

October 1, 2006

Volume 15, Issue 12

www.stonewallnews.net

STONEWALL News Northwest

Serving the GLBTQA Community of the Pacific Northwest since 1992

In their own words



Walking by the recruiting station, the scene of the sit-in, Spokane resident and former Marine, Mike Tonkyn, comments on the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy.

"The stupidest thing the government did after 9/11 was to fire two translators who were gay. Absolutely stupid. Who cares what they do in their private time. If they can do their job, nobody needs to ask them anything else!"

Tonkyn then entered the recruiting station to shake the hands of Olson, Corral, and Lapalm. and offer words of support.

Pride and Prejudice Students challenge *Don't Ask, Don't Tell*



Armed Forces recruiter Sgt. Clark (standing background center) accompanied Spokane Police officers before escorting Ryan Olson, Dana Corral and Nick Lapalm (seated on floor) from the recruiting office.



Ryan Olson (left) and Dana Corral (right) await criminal citations following their refusal to leave the recruiting office.



Protest supporters accompany Olsen and Corral on the floor of the armed forces recruiting office in south Spokane.

Army tells Gays 'No Way'

By Joyce Crosby, Special to Stonewall News Northwest

Ryan Olson appears to be an exemplary candidate for military service. He's bright, educated, athletic, and active in student government; just the type of person military recruiters are scrambling to enlist at a time when America can't afford to reject even one qualified soldier.

In the spirit of ACT-UP and Lesbian Avengers, on the morning of Tuesday, September 26th, Olson, 23, the equally qualified Dana Corral, 20, and straight ally Nick Lapalm 19, took a very direct and dramatic action in targeting "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" the U.S. military's policy

of government-sanctioned discrimination against gays.

After a press conference in a parking lot at 29th Ave. and Regal St., the trio, accompanied by about a dozen sign-wielding supporters, marched into the U.S. Armed Forces recruiting station at Lincoln Heights shopping center on Spokane's south hill. Olson and Corral respectfully requested that they be allowed to enlist in the military. As expected, when it was revealed that Olson is gay and Corral is bisexual, they were denied their right to serve their country, simply because of their sexual orientation.

As Recruiting Center personnel escorted supporters and media outside

as Olson, Corral and Lapalm, all Gonzaga University students, sat on the floor and staged a peaceful sit-in.

Their attempted military enlistment and

resulting demonstration was part of a nationwide campaign against the decade old "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) by Souforce, a Virginia-based gay rights group. It is expected that this fall over 1000 young people, from thirty-three cities across the nation, will participate in Souforce's Right to Serve Campaign. The DADT policy damages soldiers' self-respect, encourages harassment, brings about persecution and results in hate crimes.

Olson stated that the goal of the Right to Serve Campaign is to, "end the Don't Ask, Don't Tell" Policy by encouraging

our state and federal legislatures to adopt the Military Readiness Enhancement Act which would do away with DADT and add sexual orientation to the armed services non-discrimination policy. Let no brave and courageous soldier be turned away."

This is the first time in the 13 years since DADT was enacted that a group of openly gay youth has protested the policy by attempting to enlist in the Armed Services. According to a 2004 report by the Urban Institute, an estimated 63,000 GLB soldiers are forced to lie about whom they love, and serve in fear of being outed.

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OutSpokane joins ValleyFest for second year



Excited children wait patiently as OutSpokane Board members Bridget Potter and Christopher Lawrence affix Pride tattoos on their arms.

(SPOKANE VALLEY) Begun in 1990, Valleyfest annually brings to the Inland Northwest a parade, multiple music venues, and day long festivities at Mirabeau Park in the Spokane valley.

"This is the second year OutSpokane has joined the annual ValleyFest celebration," states Francisca Rapier, OutSpokane Board Secretary, "and we

have been overwhelmingly accepted and encouraged for our participation."

With festival events and activities focused on children, the OutSpokane booth provided water-based "Pride" tattoos to scores of eager youngsters in addition to literature about OutSpokane, Odyssey Youth Center, SAN, local Pride Calendars, and Stonewall issues.



Posing in front of the OutSpokane booth (L-R): OutSpokane Board members Steven Sanford, Christopher Lawrence and Bridget Potter.

"Last year, OutSpokane expanded its mission and its purpose to include education, outreach and community involvement." Rapier continues, "Reaching out to the surrounding community-at-large furthers the ideals of equality, inclusion and understanding that we hope to share"

Voices

Olson, Corral, Lapalm courageously rise above complacency

Commentary by Steven Sanford

An event took place on Tuesday, September 26th, that went mostly unnoticed as far as the Spokane public was concerned. Although many of the local media were invited and showed up, worthwhile coverage was minimal to non-existent. To me, the story here wasn't about the possibility of handcuffed protestors getting dragged out and arrested; it was about three students unwilling to sit on the sidelines of social complacency. They did more than just complain about an injustice, they acted, and they did so – peacefully - from a principled position of social equality.

The event was a sit-in protest of the Don't ask, Don't Tell policy (DADT) that bans gay men and women from serving in our country's military. While the sit-in wasn't as sensational and violent as some of the 60's protests, this protest was against a policy, not a war, and there was still a clear message and a hand full of people who had the conviction to take a day out of their lives to take a stand and make a statement, even at the risk of arrest. At least for Ryan Olson, Dana Corral and Nick Lapalm that day began at 11:00 in the morning when the trio and their supporters entered the local U.S. Armed Forces Recruitment Office located in the Lincoln Heights Shopping Center on 29th Avenue in Spokane. Olson, Corral and Lapalm weren't alone. Olson estimated more than 80 men and women in 30 cities across the nation were in a coordinated movement.

These men and women represent an organization known as Soulforce, Olson explained, a group that follows the life and teachings of both Gandhi and King in non-violent demonstrations in order to end institutional and religiously based discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. Earlier in the month, other Soulforce protestors were met with closed and locked recruiting offices in Austin, Times Square, Shreveport, and Chicago. In other locations, some were arrested while others detained and released without charges.

In a series of speeches throughout the morning, Olson expressed his concern for the men and women who



Spokane police issue trespassing citations to Ryan Olson, Dana Corral and Nick Lapalm.

have been serving in the war in Iraq for extended periods of time and unable to take much needed time off to be home with their families and loved ones due to the shortage of replacements.

"We are here to support our troops," Olson states, "There is a fundamental belief that we share with the rest of America when we say that we believe our troops to be brave, honorable and courageous young women and men. I don't think anyone would disagree that to be in the armed forces takes integrity, honesty, and above all a sense of duty to one's country. Unfortunately, at a time when we need soldiers more than ever, I and countless others would be turned away from the armed forces because of a policy known as Don't Ask, Don't Tell which bars any out gay or lesbian soldier from serving."

Though political in his statement of equality, justice and freedom from discrimination, there is an underlying current of compassion and human dignity that is at the heart of his crusade. "For what it's worth" Olson continues, "I just want to say that we are here against an institutional policy that allows hate

Please see OLSON page 12

Spokane

"Two Women and a Poodle" Dissolving Differences One Person at a Time



Roby and Dotti with their poodle Rylee (bottom center) are surrounded by attendees at St Mark's Lutheran Church for a reception following their workshop at Unitarian Universalist Church.

by Bonnie Aspen, Vision Committee Board Member

(SPOKANE) Sponsored by PFLAG and the Unitarian Universalist Pride Team, two women on a year-long nationwide trip stopped in Spokane on September 18th and 19th to share their story. Robynne Sapp and Dotti Berry live in Blaine, Washington with their standard poodle Rylee Joy and have spent the last year traveling across the country. They have been engaged in a mission to change themselves and the world, one person at a time. This stop in Spokane was one of the last speaking engagements on their

incredible journey.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church hosted a reception and dinner on Sunday night to welcome these "Two Women and a Poodle" to our Spokane community. Monday night's event featured an hour long talk by Roby and Dotti chronicling the mission and journey they've undertaken.

To get everyone in the mood, participants were "drummed" into the event by the Giant Ass Drum Corp and then treated to a special piece written to celebrate the transgender community. Local vocalist/pianist, Andrea Goddard

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Gay-Straight Alliances lay foundation for GLBTQ acceptance in Spokane schools

By Joyce Crosby, Special to Stonewall News Northwest

It is the start of another school day, in homerooms throughout the Spokane Public Schools, high school students experience the familiar routine of morning video announcements:

There is a girl's volleyball game tonight—come out and support the league champs! Please remind your parents or guardians that Open House is this evening. Ms. Yamada's Japanese class is touring the Culture Center today. The Gay-Straight Alliance will meet after school in the library. The Knowledge Bowl team will meet in the cafeteria...

School announcements are a familiar ritual and advertisement of Gay-Straight student-initiated school-sponsored clubs reflect a growing trend in our public schools. As a result, for thousands of local high school students, morning announcements about Gay Straight Alliances or GSAs are a normal part of the high school experience.

With support from the district's Equity Department, GSAs have been established in all six high schools in the Spokane's School District 81. Other area districts including Central Valley, East Valley, West Valley, and Coeur d'Alene have GSA clubs in their high schools as well.

Shadle Park GSA advisor Matthew Inman affirms, "It is the goal of Spokane Public Schools to see that every child feels safe, welcome and supported at school. LGBTQ students often (an understatement) do not feel any of these things at school."

Feeling safe enough to attend school is only one of the issues. Due in part to homophobia, isolation, drug use and suicide are problems for some GLBTQ

A 2003 survey by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) found that:

- 91.5% of LGBT students report hearing remarks such as "faggot," "dyke," and "that's so gay" frequently in school;
- 64.3% said they feel that schools "are not safe for them to attend because of their sexual orientation."
- Students who suffer significant harassment have lower grades and are twice as likely to report they will not attend college.

teens. Trying to cope with their emerging sexuality in the face of constant ridicule and rejection can be stressful for students And they can't always rely on adults to protect them.

It is because of this that our courageous youth have been inspired to establish Gay-Straight Alliances locally and in schools across the nation. In Spokane Public Schools, GSAs are well supported at the high school level with approximately 150-175 teens who attend meetings regularly. One GSA club member, who requested anonymity, encouraged youth to connect with the club, "Coming to a GSA meeting may be your first step in coming out and/or accepting yourself. But don't feel like by being there you are disclosing anything about your sexuality. We have club members who are

homosexual, bisexual, and straight and we do not identify or categorize any of them." Another club member said, "You don't even have to introduce yourself. Just come and be yourself and hang out."

There are many positive benefits of involvement in GSAs. Vickie Countryman, Director of Equity for Spokane Public Schools, believes that, Alliances "provide an insight to the diverse needs of our students and allow our staff to make relevant connections with

our GLBT students within the learning environment." The 2003 National School Climate Survey conducted by GLSEN found that GSAs positively impact grade point average and graduation rates, sense of physical safety, comfort level with sexual orientation, and skills

to handle heterosexism.

Improved relationships with peers, teachers and family and an enhanced sense of belonging to their school community are other advantages of teens belonging to a GSA.

Currently GSAs are a popular and visible platform for calling attention to and addressing the needs of Spokane's GLBTQ students.

Through visibility and education Gay-Straight Alliances fight discrimination, harassment and violence in schools. As they strive for understanding, acceptance and inclusion of all GLBTQ youth within our region's public schools, it is crucial that we as members of Spokane's GLBTQ community continue to reach out and support our youth.

Center announces "15 x 3" Fundraising Campaign

(SPOKANE) The Board of Directors of the Spokane's GLBTQ Community Center have announced the kick-off of the "15 x 3" (Fifteen by Three) Campaign to raise \$15,000 dollars by the end of March for general operating funds. These funds will be used to move into a new space by April 1.

Beginning last month, board members will match all community cash contributions coming in to the Center from individuals and community events. The match, up to \$3000, will double, dollar for dollar, every cash donation made between September 1 and March 31, 2007. This will effectively bring the current operating balance to \$9000. The remaining \$6000 will be raised through matching funds from grantors and corporate sponsors. Hypothetically, if \$100 is donated to the Center, it could possibly be quadrupled to \$400, first by the board match, then by a grantor match.

In September, the cash raised by the surplus sale was matched, bringing the original \$259 tally to \$558. In late October, a direct mail community drive will raise additional funds, with house parties, community events, organizational donations, and personal asks by board members supplementing the income through March. Another direct mail drive will be sent in January.

The Center is exploring funding for future programming including lesbian health and GLBTQ smoking cessation programs, support groups, HIV testing, family activities, and legal aid. For more information, call 489-1914.

Contact: Cat Carrel, Chair of the Board of Directors, at 536-7693 or e-mail catcarrel@spokanerainbowcenter.org.

Lilac City Boys descend on bars, plan Quick D8

(SPOKANE) On Friday, September 22, the downtown gay bars were strafed by the Lilac City Men's Project C-Men, a troop of guys on a hard mission: to spread the word of playing safer and to distribute safer sex packs to bar patrons. The safer sex packs included a condom, a pillow of lube, safer sex tips and information on upcoming LCMP events. More than 55 "zap packs" were distributed. The C-Men commented that they were well-received, and a good time was had by all. Watch for the C-Men coming soon to a bar near you!

The LCMP is in the final planning stages of "Quick D8," a night of speed dating for guys who like guys. Contrary to

popular belief, "speed dating" is not what happens every Saturday night at the gay bar. Quick D8 is a formatted night of 8-minute "dates," with deejay and music, an emcee, prizes and "hints" on what to talk about with each date. Depending on how many people register, a participant could meet up to ten guys in this one night. A fundraiser for OutSpokane and Lilac City Men's Project, Quick D8 will be a part of "Fall into Pride," a series of events that occur the weeks before and after National Coming Out Day on October 11.

The core group of the LCMP has decided to have a little fun with their meetings this fall. Beginning in October, the meetings will include watching the anthology of "Queer as Folk," Showtime's award-winning series about a group of gay and lesbian friends. The meetings

Please see LILAC CITY BOYS page 12



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Looking beyond embezzlement to community growth

Pastor Len Mace also talks about his *coming out*, his leadership at Spokane’s Emmanuel MCC, and leaving the community

Part 2 of a 2 part article based on Stonewall Publisher Mike Schultz’s interview of Len Mace on September 14, 2006. Please see part 1 in the September 15, 2006 issue of Stonewall News Northwest, titled “Embezzlement crushes Emmanuel MCC” covering the sudden financial scandal engulfing the Spokane MCC congregation. Back issues can be found at www.stonewallnews.net.

By Mike Schultz

“Most of my life I believed I was the only gay person on earth and that there was something horribly wrong with me.” Len Mace, Emmanuel MCC Pastor, shares. His coming out was a struggle of introspective soul-searching after two ended marriages. “It wasn’t until I was almost 30 years old – I’d been married and divorced twice. Looking back I can attribute what I was going through to my very conservative Christian upbringing and at every given turn was told that [homosexuality] was absolutely wrong and sinful” But Mace reflects fondly of his relationship with his daughter, whom he raised as a single parent since nearly her birth, as well as his new granddaughter.

Despite the internal conflict, Mace states he knew from age 12 that he was called to ministry. But persuing his calling wasn’t easy. “After it became known I was living my life as an openly gay man in Bible College,” Mace recalls, “I was basically thrown out.”

For 30 years, Mace’s life journey included a career with the State of Washington in the area of developmental disabilities, which he retired from a year and a half ago.

Mace attributes MCC for his finding peace with his conflicting components of self-identify. “Finding Emmanuel MCC and a Christian-based home that supported God’s love as unconditional” Mace states, was his answer. “God created us to be exactly who we are. And I took that message to heart for the first time and was finally able to reconcile my sexuality and spirituality.”

Mace describes his journey with Emmanuel MCC, “In the beginning of 1983 I discovered Emmanuel MCC and because of that, have had 24 years of involvement – from a Deacon to a Board Member to the first officially elected Lay Delegate to our Fellowship Conference”

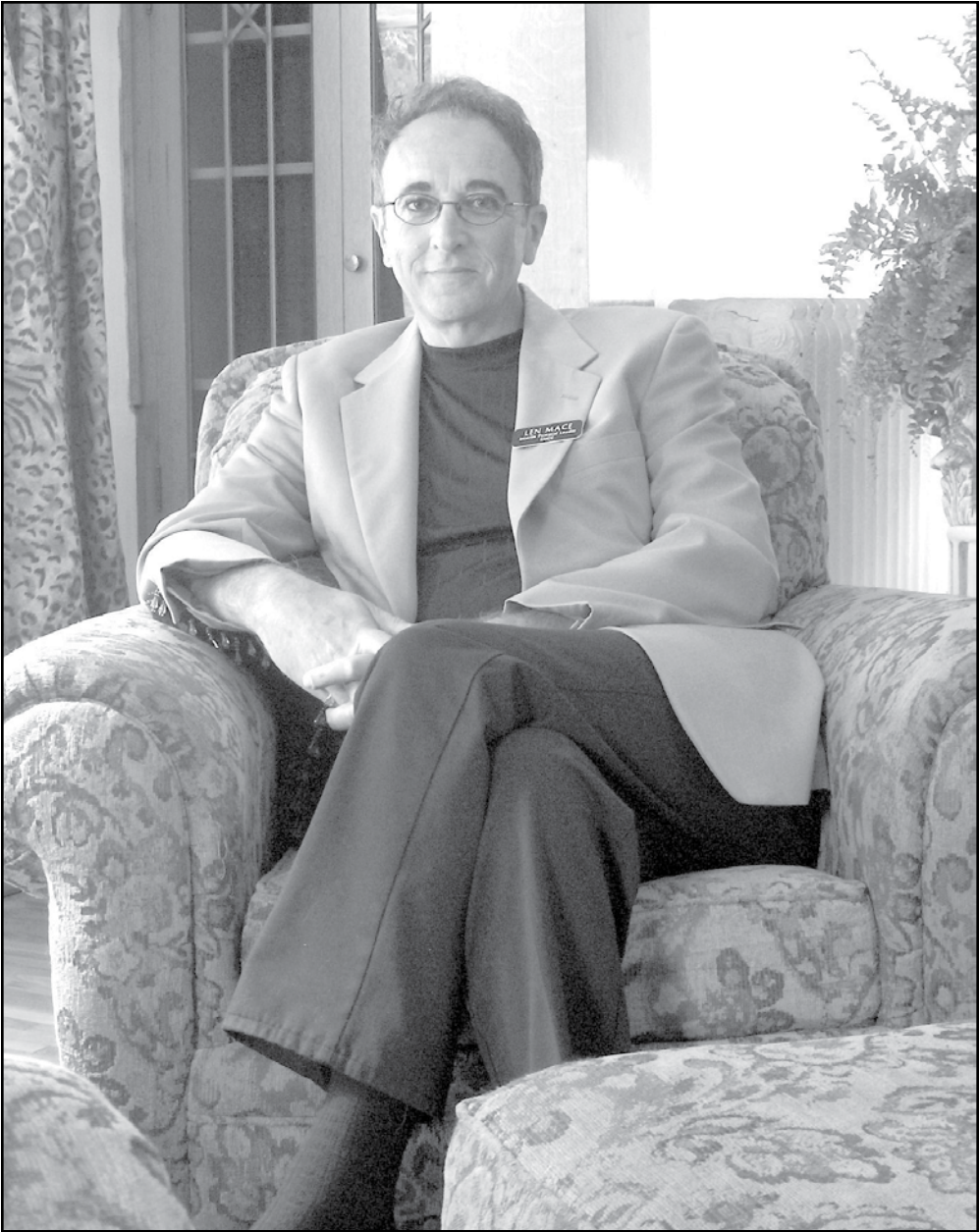
Mace feels he was called to Emmanuel MCC to help the congregation through a time of recovery involving the previous pastor and parishioners leaving the church.

But Mace explains another problem, “Unfortunately, Emmanuel, like many of our organizations, have become insular in that it was only concerned with life within the walls of the church and I believe the key element in my involvement was to get Emmanuel back out into the visible segment of our community.”

In looking back over the last couple years, Mace notes two efforts he’s proud of, “Helping the membership of Emmanuel become a strong spirit community of faith again and the fact that we have gotten back out and involved in our community”

Mace also sheds retrospective insight, “I can remember a time 20 years ago when there seemed to be much better cooperation as far as unity and organizations working hand in hand... numerous joint fund raising projects... community service types of things. For some reasons, a lot of that seems to have dissipated.”

“Speaking from Emmanuel’s perspective,” Mace states, bringing the



Emmanuel MCC Pastor Len Mace

issue into clearer focus, “we became so involved in trying to keep our own ‘thing’ happening that we didn’t have the people resources or financial resources to move beyond ourselves and I think that might be true of a lot of the organizations.

“We became so involved in trying to keep our own ‘thing’ happening that we didn’t have the resources to move beyond ourselves and I think that might be true of a lot of the organizations. Everyone’s been just doggedly trying to keep things together.” --Len Mace

Everyone’s been just doggedly trying to keep things together.”

Perhaps compounding the effort for church growth, former EMCC members are increasingly able to attend other churches whose posture, position and outreach have become more inclusive in recent years.

“We were the first church to have a complete outreach to the GLBTQ community,” Mace states, describing EMCC’s uniqueness in the community. “We are the only church that subscribes to the fundamental teachings of Christianity and most of our membership comes from traditional Christian backgrounds.”

Emmanuel MCC membership currently sits at 40 members, less than half of earlier years. But the trend in declining member growth at Emmanuel may be a

good sign for the larger community. “That was the goal of our founder, Rev Dr Troy Perry, who started MCC 38 years ago.” Mace concedes, “He believed that within 10 years the [MCC] Fellowship would be out of business because his dream was, by then, other churches would have become much more open and inviting. Certainly we have some of that, but there’s a long way to go”

“Ministry is challenging no matter how you look at it.” Mace continues, “For me it has absolutely been a work of love.

I suppose what’s most challenging to me as a pastoral leader is having an intense desire to move forward and to want to seek growth in the church. And also to see individuals grow spiritually. I see that

“I would hope that I would be remembered as someone who has served with a great amount of compassion.” --Len Mace

happen, but the growth hasn’t happened.”

“Now it has become very apparent to me that my journey with Emmanuel is coming to an end, at least for the time being”

Nov 1st, Mace will accept an invitation to Boise, ID, to work with the newly appointed Pastoral Leader of Treasure Valley MCC in areas Mace describes as, “Guest preaching, workshops, helping

In developing news. Emmanuel MCC released the following statement September 27th, 2006:

Emmanuel MCC Down, But NOT Out!

The Administrative Board of Directors of Emmanuel MCC, after many hours of meetings, discussions, brainstorming, and looking at every possible option is pleased to announce that because of the fact the God we serve is BIGGER than any problem we, as individuals or as an organization might encounter, and because of the God guided generosity, grace, and prayers of many people, the ministry of Emmanuel MCC will continue in Spokane.

With the upcoming departure of long time member and Interim Pastoral Leader, Len Mace on 10/15/06, Wayne Shull has been appointed as Interim Pastoral Leader. Newheart MCC of Tacoma, under the leadership of Rev. Jan Skaggs, has also ‘partnered’ with Emmanuel and will provide pastoral services and guidance as needed.

We want to thank everyone who has expressed their concern and for the many prayers on our behalf. Because of overwhelming support, this ministry, which will celebrate its 24th anniversary in late November, will continue to provide an open door for all people, especially those who have been marginalized or oppressed by other religious denominations.

Len Mace, Interim Pastoral Leader on behalf of the Board of Directors of Emmanuel MCC.

pastoral leader in whatever way I can”. Mace will return to Spokane for the holidays and, with an inescapably proud grin he pipes, “for my granddaughter’s first birthday!”

From Spokane, Mace will then journey to Albuquerque, NM, for three to four months. There, he will embark on a work-study/mentorship program with his close friend and mentor, Rev. Judy Maynard. From there, the journey is less defined. “It’s wherever God continues to open doors” Mace states.

When asked if the EMCC congregation were sitting in front of him what his words would be, Mace responded, “They wouldn’t be any different than what my primary messages have been for the past two years. No matter what life throws in our direction, God is bigger than that and there’s always hope. It comes down to our individual commitment as to how much

we want to put into the effort to see this thing continue and whether it continues in its current form or some brand new form. I believe there will be a MCC ministry in Spokane for a very long time”

How would he want the broader community to remember him? “I would hope that I would be remembered as someone who has served with a great amount of compassion.” Mace states, “ I know we all fall short of our own goals in whatever service we’re involved in, but I would hope that I would be remembered as someone who has loved this community”

SIT-IN*continued from Front Page*

Finding and training replacements for the 10,000 military personnel who have been discharged under DADT has cost taxpayers upwards of \$364 million. In addition thousands of gay, lesbian and bisexual people are denied access to jobs with the one of nation's top employers, the U.S. Armed Forces, simply because, out of a strong sense of integrity, they refuse to lie and cover up who they are. Olson maintains that he is "simply asking for the same rights and opportunities as everyone else, including the privilege to serve honestly along side my friends for the country that I love."

We are not equal because Gay Americans are not afforded the same freedoms, rights, and privileges as others. From "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" to Gay Marriage homosexuals are still discriminated against. Have we, as a GLBT community, become so complacent, so comfortable, with the second-class citizen status that we are forced into by our government that we are no longer willing to confront our oppressors and fight for equality? A general apathy not

only seems to prevail in America it is both shocking and appalling to see that it has taken hold in many GLBT communities as well. Society's homophobia, derived from ignorance, cannot be overcome with pride parades and shows like The L Word. Change will not happen until we make it happen. We can't make change happen by wishing or praying that it will happen.

We actually have to do something.

After two hours the Officer Yates of the Spokane Police Department arrived at the south Spokane Armed Forces recruiting station where she arrested the three young activists. They were charged with trespassing and a court hearing is set for October 10th. The efforts of Ryan Olson, Dana Correl, and Nick Lapalm are just what society needs—they are standing up for their convictions and doing something constructive.

By supporting the youth-led efforts we will begin to once again create an activist movement for LGBT rights.

Ryan Olson can be reached at ryan.olson@righttoserve.org

Soulforce can be reached at www.soulforce.org/righttoserve

Regional

Politicklers

What's the price of honesty?

by Catherine D. Willis

Two days after the primary election, I attended a gathering of Democrats in north Spokane and made one-to-one contact with several office seekers, urging them to participate in a survey developed for Inland Northwest Equality (INWE) and Stonewall News Northwest. The results are supposed to provide substance for a voter education guide slated for publication Oct. 15, but I'm wondering if we will get sufficient responses to justify the project. Or do most candidates share the fears of the one whose name I choose to shield at this writing?

This candidate asked me two compelling questions, which I now paraphrase: 1) *Do GLBTQA naysayers read Stonewall News?* (Yes, I answered, I assume they do, because putative leaders of our GLBTQA community follow their news sources.) 2) *Do you think my responding to your questionnaire will undermine my support among evangelical Christian voters?* (Possibly, I acknowledged. I really don't know.)

The candidate's queries gnawed at me throughout the evening, on my drive home, through my nighttime chores, all night. And I mean *all night*. On the one hand, I was arguing with the candidate in my head. *Don't cave to the bigots and the misinformed. Stand up for truth! Remember the World War II warning of Pastor Martin Niemöller: "First they came for the Jews...Then...the Communists...the trade unionists...Then they came for me and there was no one left to speak out for me."* But then I reminded myself that an ally *in office* can do more than one on the outside.

I did understand the candidate's concerns. We all know the disproportionate political power of passionately anti-gay people of faith. We've witnessed the animosity and confusion their vitriolic fervor creates. Let's face it, they've framed the argument so well (inaccuracies notwithstanding) that we are now zero for how many on the marriage equality front? (Massachusetts was a special situation.) This well-organized, richly funded, very vocal minority carries considerable clout.

I acknowledge this reality though I abhor it. What to do about it is the ultimate challenge. I believe we now know the folly of fighting this foe face-to-face, point-for-point. Some minds cannot be changed. Instead, we must conserve our resources, channeling our efforts to motivate and engage those in that space pragmatic problem solvers proclaim "the movable middle."

Many in this moderate realm are committed Christians; some even call themselves evangelicals. They can be reached; they hear the voice of reason. Because they don't often speak before the city council, the school board or local business or neighborhood groups, they may be hard to identify. But they're out there... hardworking, open-minded, big-hearted Americans willing to be approached, to share stories of personal faith and courage, to walk with us toward the goal of equality for all. We have to seek them out. We have to ask for their support. We have to show them that we are dedicated to common issues and values. An easy step in this direction is for us to do what we too often fail to do – to vote.

Yes, I hammered this nail last month. Allow me to take another whack at it: Post-election whining rights are reserved



for those who actually exercise the franchise. If you want to vote in the general election, then mail in your registration card by Oct. 7 or register in person by Oct. 23. Why not celebrate National Coming Out Day (Oct. 11) by abandoning the closet and embracing the ballot? Freedom, after all, is not free.

For that matter, neither is our new mail-in voting system. A 39-cent postage stamp is a surrogate poll tax, noted Spokane Falls Community College instructor Barbara Williamson at an INWE meeting in August. A plan to forestall the "I can't afford the stamp" excuse for not voting didn't make it beyond the discussion stage, but I believe our community can generate postage donations for those in need – at least the first 200 to so request it. Contact INWE if want of a stamp is going to hinder your ability to vote this fall.

The campaign season is in full swing now. The Benson-Marr and Serben-Barlow match-ups in the 6th Legislative District continue to look interesting. Several county races deserve attention too. That young upstart, Brad Stark, could not beat incumbent assessor Ralph Baker, but Democrat Judy Personett could do the deed with some help. If you want to bring some balance to county government, put your money and your mettle behind Bonnie Mager in the race for county commissioner. Good ol' boy Phil Harris seems to be vulnerable despite his bulging pocketbook.

I'm thrilled to report the failure of John Groen to unseat Supreme Court Chief Justice Gerry Alexander in what turned out to be an ugly and expensive battle on both sides. Moms say it all the time: *Two wrongs don't make a right*. I was so offended by two nasty pieces of campaign literature I received from the Citizens to Uphold the Constitution (a pro-Alexander PAC) that I wrote them a scathing letter. Politicking need not be such a dirty business!

Judicial campaigns merit special decorum, which makes them difficult to gauge. I'm still pushing for the re-election of Justice Susan Owens, who faces off against a Groen thinkalike, Stephen Johnson, in the general election. We can expect another high-priced mudfest because both sides are backed by the same folks who brought us the Groen-Alexander embarrassment... Stay tuned to Stonewall News for more information on other judicial races. With or without survey data from candidates, there will be a facts-only (commentary separate) tool for your perusal in the Oct. 15 issue. Time and circumstances permitting, it will be up on the web site – **www.stonewallnews.net** – prior to publication.

Catherine Willis, a freelance writer/editor and community advocate, has been a political junkie for 30 years.

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National & International

Finding schools that strive to be inclusive

Parents' search for tolerance & support key to safe school environments

By Lornet Turnbull
Seattle Times staff reporter

"Ours is a two-mom household."

"To our children, we are Mommy and Mom."

These conversations between parents and educators are becoming increasingly common as the children of gay and lesbian parents show up in larger numbers in the school system.

The anxiety parents may feel as they send their children off this time of year is compounded for many lesbians and gays. They know that the challenges they face in broader society could be visited upon their children in one form or another on the playgrounds, in hallways and in the classroom.

Many say they leave nothing to chance. From selecting a "safe" school to ensuring language used by teachers, nurses, counselors and principals is inclusive, of they say they want to ease the way so their children are not ostracized.

"Tough things happen to all kids," said Carol Achtmeyer, whose 4-year-old daughter will enter kindergarten next fall. "The ideal setting is a surrounding that supports them completely."

The idea, say gays and educators, is not to impose any particular value on other parents or even teachers who might personally reject homosexuality, but to make sure all children are made to feel accepted.

Achtmeyer, a nurse and public-health researcher, said when she toured Seattle elementary schools this summer looking for one that would be a fit for her daughter, she listened carefully to how educators talked about their schools.

"If they keep saying, 'mom and dad,' 'mom and dad,' you can conclude that the school is oriented toward moms and dads," and may not be a welcoming place for her daughter, she said.

A poster on the wall at one school said "all families are welcome," and not far away was a door with a rainbow on it. "You got the feeling diversity was important," Achtmeyer said.

Cheryl Haskins, co-chairwoman of Allies for Marriage and Children, which supports traditional marriage, said it makes sense that school districts would treat children of households headed by a gay or a lesbian parent the same as children from other family structures.

But the former teacher at Rainier Beach High School draws the line at the issue of same-sex married families, noting that Washington state does not allow such unions.

Schools' obligation

Public schools are legally required to educate all children, whether they are from foster or adopted families, blended or single-parent households. Private schools don't have the same obligation.

No one collects data on the number of children from gay and lesbian, bisexual or transgender households enrolled in public or private schools, but anecdotal evidence suggests their numbers are growing.

Nationally, it is estimated that between 6 million and 12 million children are being raised in gay and lesbian households. The 2000 Census found that 19 percent of the 1,423 Washington households headed by gay men and 23 percent of the 1,881 run

by lesbians included children under 18.

Beth Reis, co-chairwoman of the Safe Schools Coalition, said educators are reporting "more and more children of same-gender parents in their classrooms. One can argue they were always there, teachers just didn't know it."

How comfortable these kids are made to feel in their classrooms and on the playground varies from district to district and from school to school.

Nine out of every 10 Washington districts responding to a 2003 survey were in compliance with the state's anti-bullying act, which requires them to ban

"You can't try to squeeze all families into a mommy-and-daddy role, It's not the role of a school to teach a child shame."

--Smith-Mosel

bullying based on eight forms of bias, including sexual orientation.

"Parents can assume a building is unsafe if there are no nondiscrimination or anti-bullying policies in place, or if those policies don't acknowledge sexual orientation or gender expression," said Reis, whose group co-sponsored the survey.

"Once you get that basic framework in place, then the question is how is that policy lived?"

Many districts, for example, offer training to help teachers, counselors and principals to help them understand ways to make all children feel included.

"I tell teachers that it's not about being super politically correct," said Lisa Love, health-education specialist for the Seattle School District who helps provide that training to schools that ask for it.

"It's about being open to the idea that families can look different from what they might imagine. Whether it's mom and momma, who cares?"

Academics important

Mary-Pat Soukup, who with her partner, Terri Stone, is raising an adopted African-American child, said they toured six Seattle schools before deciding which would be best for their child. In the end, Soukup said it wasn't so much about diversity and tolerance, which was prevalent at all the schools they visited, but which school was best academically.

"Salmon Bay is an alternative school that draws from the most liberal groups, and there's a better chance of the other families being onboard with different kinds of families," Soukup said.

Their daughter, Alea, had been attending the private preschool Soukup operates, and in some ways her parents felt they needed to prepare her for some of the awkward questions classmates in the public school might ask: "You have two moms? You can't have two moms," and, "Why are your moms white?"

Jim Rose said he and his partner, Eric Gutierrez, feel they won't need to prepare their 4-year-old adopted son, Isaac, for similar questions just yet.

Last year they enrolled him at Giddens school, an independent elementary school in the Central Area. "There are so many different family structures there — single parents, two moms, two dads," Rose said. "Our son never has to feel like he's the odd man out."

Rose said for now the diversity at

Giddens relieves them from having to tell their son about society's sometimes negative perception of families like theirs.

"Our son understands that some kids have a mom and dad and some have one parent," Rose said. "He doesn't understand the social ramification of it in some circles. We want to keep him as untainted as long as we can."

Family lens

Children, especially those in early elementary school, see themselves through the lens of their families: For many, family is everything.

Many gay and lesbian parents, particularly of younger children, say they find it helpful to introduce themselves and describe their families to teachers and principals before the start of school.

"It's a two-second, 'Hi, how are you,'

" said Rachel Smith-Mosel, a lesbian who has three children in Federal Way schools and is a teacher. She said she takes her kids with her on these visits and sometimes provides teachers with information about resources they might find helpful.

Posters in the hallways and the books stocked in the library can help parents feel comfortable.

Smith-Mosel said teachers also need to address the use by kids of the word "gay" to describe something negative — such as "this math problem is so gay" — that has become a part of student vernacular. It can be offensive to students who are gay or those whose parents are gay or lesbian.

In middle school, Sophie Nelson said she would hear kids use the term but would say nothing. Now the 15-year-old sophomore at Garfield High School said she speaks up: "You know that's offensive and impacts my own family."

Parents say it's important, too, to discuss with teachers about how families are portrayed in the classroom and in class assignments.

Reis of the Safe Schools Coalition, which hears and helps resolves harassment complaints, related an incident in which children in a class were asked to draw their families and then make presentations before the class. One girl in the class, who had two moms, was not allowed to make her presentation.

A phrase such as "don't forget to tell your parents about the field trip" rather than "your mom and dad" can go a long way in making a kid, especially a small child, feel included, parents and teachers say.

"You can't try to squeeze all families into a mommy-and-daddy role," Smith-Mosel said. "It's not the role of a school to teach a child shame."

Seattle Times news researcher Gene Balk contributed to this report.

Lornet Turnbull: 206-464-2420 or lturnbull@seattletimes.com

For more information: Safe Schools Coalition, a public-private organization that provides information to educators and parents about making schools safe for all students: safeschoolscoalition.org

COLAGE: Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere: www.colage.org/

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Practical Spirituality for Daily Life

Robbing the world of love

by **Bob Schout**

"A mentor once said to me, 'Bob, each time you chose not to be fully you, and lie about who you are – even if that lie is by omission – those lies and silence are tantamount to thievery and robbery. You are robbing the world of your light and love, robbing your lovers of the chance to be fully themselves as you ask them to lie and hide who they really are when they are around you, and robbing your family and friends of the chance to confront and grow out of their ignorance, and express their love. Is that what you want to be, Bob, a thief

That question hit me upside head and heart like a cosmic 2 x 4, grabbing my attention, and challenging me to make a series of decisions that would affect the rest of my life; decisions to come out. Not a decision to come out, but a series of decisions, because coming out is a process, not an event. We do it little by little each time we choose to tell the truth, take a stand for ourselves and our brothers and sisters, describe – not just defend – our dignity, educate others about the common characteristics of love regardless of it being expressed heterosexually, bisexually or homosexually, be undaunted to express who our friends are or who we are in a relationship with, or simply by showing up as people of love, respect and honesty.

Practical spirituality is demonstrated by universally giving and receiving love, searching for Truth, respecting and dignifying yourself and every other person and thing in this world, and seeing life optimistically as a continuous series of opportunities to become more fully who you truly are at the heart of your being. Oh, and doing these things more and more every single day. Therefore




coming out, since it invites you to do all of these things, is a spiritual process and an opportunity to be spiritually true to yourself.

In this sense, coming out is not just a gay process, it is a human process. To come out, whether you are gay or straight, is to be openly and honestly your true, loving self, and affirm and accept everyone else with dignity and respect. October 11th is National Coming Out Day. Though, I believe, that everyday is in one sense or another a coming out day – a day to proclaim the truth of who you are, a day stand up in integrity, a day to confront myths and misperceptions, a day to demonstrate courage...and support others as they try to do the same.

We do no one a favor, not our families, friends, neighbors, bosses, colleagues, classmates – no one – by staying in the closet. Staying in the closet, no matter how we game it, is a result of unresolved fear, and is a symbol of denigration. The act says to the world, "I'm afraid and maybe not worthy of your respect" and it robs others of the opportunity they need to confront their own fears, ignorance, or apathy, and to grow in love.

Please see ROBBING page 13

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Christopher Lawrence, A & E Editor



Top: Evan Hernandez and Ken Urso. Right: Crayn Hoaglund. Not Pictured: Julie M. Zimmer

The Shape of Things at ARt



of the play. The question... 'What do you give up for love?' has many layers of meaning. His character, Adam, begins to understand them all by the closing.

Julie M. Zimmer is Evelyn the artist/anarchist who wreaks dramatic change in Evan's character and drives the dramatic finale into a fever pitch.

Ken Urso (Phillip) as roommate and longtime friend of Evan) brought a bombastic self-enthused caustic element into the mix... that belied his slighter build and inflamed the relationships. All our friends have some character flaws, right?

Crayn Hoaglund (Jenny) balances the energy with the lithe, self deprecation. All of these actors were outstanding.

Wednesday nights are 'Talk Back' at ARt. The half hour discussion between the audience and the cast and director was refreshing and insightful.

The sets and lighting were effective and provocative. Don't miss **The Shape of Things!** It plays through Oct. 7.

As I waited for the production to begin, what struck me was what a great range of ages and personas were waiting to see this work by author Neil Lebute (director of **The Wicker Man**). Considered to be one of THE talents in America, most of his works are often filled with anger and violence. Luckily, those qualities are expressed verbally here. and yet leave the audience feeling just a bit battered, though thoughtful, by play's end.

The cast was strong and the viewers could not help being engaged as the story line unfolded and characters revealed their true selves. In fact, several times I felt that same uncomfortable and burning visceral tension that I experienced while watching Edward Albee's, **Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf** during my college years.

Evan Hernandez plays the hunky nerd who transforms himself for the ideal of love, the symbolic central message

Civic is Singin' in the Rain



Cameron Lewis, Alyssa Calder-Day and Andrew Ware Lewis are 'singin' and dancin' in the rain."

Civic Theatre's production of that classic musical, **Singin' in the Rain**, is playing through Oct. 29 and there is buzz is that this will be a real hit.

Kathie Doyle-Lipe directs this adaptation of the original movie screenplay and will surely afford the audience a broad comic view of the transition from silent films to 'talkies'.

Bring your galoshes and slickers and

umbrellas because there will be rain!

Tickets are available by calling (509) 325-2507 during box office hours or TicketsWest at (800)-325-7328. For more information, visit: www.spokanecivictheatre.com

Snag those tickets for The Mike Stern Band at the SFCC Music Bldg. Auditorium before they sell out by calling Hoffman Music at (509) 444-4140 or the SFCC Cashier at (509) 533-3569 (no fees). \$23 for adults; \$18 for students and seniors. (General seating only) Tickets at the door will be \$3 more. Advanced tickets are also available from: www.ticketwest.com

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. Upcoming review sessions include: **Hit by a Farm** by Catherine Friend on Oct. 4 and **Never Ending** by Marianne K. Martin on Nov. 1.



Pictured L to R: Jonathon Rau as Bo, Kelly Eiston-Quinnett as Cherie, Damon Abdallah as Virgil, Ellen Travolta as Grace, and Christine Creswell as Elma.

Bus Stop was handled with excellent dexterity by director Scott Alan Smith and the cast performances were top-notch.

From the lighting and costumes to the set, every aspect of the presentation was also meticulous in detail. Instead of the abstract suggestion of a cafe interior of the 1950s, we were inside a carefully crafted scene that struck the perfect mood from the moment the action began.

All the actors were polished and gave solid performances with a good deal of nuance showing through the powerful construction of each character.

Ellen Travolta as the owner of Grace's Cafe and bus stop exuded an earthy enjoyment of life and a charming curmudgeonly attitude reminiscent of Kitty from "Gunsmoke" and Thelma Ritter from dozens of movies from the middle of the

last century.

Damon Abdallah (Virgil) had a surprisingly sweet deep voice suited to the style of country western songs that were once so prevalent. Jonathon Rau (Bo) and Kelly Eiston-Quinnett were energetic, slightly over-the-top and on the mark for these classic American characters.

Jack Bannon, as Dr. Lyman, the alcoholic, self-tortured scholar, quite convincingly reminded me how lucky I am to be sober.

William Rhodes (bus driver Carl) and Maynard Villers (sheriff Will) seemed as true to William Inge's vision of working men in rural America as I could imagine.

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- liner notes "Who let the cats out?"

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REVIEWS & PREVIEWS

BOOKS – VIDEOS – MUSIC

Christopher Lawrence & Graham Ames

Two Asian film (DVD) treasures are featured this issue and are gaining notoriety throughout the world. So seldom are we treated to films that translate well into our language I wanted to take the opportunity to feature them both.

Saving Face

Alice Wu, writer/director

Sony Pictures Classics, 97 minutes

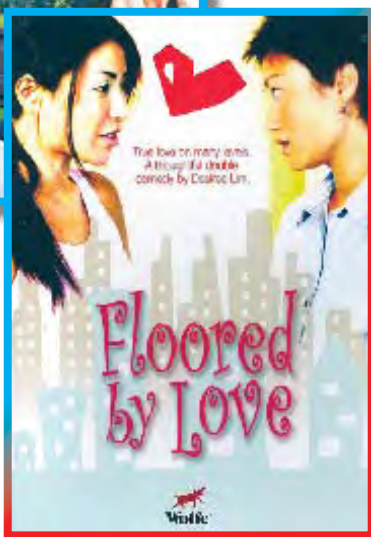
What can you do when your traditionalist Asian mother (Joan Chen) suddenly turns up at your doorstep pregnant and wanting to move in with you?

Her lesbian daughter figures she had better help Mom find Mr. Right in order to save the family's face, transmute her tyrannical grandfather's ire and have a chance in her own love life.

The surprises, twists and turns knit themselves into the plot with thoughtfulness overlaid by humor.

Asian cultures and mores are explored within the context of following this family through the uneven path of true love juxtaposed by societal pressures and familial responsibilities.

First-time director, Wu, has shown her chops at fashioning a meaningful and charming story that examines the coming-out process on several layers. Almost everyone has some aspect of their lives that warrants the 'coming out' transformation with what feels like dangerous exposure to our deepest secrets.



Floored by Love

Desiree Lim, writer/director

Wofe Video, 50 minutes

Alice Wu (director of *Saving Face*) was the reason I wanted to view this film. She was interviewed on an episode of "Gay TV" a few weeks ago about her film and encouraged people to see both of these offerings.

I was not disappointed because Desiree Lim's film shares the structures of tradition and yet grants a very different story. The complexity of interweaving two seemingly unrelated tales is shown without any visible effort.

Floored by Love is rich in multicultural experiences and characters. As the two stories unfold in Vancouver, BC, same sex marriage is being legislated in Canada.

The effects on the family of a young boy who is coming out and the lesbian couple who feel inner pressure to be committed are juxtaposed by fear of rejection by society.

A few of the actors are a bit weaker but you can expect to love both of these films.

Third & Heaven

by Ben Patrick Johnson

Alyson Books, 291 pages

Four friends (three gay men and one straight woman) deal with life in Los Angeles in much the same way the ladies of "Sex in the City" dealt with New York.

They meet at their favorite bistro for breakfast each Saturday and discuss their hopes, dreams and catastrophic love lives. The premise is pretty much fail-proof and easy to identify with.

Ritchie, the overly buff wannabe star is a trainer of the rich and occasionally famous clientele in the LA spa where he works. His physical charms and focus on stardom blind him to reality and the possibility of love and happiness with someone he already knows.

Freddy is an insecure semi-successful writer who falls in love with a handsome young Broadway star and courts him by e-mail, in online private chat and on the phone until they meet in person. Unspoken dark secrets surface when his new beau moves in.

Joshua is a barely successful promoter (and occasional gofer) for a couple of over-the-hill celebrities who are willing to try anything to retain some piece of the stardom they once tasted.



Claire is a therapist and as controlling as anyone else in the tight-knit group who hides her insecurity behind a tough but humorous facade.

These characters all seem human and of course flawed. Thereby the essence of 'family of choice' comes into play as they support each other through it all.

Johnson has written a pretty good story populated with interesting people.

Here is the rub...

Good editing makes all the difference in the world. A reader who is hurtling down some path the author has so carefully wrought hits a bump every time a word

is misplaced or spelled incorrectly.

Admittedly it doesn't ruin this story but why interrupt the flow unnecessarily? This lack of professionalism seems to be more common among the thousands of self-published books out there. Poor editing cannot improve a bad story and is detrimental to a good one. Editing is the final step in the creative process. It is the polish that protects the story from the elements and makes the reading experience a true and lasting pleasure.

In a newspaper, sloppiness diminishes content, but at least it will soon line the cage of an animal or be dumped in the trash. Even a paperback should stick around to be enjoyed over and over.

Despite Our Differences

Indigo Girls

Hollywood Records

Emily Saliers and Amy Ray have been making music together for over 20 years. Their classic formula of two women with two guitars has remained largely unchanged. Although the library of instruments may have evolved a bit, now including banjo, mandolin, ukulele, even electric and slide guitar, their music is still, at its core, acoustic coffeehouse folk rock. Now, in 2006, they have a new record label, a new producer (Mitchell Froom, husband of Emily's good friend Vonda Shepard) and a polished sound which hopes to gain some elusive airplay.

Far and away the best-sounding album the duo has turned out in years, there is a tightness and energy to these 13 tracks which is undeniable. "Pendulum Swinger" opens, with Emily commenting on the place of women in organized religion, followed by Amy's "Little Perennials," an upbeat meditation on the sudden appearance of distant relations demanding attention from a famous cousin. This classic one-two punch promises great things to come, great things that never quite materialize.

The disparity of the duo has seldom been more apparent. The Girls never write together, instead bringing finished songs into the studio and collaborating on guitar and vocal arrangements to create an Indigo Girls project. Emily continues to focus her muse inward, examining relationships between individuals and institutions with her familiar rapid-fire lyrics and lyrical melodies. "I Believe In Love," "Run," and "Fly Away" all have a strangely familiar quality, as if they were outtakes from previous IG albums. Amy, on the other hand, spends most of her songs reflecting on the trials and tribulations of living as a rural queer in the South. "Three County Highway," "They Won't Have Me," and the stunning "Dirt and Dead Ends" explore the darker sides of living outside of the typical GLBT comfort zones, taking a stand against encroaching suburbia and bigotry. The entire album adds up to an exploration of contrasts, as its title suggests, but the overall similarity to material which has appeared already in the Girls' extensive catalog is a less-than-engaging listen.

For a longtime fan of the Girls, there is a lot of frustration in this new album. It just sounds so good. But the material itself feels somehow sub-par. With few exceptions, such as "Rock And Roll Heaven's Gate," a track which features Pink on guest vocals, or "Money Made You Mean," a rough, acoustic rant against greed, most of the tracks lack any of the "wow factor" which dominated *Shaming Of The Sun*, *Come On Now Social* or their classic career-topping diptych *Rites Of Passage* and *Swamp Ophelia*. Where the Girls once inspired sudden tears of recognition or unbridled joyous sing-alongs, they now seem content with an agree-

able nod and smile. One can only hope this is the first chapter in a new cycle of creativity, and not a sign of decline for such a talented pair.

Half The Perfect World

Madeleine Peyroux

Rounder Records

It has been a busy year or so for Madeleine. After the resounding worldwide success of her sophomore album *Careless Love* (reviewed here August 2005) she found herself in court fighting over Got "You On My Mind," a suitcase recording she created with then-collaborator William Galison. The legal squabble turned darkly personal, and she reportedly vanished for a while, only to be discovered hanging with her manager in New York. Like any good artist, she poured her attention into creativity. *Half The Perfect World* is either her third or fourth album, depending on how you count, but you don't have to work to calculate its brilliance or potential impact.

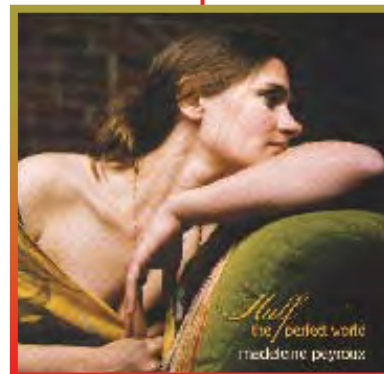
Madeleine obviously believes strongly in jazz as a living music form. To this end, she has assembled 12 tracks largely from outside the idiom, and has completely transported them. Under the skilled production of Larry Klein, who was at the helm for her last Rounder release, Madeleine and her backing ensemble (also veterans from the previous album) create a smoky, dinner-at-dusk mood out of surprising sources. Leonard Cohen ("Blue Alert," "Half The Perfect World,") Tom Waits ("Looking for) The Heart of Saturday Night), even Charlie Chaplin ("Smile") all transform under the focus of this tight group. k.d. lang's duet on Joni Mitchell's "River" helps to underscore the evolution of Madeleine's amazing voice. No longer content to channel Billy Holiday into a new century,

she has developed well beyond imitation into her own unique style, still honoring the past while forging ahead. The result is original, inviting, and completely absorbing.

Equally engaging are the original songs, four of them, penned by Peyroux and Klein and others. Undoubtedly reflecting the chaos of the past year, these tracks stand up on an equal plane with those by more accomplished songwriters, easily proving that Madeleine can give as well as she takes. Witty, moving, a little bitter and a lot of fun, their inclusion hints at a great talent taking shape.

Whether a fan of vocal jazz, classic singer/songwriters or just a curious ear looking for something new, *Half The Perfect World* is an album sure to please anyone who approaches it. The world didn't have to wait years and years between releases from Madeleine this time. Perhaps this speedy release signals greater confidence in this wonderful artist, confidence which will bring more of her talented offerings to her growing audience within the next year or two.

Peyroux is definitely one to watch.





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TWO WOMEN

continued from Page 2

moved everyone with her passionate singing and playing.

Roby and Dotti undertook this journey because they are committed to engaging hearts and minds and creating authentic connections with people who are 'wrestling' with their understanding of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons. Their intention is to work toward dissolving differences that separate us, break down barriers, and bring people into community. They easily captivated the audience with anecdotes from their travels and calls to action for all of us to consider.

Important messages, very relevant to our Spokane community, were evident throughout the evening's program. "You can't hate somebody whose story you know. Dare to know the story of those who are different. Most anti-gay attitudes come from a lack of one-on-one relationships between the gay and straight populations. We cannot meet their fear with our own fear. It's important to conquer fear and tell our stories. We've got to let people know who we are."

Dotti and Roby feel that most of what we fear is within our own GLBTQ community. Statistics show that only seven percent of gay people are out in every situation. They believe differences don't have to separate us from each other or our community. It isn't only "others" in society that are "wrestling" with their understanding of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons...it is often our own community of GLBTQ people who "wrestle" as well.

OLSON

continued from Page 2

and discrimination to exist in our armed forces. We are not here to humiliate or disrespect the fine women and men behind the doors of this recruitment center or those already serving in the military. If anything, we hold them in the highest regard and hope that they will see why we are here today."

It should be known that these courageous protestors are all current students of Gonzaga University in Spokane, working hard to attain varying degrees in the human service field with hopes of making a difference. Olson, 23, is a Sociology, Public Relations, and Political Science major who wants to do international human rights work in the area of gender and GLTB issues. Corral, 20, is Political Science major who would envision herself as a civil rights attorney. Lapalm, 19, is a Political Science major who wants to become a state official or senator as well as a professor. What should also be noted is the mix of orientation. While Olson is openly gay, Corral is bisexual, and Lapalm is a straight ally.

Following a short press conference, the trio and entourage walked in silence across the parking lot to the Armed Forces recruiting office where Olson introduced himself and his associates to recruiter Sgt. Anthony Cark. He advised Sgt. Clark of their actions and intentions. But their request to enlist was politely refused as Sgt. Clark reiterated the DADT policy. While sharing sympathy for the cause, Sgt. Clark ultimately had a job to do. So the sit-in began for the trio as every one else, supporters and media, were kindly escorted outside to wait for the police to arrive.

An interesting facet of the day began when the Spokane Police arrived to answer the call. Two male and a female officer arrived in two squad cars. While the men scouted the area, Officer Yates confidently approached and introduced herself to each protester, shaking hands and asking their names. Immediately,

We want acceptance, but spend a lot of energy not accepting each other. Robi and Dotti pointed out that we cannot keep asking of other people what we're not asking of ourselves.

For me, the big ah-ha of the evening was how what I was hearing about Gay Into Straight America was extremely aligned with the Vision Committee's Let's Get Visible campaign. Dedicated to creating a social climate of acceptance for Spokane's GLBTQ citizens, the Vision Committee has encouraged our community to become more visible by telling our personal stories to neighbors and co-workers, to work together to accomplish our goals and to recognize and deal with our own internalized homophobia.

To learn more about Dotti and Roby's journey and message, check out: www.gayintostraightamerica.com. Click on the "News Updates" button and pick the Sept. 21, 2006 entry to read their impressions from their visit to Spokane.

LILAC CITY BOYS

continued from Page 3

will include a little business, then a little fun with popcorn and sodas as we follow Brian, Michael, Justin, Emmett, and Ted as they live, love and laugh in gay and not-so-gay Philadelphia. Core group meets every Wednesday night, at 7 p.m. at 905 S. Monroe, across from Huckleberry's. Parking is in the back. (Note: The last Wednesday of the month, the core group will meet off site for a purely social get-together.)

For more information on any of these events, please call 267-9444 or e-mail info@lilaccitymensproject.org.

all felt at ease with her presence. Yates' interaction with everyone demonstrated a skilled blend of authority, respect and compassion. Her connection to the crowd seemed complete when she shared that she was a mother and grandmother herself. Accompanied by the other two police officers, she briefly stepped inside the recruiter's office. From behind the glass panes she introduced herself to each of the trio who sat on the floor, shaking their hands and speaking with them.

The police officers soon escorted Olson, Corral and Lapalm from the recruiting office and led them across the parking lot to begin the identification process for the criminal charge of trespassing. During this time officer Yates educated everyone about the process that was taking place and what was to be expected. Officer Yates should be commended on her communication skills. And even though she had her job to uphold the law, she also shared compassion for their cause. "I think it a positive thing to be principally driven." She stated, also commenting on the importance of mutual respect in demonstrations such as these.

There was a lot to be learned attending the demonstration on that sunny autumn morning, but perhaps the best way to remember the brave students from Gonzaga is from part of Olson's own speech earlier in the day. "Am I brave?" Olson asks, "No, I am simply asking for the same rights and opportunities as everyone else, including the privilege to serve honestly along side my friends for the country that I love. So, to the brave, honorable and courageous young men and women who would give up their lives for this country so that we may be free, whether you are gay or you are straight, we support you. We respect you, and we honor you. Hopefully one day, all troops will be able to serve openly and honestly without fear or degradation for simply being who they are."

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Schedule of Events

Thursday, October 5th at Dempsey's Brass Rail

Awards Dinner – 6 p.m. – \$10

In Town Show – 8 p.m. – No CHARGE

**All following events take place at
Mirabeau Park Hotel & Convention Center,
1100 N. Sullivan Road, Spokane Valley,
Washington.**

Friday, October 6th – 9 p.m.

**Out of Town Show
\$15 at the door.**

Saturday, October 7th

Hospitality – Noon to 3 p.m.

Both events in Suite 186

Pageant:

**Doors Open at 5 p.m./Pageant at 6 p.m.
\$30**

Sunday, October 8th

**Victory Brunch at 12 Noon
\$15**

*Mark, Selena, Gordon and Sierra would like to
take this opportunity to thank the ISCS members
and the Spokane community for all of the support
they received during their reign.*

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ROBBING

continued from Front page.7

- I hear gays and lesbians complain about how society maligns gays and lesbians, but won’t come out, or come forth, to set the record straight, as beacons of truth.
- I hear them say that coming out would “kill” their parents. Though I’ve not heard of one case of parental sudden death syndrome brought on by immanent truth-telling.
- I hear them state time and time again that “no one needs to know about my sex life”, as if it is our ability to have same-sex, instead of our ability to express the fullness of our love for another person

of the same gender, defines who we are. I hear them express true admiration for politicians and young people who are brave enough, and who courageously come out, risking their careers and companionships with friends, in order to be true to themselves, but won’t do the same for themselves, claiming that their case is special or unique; that “no one else can understand where (they’re) coming from.” As if not one of the millions of other gay and lesbian brothers and sisters have ever had to face uncomfortable or negative reactions. Fear rises, to silence their voice, and they lose faith in themselves, in the community’s support, and in their family and friends.

- I have friends that use every form of excuse and rationale to avoid claiming their dignity, experience true freedom, and express true love for themselves and others, all the while lying to themselves, stating that “it’s not that big a deal; it’s only one part of who I am”, so as to avoid their own growth through proclamation. Though that “one part” lingers on their mind and pervades their thoughts every day in countless ways. It is a fundamental part of who they are, that which they are denying.

I invite my brothers and sisters to seize the day, whether it be October 15th, or today, or tomorrow, or each and every day, to love yourself a little more and let

the world know that by what you say, do, and who you are inside and out. Don’t rob this world of your light, your love, or your truth. It is desperately needed and will be gratefully appreciated. Someone, somewhere is waiting out there to see you, hear you and know you. So that they too, can come out and be who they are meant to be.

Bob Schout is based in Dallas Texas. He is a life coach, pastoral counselor, and motivational speaker for business, government, non-profit and faith-based organizations. He can be reached by e-mail at psdevelopment@sbcglobal.net. You can also visit his website at www.powerskillsinternational.com

Resource Directory

SPOKANE AREA		MONTANA	
<p>BiNet Spokane A social support group for bisexual men and women. Call: (509) 217-1271 Eastern Washington University SAFE Students’ Alliance for Equality Weekly meetings for students, faculty and staff. Call: Kat Olson: (509) 359-4253 Web site: http://iceberg.ewu.edu/safe/safe.htm</p> <p>EMCC – Emmanuel Metropolitan Community Church Christian church with outreach to the GLBT community. Call: (509) 838-0085 Web site: www.emmanuelmcc.com</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>Gonzaga University GLBT Resource Center For information and to contact resource organizations on the GU campus, September-May.</p> <p>HERO (Helping Educate Regarding Orientation) gay-straight alliance.</p> <p>SODA (Sexual Orientation Diversity Alliance) law school support group. Direct line: Bryce: 323-5847</p> <p>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</p> <p>ISCS – Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane Call: (509) 251-1242. Web site: www.iscspokane.com</p> <p>INBA – Inland Northwest Business Alliance A Professional GLBTQ/Allied Business Alliance. Monthly luncheon meetings and annual community resource directory. Write: PO Box 20163, Spokane, WA 99204 Voice mail: 509-455-3699 E-mail: info@inbaspokane.org Web site: www.inbaspokane.org</p> <p>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</p> <p>Integrity Gay and lesbian Episcopalians meet monthly for communion and simple meal. Call: Chuck: (509) 326-7707 or Ann: (509) 624-6671</p> <p>Lutheran Communitiy Services-SafeT Response Center Call: (509) 747-8224 Crisis line (509) 624-7273</p> <p>Lilac City Men’s Project For gay and bisexual men; a frank and open forum about sex, self, safety and socializing. For more information about upcoming meetings and events: Web site: www.lilaccitymensproject.org</p> <p>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</p> <p>Odyssey Youth Center Discussion/support group and social drop-in center for GLBT and questioning youth.</p>		<p>Fax: (509) 267-6309 Web site: www.stonewallnews.net</p> <p>Spokane Gender Center Resources and support for transgender people. Web site: www.gendercenter.com</p> <p>Unitarian Universalist Church Gay, lesbian resource committee. Call: (509) 325-6383 Web site: www.uuchurchofspokane.org</p> <p>Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery Call: 535-3155 Web site: www.vanessabehan.org</p> <p>Women and Friends Women-only activities and events in the Spokane area. Call: (509) 458-4709</p>	
IDAHO		TRI-CITIES	
<p>Idaho for Basic Rights Citizen action group to work for civil and legal equality on basis of sexual orientation. Call: (208) 343-7402</p> <p>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</p> <p>North Idaho College Gay-Straight Alliance E-mail: BCARDISON@icehouse.net</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>PFLAG - Sandpoint Support, education and advocacy group for Sandpoint gay people, parents, family and friends. Call: (208) 263-6699</p> <p>Planned Parenthood of The Inland Northwest HIV antibody testing and counseling. Call: Clinic for Appt.: (800) 788-9128 Administration: (509) 326-6292</p>		<p>Benton-Franklin District Health Department Confidential and anonymous HIV testing, case management, educational and referral services. Call: (Pasco) (509) 547-9737, ext. 234 <i>Confidential voice mail also.</i></p> <p>River of Life Metropolitan Community Church Christian church celebrating diversity and affirming GLBTQ people. Sunday services at 11:30 a.m. Call: (509) 542-8860</p> <p>Tri-Cities Chaplaincy/ Tri-Cities CARES Columbia AIDS relief, education and support. Survivor support group and HIV/PWA support group. Call: (509) 783-7416</p>	
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<p>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</p> <p>PFLAG – Walla Walla Support, education and advocacy group for parents, family, friends and members of the GLBTQ community. Promoting the health and well-being of GLBTQ individuals, their families and friends. Call: (509) 529-5320 Write: 527 E. Oak Walla Walla, WA 99362-1248 E-mail: pflag_walla2wash@hotmail.com Web site: www.wwpflag.Ocatch.com/</p> <p>Seventh-day Adventist Kinship Call: (509) 525-0202</p>		<p>SHINE An organization that strives to eliminate all forms of prejudice and discrimination by promoting awareness, education, and self-empowerment through the use of the arts. Call: (509) 860-7354 E-mail: shine_org@yahoo.com</p>	
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<p>PFLAG - Yakima/Yakima Valley Promotes the health and well-being of GLBT individuals, their families and friends. Call: (509) 576-9625</p> <p>Rainbow Cathedral Metropolitan Community Church An MCC Seattle parish extension. Call: (509) 457-6454</p>		<p>SHINE An organization that strives to eliminate all forms of prejudice and discrimination by promoting awareness, education, and self-empowerment through the use of the arts. Call: (509) 860-7354 E-mail: shine_org@yahoo.com</p>	
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OCTOBER 1 - OCTOBER 31, 2006

CALENDAR

Spokane, WA	
Sunday, October 1st 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Gay/Bi Men's Bowling Group (at North Bowl) Come hang out with the guys and bowl. Ten bucks gets you two game and shoes. Space is limited, so reserve your spot early by calling 267-9444 and leave a message for Mark or just mention Bowling Night.
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	EMCC Evening Service (at Bethany Presbyterian)
6:30 pm	ISCS Board Meeting (at Dempsey's)
7:30 pm	ISCS Court Meeting (at Dempsey's)
Tuesday, October 3rd 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	INWE Meeting (at Community Building)
Wednesday, October 4th 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Vision Committee Meeting LCMP Core Group (at SAN) “Core Group” meeting of the Lilac City Men's Project. The last Wednesday of the month will be a social outing (out of the office) with no planning. SAN is located at the corner of 9th and S. Monroe, in the big blue house across the street from Huckleberrys!
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm	SAN Open House & Memorial Garden Fall Planting Party (at SAN) Please join us for SAN's yearly Open House. Enjoy food and hot drink. Then help plant bulbs in our Memorial Gardens! Please call Cherie Moss for more information 455-8993. ISCS Coronation: In Town Show & Awards Dinner (at Dempsey's)
Thursday, October 5th 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm	OutSpokane Meeting (at Kress Gallery) Meetings are the Kress Gallery on the 3rd floor of RiverPark Square. Located next to and behind the food gallery near the theater ticket outlets.
6:00 pm	
7:15 pm - 9:00 pm	
Friday, October 6th 8:00 pm	ISCS Coronation: Out Of Town Show (at Mirabeau Park Hotel & Convention Center, Spokane Valley) Line up at 8 pm/Show at 9 pm. \$15.00 Door Charge Performances of Reigning E and Es and P and Ps; all others as time allows. Friday Night OUT! (at CenterStage) FNO is a social hour for LGBTQ and allied individuals to get together for fun and friendship. There will be no politics, no fund raising. So come and meet some people and have some fun!
8:00 pm–10:00 pm	
Saturday, October 7th 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm	ISCS Coronation: Hospitality & Protocol (at Mirabeau Park Hotel & Convention Center, Spokane Valley) ISCS Coronation 2006 (at Mirabeau Park Hotel & Convention Center, Spokane Valley) Doors open at 5 pm/Pageant at 6 pm -- \$30 Door Fee
5:00 pm	
Sunday, October 8th 12:00 pm	ISCS Coronation: Victory Brunch (at Mirabeau Park Hotel & Convention Center, Spokane Valley) \$15.00 EMCC Evening Service (at Bethany Presbyterian)
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	
7:00 pm - 8:45 pm	“Another Gay Movie” (location TBA) Hosted by OutSpokane
Tuesday, October 10th 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm	Rainbow Center Board Meeting/Elections (location TBA) RRCC Board Meeting. Public is welcome, but please e-mail info@spokanerainbowcenter.org at least one week in advance if you wish to be placed on the agenda. Watch www.spokanerainbowcenter.org or call 489-1914 for location.
Wednesday, October 11th 11:30 am - 1:00 pm	11th NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY! INBA Luncheon (at Europa) Guest Speaker: Ben Cablido, Executive Director, AHANA
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm	LCMP Core Group (at SAN) “Core Group” meeting of the Lilac City Men's Project. For the next few months we will be watching “Queer as Folk” from start to finish, one episode per week. So join us for a little business and a lot of fun! The last Wednesday of the month will be a social outing (out of the office) location TBA. SAN is located at the corner of 9th and S. Monroe, in the big blue house across the street from Huckleberrys! Parking in back.
Friday, October 13th 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm	HIV/AIDS Support Group (at Maple Street CHAS Clinic) Community Health Association of Spokane (CHAS), in conjunction with Ryan White Title 3 Community Advisory Board, is offering monthly educational/support groups for people living with HIV/AIDS and their friends and families. Topics will vary by month and time will be provided for discussion and support. Snacks provided. This month: “Myth Busters” -- What's Myth & What's Truth about HIV/AIDS?
Saturday, October 14th 9:30 – 10:30 am	PFLAG Mom's Group (at Conley's Restaurant) The MOM'S Group, an informal support group welcomes and supports mothers (and occasionally grandmothers!) of gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered children. It meets monthly, on the second Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. for breakfast at Conley's Restaurant on east Sprague. Call the PFLAG help line 509.624.6671 for more information.
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	LCMP “QuickDB8!” (at the Merg) For guys who like guys, this speed dating event will raise money for the Lilac City Men's Project and OutSpokane. Advance registration required. Space is limited, so reserve your “spot” today! \$20 267-9444
Sunday, October 15th 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Gay/Bi Men's Bowling Group (at North Bowl) Come hang out with the guys and bowl. Ten bucks gets you two game and shoes. Space is limited, so reserve your spot early by calling 267-9444 and leave a message for Mark or just mention Bowling Night.
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	EMCC Evening Service (at Bethany Presbyterian)
Monday, October 16th 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Vision Committee Meeting
Tuesday, October 17th 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	PFLAG Monthly Meeting (at Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane) Our mission is to provide support, education and advocacy for GLBTQ family and friends.
Wednesday, October 18th 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm	LCMP Core Group (at SAN) “Core Group” meeting of the Lilac City Men's Project. For the next few months we will be watching “Queer as Folk” from start to finish, one episode per week. So join us for a little business and a lot of fun! The last Wednesday of the month will be a social outing (out of the office) location TBA. SAN is located at the corner of 9th and S. Monroe, in the big blue house across the street from Huckleberrys! Parking in back.
Thursday, October 19th 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm	La Cage Las Vegas (Fundraiser for Pride 2007 at Northern Quest Casino) Join the Dempsey's Diva Drags at Northern Quest Casino for ‘La Cage Las Vegas” and then come to the La Cage Cast Party at Dempsey's afterwards for ‘Open Mike’ and loads of fun! Tickets for La Cage Las Vegas are available from TicketsWest.
Sunday, October 22nd 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm	NIAC Wine Stomp (at Lake City Senior Center, Coeur d'Alene, ID) The Wine Taste is NIAC's annual fundraiser. There will be live music, a silent & live auction, wines from local wineries, great food and fun! This fundraiser is one of NIAC's main sources of income and allows us to continue providing services to those affected and infected by HIV/AIDS in northern Idaho. Tickets \$35. Limited attendance, please RSVP by caling (208) 665-1448.
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	EMCC Evening Service (at Bethany Presbyterian)
Wednesday, October 25th 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm	LCMP Core Group (at SAN) “Core Group” meeting of the Lilac City Men's Project. For the next few months we will be watching “Queer as Folk” from start to finish, one episode per week. So join us for a little business and a lot of fun! The last Wednesday of the month will be a social outing (out of the office) location TBA. SAN is located at the corner of 9th and S. Monroe, in the big blue house across the street from Huckleberrys! Parking in back.
Saturday, October 28th 8:00 pm – 1:00 am	Odyssey Masquerade Ball (Fundraiser for Odyssey at CenterStage) The elegant and exciting Odyssey Masquerade Ball! For tickets call 509.325.3637. 21 and over. Great live entertainment and a Silent Auction. More information is available at www.odysseymasquerade.com.
Sunday, October 29th 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	EMCC Evening Service (at Bethany Presbyterian)

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

Sunday, October 1st 10:30am-11:30am	River of Life MCC Sunday Service (Tri-Cities, Center for Positive Living)
6:30 pm	Rainbow Cathedral MCC Sunday Service (Yakima, 225 N 2nd St)
Monday, October 2nd 7:30–8:30 pm	Rainbow Sobriety AA Meeting (Tri-Cities, All Saints Episcopal Church)
Wednesday, October 4th 7:30–9:00 pm	NIGMA Coffee Social (Pullman/Moscow) NIGMA's Coffee Social is a weekly event and is held on alternating weeks in Moscow or Pullman. When in Moscow the Coffee group meets at the One World Cafe on the corner of Main and 6th streets. When in Pullman we meet at the Daily Cup near the corner of Main St. and Grande Ave. For information on location please visit us online at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NIGMA
Friday, October 6th 7:00–9:00 pm	First Fridays (Yakima, 1st Street Conference Center) Yakima's gay social group welcomes you and your friends to our monthly gathering!
7:00–9:00 pm	NIGMA First Friday (Moscow, University Inn Quiet Bar) Visit us on the web at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NIGMA for more information.
Sunday, October 8th 10:30–11:30 am	River of Life MCC Sunday Service (Tri-Cities, 1105 N Conway, Kennewick)
11:00 am–1:00 pm	NIGMA Second Sunday Brunch held in Moscow or Pullman at the homes of NIGMA members. The Brunch location is changed monthly for information on the brunch please visit us online at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NIGMA
6:30 pm	Rainbow Cathedral MCC Sunday Service (Yakima, 225 N 2nd St)
Monday, October 9th 7:00 pm	COLUMBUS DAY PFLAG Monthly Meeting (Walla Walla, First Congregational Church)
7:30–8:30 pm	Rainbow Sobriety AA Meeting (Tri-Cities, All Saints Episcopal Church)
Wednesday, October 11th 7:30–9:00 pm	NIGMA Coffee Social (Pullman/Moscow) NIGMA's Coffee Social is a weekly event and is held on alternating weeks in Moscow or Pullman. When in Moscow the Coffee group meets at the One World Cafe on the corner of Main and 6th streets. When in Pullman we meet at the Daily Cup near the corner of Main St. and Grande Ave. For information on location please visit us online at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NIGMA
Sunday, October 15th 10:30am-11:30am	River of Life MCC Sunday Service (Tri-Cities, Center for Positive Living)
6:30 pm	Rainbow Cathedral MCC Sunday Service (Yakima, 225 N 2nd St)
7:00 pm	PFLAG Monthly Meeting (Yakima, at First Street Conference Center)
Monday, October 16th 7:30–8:30 pm	Rainbow Sobriety AA Meeting (Tri-Cities, All Saints Episcopal Church)
Wednesday, October 18th 7:30–9:00 pm	NIGMA Coffee Social (Pullman/Moscow) NIGMA's Coffee Social is a weekly event and is held on alternating weeks in Moscow or Pullman. When in Moscow the Coffee group meets at the One World Cafe on the corner of Main and 6th streets. When in Pullman we meet at the Daily Cup near the corner of Main St. and Grande Ave. For information on location please visit us online at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NIGMA
Sunday, October 22nd 10:30am-11:30am	River of Life MCC Sunday Service (Tri-Cities, Center for Positive Living)
6:30 pm	Rainbow Cathedral MCC Sunday Service (Yakima, 225 N 2nd St)
Monday, October 23rd 7:30–8:30 pm	Rainbow Sobriety AA Meeting (Tri-Cities, All Saints Episcopal Church)
Wednesday, October 25th 7:30–9:00 pm	NIGMA Coffee Social (Pullman/Moscow) NIGMA's Coffee Social is a weekly event and is held on alternating weeks in Moscow or Pullman. When in Moscow the Coffee group meets at the One World Cafe on the corner of Main and 6th streets. When in Pullman we meet at the Daily Cup near the corner of Main St. and Grande Ave. For information on location please visit us online at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NIGMA
Thursday, October 26th 7:00–9:00 pm	PFLAG Monthly Meeting (Tri-Cities, Check website for meeting location) http://www.TCPFLAG.org
Friday, October 27th 7:00–9:00 pm	NIGMA Fourth Friday Wine Tasting (Pullman/Moscow) NIGMA's Wine tasting is held at private residences and is only open to those who are 21 and over. Please visit us online at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NIGMA
Sunday, October 29th 10:30am-11:30am	River of Life MCC Sunday Service (Tri-Cities, Center for Positive Living)
6:30 pm	Rainbow Cathedral MCC Sunday Service (Yakima, 225 N 2nd St)
Monday, October 30th 7:30–8:30 pm	Rainbow Sobriety AA Meeting (Tri-Cities, All Saints Episcopal Church)

Missoula, Butte, Kalispell, MT

Monday, October 2nd 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm	WMGLCC: Gay & Lesbian AA Meeting (at WMGLCC, 127 N Higgins Ave, Ste 202, Missoula) Call Randy at (406) 726-3525. Weekly
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	WMGLCC: Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal (at WMGLCC, 127 N Higgins Ave, Ste 202, Missoula) Weekly
7:00 pm	WMGLCC: QSA Forum Meeting (at Strand Student Union Building) A meeting generally focused around topical conversations pertaining to sexual identity in the Gallatin Valley. Everyone is welcome. 7 p.m., every Monday night, excepting school holidays. SUB Room 106e. Located in the Strand Student Union Building at the bottom/basement level of the north stairwell adjacent to the Centennial Mall. Contact qsa-msu-owner@googlegroups.com for more information.
Tuesday, October 3rd 7:00 pm	FVA: Flathead Valley Alliance Meeting (at Flathead County Library basement)
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	WMGLCC: Lesbian Chat Group (at WMGLCC, 127 N Higgins Ave, Ste 202, Missoula) Call 406-543-2224 for more information. Weekly
Thursday, October 5th 7:00 pm	WMGLCC: Coffee Social (at International Coffee Traders, Bozeman) every other Thursday
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	WMGLCC: Men's Night (at WMGLCC, 127 N Higgins Ave, Ste 202, Missoula) Weekly
Friday, October 6th 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm	WMGLCC: First Friday Art Walk (Missoula) For more information: www.missoulaartmuseum.org . 1st Friday
Saturday, October 7th TBA	WMGLCC: Drag N Hoot 2 (location TBA, Livingston)
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	WMGLCC: TG/TS/Intersex Group (at WMGLCC, 127 N Higgins Ave, Ste 202, Missoula)
Monday, October 9th 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm	WMGLCC: Gay & Lesbian AA Meeting (at WMGLCC, 127 N Higgins Ave, Ste 202, Missoula) Call Randy at (406) 726-3525. Weekly
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	WMGLCC: Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal (at WMGLCC, 127 N Higgins Ave, Ste 202, Missoula) Weekly
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Tuesday, October 10th 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	WMGLCC: Lesbian Chat Group (at WMGLCC, 127 N Higgins Ave, Ste 202, Missoula) Call 406-543-2224 for more information. Weekly
Thursday, October 12th 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	WMGLCC: Men's Night (at WMGLCC, 127 N Higgins Ave, Ste 202, Missoula) Weekly

continued on next page

CORRECTION:

Please be advised the “A living tribute to those lost to AIDS in our community” article on page 2 of the September 15th Stonewall issue states the event will occur on September 25th. This date is incorrect. The correct date is October 5th.

North Idaho



AIDS Coalition

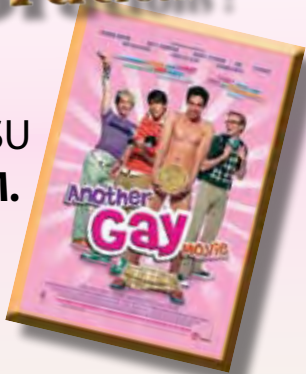
Everyone has their “little secrets.”
You never told him that you ate a worm when you were five.
He never told you that he has HIV.

Know your partner. Use a condom. Get tested!

We always offers free testing for Gay and Bi Men. Call for an appointment.
410 Sherman Ave. Ste. 215, C d'A, ID 83814 (208) 665-1448 or 1-866-609-1774
e-mail: dani@northidahoaidscalition.org – Web: www.northidahoaidscaliton.org

October! FALL INTO PRIDE! Celebrations!

"Another Gay Movie" at WSU
Riverpoint on **Oct. 8 at 2 and 7 P.M.**
This is our own QUEER version
of *American Pie*.



Ever had EIGHT in one night? (...eight dates that is?)

**quick
d8**

A night of speed dating like Spokane has
never seen before! By Lilac City Men's Project,
7 P.M. on Oct. 14 at The MERQ.

La Cage Las Vegas

GLBTQA night at 8 P.M.
on Oct. 19. Northern Quest
Casino and OutSpokane host
this Pride 2007 fund raiser.



the after show "La Cage" cast party
will be hosted at Dempsey's Brass Rail!

More information is available at **OutSpokane.com**

TICKETS \$35
LIMITED ATTENDANCE AVAILABLE
R.S.V.P. BY CALLING NIAC AT (208) 665-1448
TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE AT:

NIAC
410 SHERMAN AVE, STE 215
COEUR D'ALENE, ID 83814

THE LONG EAR
2405 N 4TH ST
COEUR D'ALENE, ID 83814

1916 N. LAKEWOOD DRIVE • COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO 83814 • 208-667-4628

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Wine Stomp!
A BENEFIT FOR THE NORTH IDAHO AIDS COALITION
3-7 PM OCT 22
LAKE CITY SENIOR CENTER

Missoula, Butte, Kalispell, MT - continued

- Saturday, October 14th**
TBA WMGLCC: **QSA Dance** (location TBA, Bozeman)
- Monday, October 16th**
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm WMGLCC: **Gay & Lesbian AA Meeting** (at WMGLCC, 127 N Higgins Ave, Ste 202, Missoula) Call Randy at (406) 726-3525. Weekly
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm WMGLCC: **Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal** (at WMGLCC, 127 N Higgins Ave, Ste 202, Missoula) Weekly
- Tuesday, October 17th**
6:30 pm - 9:00 pm WMGLCC: **HIV+ Monthly Dinner** (at University Congregational Church, Missoula) Call Nancy at 406-543-4770. 3rd Tuesday
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm WMGLCC: **Lesbian Chat Group** (at WMGLCC, 127 N Higgins Ave, Ste 202, Missoula) Call 406-543-2224 for more information. Weekly
- Wednesday, October 18th**
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm WMGLCC: **WMGLCC Board Meeting** (at WMGLCC, 127 N Higgins Ave, Ste 202, Missoula). 3rd Wed
- Thursday, October 19th**
7:00 pm WMGLCC: **Coffee Social** (at International Coffee Traders, Bozeman) every other Thursday
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm WMGLCC: **Men's Night** (at WMGLCC, 127 N Higgins Ave, Ste 202, Missoula) Weekly
- Saturday, October 21st**
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm WMGLCC: **TG/TS/Intersex Group** (at WMGLCC, 127 N Higgins Ave, Ste 202, Missoula)
6:00 pm WMGLCC: **Families Like Ours Gathering** (at WMGLCC, 127 N Higgins Ave, Ste 202, Missoula)
7:00 pm FVA: **Bonfire/Weenie Roast** (at Shane's home, 580 Conrad Dr) Come roast the night away with a bonfire and weenie roast. This will be a potluck event with the hotdogs being furnished. Call 257-5286 for directions or info.
6:00 pm WMGLCC: **PFLAG Missoula/Five Valleys Meeting** (at University Congregational Church, Fireside Room, Missoula) Call 406-721-5013 or 406-541-0163. 3rd Sat
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm WMGLCC: **GLBT Community Potluck** (at University Congregational Church, Fireside Room, Missoula) 3rd Sat
- Monday, October 23rd**
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm WMGLCC: **Gay & Lesbian AA Meeting** (at WMGLCC, 127 N Higgins Ave, Ste 202, Missoula) Call Randy at (406) 726-3525. Weekly
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm WMGLCC: **Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal** (at WMGLCC, 127 N Higgins Ave, Ste 202, Missoula) Weekly
- Tuesday, October 24th**
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm WMGLCC: **Lesbian Chat Group** (at WMGLCC, 127 N Higgins Ave, Ste 202, Missoula) Call 406-543-2224 for more information. Weekly
- Thursday, October 26th**
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm WMGLCC: **Men's Night** (at WMGLCC, 127 N Higgins Ave, Ste 202, Missoula) Weekly
- Saturday, October 28th**
8:00 pm FVA: **Halloween Dance Party** (at the Eagle's Club) The Flathead Valley Alliance is inviting everyone to come and enjoy a night of dancing and conversation. Admission \$4 for members, \$5 for non-members. Don't forget to come dressed in your best costume!
9:00 pm - 2:00 am WMGLCC: **K-Mo Dance** (at Red Light Green Room, DT Missoula) Come dressed as your favorite cartoon character! Or just be creative. 18 to party 21+ to drink.
- Monday, October 30th**
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm WMGLCC: **Gay & Lesbian AA Meeting** (at WMGLCC, 127 N Higgins Ave, Ste 202, Missoula) Call Randy at (406) 726-3525. Weekly
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm WMGLCC: **Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal** (at WMGLCC, 127 N Higgins Ave, Ste 202, Missoula) Weekly
- Tuesday, October 31st**
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm WMGLCC: **Lesbian Chat Group** (at WMGLCC, 127 N Higgins Ave, Ste 202, Missoula) Call 406-543-2224 for more information. Weekly

Where Something's always going on...

Friday

(\$5 cover charge after 9 pm)

- Dance till 4 am w/DJ Scotty
- Drag Show 10 pm & Midnight

Saturday

(\$5 cover charge after 9 pm)

- Dance till 4 am with DJ Scotty
- Drag Show 10 pm & Midnight

DANCE

Sunday

- Gay Bingo - starts at 7 pm

Monday

- Happy Hour prices ...
...ALL DAY/ALL NIGHT



Tuesday

- Martinis w/Bartender Joe,
7 pm
- Happy Hour prices ...
...ALL DAY/ALL NIGHT

Wednesday

- Steak and Bake Dinner \$6.95



Thursday

- Movie Night, 7 pm
- Free chance to win the DVD movie
- Jager Blow-out!

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3-7 pm

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**SUPERSTAR
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Starring
Jimmy Emerson
ADULT COMEDY

October 17 - 21

*Jo Dee
Messina*

October 28



**MEL &
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"MAESTRO OF IMPRESSIONS"

November 7



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

All events are 18 years and older unless specified.