves as well as the rest of the world. Some of the sketches were reminiscent of "Saturday Night Live" mixed with elements of "Laugh-In" and "Hee-Haw."

Get a seat up close for the best enjoyment. With all the ambient sound created in a dinner theater there are times it is difficult to hear the lyrics of some of the women's songs. (Yes, even with strong voices!) This has been a minor, but ongoing problem. Microphones for the women during solos would be helpful to better hear the nuances that can only be shared by using

the voice quietly in some songs. Speakers for those mikes could be placed on the stage to keep the sound cohesive with the smooth on-stage musical trio.

Although the lighting was adequate, they could make better use of the follow spot during some routines.

Even with those two very slight deductions, this is a bright show that adult audiences can enjoy many times over. Tickets and showtimes are available by calling (509) 747-8243.



### 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 March 14 for the 6 p.m. social and 7:15 p.m. showing of ***Strange Fruit***, a murder mystery that reveals the raw face of racism and homophobia in the South.

Ticket holders for Pride & Joy Movie Night are offered drink specials, a 20 percent discount on all food from *ella's Supper Club* and drawings for free prizes.

The privilege of watching a primarily gay film with an amiable group of diverse types from the gay community is freeing and enjoyable.

Bring some friends and join us at the 'family-friendly,' CenterStage Theater for a great evening of entertainment and camaraderie.

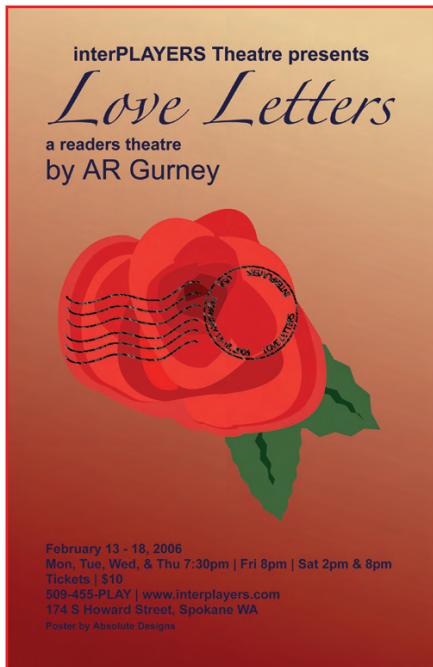
# Stepping Out after Love Letters

Readers Theater is an easily acquired taste. Some plays are more suited than others. **Love Letters** at interPLAYERS theater reminded me of listening to Books on Tape read by good actors with good voices. The ability to see expressions on the actors is an added advantage that brings another dimension to the craft. Following the lives of two childhood friends who in later life became clandestine sweethearts with stolen moments of bliss, I was struck by the power of the written word. That power is heavily altered by the presence of the person who speaks those words.

The passage of time and the changes in the characters were nostalgic and wistful, arrogant and boastful and yet somehow the vulnerability that was shared by playwright A. R. Gurney compels the viewer to become involved with these two people and their process.

Both actors were on their game. John Oswald seemed the stronger of the two on the night I attended, but Ann Russell Whiteman had some of the most fragile fractures embedded within the persona of her character. A good pairing. It would be wonderful to see more people support Readers Theater in Spokane. It has a life and energy all its own.

interPLAYERS' next offering will run from March 9 through 25. **Stepping Out** is a comedy that revolves around 10 women and one man who have sought out an aging chorine in a seedy dance studio to help them eschew a past bound to the heavy weight of having 'two left feet.' With the help of the instructor and a 'we-can-do-it lets-put-on-a-show' attitude, this motley crew struggles along



and triumphs at their shared recital.

Whenever we have an opportunity to see Troy Nickerson work with Kathy Doyle-Lipe, it's best to bear in mind that our sides may ache the following day. Two zanier talents have yet to gain my attention in the same way. I expect this show to have it all – music, dancing

(good and bad), plenty of mugging and camaraderie.

The audience may be tapping their feet



and wishing they could wear those tap shoes as well. Join the cast and crew for a rollicking time.

Picture above, top to bottom, left to right are: Lei Broadstone, Angela Snyder, Nicole Hicks, Carolee Young, Danae Lowman, Becky Moonitz, Evelyn Renshaw, and Kathy Doyle-Lipe. Not pictured is Greg Pschirrer.

# SJO trumpets 'Royal Jazz' concert

The Spokane Jazz Orchestra presents the third concert of its 31st season featuring the big band music of the two greatest jazz bands of all time, the Count Basie and Duke Ellington bands, on Saturday, March 11 at 8 p.m. at the Met Theater.

"Selecting the music for this concert is in a sense very easy," says SJO Music Director Dan Keberle, "because each band had hundreds of hit songs and very important works in the history of jazz music. However, trying to limit the program to 90 minutes of music means we can only play about seven tunes from each band.

This has caused me quite a bit of worry and anxiety – how can anyone ever choose just seven or eight songs from such a grand repertoire?"

Keberle also says "The SJO is at its strongest in many years, with the very best players and jazz soloists in the Inland Northwest all playing in the band regularly. These musicians are chomping at the bit to play this music – Basie and Ellington is the 'bread and butter' of SJO – I'm sure this concert will be one of the most entertaining and creative jazz concerts ever. They will play music from each decade from each band – early Ellington and Basie to some of the most recent charts from each group."

Music to be performed includes such special favorites as Ellington's "Caravan," "Perdido," "The Mooche," "Cottontail," "Take the A-Train," and "Harlem Airshaft."



SJO performs the favorite big band hits of Basie and Ellington, as well as featuring the winner of the high school student jazz saxophone talent search.

Saturday, Mar. 11  
8 PM at The Met

Tickets available at all TicketsWest locations, 1.800.325.SEAT or www.ticketswest.com For further information visit www.spokanejazz.com

From Count Basie they will perform "April In Paris," "I Can't Stop Lovin' You," "In A Mellotone," "Lil' Darlin'" and "Corner Pocket."

As an added feature, the winner of the high school jazz solo competition, one of the area's top high school jazz musicians, Oliver Walters, will be performing the song "Softly, As In A Morning Sunrise."

Tickets are on sale at TicketsWest, by phone at (800) 325-SEAT or online at www.ticketswest.com.

# Addiction Monologues

It has been said that "Recovery is a series of steps, one after another, until we create the life we want to live." This is true for physical recovery from surgery or an accident and very true for addictions.

**Addiction Monologues** is a benefit performance presented by Youth, Family, Adult Connections (YFA Connections) and Actors Repertory Theatre, which have collaborated on this project to raise public awareness about addiction.

This benefit performance consists of real stories told by real people that capture and present what addiction, intervention and recovery look and feel like from the inside out.

Humor, sarcasm, heartbreaking and ultimately human, the **Addiction Monologues** will be performed once only on Friday, March 17, 2006 at 7 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church. Admission is \$10 or \$5 with student ID.

Proceeds benefit YFA Connections.



The second Tuesday of each month at 6 pm for the Social Hour at ella's Supper Club. Appetizers and dinner at 20% discount

**Strange Fruit**  
Showtime at 7:15 on Mar. 14  
Tickets \$5, (\$3 for students)

Win theater tickets for current productions each month and more!  
1017 West First Avenue (ph) 74-STAGE

## 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 review sessions include: **Girl Walking Backward** by Bett Williams on **March 1** and **Kookaburra Gambit** by Claire McNab on April 5.

# REVIEWS & PREVIEWS

## BOOKS & VIDEOS

Christopher Lawrence, A & E Editor

### Nothing Personal

by Scott and Scott  
booksurge.com, 229 pages

This is the fourth offering of Scott Pomfret and Scott Whittier since they created the Romantics line of novels.

Integrating the timely subject of marriage rights and the accompanying social and political fallout into the plot provides relevance that promises to be a bit more cutting edge than some of their other male romance novels.

This particular genre tends to be formulaic, so it is best not to expect most of the characters to be deeply textured, but for the most part you will find it easy to empathize with a few of them as the story unfolds.

Inspired by the 'real-life political heroes, Carl Sciortino and Jarrett Barrios, whose exploits inspired gay marriage in Massachusetts – as well as this novel.' The struggle continues in every state.

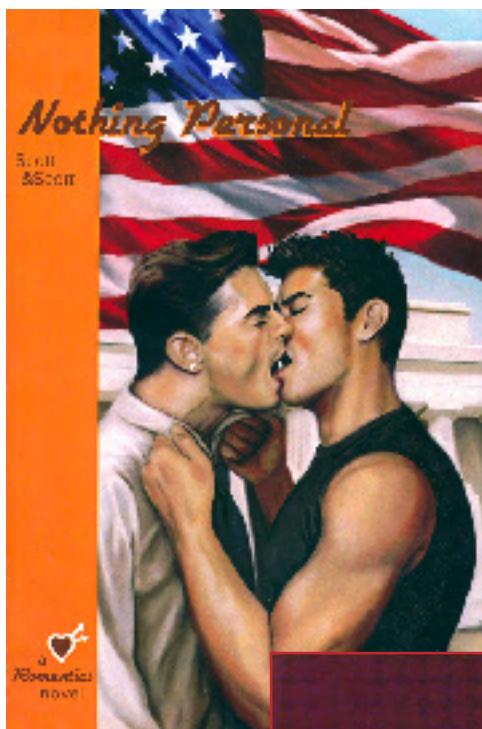
Good Hope, Ohio, furnishes its own brand of intrigue and pork barrel politics. This 'guilty pleasure' tells a twisting tale of the modern underworld fighting the onset of equal rights because it might threaten the status quo and could put an end to crimelords feeding at the trough by controlling local government.

This a good effort with plenty of sexual tension and release to (hopefully) make you squirm and serve to obfuscate some of the convenient, but questionable coincidences and plot devices.

The two Scotts' penchant for tossing in a few stereotypes on both sides of the sexual orientation fence does detract slightly. However, we all know a few flammers who think they know best and interfere in friends' lives, so those plot devices commonly found in most of their books are forgivable.

Our lovers/authors work the formula well. Every sexy underdog has his day ...after righteous inner struggle, growth and much-needed sexual release.

Yes, they finally take us to the 'happily ever after' and, of course, that final money shot... Enjoy.

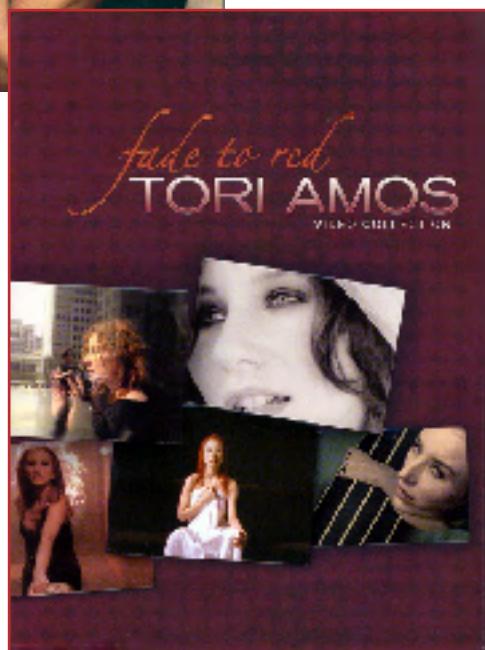


### Fade To Red

Tori Amos  
Rhino Home Video

Finally someone has done a video collection right! Tori's career-spanning two-DVD set is an excellent video album, perfect for the Tori novice, and with just the right amount of extras for the die-hard fan. The 19 videos (21 if you count the bonus features) are arranged for maximum effect, rather than chronologically. This might be considered a drawback by some, but the result is a much more watchable program than a simple historical retrospective.

Not only are rare and alternate videos included as bonus features, but there is also an extensive behind-the-scenes segment about one of the more innovative and complicated videos. A welcome addition is



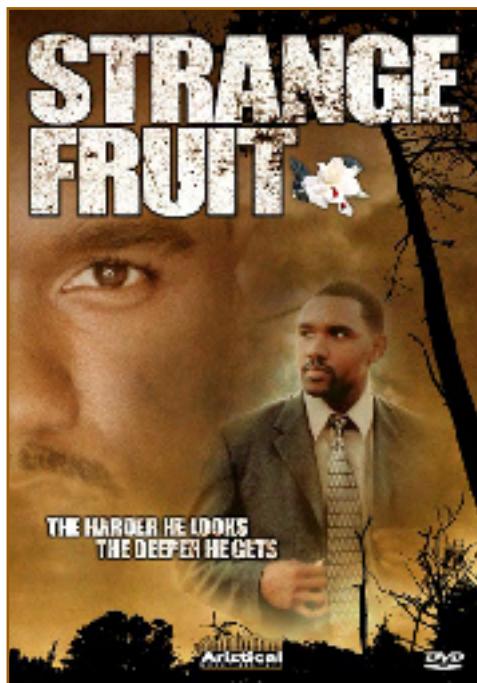
a stream-of-consciousness commentary track by Tori about each video. While not always illuminating a given track, the insights into Tori's artistic mind are surprising in their candor.

Tori does not suit every taste. However, her constant striving to reclaim gender archetypes and boldness in expression do insist on attention. Rhino has earned a well-deserved reputation for excellent CD and DVD releases. This compilation only underscores that renown. Perhaps this wonderful DVD release will bring Tori new, much-deserved fans.–G.A.

### Strange Fruit

written/directed by Kyle Schnickner  
Arztical Entertainment,

In 1937, after seeing a photo depicting the lynching of an African-American man in the South, Abel Meeropol wrote a poem entitled "Strange Fruit" that begins with the words "Southern trees bear a strange fruit/ Blood on the leaves and blood at the root." After being set to music, it was crooned by the great Billie



Holiday and affected musicians and activists for years thereafter.

This is a film that struck me from the first as unusual and nearly hypnotic in flavor and feel. The mostly black cast is headed up by the very handsome Kent Faulcon, who plays William Boyals, a successful, black, gay attorney in New York.

Drawn back to the small, rural Louisiana town he long ago escaped to investigate the lynching of a black, gay childhood friend, he is reunited with friends.

The movie, as the poem, is about roots, family and the punishment for being different in an intolerant society. The subtext underpinning Boyal's attempt to solve the crime of torture and lynching of a gay black man leads us through original and thought-provoking twists on homophobia and racism in America's Deep South.

Direction, acting and cinematography are all very good. A few moments are a bit unpolished, but hardly noticeable enough to matter.

You will enjoy this above-average and insightful thriller from beginning to end. It is worth renting, acquiring as part of an excellent library of GLBTQ films and seeing at Pride & Joy Movie Night at CenterStage Theater on March 14.

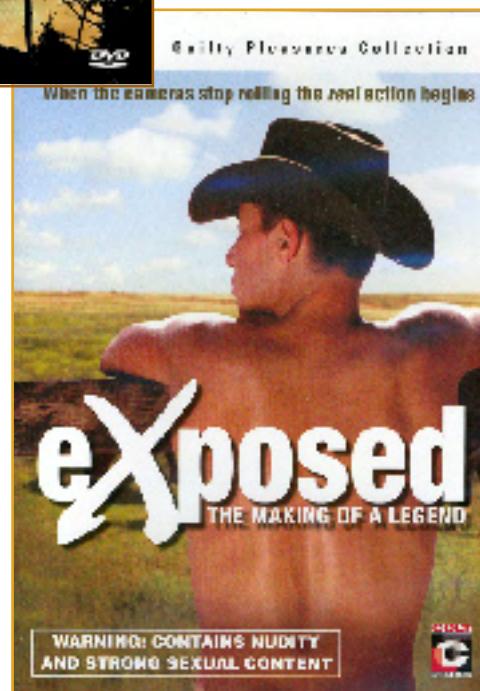
### eXposed: The Making of a Legend

directed by mr. Pam  
TLA Releasing, 97 minutes

For some time, the adult video industry has been making use of every part of their filming process in adult movies. On any given film they use still pictures in magazines, online, and now they are selling some pretty good 'The Making of...' videos to herald and promote the more expensive, xxx-rated adventures.

This isn't necessarily a bad thing. Promoting the movie **BUCKLEROOS** manages to supply some very entertaining footage of the adult actors (often naked) in more candid scenes of preparation and interaction with cast and crew.

Zak Spears, Dean Phoenix and Marcus Irons are not bad actors in this genre and the plot is actually fun and interesting. Make no mistake, this is the 'soft' lead-in



to the sizzling event. I actually enjoyed **eXposed** to the point of laughing at intentional humor while trying to repress my prurient interests.

The real questions remain to be answered. Are we willing to pay to watch the making of an adult movie?

Is this just additional 'sexploitation' that can only drive us to want more and feel cheated by the fairly sanitized sexual content?

The answers are likely as myriad as the number of people who will take a gamble by renting or buying **eXposed** and the many wannabes that will follow.

The personalities in this particular one are charming and just plain fun.

Ah, what the heck. I may even watch **BUCKLEROOS** when it comes out.

Life is short. Man does not live by bread alone.

# REVIEWS & PREVIEW

## MUSIC

Reviews by Graham Ames

### Child Of No Nation

Philein

[www.philein.com](http://www.philein.com)

On my infrequent trips to Seattle, I have often found myself mesmerized by Asian television programming in the hotels. Pop music from Japan and China has an infectious bubblegum dance quality to it which both attracts and repels

my Western ears. Philein's debut album takes this foreign format and retools it, hoping for crossover success on both sides of the Pacific.

Once the mood-setting opening instrumental

fades, the dance grooves begin with "For All Eternity," a simple confection which follows the current trend of soft, slow vocals laid over a hip-hop beat. "Run Into Love" expands the creative palette, featuring spoken word and electronic manipulations made familiar in recent years by Madonna and Cher.

The J-pop innocence quickly gives way to Western-style sexuality with "Shock Seduce Me," a song that would make Kylie Minogue proud with its driving Euro-dance beat and suggestive lyrics. The title ballad expresses the frustrations of being caught between cultures with an unexpected eloquence. My favorite of the 11 tracks, "Violet Vuarnets," speaks in three languages about the power of sunglasses in today's public world. Philein wraps up the album with Chinese versions of three songs, positioning herself for international attention.

Available through iTunes or Philein's Web site, this is a fun cross-cultural debut by an artist with huge potential. I wish her online presence featured more of her much-touted "Tiger Hip-Hop" dance style, or that it featured more, period. This is a small complaint about a gifted young lady who might become the Next Big Thing. If she can get the attention of some studio wizards and the support of a major label, I am sure I will be hearing more from Philein. Perhaps we all will.



### Winter Journal

Luke Parkin

[www.lukeparkin.com](http://www.lukeparkin.com)

Luke's talent is undeniable. His Web site features well over 50 "albums" of music, streaming for your listening pleasure. Many of these are not casual listens, drawing deeply from electronic and modern classical traditions to create soundscapes and instrumentals that the less adventurous ear will struggle to hear as music at all. The breadth of styles and sense of delight in sound is breathtaking. So why do I feel so frustrated with this, his first actual CD release?

With 14 solo piano pieces filled with broad-rolling chords and expressive melody lines reminiscent of George

Winston, Luke obviously is aiming at the same Windham Hill / Narada audience which brought this new-age instrumental style to popularity a couple of decades ago. Many are original compositions, while others, such as "Picardy" or "Veni Creator Spiritus," are based on familiar liturgical melodies. The quiet beauty of this album cannot be denied, and should appeal to many who long for sonic escape from the helter-skelter pace of today's world.

But where is the sense of adventure and daring? Where are the "sit up and take notice" moments? Even some deft polyrhythm work would break the gentle monotony, providing the listener with a minor challenge amidst the otherwise safe choices. Instead of painting a vivid canvas of sound, Luke becomes the Bob Ross of solo piano, creating happy little trees and waterfalls without making any real artistic statement.

I want to support this talented, young, openly gay artist, and can't think of a better way than by purchasing this debut release by Pacific Music ([www.pacificmusic.net](http://www.pacificmusic.net)). I just hope that his sophomore effort will show more of the



musical soul he bares through his online-only offerings.

### Ancora

Il Divo

[Columbia Records](http://ColumbiaRecords.com)

Il Divo is the collective noun for four beautiful and beautifully voiced men who look great in European designer suits and sing quasi-classical arrangements of pop songs with mostly operatically-trained voices. This should be an awful thing. Instead, it is a surprisingly engaging, hugely successful global recording sensation.

**Ancora** is the second release by this international quartet (USA, France, Switzerland, Spain), and the reasons for its instant success worldwide are immediately apparent. Created by Simon ("American Idol") Cowell, this is the new N\*Sync, all dressed up for adulthood, and doing "respectable" music. Indeed, three of the four members have day jobs singing with opera companies. Each member is of a type, with his own look, sound and persona, but they blend beautifully into a package that is sure to please the teenage girl in all of us.

The 10 tracks offered here are superbly crafted. Dramatic, yearning, tender, soaring – they offer an approach to opera for anyone afraid of Wagner or even Mozart. Meld-



ing pop and high art is a difficult high wire act, one which is skillfully managed here through exquisite production and the sheer beauty of a mellifluous baritone. Perhaps more such groups will form, allowing this idea to develop beyond curiosity into its own unique category.

Leave it to Simon Cowell. In his quest to conquer every music collection (via Idol and its cohorts around the globe), he has reinvented the boy band and, perhaps, invented a whole new genre.

### 12 Songs

Neil Diamond

[Columbia Records](http://ColumbiaRecords.com)

Rick Rubin has the golden touch. This wookiee-slash-music producer has single-handedly changed our listening habits, sitting at the helm of projects ranging from The Beastie Boys to Red Hot Chili Peppers to Jay-Z. His creative touch was responsible for Johnny Cash's career revival, and he has turned his ear toward another iconic American troubadour. After basically locking Neil in a room with a guitar and a pad of paper for a strict year of songwriting, he brought together a group of top-rate musicians to record the eponymous 12 tracks featured here. The result is a stripped-down album which lets Neil's considerable songwriting talents shine in fresh light.

If you're young enough to not remember Diamond's days of bombast and sequined jumpsuits, you'll be one step ahead of the rest of us when approaching this seminal new work. Backed by a folksy mix of guitars, glockenspiel, autoharp, even Hammond organ (by Billy Preston, who adds as much sparkle here as he did on The Beatles' *Let It Be*), Neil's voice and lyrics take center stage. Whether declaring intentions of lifelong love ("Oh Mary," "Captain Of A Shipwreck") or reflecting on his own peculiar path in life ("Hell Yeah," "Man Of God"), the personal becomes universal through the lens of Diamond's baritone growl.

Gentle, insightful and delightful, **12 Songs** redefines Diamond by sticking to the power of the man and his craft, rather than relying on overproduced string-and-horn sections for emotional power. Instead, by allowing the songs to speak with a softer voice, Rubin proves once again that our older, wiser music makers have much to offer in this youth-driven culture. Another similar project by Rubin and Diamond, and those sparkly jumpsuits might become fashionable once again.

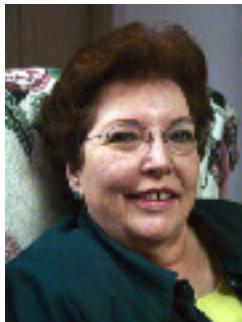


## Healthier Options

# The cost of living closeted

by Helen Bonser

Therapist Sybil Meyer, who wrote *Counseling Our Own*, says being gay takes "a phenomenal act of courage and self-assertion to accept and own a part of oneself that society says is 'sick' and you know inside it is not, and you are the only authority for that decision."



After showing the courage and assertiveness to own up to who you are...then...tell other people about it? For many, that is where courage fails them.

As a support person and activist, I have heard many times, "It's just too hard to come out in Spokane." Coming out is hard. Consider, however, the consequences of *not* being out.

The coming out process is a journey of personal growth and exploration. It begins with owning one's true orientation and ends with personal comfort and self-assurance – in both the gay and nongay communities.

If you choose to remain closeted, you sacrifice the ability to be your authentic WHOLE self. Others see only parts of you and, therefore, you might sometimes feel unseen, unheard, unrecognized and lonely. Harriet Learner writes in *The Dance of Deception*, "the struggle for truth telling is at the center of our deepest longing for intimacy with others."

When you choose not to come out, you give your personal power away. When we care too much what other people think, we live our lives to please them – not to please ourselves. The truth is, others don't really notice or think about you as much as you think they do. They are just as much (or more) self-conscious than you are. Though other people have their own unique perceptions of you, only you are the authority on your core and genuine self!

When you choose not to come out, you sacrifice your integrity. Integrity means integrating your walk with your talk. We all must express our values and beliefs in actions. The cost of sacrificing integrity is low morale and poor self-esteem. For more insight on this theme, you may wish to consult Dorothy Corkille Briggs' book *Celebrate Yourself*.

When you are open and honest with others, you give them a chance to know you deeply and you trust them with information. Indeed it is a privilege for others to be "come out to." By doing so, you let family, friends, colleagues and acquaintances experience the compliment of your confidence. Given this gift, many (not all) rise to the occasion and are honest and open in reciprocation. They get a chance to be their best selves and to support you in new ways. Many have also reported that the coming out

experience let them know which of the people in their lives really cared about them.

When you choose not to come out, you don't give yourself a chance to celebrate and show off your gorgeous gay self! What a loss that often is for close relationships and for the community at large. Genetic research has shown

that gay people are bright, creative (way beyond the norm), sensitive, unique, right-brained and left-handed. Gorgeous indeed and valuable to all of society.

When you do choose to come out, the GLBT community at large truly benefits. Not only can you find validation and support but you can give it too. There are always others waiting and hesitant to come out and countless nongay people who need to understand the facts – not the myths – about the gay phenomenon.

My own coming out story as the mother of a lesbian daughter (yes family members have to come out too!) began in 1981. When my girl fell in love with a woman, I came face to face with my own ignorance and prejudice. I felt so afraid that I remained closeted for three years while my daughter bravely became and proclaimed herself.

When I finally crept out of my closet, there were understanding people waiting to help me learn and grow. My daughter's partner was first, the pastor of EMCC was second and next was PFLAG, where I found a new home. It is not lost on me that GLBT people were the first to comfort me and help me get the information I needed.

Today, and always, I marvel at the joys, connections, fun and love I would have missed had I not "come out" as the mom of a gay person. My life is enriched and full of blessings. I wish exactly the same for you!

*Helen Bonser, M.A./A.B.S., L.M.H.P., has been an active member of PFLAG since 1984. She was a founder of the Spokane Pride Parade (1992) and Inland Northwest Business Alliance (1994). Her private practice, Diversity Counseling Services, offers outreach to GLBT people and to those affected by HIV/AIDS.*

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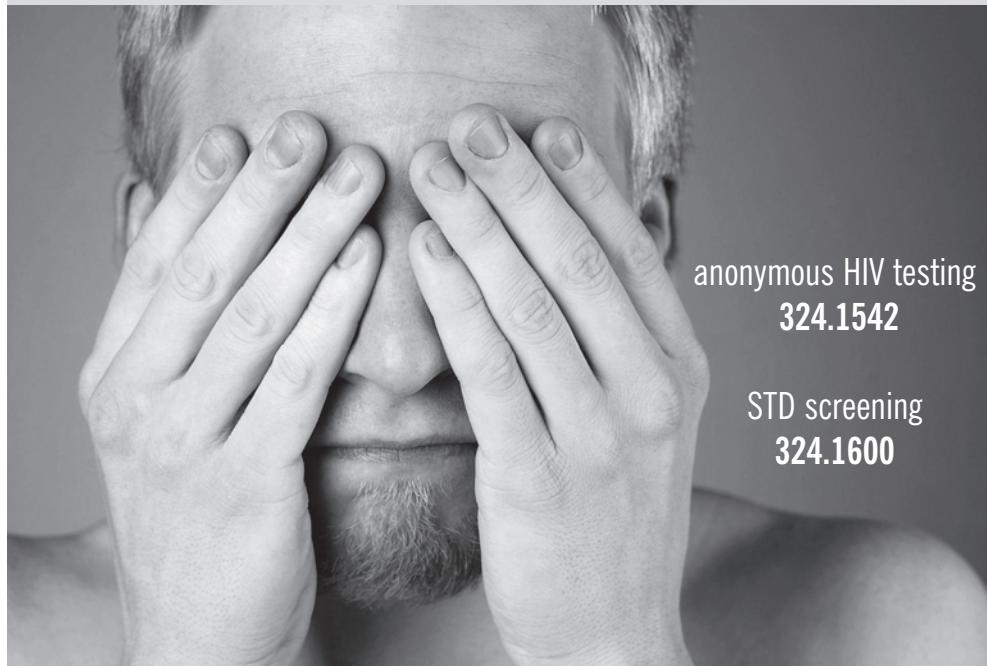
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**MARRIAGE EQUALITY**

*Continued from page 1*

union. I think it privileges heterosexual marriages. I think it preserves an institution that is still fundamentally built on the sexual division of labor and traditional gender roles. I'm not saying that that means we shouldn't value heterosexual marriage. I am saying, however, that we need to open up that right – and it is a right – it's a fundamental right – to gay and lesbian couples."

Health educator and community advocate Cameron Lewis joined with Goode in embracing civil unions as "a concept that might work." Even without them, he noted, he could now, with proper research and legal expertise, secure for himself most of the legal protections afforded by a marriage certificate. "And I can do that in such a way that it is easily adjusted and moved if I need it to be."

The notion of civil unions took on new meaning as the afternoon's discussion advanced. Ultimately, Lewis proposed that some form of civil union will replace traditional marriage within 20 years, an idea that many favored but some doubted, among them Joe Reilly, who proclaimed the idea "incredibly optimistic."

**...as long as there's this separation between marriage and civil unions, it's less. Why should we settle for less just because we happen to be gay?**

– Marge Ballack

Panelist W. Sagen Smith, a Spokane mental health professional, said the conflict over gay rights in general and marriage in particular is "breaking the fiber of this great country." He worried that the United States might be headed backward, returning to the mindset of nastiness that ruled many parts of the nation in the years leading up to the passage of civil rights laws in the 1960s. "What we have to do is to decide whether we're going to come together as a community, as a nation, to work on this very controversial issue because, bottom line, it is discrimination at its worst and it will break us apart."

**What is the danger to heterosexual marriage in allowing gay marriage? What is the worst possible scenario that anyone can think of?**

– Robert Cochran

Putting a human face on the issue of marriage equality was panelist Marge Ballack, a plaintiff in the combined case against the state's DOMA, heard March 8, 2005, and not yet ruled upon by the state Supreme Court. "Marriage is a word that speaks volumes in its very

*Continued on page 20*



**Tell Trinity**

**Dealing With 'The Silent Treatment'**

Dearest Trinity,

My partner often shows displeasure with me by closing off all communication for a few days with the "silent treatment." But then I feel horrible and abused. Any help would be appreciated!

Yours, Closed Off  
San Diego, CA

Dearest Closed Off,

Don't you just hate that? It's so unclear and wastes so much time.

Let's try this, Honey. When you're both getting along suggest a game for the times when "we're" not getting along. In this game, "I give three words describing how I feel and you do the same." This way your partner gets to practice letting it out and you get to wonder if being single wouldn't be easier!

XOXO,  
Trinity

Hey Trinity,

My four-year relationship needs a sex overhaul or we won't make it to year five. I am thinking of an open relationship. What do you think?

Sincerely,  
Open Season  
Raleigh, NC

Dear Open Season,

I think it's smart to try anything and everything to make a relationship work sexually before throwing in the hand towel. Just as relationships need rules so do open relationships – i.e., no falling in love, no unsafe sex, no bringing someone home and no sleeping out all night. Otherwise you could end up in very dangerous water(beds).

Good Luck,  
Trinity



**DATING DILEMMA #141**

Hey Girl,

I met someone Friday night and spent the weekend with him. Three days later he wants me to meet his friends and family. It's so fast. Should I say, "Wait a while?"

Thanks,  
Hurry Date  
Albany, NY

Hey Hurry Date,

Meeting "the friends and family" of someone you just met IS absolutely fast and sometimes a sign that he or she may lose interest equally as fast. However, Pumpkin, some people know what they want right away and if you feel good about this person then what the hell, why not meet your future relatives or ex-relatives early? Ask to be introduced as a friend to make things lighter. Remember, dating is a "game" to be played not stored on the shelf!

Go Girl,  
Trin.

Dear Trinity,

After two years my girlfriend dumped me to go back to school. Now I can't get over her and everything we had. Any suggestions on getting her out of my mind?

Losing My Mind New York, NY

Dear Losing,

Before you get suicidal, Darling, mix yourself a martini (or milkshake) and start reading:

**Trinity's Sane Tips For What It's Time To STOP DOING After You've Just Broken Up**

1. It's time to stop WATCHING HOME VIDEOS of the two of "us" and start "washing that (wo)man right out of your head!"
2. It's time to stop DAY-DREAMING about what you could have done differently and start thinking about what you WILL do differently now that you're free.
3. It's time to stop CALLING HER FRIENDS to see if she's still single and start making new friends who will keep you dating!
4. It's time to stop THINKING ABOUT REVENGE and start thinking about Saturday night rendezvous.
5. It's time to stop ACCIDENTALLY PASSING BY his workplace and start purposely passing by new places with new people to meet.
6. It's time to stop COOKING THE SAME MEALS she loved and start trying new recipes for you and your new dates.
7. It's time to stop LOOKING THE WAY he always liked you to look and start your new life with a fabulous makeover (seriously)!
8. It's time to stop PLAYING THE ANSWERING MACHINE just to hear her voice one more time. For God sakes, erase the machine already!
9. It's time to stop LISTENING TO "OUR" FAVORITE SONGS and start listening to upbeat songs like, "I Will Survive," "I'm A Survivor" and "No More Drama!"

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](mailto:Trinity@telltrinity.com) or a letter to Tell Trinity, PO Box 1362, Provincetown, MA 02657-5362  
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# Culture

## Native American cultures honored Two-Spirits

by Peter Perkins

Several of my students noticed a photo of my closest friend hanging on the wall next to my desk. "Mr. Perkins, is that a picture of your wife or your daughter?" they asked.

My friend is a strikingly beautiful person; six feet tall with luxurious black hair that extends almost to the waist. The first time we met I wondered whether I was looking at a man or a woman because of the androgynous appearance. It didn't matter, though. We realized we had quite a bit in common. We are descendants of the same Native American tribe.

I have avoided using a pronoun – he or she – to describe my friend. Another friend of mine taught me that it doesn't matter what identity people give to each other. What matters is the identity that they use to describe themselves. I asked my friend about identity and the response was transgendered or "Two-Spirit."

Two-Spirits don't fit easily into a mind frame trained by the European Christian construct of distinctly male and female. Sexual and gender identity fluidity were not something that I was taught growing up in a Catholic family in Walla Walla. I have struggled with this rigid framework from the time I was 13, when I realized that I was gay.

Last summer, I asked an elder of the Spokane tribe if he knew the Salish word for a Two-Spirit person. He said that he knew there was such a word but couldn't remember it. He was sure that it translated into "a man pretending to be a woman." From an anthropological perspective, I suspect that the European Christian influence has obscured the original word and meaning.

When the missionaries and the settlers came to this land, Native American children were sent away to mission or government schools. My grandfather was sent to a boarding school in Oregon. There, Indian children from many tribes had their hair cut and were punished if they spoke their native languages. They were taught among many other things that Two-Spirits were deviant and that this shameful practice had to end.

Over time, grandparents could no longer speak to their grandchildren and pass on traditions, history or

knowledge because they no longer spoke the same language. To this day, my father knows

only a few words in Salish even though he heard it spoken softly as a child.

The dominant European Christian way of doing things sought to eradicate Indian religion, spirituality and traditions, including sexual practices and multiple marriages. According to one author, over 130 Native American tribes have a documented history of Two-Spirits.

When the black-robed Jesuits arrived, they told Ekitiminoons, head chief of the Sinixt, that he could only remain married to one of his many wives. He chose Sipetsa. Their daughter, whose Christian name was Ellen Marie, married my great-great grandfather, Dr. Fredrick W. Perkins.

President Franklin Roosevelt decided that Native Americans deserved a New Deal too, a more humane approach that allowed them



for the first time since contact to determine their future. By that time, however, very few of them knew their history, their language or their medicine. The federal government's former genocidal approaches had been devastatingly effective.

In the 1950s, the government revisited the goal of assimilating Native Americans into the dominant culture through the tactic of terminating Indian reservations and forcing Native Americans off their lands and into America's cities. This further separated Native Americans from their history and traditions.

Since the late 1960s, Native Americans have advocated for their interests

in larger numbers and louder voices in a more public manner. This resurgence has inspired cultural renewal and has led to sometimes divisive debates.

Listening to the debate, and reading the testimony of those who opposed House Bill 2661, once again drove home to me the message that European Christian hegemony is still trying to force people to place themselves into a narrow polarized construct of either "normal" (heterosexual) or "deviant" (homosexual). Sexual and gender fluidity are seen by supporters of this viewpoint as evidence of moral decay. The groundbreaking work of Alfred Kinsey challenged this view, but even his model cannot explain the multidimensional Native American concept of "Two-Spirits."

Two-Spirits are people who manifest both masculine and feminine spiritual qualities. Some, but not all, tribes once

revered Two-Spirits, viewing them as a third gender with a special spiritual connection. Two-Spirits were healers, shamans, historians, ceremonialists, prophets and mediators.

"Homophobia was taught to us as a component of Western education and religion," Navajo anthropologist Wesley Thomas has written.

Some Native Americans do not use the term Two-Spirit because they think it carries with it Western concepts of gender and orientation that are not authentic and complete enough to describe their experience. The Lakota Sioux referred to them as "Winyanktehca," which has been shortened to "winkte." Crazy Horse had

many wives and one of them was a "winkte." Navaho tribes referred to

Two-Spirits as "nadleeh," which meant "a constant state of change." Today many Native Americans deny the existence of Two Spirits.

In what I know of the study of biology and history, nature loves diversity but that is not true of all societies. My students often get frustrated when they ask a question that they think requires a straight "yes" or "no" answer. I know that the world is much more complex and cannot always be reduced to such simple terms. Besides, why are they asking me for a "straight" answer anyway?

*Peter Perkins teaches social studies at Rogers High School in Spokane.*

*For further information on this topic, look for Two-Spirits References at the Stonewall Web site, www.stonewallnews.net*

**Two-Spirit people did not have to fight for a place in their tribes. They were always there.**

– Peter Perkins

**"We don't waste people the way white society does. Every person has their gift."**

– Joe Medicine Crow

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# HIV/AIDS patients will get their say

The state of Washington is about to launch the Medical Monitoring Project (MMP), a survey developed over the past year at the urging of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and in collaboration with patient advocates and health care professionals nationwide.

Mark Garrett, client advocate at Spokane AIDS Network, has been an active participant in the project's genesis, the purpose of which is to learn from people in treatment for HIV/AIDS about their experiences. Washington is the first of 19 states to complete the random and confidential selection of providers and patients and begin the interview process. The survey is being implemented so that health officials across the country can obtain a more accurate estimate of the number of persons in care for the disease. Project planners also hope to compile nationally representative data about access to care and prevention services in the United States.

"Privacy and confidentiality have been the number one priorities in developing this incredibly important project," said Garrett, who has spent the past nine years advocating for individual privacy while working as well to ensure that those like himself who are living with HIV have an opportunity to share their experiences and influence change-making in prevention and care services.

No names or identifying information will be sent to the CDC or used in any reports. Participation in the project is completely voluntary. If asked by their

doctors to participate, individuals can decline and may opt out at any time.

What makes this survey so unique is the anonymous and random selection of both doctor's offices and patients, providing researchers with what promises to be a more accurate and unbiased snapshot of quality of care and prevention services in the nation. One problem, Garrett acknowledged, is that if a patient or doctor's office is selected for the survey and the individual or medical office decides not to participate, an alternate patient or doctor's office cannot be chosen for the survey because of the protocols inherent in the random selection process. The loss of that one voice represents the loss of a thousand of others in treatment.

"This is a rare opportunity for those of us living with this disease to provide information that will help our national, state and local care and prevention planning groups advocate for reducing the gaps in existing resources and this is especially true for rural areas of Washington. Such areas are often not included in surveys," concluded Garrett. Community help is needed to maximize participation.

For more information, contact the Washington State Medical Monitoring Project's confidential toll-free number at 1 (888) 328-7886 or go to [www.cdc.gov/hiv/treatment.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/treatment.htm). Mark Garrett can be reached at Spokane AIDS Network, (509) 455-8993, or by e-mail at [markg@san.nw.org](mailto:markg@san.nw.org).

# Letters of the Law

## The ABC's of DUI law

by Jerry J. Davis

*There is one thing in Spokane that transcends the gay and straight community, and that is the willingness of our police officers to zealously enforce the drinking while driving laws. It may appear to those who have received a DUI that police target gay bars, but that is untrue. Two years ago more drivers were ticketed for DUI in front of Trick Shot Dixies than anywhere else, while last year the honor went to The Big Easy. Regardless of one's sexuality, if you drink and drive, be ready to pay.*

More and more, the legislative branch is taking away flexibility once garnered to prosecutors and judges alike. In this day and time, thanks in large part to lobbyists on behalf of Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD), there are strict parameters in place that govern one's punishment according to blood-alcohol content (BAC) and criminal history. Here is a quick rundown of the laws currently governing DUI's in Washington.

A person can be arrested for DUI if he or she has a blood-alcohol level of .08 or more. To most people, these are just numbers. Let me demystify them. It usually takes the average-sized male 3 to 4 drinks (1 ounce of liquor per drink or one beer or glass of wine) in an hour's time to reach or exceed the legal limit for driving. The body can normally expel one drink per hour.

There are many myths about sobering someone up. These myths include giving the person coffee or food. Giving someone who is intoxicated coffee will just lead to a wide-awake drunk. Food is a bit trickier, with many in the field believing that eating before drinking will indeed influence the way alcohol affects the drinker, but most agree that eating after drinking does little or nothing to counter alcohol consumption.

Washington's Implied Consent Law states that anyone who operates a motor vehicle in the state of Washington agrees to do so in compliance with the laws of Washington, and agrees to a breathalyzer or blood analysis if probable cause exists to have an officer of the law request one. Failure to adhere to this leads automatically to a one-year suspension of driving privileges. The constitutionality of this law is being challenged, however. In fact, in Snohomish County, the Implied Consent Law has been found to be unconstitutional and no BAC'S or refusals are admissible in courtrooms there. Spokane has not gone that route yet, but with different jurisdictions ruling differently on this issue, it should not be long before the Washington Supreme Court makes a determination in the matter.



There are solid financial reasons to call a cab in lieu of driving after taking even a single drink. A DUI arrest will exact at minimum \$823 in fines to the court, the cost of an alcohol evaluation and any follow-up treatment, probation fees in the amount of \$400 and a one-day MANDATORY stay in Geiger Cor-

rectional Facility or the like. In addition, the Legislature has recently enacted a law which mandates that a person found guilty of a DUI (trial or plea) must pay the salary of law enforcement personnel who made the arrest for the time it took the officer/s from initiating the stop to making the arrest. This example is for someone with a clean record and is the minimum.

There are so many reasons to make the right choice and not drink and drive. Our community should take the lead on this issue and lead by example to ensure that we all get home safe and sound and protect all those on our roads.

*If you have a legal question or questions of a general nature that you wish to see addressed in this column, please send them to: [mail@stonewallnews.net](mailto:mail@stonewallnews.net) or write to: Stonewall News Northwest, P.O. Box 2704, Spokane, WA 99220*

*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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**The Bible on same-sex marriage**

*excerpted from a sermon by the Rev. Dr. Richard Erhardt Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane*

In the First Book of Samuel, Chapter 1 verses 1 through 4, there is the story of David and Jonathan. Lest we forget, David was one of the major heroes. Let me [quote the text]:



“That same day, when Saul had finished talking with David, he kept him and would not let him return any more to his father’s house, for he saw that Jonathan had given his heart to David and had grown to love him as himself. Jonathan and David made a solemn compact because each loved the other as dearly as himself. Jonathan stripped off his cloak and tunic he was wearing, and gave them to David, together with his sword, his bow, and his belt.”

Just for clarification, Saul was Jonathan’s father who apparently had blessed this event. Like a bride, David was to live in Saul’s house and not return to his family because he and Jonathan were in love. They sealed their love with a compact, or vow. Sound’s like a marriage, doesn’t it? This is reported with approval.

In case you think I’m making too much of this, let’s hear a little further in the story. In the Second Book of Samuel, Chapter 1 verse 26, David grieves Jonathan’s death in battle:

“I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother; you were most dear to me; your love for me was wonderful, surpassing the love of women.”

So, some want to condemn same-sex unions, and deny equal rights and benefits based on the Bible. My Bible doesn’t support that.

**MARRIAGE EQUALITY**

*Continued from page 17*

use,” she began. “To say that I’m married gives the listener many assumptions. I’m not available for dating. I’m in a committed relationship. I might have children and grandchildren. I’m able to speak for my wife in her absence. I’m able to make medical decisions for my wife if she’s unable to speak on her own. And that I’m deeply in love enough to commit my life and all that goes with it to one woman.

“Marriage is universal in its meaning. Just using the word is heavenly to me. Marriage equality is a civil right. Every

U.S. citizen has equal civil rights unless they’re gay. LGBT citizens are the only people who must endure government-sanctioned discrimination.”

Jones, who hails from New Orleans, addressed many equity questions. “I would like to think Cam is right in a sense and eventually there will just be no marriage. It’ll all be a civil union and I would be fine with that,” she said. “If heterosexuals had civil unions and homosexuals had civil unions and we were all the same, I’d be very happy, but in the meantime, you know, we tried this in the South. It was called ‘separate but equal.’ And it did not work. And in *Brown v. Board of Education*, the Supreme Court said separate is inherently unequal. I don’t think we can turn our backs on that.”

Kathy Ferguson, an ally in the audience, took issue with the unwillingness of several panelists and audience members to accept civil unions over equal marriage at this time. “If Rosa Parks had said, ‘I’m sitting in the back of the bus until, by God, I get my vote,’ where would we be today?” she asked.



Panelists included Brooks Goode, Marge Ballack and Sagen Smith.

**One of the things that we really need to work on is making sure that it’s OK to be single as well as it’s OK to be married, that it’s OK to be who you are.**

– Cameron Lewis

The idea of equal marriage scares people. Goode spoke of the visceral nature of sexually charged issues, noting that in

some, fear arises from such a fundamental level that they are not even aware of it.

Smith speculated that the fear comes in part from “the idea that they’re going to have to give up something.”

**I don’t think most people get married thinking, ‘Wow, I’m going to get all these rights!’ I think most people get married because they love somebody.**

– Tim Anderson

The mostly negative influence of mainstream religions has been a sticking point in the equal marriage debate. “It sounds like there’s kind of a general attitude that all gay and lesbian people don’t have religious beliefs,” observed Ballack. “I can tell you that’s not correct.

I’m Presbyterian. I was born and raised Presbyterian. ... Marriage to me is – it does have a religious connotation for me, and it would mean everything to be able to be married in my church.”

Bryce Hughes wondered if the battle for marriage rights might not marginalize some segments of the GLBTQ community. Several panelists agreed that the goal should be the freedom to choose; marriage is not for everybody, gay or straight.

Rogers High School social studies teacher Peter Perkins moderated the community forum. The Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane supplied

peacekeepers, Maurina Laudich and Rebecca Wallis, whose services were not needed, though their presence was appreciated.

To read a transcript of the program, go to [www.stonewallnews.net](http://www.stonewallnews.net).

**Classifieds**

12 - Announcements & Notices

**NATIONAL GLBTQ YOUTH ‘TALK LINE’**

Gay or Questioning and in need a sympathetic ear? Call the **FREE** and confidential staff composed of young peer counselors familiar with the issues of coming out, HIV, bullying and parental and relationship problems. Over 18,000 listings of social/support groups, gay-friendly religious organizations and student groups. Call 800/246-PRIDE or e-mail to: [youth@GLBTNationalHelpCenter.org](mailto:youth@GLBTNationalHelpCenter.org)

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

13 - Volunteers

**Spokane AIDS Network Needs Volunteers**

Contact Cherie at 509/455-8993

**QUEST YOUTH GROUP SEEKS QUALIFIED VOLUNTEERS TO WORK WITH YOUTH.**

Contact Volunteer Coordinator Bryce Hughes at [Bhughes2@gonzaga.edu](mailto:Bhughes2@gonzaga.edu)

**OUTSPOKANE IS LOOKING for community-minded people to help with the 2006 Pride**

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

**Construction, Volunteers/Materials Needed**

**Odyssey Youth Center** needs volunteers with construction experience for framing walls, hanging and taping drywall and some demolition with a back hoe. Call Odyssey Youth Center, 509/325-3637.

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**Mail-In Ads:** Type or legibly print your ad on an 8 1/2 x 11 sheet of paper along with your name, address, and phone number; include your signature. Mail your completed ad along with your payment to: SNN, PO Box 2704, Spokane, WA 99220.  
**Personals:** If your Personal ad uses an address, Stonewall will only use a PO Box or a Stonewall Personal Blind Box (PBB). For a PBB, add \$5 to the cost of the ad. Stonewall will assign a code for your PBB and will forward replies weekly for up to two months after your ad runs.  
**Policy:** Stonewall reserves the right to reject or edit any ad which may be considered demeaning or offensive to our readers. Any errors will be compensated with advertising credit.  
**Deadline:** Classified ads must be received by Stonewall by the 20th of each month for following month publication.  
**Mailing Address:** SNN, PO Box 2704, Spokane, WA 99220 **Website:** [www.stonewallnews.net](http://www.stonewallnews.net) **Email:** [mail@stonewallnews.net](mailto:mail@stonewallnews.net)

### Diversity Counseling Services

Helen Bonser, MA/ABS, LMHP  
Margie Aylsworth, MSW, LMHP

12 E. Rowan Ave., Ste. L-4  
Spokane, WA 99207

Medicare and most insurances accepted.

Minority Sensitive  
Individual, Couples  
Family & Group Therapy

509.487.7064

### Lesbian and Gay Christians

INTEGRITY meets the  
second Saturday of the month

**NEXT MEETING:**  
Sat., March 11th at Noon

All Saints Chapel  
in St. John's Cathedral, 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. Entrance

### wilburnweb

WEB DEVELOPMENT & HOSTING

Serving the Gay Community

- Web Hosting as low as **\$9.95** a month
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### BUYING or SELLING?

Paul M. Tiesse

## John L. Scott

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Hot Stones

Aroma Therapy

Therapeutic Massage  
By David

(208)661-1864

Home or Office

### Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane

Join us for our **Court Meetings** at 7:30 pm on the first Sunday of every month at **Dempsey's Brass Rail**.

For further details consult the online  
GLBTQA Calendar at [www.stonewallnews.net](http://www.stonewallnews.net).

Phone: 251-1242 Email: [iscs@icehouse.net](mailto:iscs@icehouse.net)

### Emmanuel

metropolitan community church

Worship: Sundays at 5 p.m.

301 South Freya Spokane, WA 99202

Wheelchair Accessible

Internet: [www.emmanuelmcc.com](http://www.emmanuelmcc.com)  
E-Mail: [emmanuelmcc@qwest.net](mailto:emmanuelmcc@qwest.net)

838-0085

## Inland Northwest Business Directory

### the Solarium

Tanning Center

509-524-7899

1205 N. Washington Street  
Spokane, WA 99201-2433

**ALL CITY REAL ESTATE**  
MARSHALL FAHLAND

827 N. Woodlawn ST - Spokane WA 99202

Broker / Owner  
(509) 979-2832 cell  
(509) 535-8456 fax

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Education  
Activism

**PFLAG**

Help Line: 489.2266

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[www.pcpalspokane.com](http://www.pcpalspokane.com) [admin@pcpalspokane.com](mailto:admin@pcpalspokane.com)

main: (509) 747-5735 mobile: (509) 869-5796

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all are welcome here!

### OUTREACH CENTER

Open 3-5pm, Mon-Fri  
1103 West 1st ~ 838-6859



needle exchange • condoms • lube  
bleach • toiletries • anonymous HIV testing



### Lady Luck

Tattoo & Piercing

chris (tater) brown  
angel garza • chris lyon  
kristi kilbourne

N.T.A. Member  
8611 E. Sprague Ave.  
Spokane, WA  
Telephone  
509-922-8120




### Devine Photography

Artistic Landscapes and  
Personal Photography Services

(509) 244-4985

[www.devine-studio.com](http://www.devine-studio.com)



### Papillon of Spokane

A social support group  
for the transgender.

509-292-8852 [www.spokanepapillon.org](http://www.spokanepapillon.org)

Weekly Calendar of Events

SUNDAYS

9 and 11 am: **Worship Services** at **Unity Church** at 29th and Bernard.
2-3 pm: **Radical Cheerleaders** meet at Rainbow Regional Community Center
2-6 pm: **Rainbow Regional Community Center** open for meetings and drop-ins.
3-4 pm: **Counter Crisis** meets at Rainbow Regional Community Center
5-6 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** open for meetings and drop-ins.
7-8:30 pm: **GLBTQ AA** meets at Emmanuel MCC/ Bethany Presbyterian Church, 301 S. Freya.

7:30-9 pm **NIGMA** (North Idaho Gay Men's Association) Weekly Coffee Social. Coffee Social is a weekly event and is held on alternating weeks in either Moscow or Pullman. When in Moscow the Coffee group meets at the One World Cafe on the corner of Main and 6th streets. When in Pullman we meet at the Daily Cup near the corner of Main St. and Grande Ave. For information on location please visit us online at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NIGMA

THURSDAYS

5:30-9 pm: **Rainbow Regional Community Center** open for meetings and drop-ins.
5:30 pm: Peer-To-Peer Support Group meets at Rainbow Center.

FRIDAYS

2-9 pm: **Rainbow Regional Community Center** open for meetings and drop-ins.

(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.)

Individual Calendar of Events

Wednesday March 1

5:30-7 pm: **Vision Committee Meeting.**

Thursday March 2

6-7 pm: **Lilac City Men's Project** (MPOWERment) meets at Rainbow Center. www.lilaccitymensproject.org

7:15-8:45 pm: **OutSpokane Meeting.**

Friday March 3

5:00-9:00 pm: **First Friday Art Showing** - Works of local artist Bailey at the Rainbow Center.

6:30-8:30 pm: **Friday Night OUT!** Blue Fish - back lounge. 830 W Sprague .

7 pm: **Legal Marriage Alliance** - Friday of each month at the Rainbow Center.

7-9 pm: **NIGMA (North Idaho Gay Men's Association)** First Friday at the University Inn Quiet Bar. http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NIGMA for more information.

7 pm: **Vagina Monologues** at Showalter Auditorium, EWU \$5, \$3.

Spokane & the Inland Empire's entertainment and meeting calendar for

March 2006

Pisces until Mar. 20, Aries until April 20.

Birthstones: Aquamarine/Diamond

Flower: Daisy/Lily of the Valley

Saturday March 4

8 pm: **ICONS: The Lesbian and Gay History of the World, Vol. 1.** Starring Jade Esteban Estrada at University of Idaho-Moscow, Idaho. Free.

Sunday March 5

5 pm: **SAN Oscar Night Gala!** at the Davenport.
6:30 pm: **ISCS Board Meeting** at Dempseys Brass Rail
7 pm: **Vagina Monologues** at Showalter Auditorium, EWU \$5, \$3.
7:30 pm: **ISCS Court Meeting** at Dempseys Brass Rail

Tuesday March 7

5:30-7 pm: **Inland Northwest Equality (INWE) Monthly Meeting** at Rainbow Center.
7 pm: **GLBTQ Community Meeting re: status of Rainbow Community Center.**

Wednesday March 8

11:30 am-1pm: **Inland Northwest Business Alliance (INBA) Monthly Luncheon** at Europa Pizzeria & Bakery, 125 S. Wall.

Saturday March 11

12-2 pm: **Integrity** - The second Saturday of each month, **The Episcopal GLBT Support group** meets at noon for Eucharist. Service is followed by a pot-luck. St Johns Cathedral at 12th and Grand.



Your Community.

...ONLINE



www.stonewallnews.net

5:00 pm: **ISCS Debutante Pageant** at Dempseys Brass Rail.

Sunday March 12

11 am-1 pm: **NIGMA (North Idaho Gay Men's Association) Second Sunday Brunch.** Held in Moscow or Pullman at the homes of NIGMA members. http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NIGMA

Tuesday March 14

6 pm: **Pride & Joy Movie Night** - Social at 6 p.m. Show time for **Strange Fruit** at 7:15 pm, CenterStage. Admission \$5 for adults and \$3 for students.

6 pm: **RRCC Board Meeting**

Thursday March 16

6-7 pm: **Lilac City Men's Project** (MPOWERment) meets at Rainbow Center.
7:15-8:45 pm: **OutSpokane Meeting.**

Saturday March 18

10:30 am-12 pm: **OWLS Brunch** at Old Country Buffet - Frankin Park Mall

Sunday March 19

11 am-3 pm: **Spokane Area Lesbians** at the Rainbow Center. PUBLIC INVITED

Monday March 20

5:30-7 pm: **Vision Committee Meeting.**

Tuesday March 21

7-9 pm: **PFLAG Monthly Meeting** - Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane, 4340 W. Fort Wright Dr. Spokane WA 99224

Friday March 24

7-9 pm: **NIGMA (North Idaho Gay Men's Association) Second Sunday Brunch.** Fourth Friday Wine Tasting. http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NIGMA

Saturday March 25

7 pm-2 am: **FVA (Flathead Valley Alliance of Kalispell) 2nd Annual Talent Show.** WestCoast Hotel, Flreside Room. www.flatheadvalleyalliance.org .

Thursday March 30

7 pm-9 pm: **LCMP (Lilac City Men's Project) Men's Bowling Night.** North Bowl. www.lilaccitymensproject.org .

Wednesday April 5

5:30-7 pm: **Vision Committee Meeting.**

Thursday April 6

7:15-8:45 pm: **OutSpokane Meeting.**

Tuesday April 11

GLBTQ Images in Popular Culture Lecture at SFCC.

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!

# Resource Directory

## SPOKANE AREA

### BiNet Spokane

A social support group for bisexual men and women.

Call: (509) 217-1271

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

Weekly meetings for students, faculty and staff.

Call: Kat Olson: (509) 359-4253  
<http://iceberg.ewu.edu/safe/safe.htm>

### EMCC – Emmanuel Metropolitan Community Church

Christian church with outreach to the GLBT community.

Call: (509) 838-0085

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

### Friends of SAN

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

Write: 1212 E. Front Ave.

Spokane, WA 99202

### Gay/Lesbian Info Line

Call: (509) 489-2266

Immediate Crisis: (509) 838-4428

### GLBT Book Group

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

Call: Julie Smith: (509) 838-0206

### Gonzaga University GLBT Resource Center

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

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

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

Direct line: Bryce: 323-5847

### Hospice of Spokane

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

Call: (509) 456-0438

### ISCS –

#### Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane

Call: (509) 251-1242.

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

### INBA –

#### Inland Northwest Business Alliance

A Professional GLBTQ/Allied Business Alliance. Guests are welcome to our monthly luncheon meetings, non-members are welcome to advertise in our annual community resource directory. Visit our website for information.

Write: PO Box 20163, Spokane, WA 99204

Voice mail: 509-455-3699

E-mail: [info@inbaspokane.org](mailto:info@inbaspokane.org)

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

### Inland Northwest Equality

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

Call: Krista Benson: 838-7870

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

### Integrity

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

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

### Landlord Tenant Information Hotline

Volunteers provide information and referrals to landlords and tenants. Free resource materials. Does not provide legal advice, but may refer.

Call: (509) 325-3037

### Lutheran Community Services-SafeT Response Center

Call: (509) 747-8224

Crisis line (509) 624-7273

### Lilac City Men's Project

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

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

### Northwest Fair Housing Alliance

Private, nonprofit organization provides education, outreach and enforcement assistance for those who have experienced discrimination and the general public.

Call: (509) 325-2665 or (800)-200-3247

### Odyssey Youth Center

Discussion/support group and social drop-in center for GLBT and questioning youth.

Call: Ramon or Bonnie: (509) 325-3637

### Outreach Center

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

Call: (509) 838-6859

### OutSpokane

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

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

### Papillon

Social support group for the transgender community.

Call: (509) 292-8852

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

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

Call: (509): 624-6671

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

### PJALS –

#### Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane

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

Call: (509) 838-7870

### Planned Parenthood of Spokane & Whitman Counties

HIV antibody testing and counseling.

Call: Clinic for Appt.: (509) 326-2142

Administration: (509) 326-6292

### Quest Youth Group

To "inspire, encourage and support" gay and bisexual guys, 18-25, in the Inland Northwest through free monthly recreational activities, discussions, service projects and movie nights.

Call: Ryan: (509) 290-3519

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

### Spokane-Kootenai Pride

A program of the Pride Foundation to involve Washingtonians outside of King County in activities beneficial to the GLBT community.

Call: Spokane office: (509) 327-8377

### Rainbow Regional Community Center

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

Call: (509) 489-1914

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

### SAN –

#### Spokane AIDS Network

Call: (509) 455-8993 or

1-888-353-2130

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

### Spokane County Domestic Violence Consortium

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

Call: (509) 487-6783

### Spokane Falls Community College - The Alliance

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

Call: (509) 533-4507

### Spokane Human Rights Commission

Call: Equity Office: (509) 625-6263

### Spokane Regional Health District

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

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

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

### Stonewall News Northwest

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

Call: (509) 456-8011

Fax: (509) 455-7013

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

### Spokane Gender Center

Resources and support for transgender people.

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

### Unitarian Universalist Church

Gay, lesbian resource committee.

Call: (509) 325-6383

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

### Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery

Call: 535-3155

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

### Women and Friends

Women-only activities and events in the Spokane area.

Call: (509) 458-4709

### Women's Cultural Exchange

Promoting arts and entertainment events by women, for women.

## IDAHO

### Idaho for Basic Rights

Citizen action group to work for civil and legal equality on basis of sexual orientation.

Call: (208) 343-7402

### NIAC –

#### North Idaho AIDS Coalition

HIV/AIDS prevention, education and assistance for people infected with, affected by HIV.

Call: (208) 665-1448

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

### North Idaho College

#### Gay-Straight Alliance

E-mail: [BCHARDISON@icehouse.net](mailto: BCHARDISON@icehouse.net)

### NIGMA -

#### North Idaho Gay Men's Association

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

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

### Panhandle Health District

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

• Kootenai County Call: (208) 667-3481

• Boundary County Call: (208) 267-5558

• Shoshone County Call: (208) 786-7474

• Bonner County Call: (208) 263-5159

• Benewah County Call: (208) 245-4556

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

### PFLAG - Sandpoint

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

Call: (208) 263-6699

## LEWISTON/CLARKSTON

### PFLAG - Lewis-Clark

Support, education and advocacy group for Lewis-Clark gay people, parents, family and friends. Meets in Lewiston.

Call: (509) 758-6437

## NATIONAL GLBTQ YOUTH 'TALK LINE'

Gay or Questioning and in need a sympathetic ear? Call the **FREE** and confidential staff composed of young peer counselors familiar with the issues of coming out, HIV, bullying and parental and relationship problems. Call 800/246-PRIDE or e-mail to: [youth@GLBTNationalHelpCenter.org](mailto:youth@GLBTNationalHelpCenter.org)

## MOSES LAKE

### AACW – Alternative Alliance of Central Washington

A social and support group to help bring together people in the GLBT community.

Write: P.O. Box 1282,

Moses Lake, WA 98837

## PULLMAN/MOSCOW

### Washington State University GLBA Program

Fun, fellowship and socializing.

Call: (509) 335-6428

[Web site: http://cubwsu.edu/GLBAP](http://cubwsu.edu/GLBAP)

### Out There

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

Call Melinda: (509) 335-6428

### University of Idaho Gay-Straight Alliance

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

Call: (208) 885-2691

## TRI-CITIES

### Benton-Franklin District Health Department

Confidential and anonymous HIV testing, case management, educational and referral services.

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

*Confidential voice mail also.*

### River of Life

#### Metropolitan Community Church

Christian church celebrating diversity and affirming GLBT people. Sunday services at 11:30 a.m.

Call: (509) 542-8860

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

Columbia AIDS relief, education and support. Survivor support group and HIV/PWA support group.

Call: (509) 783-7416

## WALLA WALLA

### Blue Mountain Heart to Heart

AIDS prevention education, support and services.

Call: (509) 529-4744

Toll Free: (888) 875-2233 (pin #4744)

Spanish: (509) 529-2174

### PFLAG – Walla Walla

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

Call: (509) 529-5320

Write: 527 E. Oak

Walla Walla, WA 99362-1248

E-mail: [pflag\\_walla2wash@hotmail.com](mailto:pflag_walla2wash@hotmail.com)

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

### Seventh-day Adventist Kinship

Call: (509) 525-0202

## WENATCHEE

### SHINE

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

Call: (509) 860-7394

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

## YAKIMA

### PFLAG - Yakima/Yakima Valley

Promotes the health and well-being of GLBT individuals, their families and friends.

Call: (509) 576-9625

### Rainbow Cathedral Metropolitan Community Church

An MCC Seattle parish extension.

Call: (509) 457-6454

## MONTANA

### Flathead Valley Alliance

Northwest Montana information and referral services.

Call: (406) 758-6707

### Lesbian Avengers

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

Call: (406) 523-6608

### Our Montana Family

Supporting Montana's GLBT parents and their children.

E-mail: [barbatpride@aol.com](mailto:barbatpride@aol.com)

### PFLAG Billings

Meets monthly Sept. - May.

Call: (406) 255-7609

### PRIDE!

Statewide lesbigaytrans civil rights advocacy group.

# NORTHERN QUEST CASINO

## PROMOTION

### PLAY TO SAIL!



10 Cruises for 2  
to Mexico

**PLAY  
EVERY DAY!**

**March 1 - April 25**

**Grand Prize Drawing April 26 at 7pm**

Photo courtesy of Princess Cruises

See the Camas Club for Details

## ENTERTAINMENT

"The Mighty, Mighty"

### COMMODORES

**March 11 8:00PM**

**R & B**



### Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons

**March 24 8:00PM**

**(DOO - WOP)**



### "Curtain Call"

with David Spatz

Sundays at 6:30pm on Comcast &  
Thursdays at 5:30pm on PAX.

**Spokane's Newest Entertainment Show.**

Brought to you exclusively by  
Northern Quest Casino

### HARDWOOD Heaven MEN'S TOURNAMENT

See the  
Camas Club  
for Details

OVER  
**\$10,000**  
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**BRACKET PARTY Sunday, March 12**  
**Cash Drawings Mondays, March 20, 27 & April 3**

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.

NORTHERN  
QUEST  
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WHERE THE FUN  
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CAMAS CLUB MEMBERS  
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**\$250**

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