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Fly your Flags on Fridays!

STONEWALL News Northwest

Serving the GLBTQA Community of the Pacific Northwest since 1992

Spokane's oldest church Comes Out

117-year-old Westminster now listed among 148 welcoming gay friendly churches in Washington State

By Joyce Crosby,
Special to Stonewall News Northwest
Photos by Steve Dawson

SPOKANE, Wash. - Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ, the oldest church in Spokane, is now Open and Affirming to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people. A small rainbow flag can be seen on a sign attached to the stone wall just outside the 117-year-old church's Fourth Avenue entrance, and a large reader board announces to all who venture downtown via Washington Street that the church is indeed open and affirming. A church member since 2004, Marj Johnston, a lesbian who became the church's Assistant Pastor on March 4, proclaimed,

Please see WESTMINSTER page 3



Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ is located at 411 South Washington Street in Spokane, Wash.



Rev. Andrea Castro-Lang (standing) greets parishioners seated in the sanctuary of Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ



Westminster Rev. Andrea Castro-Lang "Pastor Andy" (left) and Assistant Pastor Marj Johnson

Vista Youth Center garners community support

Center sees immediate, increasing need from youth

KENNEWICK, Wash. - Vista Youth Center, a drop in center for LGBTQA youth in the Tri-Cities area, opened on March first. According to the center's Executive Director, Mark Lee, "Based on what we have at the center (in kind gifts) and what moneys we have received, I think we have received over \$22K in donations so far." A house party raised \$3800 in cash, and the Pride Foundation approved a \$5000 grant in support of the center.



Vista Youth Center founder Mark Lee (left) and Rev. Janet Pierce of River of Life MCC in Kennewick, Wash.



Vista Youth Center Board Memebers Kerry Stickland (left) and Topher Mobley

The guest book at VYC's March 1 Open House was signed by forty-one individuals, including people from Lutheran Family Services and Juvenile Justice Center. Representatives from the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network (GLSEN), PFLAG, Planned Parenthood and River Of Life Metropolitan Community Church were also present on opening day.

On opening day group of volunteers made a list of what VYC needed- everything from trash cans to beanbag

chairs- "and almost as if by magic the list was filled within a few hours," Lee reported. "What I seem to experience often here is amazing support from ever direction."

VYC's Grand Opening held from 7-10 p.m., also on March 1, included a dance hosted by DjSco for the youth ages 14-21. It was a huge success. Lee stated, "I wish I could explain the sparks and energy in the center with 18 kids

Please see VISTA page 2

Spokane & Regional

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FREE OPENING KEYNOTE: "The Power of Unity"
Thursday, April 12th 7:00 p.m. UI Admin Auditorium

Dr. Randle S. Gottlieb Ed.D. "The Power of Unity"
From tribal groups to villages, cities, states and nations, the human race has progressed through ever higher levels of unity. With each stage of development, we have faced new dangers and new opportunities. We stand today at the dawn of a global civilization - the coming of age of the entire human race. It is time to leave behind old prejudices, outworn conceptions, and fragmented views of humankind. We need to recognize the oneness of the human family, the value of diversity and the need for unity.

FREE Plenary Sessions: Friday April 13th
8:30 - 11:45, UI SUB Ballroom

8:30 - 9:15 - Presentation by Balbir Mathur, the founder of "Trees for Life." Since its inception in 1984, more than 2.5 million people have participated in their programs and more than 30 million trees have been planted in developing countries all over the world.

9:20 - 10:05 - Presentation by Bishop John Selders, the founding organizing pastor of Amistad United Church of Christ in Hartford, Connecticut, Care Coordinator of Zezzo House (an 18-unit housing project), and Lead Principal for The Human Connection Project.

10:10 - 10:55 - Screening of Anna Boluda's original film "Queerspawn"
11:00 - 11:45 - Presentation by Anna Boluda, a journalist, a film-maker, and a Fulbright Scholar. Anna produces film documentaries that focus on politicized families such as multi-racial, GLBT, single parent, and disabilities inclusive in the understanding of community

*Plenary Sessions—brief 45 minute presentations open to the general public by FTC main speakers
www.uidaho.edu/ftc

For more detailed information AND information about how to register for conference workshops visit www.uidaho.edu/ftc or call (208) 885-7716

The Finding the Center conference is cosponsored for the third year by the following: The University of Idaho, Working in State University's Office of Equity and Diversity, The City of Moscow, The City of Pullman, the Center for Health Education, and Economic Resources (CHEER), The Latah County Hispanic Rights Task Force, the LWCA of WCU and the Fund for Idaho. To become a sponsoring organization or to donate to the conference, please visit www.uidaho.edu/ftc and click on "How to support the conference"

In Memory

Remembering Dorothy Darby Smith



Spokane theater leader Dorothy Darby Smith died March 16 at age 97

By John A. Olsen

The life of Dorothy Darby Smith had a profound effect on all who met her. She was the grand dame of theater here in Spokane for over 50 years and responsible in large part for the development and ongoing

progress of our Civic Theatre. Her funeral celebration in Spokane on Friday, March 23, was wonderful.

For those of us at Rogers High School in the late 50s and early 60s, she and Dale F Brannon combined their forces to change and save young lives. She and Mr Brannon molded the lives of outsiders, outcasts, the marginalized and misfits.

There was no Odyssey Youth Center as there is today, no PFLAG. No place to "be" and be safe and be held up and loved and fostered for who you were except in the Drama Department at Rogers and Dorothy's Drama Studio.

Lives were literally saved from self destruction because of the powerful love and expectations attendant to being in Spokane Children's theater. Career's in drama and teaching flowed out of those caring and loving experiences. Thank you, Dorothy, for a better life for many of us "theatre weirdos" as a result of your care and call to find our authentic selves.

For more information about Odyssey Youth Center, visit www.odysseyyouth.org. For more information about PFLAG, visit www.pflagspokane.org.

Ramona Plumley

By Joyce Crosby



Mona Plumley attending the SAN Oscar Gala Feb 25, 2007.

Ramona "Mona" Plumley, 41, passed away on March 30, 2007 after an acute illness. A lifelong Spokane area resident, Plumley volunteered with Spokane Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Center and was active in Transition's Women's Health programs.

An aspiring writer, Plumley authored two manuscripts and regularly attended journaling classes at Spokane Falls Community College. Plumley, who graduated from Central Valley High School and worked in the hospitality industry for many years, enjoyed camping, travel and photography. She is survived by, her sons Thomas Plumley, 16, and Andrew Plumley, 19, both of Spokane, four sisters, three brothers, and many friends.

VISTA

continued from FRONT PAGE

all having fun, feeling safe and being totally comfortable to be themselves. Many of them thanked us as they left. I was amazed and grateful that we were there for so many on day one!"

Lee confirmed that each week VYC has been open, the number of youth in attendance has grown, and that by the third week, the center had been visited by thirty-nine unduplicated youths. As an example of the important role centers such as Vista play in the lives of our GLBTQA youth, Lee stated, "A mom dropped her son off and shared that he is harassed EVERY day. She was so happy to hear we have not experienced any negative feedback yet. Her son seemed to relax around others who share a similar history. She completed a volunteer application after seeing him being safe and happy."

Vista Youth Center, located in

Kennewick, has its own Web site, as well as a MySpace page that currently lists 97 friends. One of those friends, 16-year-old Megan, writes, "You guys rock! I love coming in on Thursday and just hanging out with my Girlfriend and some other of my friends. And I've met some other great people there! I love it there, I feel as if I can really and truly be myself when I am there."

VYC continues to receive donations and has thirty volunteers who have completed background checks required to work directly with the youth. Lee acknowledged, "There are more than 40 people who are assisting VYC in some way."

The center will continue to be open every Thursday from 3:00PM-8:00PM through April. In May, two more days a week will be added. Vista Youth Center is also planning to host more dances, as well as 'Religion in the non-straight world' day, 'Breaking Stereo-Types' day and 'Transgender' day in the coming weeks.

Bunco night helps INBA Outreach Scholarships

SPOKANE, Wash. - The INBA Outreach, an arm of its parent organization Inland Northwest Business Alliance (INBA), held a Bunco fundraiser at the home of INBA Board members Lloyd Francis and John Lettelleir on March 31. 25 friendly boisterous attendees dined on homemade chili, soup, corn bread, and assorted snacks, desserts, and beverages and raised a total of almost \$1,500 for the Outreach scholarship fund. The fund serves deserving disadvantaged LGBT youth. A cash first prize of \$185 was re-donated to the cause. 2nd and 3rd gift assortment packages, as well as a consolation prize for highest number or losses, were also awarded. INBA Outreach is planning another Bunco fundraiser for mid-summer, at a location to be announced.

Local Komen Affiliate awards grant to Spokane's LGBT center

SPOKANE, Wash. - The Eastern Washington Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure® has awarded the LGBT center formerly known as the Rainbow Regional Community Center a \$5700 grant for the Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Wellness Program. The grant will be dispersed in two amounts of \$2850 over the grant period.

The Wellness Program will educate lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (LBT) women on their risks for breast cancer, raise awareness about breast cancer and breast health, and help reduce the barriers that LBT women face in accessing appropriate health care. Components of the Program will include:

Providing accurate, current, and culturally-appropriate education and

information on breast health to the LBT community and health care providers,

Distributing materials with local information at appropriate lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) events to connect LBT women to community resources for breast exams and mammograms,

Listing resources, information, and services in Spokane regarding LBT women and their health care needs on the center's web site.

Research has shown that LBT women are at increased risk for certain types of cancer including breast cancer. Because they are less likely to seek health care,

delayed diagnosis results in a higher mortality rate from cancer in the lesbian community. This has been attributed to several factors including institutional barriers to access, health care providers' attitudes toward homosexuality, and discomfort in "coming out" in a health care setting.

Additionally, research in recent years has focused on health disparities for the LGBT population including above average use of tobacco and other substances, higher than average rates of depression and stress as well as the gender-specific differences such as increased risk of breast cancer due to having children later in life or not at all.

Funds will be allocated for purchasing culturally appropriate educational materials, training of volunteers to distribute the materials, web site improvements and a public awareness campaign.

For more information, E-mail info@spokanerainbowcenter.org or call 509-489-1914.

U of I and WSU provide Queer Prom alternative

By Andy Burt

MOSCOW, Idaho - The queer kids get the short end of the stick when it comes to their high school prom. They can either choose to conform and take a date of the opposite sex, take who they want and be ostracized, or not go at all. Seven years ago, the Gay Straight Alliance at the University of Idaho decided that they would host a prom for all those people who didn't get to have the prom they deserved. A tradition was started and now there is a special prom to give people the chance to have the prom experience they have always wanted in a safe environment.

This year, the Gay Straight Alliance teamed up with the GLBTQA from Washington State University to make the event even bigger. This year's prom was planned months in advance and had dedicated students from both universities working to make the event a night people would never forget.

The theme of this year's prom was Guys

and Dolls. Thanks to vigorous fundraising, the prom committee was able to assemble and hand out goody-bags to the dance attendees as they came through the door. Each person was asked if they would prefer the bag with the plastic fedora hat, or the bag with the garter belt complete with a miniature gun in a holster. Throughout the night, people could be seen flashing the garters or tipping the hats at a friend.

The big draw to this year's dance was the introduction of outside talent. Working to bridge Northern and Southern Idaho, the Bois of Boise were scheduled as the stars of the show. In the middle of the dance, a drag show was held with the Bois and two Moscow drag queens, Aquasha Delusty and Miss Claudia. "Rapping" up the show was the hip-hop artist Kritik.

This year's dance was held at The Beach, a local club that has always provided a safe place for the queer kids to party, and had between 150 and 200 attendees, both gay and straight.

and according to Johnston, participants also "celebrated the fact that we're already a diverse group of people worshipping and working together."

At its Annual Meeting on February 4, the congregation voted to become openly accepting of LGBTQA people. Castro-Lang stated, "Our unity in our decision was strongly evident through the strength of the numbers: 92 for, 11 against, 4 abstaining. People say the culture of the Eastside is conservative. Maybe so, but Westminster is taking a stand and stating it loud and clear for everyone to know, that we are welcoming, truly welcoming, and we are called to be Christian community TOGETHER."

The church's Open and Affirming (ONA) statement, drafted by a committee of eight people plus Westminster's pastor, is placed prominently inside the front cover of each Sundays church bulletin, in its monthly newsletter, on its website and Johnston affirmed, "will be mounted to the wall shortly... For now it's in the window sill by the guest register."

The church's ONA statement reads in part, "Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ publicly declares that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people are welcome in the full life and ministry of our congregation. We affirm human sexuality as a good gift of God, and that a person's sexual orientation - whether gay, bisexual, or heterosexual - is no barrier to God's love or full participation in Christ's church. Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ embraces a spirit of hospitality founded in the gospels of Jesus Christ and a willingness to live out that welcome in meaningful ways." The committee went on to give examples of how Westminster will minister to GLBTQA people that include the following:

- Our clergy would perform holy unions with the blessing of Christ's church for same-gender couples.
- We will recognize families that are parented by same-gender couples and will baptize their children.
- Same-gender couples will be offered

Please see WESTMINSTER page 15

FSAN Palm Sunday Brunch serves up culinary treats and community spirit

SPOKANE, Wash. - Friends of the Spokane AIDS Network's (FSAN) annual Palm Sunday Brunch held April 1 at Dempsey's Brass Rail raised just under \$1,000 for Spokane AIDS Network (SAN).

Last year Eggs Benedict was added to the menu and this year's new menu items included made to order Omelets and Fried Indian Bread. "We did cut back from the 75lb chocolate basket raffle of last year to a 50lb basket this year as it was easier to carry and wouldn't break the basket!" states Cheri Moss, Food Program Coordinator with SAN, and brunch volunteer.

"I was asked to come from the kitchen because one of the diners wanted to speak with me," Moss adds, "This lovely woman said she had traveled from Deer Park to partake of the "The best brunch that gets better every year!"

In the last year, FSAN has donated to World AIDS Day, the weekly Food Program at SAN, and is the largest sponsor of SAN's holiday boxes in December.

"This event would not have been possible without the generous contributions from Jones Pharmacy, Sonnenberg's Market and Deli, URM Cash and Carry, Dempsey's Brass Rail and the board members of the Friends of SAN." Moss states, "The event could not be the success it is with out the help of volunteers. Much thanks to Brian Hollenbeck and Gordon House for doing the endless dishes and Allison Rosato for helping in the kitchen. FSAN would like to invite you to keep a look out for upcoming events like Bingo 4 x per year and the "Two-Bit Auction" in November. Thanks to all!"

Legal Notice

If You Paid for Serostim

You May Have a Claim in a Proposed Class Action Settlement

Full Cash Payors, Co-payors and their Heirs are Included

You may be able to get cash from a \$24 million Proposed Settlement if you paid for the prescription drug Serostim. The Proposed Settlement is with Merck Serono International, S.A., Serono Laboratories, Inc., and EMD Serono, Inc. ("Defendants"). It is pending in the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts.

What Is the Class Action About?

Plaintiffs claim that Defendants improperly marketed Serostim, a drug approved by FDA to treat HIV/AIDS wasting or cachexia. The lawsuits claim that Defendants encouraged doctors to prescribe Serostim based on diagnostic criteria that were not approved by FDA. The lawsuits do not allege that Serostim is dangerous to patient health, or that Serostim is not safe and effective for its approved uses.

The Defendants deny any liability and have decided to settle to avoid the expense and uncertainty of litigation.

Who Is Involved?

The Proposed Settlement Class includes all persons or entities nationwide that paid in whole or in part for the drug Serostim from July 1, 1995 to December 31, 2006, and their heirs.

What Does the Proposed Settlement Provide?

- \$10.8 million will be allocated to certain large Third-Party Payors (e.g., insurance companies) who have a separate agreement with the Defendants.
- \$13.2 million will be allocated to the remaining Third-Party Payors (82%) and consumers (18%), after attorneys' fees and the costs of administering the Proposed Settlement are deducted.

Who Represents You?

The Court has appointed attorneys to represent the Consumer and TPPs who comprise the Class. Class Counsel will request the Court award fair and reasonable attorneys' fees and costs not to exceed \$3.96 million, plus reimbursement of expenses.

You may hire your own attorney, if you wish. However, you will be responsible for that attorney's fees and expenses.

What Are Your Options?

- If you do not want to be part of the Proposed Settlement, you must exclude yourself, in writing, postmarked by **May 21, 2007**. Excluding yourself will allow you to bring your own claims against the Defendants.
- If you stay in the Settlement Class you can file a claim. Your claim must be postmarked by **July 19, 2007**. All claim documentation submitted by you will be kept confidential and will be used only for the purpose of processing claims.
- You may object to or comment on any part of the Proposed Settlement. Your objection/comment must be written and postmarked by **May 21, 2007**. You may also request in writing to speak at the Final Approval Hearing. The *Notice of Proposed Class Action Settlement* explains excluding yourself, making a claim, objecting/commenting and requesting to speak at the Hearing.

Will the Court Approve the Proposed Settlement?

The Court will hold a Final Approval Hearing on June 19, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. and will consider whether to approve the Proposed Settlement, award attorneys' fees and allow reimbursement of expenses.

For Additional Information

For the *Notice of Proposed Class Action Settlement*, information on your rights and how to file a claim:

Call: 1-800-378-3615 Visit: www.SerostimSettlement.com
or Write: Serostim Litigation Administrator, c/o Complete Claim Solutions, LLC
PO Box 24676, West Palm Beach, FL 33416

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Share your union ceremony, arrival of a child or other milestone in life with the Stonewall family at no charge! Announcements should be 150-250 words. Include your name and phone number so we may contact you. You may e-mail your announcement with photo attachment or mail to Stonewall at the address above. Please include a SASE for photo returns.

OBITUARIES

Obituaries written by spouses, family or friends may be placed in Stonewall News free of charge. They can be sent via e-mail, U.S. Mail or fax. Include your name and phone number so we may contact you. A photo may be included as an e-mail attachment or via traditional mail. Please include a SASE for photo returns.

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

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Stonewall News Northwest Awards

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 2006 | *Love & Support Award* | Mr. Gay Spokane XXVI
 1999 | *Rainbow Award* | Inland Northwest Pride
 1997 | *Vice Versa Award* | Q Syndicate
 1996 | *Rainbow Award* | Inland Northwest Pride

Practical Spirituality for Daily Life

Spring Forth

By Bob Schout

Spring is in the air, and Easter is upon us. What many of us were never told is that Easter was not originally about colored eggs, baskets filled with candy and gifts, bonnets of many colors or even about Jesus or the resurrection. Easter comes from the name of an Anglo-Saxon Goddess named Eastre. In the middle ages, a great feast was held every April celebrating the Goddess Eastre. She represented new life, and the feast represented the springing forth of new life. The long, dark, cold winter was over, and new life was springing forth around the world. It was seen in the blossoming of flowers, the budding of trees, the birth of animals, the lengthening of days and in the reawakened spirit in all people.

Spring is in the air, and Easter is upon us. What many of us were never told is that Easter was not originally about colored eggs, baskets filled with candy and gifts, bonnets of many colors or even about Jesus or the resurrection. Easter comes from the name of an Anglo-Saxon Goddess named Eastre. In the middle ages, a great feast was held every April celebrating the Goddess Eastre. She represented new life, and the feast represented the springing forth of new life. The long, dark, cold winter was over, and new life was springing forth around the world. It was seen in the blossoming of flowers, the budding of trees, the birth of animals, the lengthening of days and in the reawakened spirit in all people.

Early Christians who were transitioning from worshipping many gods and goddesses to the worship of one God believed that they didn't have to give up their celebration, but in fact, simply make it about new life that sprang forth from God, symbolized by the resurrection – the reawakening or springing forth – of Jesus. This Easter season can represent the springing forth of the Spirit in each person, Christian and non-Christian, because Spirit knows no religious denomination and is not affiliated with any particular religious path. It just is naturally present

and alive within every person.

It's amazing when we realize that we don't have to make the Spirit inside of us spring forth; it will do so naturally if we let it. We are naturally beings of light and energy and creative power. We are creatures of love and life and hope and joy. We naturally create new life from our new ideas constantly because we naturally think and breathe and live each day. But like the earth, we sometimes allow ourselves to become buried for long periods of time underneath layers upon layers of soil and rock and snow. Being buried is not for us. It is not what we are meant to do, nor where we are meant to stay.

The energy within us yearns to express and spring forth in the form of new ideas, new love, new jobs, new looks, new attitudes, new behaviors – new everything. The energy of Spirit within every person flows constantly and merely waits for us to let it flow freely to the surface. Lava flows freely underneath a mountain, yearning to burst forth with energy. Water flows freely underneath the ground, yearning to be tapped and become a well or a natural spring. Seeds fall to the ground and are buried. They don't mind the darkness or the cold for a while, because they know that they are not just a seed.

They are already a flower or plant or tree in waiting. They merely wait and yearn to naturally spring forth, easily pushing up through the layers of soil, not because they want to, but because they are meant to simply be that which comes naturally to them. They are full of stored energy and take the time underneath the soil, surrounded by darkness and manure, to rest and wait. They don't need another seed or person to tell them to grow or to rise to the soil. They do so naturally.

We too are meant to naturally let ourselves be what we are meant to be. We are not meant to dwell in our own darkness and let layers of soil – pain, anger, despair, hopelessness, depression, etc. – pile on top of us. We are meant to let ourselves be happy, let our minds settle on fulfilling thoughts, let our dreams and ideas express, let new attitudes spring forth within us, let new relationships develop, let ourselves let go of the past seasons of cold and darkness and let ourselves live again.

This season, let your inner life spring forth. Let yourself dream. Let yourself creatively express. Let yourself let go of relationships that don't work for you anymore so that you can make room for ones that do work. Let the hope and love within you naturally grow and flow and rise to the surface. Let forgiveness happen in you so that you can let go of the past. Let the attitudes and new behaviors spring forth in your words and in your actions. Let Spring happen in you, not just around you, so you can truly celebrate the new life in you that Easter represents.



Bob Schout is a national speaker, workshop facilitator, pastoral counselor and personal life coach. You can send your comments to him at Bob@spiritexpressing.com



By The National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE)

Achieving our goal of transgender equality requires activism at the local, state and national levels. While NCTE focuses on federal policies, we strongly support and encourage the vital work of grass roots activists. Each week during 2007, we will feature an idea for action that you can take at a local level. Some will be challenging, some will be simple; all are effective ideas and we will include links, resources and thoughts to help you get started. Some are things you can do on your own, while others are ideas for local groups to work on. We hope that you will take on projects that spark your interest and that meet a need in our community as we work together for equality for all people.

Week #15 April 8 - 14
Adopt a Highway

You know those signs along the highway that tell you the group that volunteered to pick up trash along the road? Why not use them to raise our visibility? A group in Georgia did just that. Our column this week is written by Monica Helms, who organized the effort there.

In possibly every state of the country, the Department of Transportation has a program where you can Adopt a Highway to clean up every three months, or so. The picture you see is an actual sign of the mile adopted by the entire Transgender Community of GA. The Georgia DOT did not have any issues giving it to the community, or with having the word "Transgender" on it. The attitudes and procedures can vary from state to state, but it never hurts to try.

This effort not only gives transgender people more positive visibility, but it shows that we are just as proud of the places where we live as every other person there. Adopting a Highway educates people and gives your community credibility in a way that you cannot otherwise buy. The clean up days can also foster stronger ties within the community and can be turned into a special gathering.

52 Things we can do for Transgender Equality

exciting tone; food and fun. Plan to include a diverse group of people in the organizing process so that your event truly represents the local community.

These events can be an important time to encourage and challenge each other to be the best community we can be. San Diego just held their Trans Day of Empowerment and Masen Davis, NCTE Board Member and co-founder of FTM Alliance of Los Angeles, delivered the keynote address. In his remarks, he said,

"I believe that change is not just possible—it is inevitable. I believe that the challenges that face our community today can become extinct. That if we can believe in a world where trans people are fully embraced; where we have access to quality, culturally competent health care; where we have quality education and gainful employment; where all trans people, regardless of ethnicity, age or sex, can be whole people with full lives ... then we can begin to create that very world.

"You see, we as transgender people are experts at creating something out of a mere belief! We believed we were different, that we could be something beyond what others could see or understand; and we became what we knew to be true and right for us. If we can do that for ourselves, then we can do that for our world.

"I'm not saying that this will be easy. We are still at the beginning of a long trek to equality. But if we can believe in the possibility—and the inevitability—of a better world for transgender people, then we can begin to create a better future for all of us."

Hold an event in your community to show the world, and each other, that we are proud to be trans and that we can and will change the world.

If at all possible, do your best to have the word "Transgender" appear on the sign and avoid acronyms that the general public will not know or relate to. After all, we are trying to educate the public, as well as keep our community clean. And, please be careful out there.

Thanks to you, Monica, and all of the other activists out there who are creatively making a difference for transgender people

Week #16 April 15 - 21:
Hold a Trans Pride event in your community

Wouldn't it be great to have an event in your community to celebrate our pride in being transgender? If your community has an event like this, attend and support it. If not, organize one! It can be large or small, complex or simple—plan an event that makes sense for your community. But no matter what the logistics are, plan an event that gives people an opportunity to celebrate who we are as transgender people.

Some things you might want to consider: holding workshops on topics our community needs to hear about—from legal rights to fashion; showcasing trans entertainers and artists; having a speaker who can set a positive and

Cody

By Tim Anderson

Part 3 of 3

This year marks the 20th anniversary of essays I've written for the gay community. During all that time, especially via my former trucking career, I've been fortunate to meet many fascinating people. In 1992, I crossed paths with one such remarkable individual, a stir crazy, handsome, closeted cowboy who not only left a deep impression on me but who also became a life long friend. I eventually wrote about this man in a 1998 essay entitled "Cody."

Cody's story was not an easy read back then. His history still isn't neatly bundled in happily-ever-after. Rather, his experience is a study in rough around the edges. Unlike many of the seemingly instant coming out stories I've read in various places, Cody's narrative extends over a decade and is full of raw contradiction, tentative first steps, countered with frantic, if not bold, almost explosive leaps of faith. An isolated, rural man, his is a hit-and-miss life. He dreams of a partnership that might not exist, while worrying at the same time that a "perfect for him" relationship might just come his way. Cody's story is the story of many rural gays in the Intermountain West. Theirs is a history that is just beginning to be told. This one comes to you in three parts.

Cody's been around horses since he was born, is a self taught equestrian, a man who rode before he could walk. "I thought I knew what I was doing until I started training horses for the public. Spoiled people with their spoiled rotten horses, I don't know what to do with either. It's always tough when you're working with a horse and it's finally working for you good, and then you got to turn it back to the owner, and the owner don't know what they're doing. You may see a way to help them, but it's up to them. It's not that I don't have compassion, but people will sure take you there in a hurry, they will take you right into their little hell if you let them. I've been asked to help out at these rescue farms for unwanted or abused horses that are more like concentration camps. They might be well-intentioned, but they don't get that some horses will kill you. A horse has no conscience sense of whether you live or die. Unfortunately the better the reputation you get, the more horses you



Cody

get like that, and I am not interested in getting hurt any more.

"Some people, they adopt these Mustangs and think they are doing the world a favor and that any horse can be trained. But by the time they spend the money and pay for their injuries and their hospital bills, they could have had a nice little trained horse. Sometimes I'm praying for a miracle while amazed at the same time that lightning hasn't struck that horse yet. Everybody watches the Horse Whisperer, and they think they want to live that movie. I never wanted to live that movie, yet I've still ended up with horses that were loco and 'broncy' as hell. Even though I've been around horses all my life, I'd never seen anything like this until I put my name in the phone book. I've learned that the more a horse owner starts preaching about their animal, the more guarded I need to get. I think, "What are you overcompensating for?"

"A year or maybe two years ago, I was working with this spastic, rescued, half Arab, half demon horse for a lady. It was my fault for not having this horse bitted up, trying to be "gentle" and "pat parelli" or some shit. I ended up in a wreck, face first into some steel panels. Tore up my eyes, nose, and got a mouth full of gravel type deal. Human torpedo. Then the brain dead horse ran me over. Turns out- the horse

was more intelligent than I was that day. I did send that horse home. Same stamp it came with. No ego involved. I just couldn't care less at that point. I've started weeding out the dinks a lot more carefully in the last few rounds. I just closed the gate, or opened the gate as it may be. I'd had enough for awhile."

Just as some equine owners seem addicted to overcompensation, the comparatively recent Colorado Springs invasion of religious televangelists hasn't escaped Cody. "I was raised very traditional Christian. That's changed for me. It puts you in a box real quick. I thank the stars, universe, Jesus, and I definitely believe in one God. I can't read a bible and not think that one way is better than another, otherwise no one would be saved... But there's a big Christian thing in Colorado Springs, and that's the last place I want to be. I ask God for guidance and protection, and I still pray. I'd definitely never deny God, and I won't be blasphemous. I just want to be honest with myself, and at peace. The farther you get away from yourself, either with drugs or religion, the less peace you have. I think every day is a new day, and a new blessing. There is a duality that we have to experience, yet I've realized that I don't have a clear definition of God. Not sure a puny human has the right or

the ability to define something that far above.

"I've been blessed with a place, dreams, horses, memorable events and good health. I'd stay here as a first choice, mainly because it's away. Peaceful. My dogs only know here. My two red heelers are seven years old, well behaved and well balanced, beautiful companions. I love my dogs, yet I'm willing to make changes if they lead to a better dynamic."

As the media frenzy from Brokeback Mountain's run at the Oscars fades, the stories of all the men and women who live less than stereotypical lives resonates with a magnetic quality. Living on the frontier of gay identity and charting a course far from reinforcements may not be for everyone. But for Cody, his life is still going just as it's meant to be. "I believe the Great Mystery already has a plan, or purpose. It's just a matter of staying in tune. Trusting isn't my best feature at times, because I do know what humanity can become, but I have a feeling God is working in our lives all the time. The Universe is a big place, and I'm kinda' glad for that myself. Things here are just a glimpse of what I consider eternal. I never quit on the fact that someday we'll all have perfect names."

Further embracing this sentiment, Cody offers, "I wouldn't want to end up like either of those fella's in Brokeback. I think that's why the movie was so big because of how unsettling, unresolved, unfinished it felt. I know my history. I know my name. From here out, you can use it." And so it is with my friend Don Curtis, a cowboy who these days is finally ready to embrace his non-fiction name to go with his non-fiction life.



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

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National & International

More Gays and Lesbians becoming parents

According to a study released by the Williams Institute and the Urban Institute, lesbian, gay and bisexual people are becoming parents at a faster rate. Sixty-five thousand children were adopted by gay and lesbian people, which is around 4 percent of all American adopted children. Also, 10,300 kids have been fostered by gay and lesbian individuals. (Previously, the US census had found that more than one out of three lesbians had given birth, while one out of six gay men had become a parent.)

Gary J. Gates, a Senior Research

Fellow at the Williams Institute, said that these numbers are only going to get larger as the years progress, as lesbian, gay and bisexual families are seen more in our culture.

Gates said in the release that research shows LGB parents are as capable as any other parents, and "in fact, studies show that these parents tend to have a higher percentage of qualities that are highly desirable. On average, LGB adoptive parents and same-sex couples raising foster children are older and more educated than other foster parents. In addition, many LGB adoptive parents have access to more economic resources than other

Please see PARENTS page 10

Gay, Muslim lawyer bucks stereotypes

El-Farouk Khaki says human rights abuses call for a 'jihad,' a struggle against injustice



El-Farouk Khaki

By Nicholas Keung, Toronto Star

If you want to understand El-Farouk Khaki's approach to fighting stereotyping and injustice, you can catch a glimpse of it in his vintage attire and unorthodox demeanour in court.

His perspectives are largely the product of his own struggle – and ultimate triumph – to reconcile a multi-layered identity as a gay, visible-minority, Muslim, immigrant lawyer.

"No matter how you slice it, the denial of human rights and dignity call

Please see MUSLIM page 11

The New Gay Wedge Issue

Republican Presidential Candidates Run to the Closet

By David Mariner

The 2008 Republican primaries are here, and this time around it's not just the gay Republican staffers who are running back into the closet. Republican presidential candidates are squeezing in with them.

John McCain once denounced Jerry Falwell as "an agent of intolerance on the right". Now McCain is working hard to gain Falwell's approval. He recently spoke at Falwell's Liberty University.

Mit Romney once promised in a 1994 campaign to co-sponsor the federal Employment Non-discrimination Act and to support nondiscrimination protections for gay people in the area of housing and credit. Now, he says he's changed his mind on these issues.

Rudy Giuliani has a strong record of supporting LGBT Americans, including support for civil unions for same sex couples. Even he, however, is shying away from his LGBT track record. These days Giuliani's main talking point on LGBT issues is his opposition to marriage equality.

Sadly, all three of these Presidential candidates are distancing themselves from their own records on LGBT equality in an attempt to gain Republican primary voters.

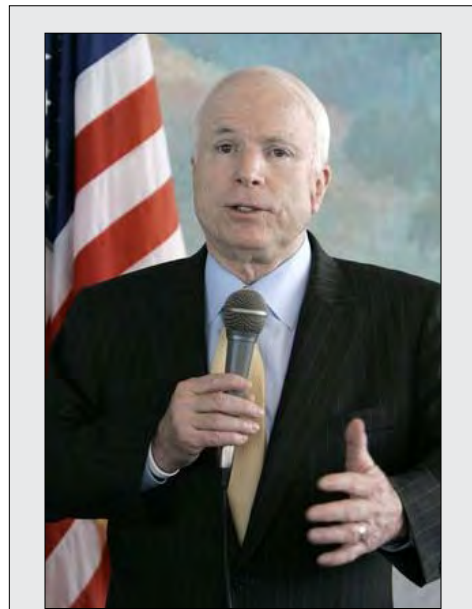
It's not working. Religious right voters are looking for a true believer.

The religious right were fooled in 2004. Sure, top ministers like Rev. Ted Haggard got regular conference calls with the White House, but he may say the right things, George Bush clearly does not share their beliefs. Beltway insiders know he only hates gay people as much as is politically necessary. Behind the scenes same-sex couples are given the same treatment as married couples at White House affairs. Domestic partners are treated the same as spouses at swearing in ceremonies. To add insult to injury the Bush twins attended a same-sex wedding. Bush himself has refused to say a single negative word about the Vice President's lesbian daughter Mary Cheney, or her decision to have a baby. And what about those weekly conference calls? It's been widely reported that White House staffers joke about the backward views of those ministers afterwards.

And it doesn't stop with George Bush. The Mark Foley scandal called attention to the fact that many of the elected Republicans who vote anti-gay, hold no such personal beliefs. The former chair of the Republican Party, Ken Mehlman is widely rumored to be gay. Many key republican staffers have also been 'outed'. Still, many Republicans stand by their gay staff.

Please see GAY WEDGE page 10

McCain stumbles over HIV prevention question



Sen. John McCain stated he isn't informed enough to know if condoms help prevent the spread of HIV

By WashingtonBlade.com

Sen. John McCain, campaigning for the Republican nomination for president in 2008, had trouble answering a question about condoms and HIV on March 16

during a bus ride in northern Iowa. The exchange was reported by several media outlets including the New York Times.

McCain was asked if he supported the distribution of taxpayer-subsidized condoms in Africa to fight the transmission of HIV. A Times reporter described an awkward scene after the question was posed. "What followed was a long series of awkward pauses, glances up to the ceiling and the image of one of Mr. McCain's aides, standing off to the back, urgently motioning his press secretary to come to Mr. McCain's side," wrote the Times' Adam Nagourney.

"I haven't thought about it," the Times quoted McCain as saying. "Before I give you an answer, let me think about. Let me think about it a little bit because I never got a question about it before. I don't know if I would use taxpayers' money for it."

When asked if he thought contraceptives help prevent the spread of HIV, McCain paused for several seconds, then said, "You've stumped me." A few seconds later he said he wasn't "informed enough on it" and "Let me find out. You know, I'm sure I've taken a position on it [in] the past. I have to find out what my position was."

McCain's press secretary, Brian Jones, later reported that McCain had a record of voting against using government money to finance the distribution of condoms.



LaBelle, Hudson shine at U.S. gay media awards

By Chris Michaud, Reuters

NEW YORK, N.Y. - Bravo network's hit show "Project Runway" and the independent film "Quinceanera" won honors at the gay media watchdog GLADD's annual awards on Monday, but it was singer Patti LaBelle and Oscar-winning "Dreamgirl" Jennifer Hudson who stole the show.

R&B diva LaBelle received a special achievement award, presented by Hudson, for championing gay and lesbian rights and participation in the fight against AIDS.

"I didn't know you were this nice," LaBelle told Hudson at the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation's 18th annual media awards. "I thought you were a bitch," she joked, noting that she had never met Hudson before their joint appearance.

LaBelle spent most of her acceptance speech praising Hudson, a losing "American Idol" contestant won an Oscar

last month for her debut portrayal of a pop singer in the musical "Dreamgirls."

In a passing-of-the-torch moment that brought a cheering audience to its feet, the pair launched into an a cappella rendition of "Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen." Hudson appeared astonished by LaBelle's tribute, saying "You are who I idolize."

GLADD, created to combat negative media reporting of gay issues, also honored designer Tom Ford and comic Kate Clinton, for their achievement as gay role models.

"Project Runway," about aspiring fashion designers, won as outstanding reality TV show. The Bravo network is a unit of NBC Universal, jointly owned by General Electric and Vivendi.

"Quinceanera" -- the story of a pregnant teenager who is taken in by a gay cousin, was named best-limited release film. HBO's "All Aboard! Rosie's Family Cruise," about entertainer Rosie O'Donnell's inaugural chartered cruise for families headed by gay parents, won

Please see LABELLE, HUDSON page 12

Then and now: Obama's views on gay rights

By Eric Krol, Chicago Daily Herald

Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama took a bit of heat from gay supporters last week for being initially reluctant to say whether he agreed with a general's assertion that homosexual acts are "immoral."

The conventional wisdom was that Obama is naturally cautious and didn't want to speak too quickly; he was first asked by a reporter to react to Gen. Peter Pace's remark as he left a candidate forum in Washington, D.C. It wasn't until later Obama said he disagreed with Pace, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

While he was running for U.S. Senate in early 2004, however, Obama was much more open about the political calculations that led to his support of civil unions for gay and lesbian couples and opposition to gay marriage. Even then, though, Obama appeared to struggle to reconcile his "sympathy" for the gay rights movement with the practical problems of partisan politics.

Please see OBAMA page 11



Barack Obama

South Carolina Hotel Refuses to Rent to Gay Couple

By Elizabeth Bishop, News 10-TV (Sacramento)

SUMTER, S.C. - A gay couple looking to rent a hotel room in South Carolina say they were turned away because of their sexuality.

"She wasn't discreet about it," said Jason Pickel, referring to a hotel

employee. "She was not apologetic. She just said, 'We do not rent to gay people.'"

For the past two and a half years, Pickel and Darren Black Bear have been in a committed relationship. During a search for a temporary home, the couple says it went to Affordable Suites of America, a long-term stay hotel located on Gion Street in Sumter.

"We were inquiring about the price, deposits, extra person fee, and she asked

Please see HOTEL page 14

Gay Students 3 Times More Likely To Be Bullied

By 356gay.com

BOSTON, Mass. - In what is described as the broadest study of bullying and sexual orientation to date, lesbian and gay adolescents were three to four times more likely to report having been bullied than heterosexual teens.

The study, conducted by researchers at the Children's Hospital Boston Division of Adolescent Medicine, also found that bisexual adolescents and those identifying as "mostly heterosexual" were twice as likely to be bullied.

"It's clear that sexual minority

youth are a population vulnerable to bullying," researcher Elise Berlan, MD said on Friday.

"This needs to be addressed, particularly in schools."

Berlan and doctor of social work Bryn Austin, also of Children's, analyzed data from more than 7,500 adolescents aged 14 to 22.

Overall, about 90 percent of participants described themselves as heterosexual, 8 percent as mostly heterosexual, 1 percent as bisexual and 1

Please see BULLIED page 14

Naperville in spotlight over high school gay-rights issue

By Nick Fawell, Beacon News

NAPERVILLE - A national coalition is calling for a boycott of the annual "Day of Silence," a day where students and teachers remain silent in support for tolerance of homosexual lifestyles.

NotOurKids.com, a coalition of anti-gay groups nationwide, is telling parents who feel that homosexuality is immoral to keep their kids out of school on April 18.

"If the school is allowing it to take place, we are encouraging parents who are concerned to find out what is going on and to pull their kids out of school for the day," said NotOurKids.com spokesman Stephen Bennett.

The boycott announcement comes a week after two students at Neuqua Valley High School in the Indian Prairie School District said the school violated their free speech rights by refusing to let

them wear anti-gay T-shirts a day after Neuqua's "Day of Silence."

That issue, coupled with both the Indian Prairie and Naperville school districts allowing students and staff to participate in the national gay rights day, has made Naperville a focal point in the battle over gay rights.

Tom Paulsen, associate superintendent for operations for the Naperville School District, said district schools allow the "Day of Silence" as long as it isn't disruptive to the educational process or demeaning to other students.

"It's not an official activity of the school but students are allowed to participate if they so choose," Paulsen said. Indian Prairie officials were not immediately available for comment.

But Linda Harvey, president of Mission: America, a group that's part of NotOurKids.com, said by allowing the "Day

Please see NAPERVILLE page 10

John Edwards Responds to 'Don't Ask Don't Tell'

Military Readiness Enhancement Act Reintroduced in Congress



Sen. John Edwards

By David Mariner

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. - Senator John Edwards released the following statement today calling for an end to the military's 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy

on gays and lesbians in the military. Earlier today, Congressman Marty Meehan reintroduced his Military Readiness Enhancement Act, which would repeal the 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy.

"It is long past time to end the military's 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy and to allow openly gay men and women to serve in the military. It is critical to our national security that we have the best people in our military. Gay men and women have continually served our country with honor and bravery, and we should honor their commitment and never turn away anyone who is willing to serve their country because of their sexual orientation.

"This is an issue of fundamental fairness - and our military ought to treat everyone fairly. I applaud Congressman Meehan on his important legislation."

John Edwards has growing support among the LGBT community. For more information, visit www.outforedwards.org.

Four bills would help protect gay students

By Reagan Hackleman, News 8-TV

AUSTIN, Texas - "I came in one time and found my cubby, which we had, filled with the word 'faggot' all over it," high school senior Joey Gibson-Gonzalez said.

Those words were just the latest in a long line of hatred toward Gonzalez because he's gay.

"When I was in elementary school

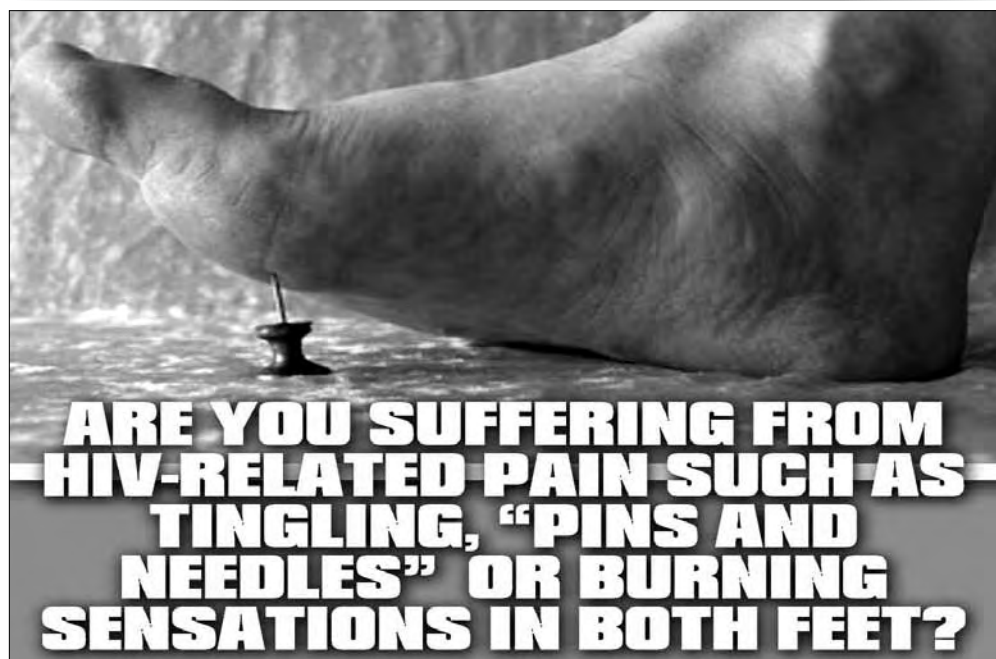
I was hit in the head with a giant rock, which knocked me out, because I was gay," Gonzalez said.

Instead of giving up, Gonzalez is getting ready for a fight. On Sunday, he and a handful of students from Central Texas took a

break from being students and learned to be lobbyists.

"To a lot of people lobbying conjures up smoked filled backrooms," Bren

Please see GAY STUDENTS page 12



ARE YOU SUFFERING FROM HIV-RELATED PAIN SUCH AS TINGLING, "PINS AND NEEDLES" OR BURNING SENSATIONS IN BOTH FEET?

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Christopher Lawrence, A & E Editor

CAROUSEL IN CONCERT

Coeur d'Alene Summer Theatre is usually a class act and director Roger Welch may have outdone himself with this fund raiser/concert production of **Carousel**. What a delightful teaser for their 2007 season.

Beholding the physical movement of members of the 28-piece orchestra, the 60-member North Idaho College Chorale combined with the body language and movement of the talented actors and singers who played the starring roles was an experience to remember. It is a wholly different experience to see and hear the performers working in tandem with the musicians and chorus who usually remain in the pit for a musical to allow room for the blocking and choreography.

The cast was very good and well-matched throughout with the exception of David Jon Wilson who was almost dis-

tracting in his powerful portrayal of Billy Bigelow. His outstanding performance would have been more fitting in the context of the actual play instead of unbalancing the rest of the ensemble who were much more in sync with the elegant style and presentation of the concert.

Of particular note was Jennifer Niederloh who played Nettie and sang a robust version of "June is Bustin' Out All Over." She oozed with the flirtatious sensibility of the great female stars of the '40s and '50s and 'gave great shoulders.'

Jadd Davis, the adorable lad who portrayed Enoch blew the audience away with his powerfully vibrant voice. Watch for him in this summer's productions.

CST's next production, **Thoroughly Modern Millie** will run from June 9 until June 23. Call now for tickets at (800) 4-CDA-TIX or (208) 769-7780.

The Nerd is the unwanted stranger at Civic

The Nerd is a dark comedy verging on farce by Larry Shue. Funny and frenetic, it plays much like a situation comedy and is filled with laugh-out-loud lines.

For the most part the cast does a fine job with some good performances. **The Nerd** is worth seeing. Just bear in mind that this is Community Theater. Timing and motivation for some of the blocking are a bit weak and will probably be cleaned up by director Maria Caprile before most of our readers see it. Overall, it is still very funny, but it will not shine until it has a bit more polish.

Paul Villabrilie plays birthday boy Willum whose life was saved during the Viet Nam war by a man who shows up five years later expecting a place to stay as had been promised.

Unfortunately Willum was unconscious when his life was saved and never met the painfully nerdy Rick who now wants to move into Willum's small apart-



L-R: Chad Hagerty, Dave Rideout, Brian Lambert, Paul D. Villabrilie (bending over) Ryan Marie Patteson (seated) and Jaime Mathis trying to play the Nerd's game, "Socks and Shoes."

ment. Brian Lambert is excruciatingly excellent in this part. Who this nerd really is and why he is interfering in Willum's life remains a comedic mystery to the end.

The funniest lines are uttered by best friend Axel played by Chad Hagerty who seems to lack motivation for stage movement. His lines are perfectly memorized, yet sound like a recitation as he mugs with a juvenile self awareness that tarnishes his role. He has yet to develop the timing and sophistication needed to put across Shue's dry creative wit. Closes Sunday, April 22. Tickets at (800) 446-9576.

Patty Duke mothers her *Humble Boy*

This exclusive interview is about

her upcoming role at ART and her interest in both the GLBTQ community and local theater.



SNN: By what title would you prefer to be addressed? ...Ms Duke?

"Anna is my real name."

SNN: Anna, can you give us your perspective of what **Humble Boy** is about?

Anna: "Everything! This has been such a thrilling experience for me. From my character's point of view, the world revolves around her. Her husband the biologist has died and her son the physicist comes home for the funeral. It is sharp, funny and most outrageous."

SNN: How is it working with ART?

Anna: "Michael Weaver is beyond gifted, but his persona is what I find so enveloping. He makes you feel safe when you are about to jump off a cliff. He is so patient and he is a wealth of information about the theater. What a gentle, gentle soul."

SNN: Like many of our community, I have been a great fan of yours throughout your career. Although you were our heroine as Patty Duke, the child actress, you became even more of a hero with your emotional and psychological struggles as you came to grips with your life and identity.

Anna: "For a long time it was this out of control mayhem. After resisting all the entreaties to seek help I finally did at the age of 35. My bi-polar diagnosis set me on a new path. The world of people with mental disorders has been one of my main passions. Doing theater such as the play at ART gives me a different kind of satisfaction.

I am one of six actors in **Humble Boy** and there isn't a lightweight among us. No divas. Carter Davis [who plays her son] is so gifted, so smart and darling. And he's cute too, although that's not nice for a mother to say," she adds, laughing.

SNN: One of your earlier movie projects was **Billie**. It was about a female runner who struggled for female equality in sports and society. Orientation was never mentioned, but it did seem to represent the plight of many women attempting to establish themselves as athletes on an equal footing with male peers. Diana Nyad the long-distance swimmer and tennis star Martina Navratilova are two from the GLBTQ community who come to mind. Do you have any thoughts you would like to share regarding the impact of that role?

Anna: "Where it got attention was when it was put on TV. Many people have said it had an impact on them, regarding orientation and about becoming who you are. Inadvertently, what it showed was a strong family unit supporting this girl through her transition. I think anyone can identify with this who has felt like they were different."

SNN: Most GLBTQ individuals have undergone their own struggles to find themselves in a world that is unaccepting. Do you think this may be the reason that you have a strong gay following?

Anna: "I have wondered if kitchen table conversations have been had about this. When I noticed my gay following, I embraced it. I thought perhaps I had inherited some of Judy Garland's followers because I had played the prototype of her in **Valley of the Dolls**. Tiny little women

who can have strength. Also the details of my bipolar disorder.

I have heard from guys who went through pre-teens and teen struggle in the dark ages of the '50s and '60s that [the] similarity of cross dressing and taking on different identities in "The Patty Duke" show [resonated] with them. I feel honored and blessed to have that [following] in my life."

SNN: What projects have you been working on this year and what is coming up?

Anna: "This year I spent a great deal of time on the road talking about mental health and sharing my story and allowing this important information to get out in a non-threatening way.

I got involved with University of Idaho (UI) by coaching a friend's high school son. Finally I was offered the chance to be an Adjunct Faculty member of UI. I am really looking forward to teaching classes. After having no real formal education as a child, it is truly like dying and going to heaven being accepted into academe.

I also have a new one-woman show called **Billion Dollar Baby** written by Julie Jensen I am taking on the road that is directed by Jere Hodges from UI. I revel in the creativity of the people of our region. I live in Coeur d'Alene and am doing one play after another. I don't have to go to L. A. to work."

SNN: You have said it is difficult to find good roles for women after a certain age. Do you attribute that to societal prejudice regarding age?

Anna: "I think a good portion is societal. What we need to notice is that the entertainment industry is ALL of the United States. I am finding my career at UI and Actor's Repertory theatre and Spokane rep. Parts of my self are being awakened like never before. What I'm learning is that I can be as full an actress as I have ever been or maybe even fuller, because in these creative communities I am availing myself of artistic people who are just as brilliant and profound as anywhere."

SNN: Is there anything else you would like to share with our GLBTQ readers?

Anna: "My love for them is not new, but it is stronger than ever. In the privacy of my own home I read articles or see something on TV done by or about the Gay community and I think to myself: "Oh my God! Not only has the gay community made its mark on society, but now they are helping us to learn things that apply to us all."

SNN: Thanks Anna. You are an inspiration to us. We look forward to seeing you in **Humble Boy** at ART. It opens Friday, April 6. Tickets are available at (509) 838-4013.

OUT n' About in The Lilac City

- ♣ **Apr. 5, 12, 14, Sonnet 23**, (written by local playwright Will Gilman) at The **Blue Door Theatre**. Call TicketsWest at (800) 325-SEAT for tickets.
- ♣ **Apr. 5-21, The Price** by Arthur Miller at **interPLAYERS**. For tickets or more information, call (509) 455-PLAY or visit <http://www.interplayers.com>.
- ♣ **Apr. 6-21, ART's Humble Boy** at the SFCC's **Spartan Theater** starring **Patty Duke!** Call (509) 838-4013 for tickets. For more information go to <http://actorsreptheatre.com>.
- ♣ **Apr. 6-27, Prints from the Tamarind Institute** at Spokane Art School's **Huneke Gallery**, 920 N. Howard. **Free**. For information call (509) 328-0900
- ♣ **Apr. 11-15, The Crucible** by Arthur Miller, **7:30 pm**. **Russell Theatre, Gonzaga U.** E-mail: berry@gonzaga.edu or call: 509-323-3606
- ♣ **Apr 12-14, Relative Chaos: The Plumb-Nutts Family Reunion** at **CenterStage Dinner Theater**. For tickets call: (509) 74-STAGE or TicketsWest at (800) 325-SEAT.
- ♣ **Through April 22, The Nerd** at **Spokane Civic Theatre**. Call (509) 325-2507 for tickets. For information go to <http://www.spokanecivictheatre.com>
- ♣ **Through April 27, "Explorations X,"** at the **Chase Gallery**, a group student art exhibition from regional colleges and universities. City Hall - 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd. in Spokane. Gallery hours are Mon. from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Tues.- Fri. from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

REVIEWS & PREVIEWS

VIDEOS - MUSIC

Christopher Lawrence & Graham Ames

Outlaugh

produced and directed by Gene Merker & Victoria Larimore
Wolfe Video, 69 minutes

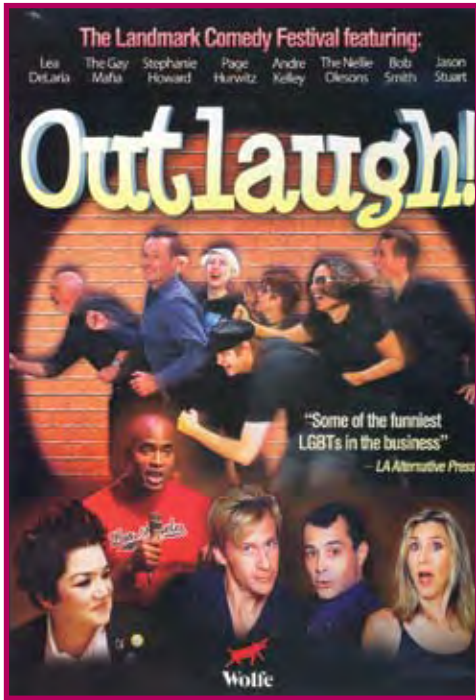
Touted as "The landmark Comedy Festival, this video has some of the best GLBTQ one-liners I have heard.

The humor is Queer to the core and occasionally some of the core is a bit hard. Strong language that may be considered offensive by some is part and parcel of the various OUT comedy performers routines.

The **Outlaugh** Web site tells us that Margaret Cho, Suzanne Westenhoefer and Bruce Vilanch are part of "America's First Queer Comedy Festival," but disappointingly their contributions on the DVD are next to nil.

These queer super stars may have sequestered some of their best humor to use on their own DVDs. The quality of delivery overall would have been elevated by these favorites. Alas that is not the case.

Lea DeLaria pulls no punches with her own personal brand of angry humor



and I usually concur with most of her perspectives. Bob Smith, Page Hurwitz, Karen Rigply, Jason Stuart, Mark Davis, Sabrina Matthews, Andre Kelley, Jerry Calumn, Stepanie Howard, Jen Slusser, Jason Dudey, Roy Cruz, Charlie Vaughn, Bobaloo, Ariana, Bill Cruz, The Nellie Olesons and the Gay Mafia may or may not be familiar to all of you, but they are some of the best GLBTQ contributors to the comedy scene across the country.

The editing is a bit random and seems to water down the effect of some of the routines, but if you pay attention, it would really be worth hitting pause every few minutes to write down some of the material in order to try it on your friends and family.

Still, there is plenty to glean from this offering. It does make me wish I had seen the actual concert rather than the randomly edited version given us by Gene Merker and Victoria Larimore. Sometimes the MTV school of film can be quite detrimental to an artist's performance.

Rent it. Don't buy it. Better yet, wait for it to be re-run on Logo.

Till The End Of Time

Jason & deMarco
RJN Music!

It is the sort of story familiar to many in the GLBTQ community. A talented young man grows up in a conservative religious family. He is active in the family music ministry and shows great promise using his gifts "for the Lord." But as he gets older, he begins to realize his life may not fit the mold expected in his circumstances. As his coming out process continues, he realizes he has to make some changes in his life. What is a lad to do?

Jason Warner decided to forge his own path parallel to the one he was already on, by starting his own music company and beginning a different kind of ministry. Performing at "affirming and reconciling churches," Jason and partner deMarco DeCiccio sing about the gospel of Love as a universal experience, and are reaching audiences with a message of equality and joy.

Till The End Of Time was initially released in 2006. It didn't make much of a splash until the video for the single "This Is Love" took over the charts. That video, with its unabashed queer content and catchy melody, made J&D into the poster

boys of gay pop, and prompted this 2007 release of an "enhanced CD" version of their album.

These twelve tracks are slick, shiny pop gems. Both Jason and deMarco have great voices, either of which could easily win on that "Idol" show. Together, they are a force of nature, wielding harmony and emotion effortlessly. Most of the songs stick to safe formulas, with a few notable exceptions. The use of tabla on "Save Me" is a great choice, as are the strings and acoustic guitar on "The Italian Song." The track which jump-started everything, "This Is Love," is appealing without taking chances. Overall,



producer Alan Lett has crafted sonic backdrops for J&D which allow their voices to soar without detracting from the overall effect, even if that effect is a bit bombastic at times. Closing title track "Till The End Of Time" shows the greatest promise, beginning quietly and building slowly with strings and percussion and dark synthesizers until it is a full blown vortex of passion. With a few more such moments, Till The End Of Time would transcend its own ambitions. As it is, it is a great album of love songs, for any kind of love. It may not be gospel music, but that is good news, indeed.

The Filthiest Show In Town

My Life with the Thrill Kill Kult
Rykodisc

Ladies and gentlemen, step right up and come on in to **The Filthiest Show In Town**. In just under an hour, in ten tasty doses, discover the seedy underside of life, brought to you in full, living Thrill Kill Kolor.

Your tour guides will be the incomparable Buzz McCoy and Groovie Mann, founding members of the Kult. Backed up by The Bomb Gang Girlz (Jacky Blacque, Pepper Somerset and Lois Blue), they will lead you through the dark alleys of urban nightlife, populated by hookers, pimps, transvestites, tramps, and hustlers. Twisted funky beats wrap their legs around you as smoky vocals and audio samples tongue your ears. The sun never shines in these shadowy corners, and any light here only comes from a dim red bulb.

Perhaps the vibe of the album is best summed up in "Jet Set Sex." Sex, drugs and (industrial) rock'n'roll are all rolled up into a catchy rhythmic package that

sinks its hooks into you before you realize it. This is definitely not a song you can sing to yourself at work, but once you have it in your brain, I dare you to get rid of it. Don't leave this album lying around where the kiddies are likely to find it. Even the packaging deserves to be hidden inside a plain brown wrapper. Thank



goodness someone is making music like this. It is the perfect antidote for Tipper Gore's worried ranting, and notably does not feature a "Parental Advisory" label.

TKK headlined at the 2006 Folsom Street Fair, an ideal venue for such a seamy, lurid and ultimately fun party band. They say they are going to tour extensively in support of **The Filthiest Show In Town**. Since it seems unlikely they would appear in Spokane, this CD is the next best thing. Maybe they will decide to take the chance and book a date here. It would certainly be a show worth catching, and for one night, would indeed take the title of "Filthiest."

How wonderful would that be?

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Anything but Straight

Panderers and Philanderers

by Wayne Besen

Mitt Romney, the former Massachusetts governor and Republican presidential candidate, is the king of crass, the maven of craven and the show pony of phony. He switches positions quicker than a porn star and is more slippery than an okra plate dipped in country butter. I never thought the religious right would be gullible enough to buy Romney's eleventh hour conversion, but apparently he can buy theirs. According to an article in Sunday's New York Times, the ultra-wealthy Romney is desperately funneling cash to right wing organizations and literally banking on their support.

Mitt Romney, the former Massachusetts governor and Republican presidential candidate, is the king of crass, the maven of craven and the show pony of phony. He switches positions quicker than a porn star and is more slippery than an okra plate dipped in country butter. I never thought the religious right would be gullible enough to buy Romney's eleventh hour conversion, but apparently he can buy theirs. According to an article in Sunday's New York Times, the ultra-wealthy Romney is desperately funneling cash to right wing organizations and literally banking on their support.

The Times revealed that a foundation of Romney's recently made \$10,000-\$15,000 contributions to the anti-abortion Massachusetts Citizens for Life, Massachusetts Citizens for Limited Taxation and the Massachusetts Family Institute. Moneybags Mitt also funneled \$10,000 to a non-profit organization tied to the National Review magazine; he slipped \$35,000 to the Federalist Society; and pumped \$25,000 into the coffers of the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank.

Some of these American Mul-lahs were critical of Romney until he showed them the moolah. In a comic, if unintentional, slip, Citizens for Life praised Romney as one of Massachusetts "strongest assets." Yeah, I guess an estimated net-worth of \$500 million would qualify as such. Not surprisingly, these "values" groups claim that their recent inclinations to support Romney had nothing to do with his donations and that their sudden helping hand is not a quid pro quo for his handouts.

Amazing how these protectors of the family don't question why their new Daddy Warbucks hadn't bought them so much as a Starbucks coffee before he started running for president. Personally, I don't believe that any of these organizations truly support Romney. I just think he has given them so many hundred dollar bills that they have begun to confuse him with Ben Franklin.

In the most shamelessly transparent move yet, Romney even joined the National Rifle Association giving new meaning to the term "soldier of fortune." There are still concerns in Evangelical circles about Romney's Mormon religion, but it seems his affiliation with the LDS will matter less if he becomes an ATM. The almighty dollar is the right wing's equivalent of an ecumenical prayer.

Perhaps, the gay movement should embark upon a new strategy. Instead of spending millions of dollars on lobbying, we should just buy off our opponents at a fraction of the cost. I suspect we could get a hate crimes law for under a million. Marriage would cost a bit more, but we could sweeten the deal by throwing in free passes to the Holy Land Experience amusement park in Orlando.

On an equally troubling note for religious purists, the Southern Baptist Convention is redefining Sin to accommodate Republican presidential candidates. The SBC's Richard Land intimated in the Times that some divorces are more troubling than others, calling John McCain's divorce a "molehill" compared to Giuliani's "mountain."

On MSNBC's Hardball, Land even said that Evangelicals would likely accept two marriages but three brought up character and trust issues. With this shifting moral landscape among "absolutists," can acceptance of Republican homosexuals be far behind?

It is amazing how the right wing creates Biblical loopholes when it fits their political needs. The Bible, if Land has read it, does not say that Giuliani's latest divorce was worse because he announced it at a press conference before he informed his wife. According to the Good Book - all divorce and remarriage is equally sinful.

Speaking of the Republican Marriage-Go-Round, Newt Gingrich told Focus on the Family's James Dobson that he was having an affair with a younger woman while he was working to impeach Bill Clinton for his affair with Monica. If this wasn't bad enough, America was reminded that in 1981, while his first wife Jackie Gingrich was recovering in the hospital from cancer surgery, Gingrich discussed divorce terms. Newt now claims that he does not remember the incident.

To most people, serving divorce papers to your wife in her sick bed would be a pretty seminal moment. If Newt can't recall this event, he must opt out of the presidential race because he can't be trusted with state secrets. In the meantime, I hope he finds a good neurosurgeon and I wish him a speedy recovery from his bout with nuptial amnesia.

The mere thought of a group that calls itself the Moral Majority endorsing any of these reprobate panderers and philanderers is perplexing and shows that they stand for nothing but money and power. On the brink of the next presidential election, the right is either looking for Romney's Brinks truck or spinning the sinning of Republican favorites, while labeling Democrats, who actually kept their families intact, anti-family.



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

GAY WEDGE

continued from Page 6

Even Rick Santorum pledged during his campaign not to discriminate in his office. He quickly rescinded the pledge in a press release however, when he realized how much it angered the religious right.

And this is only the beginning.

In 2004, a Republican controlled congress attempted to use the least widely supported gay rights issue (marriage equality) as a wedge to divide the Democratic vote. Ironically in 2008, a Democratic controlled congress will tackle the most widely supported gay rights issue (employment discrimination), deepening this growing divide in the Republican Party. It's the new gay wedge issue.

Now obviously the important distinction is that Republicans forced

PARENTS

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adoptive parents."

However, many states are not receiving this message. Florida, Mississippi, and Utah all have laws saying gays and lesbians cannot adopt. Twelve states allow same-sex fostering and adopting (California, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Vermont and Washington, DC), but in other states, the laws are murkier, and lesbians and gays may be kept from adopting or fostering a child.

In addition, in some of the states where there is no outright ban on gays adopting and fostering, states are thinking about creating laws that would prevent it. If those states banned adopting and fostering, it would affect 9,300 to 14,000 children. Also, studies have proven that the more moves a child makes through the adoption or foster care system, the higher the chance of a bad outcome, or outcomes for that child, involving their schoolwork, mental health, and general behavior.

a vote on marriage equality strictly for political gain. Democrats are not wasting the country's time in this manner. Rather, the movement to end workplace discrimination is a widely supported cause. The effect it will have on the Republican Party in 2008, however, is eerily similar to the effect marriage equality had on the Democratic party in 2004.

This debate will likely be debated in Congress while the Republican primaries are in full-swing.

Across the board, Republican Presidential candidates will be forced to state their positions on this simple question: Is it ok to fire someone simply because they are gay or lesbian?

You can guess how Sam Bownback. This Republican candidates is trying to challenge the current frontrunners by appealing to the growing discontented extreme right of the Republican Party. But what about Giuliani, Romney, and McCain? Will they stand with majority of Americans who oppose workplace discrimination, or will they stand with the religious right?

Democratic Presidential candidates are united in their support of equality in the workplace, but this issue is likely to split the Republican candidates down the middle. Welcome to the new gay wedge issue.

NAPERVILLE

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of Silence" to take place, schools are "covertly endorsing homosexuality."

"Let's get back to reading, writing and arithmetic, the things they're there for," she said.

Rick Garcia, director of public policy for Quality Illinois, a statewide gay civil rights organization, said an open dialogue is healthy, and boycotting the "Day of Silence" flies in face of free speech." In a school there should be open and free discussion about a variety of issues," Garcia said. "...It's healthy to have all sides put their position forward."

He said he was in favor of Nequqa student Heidi Zamecnik being allowed to wear her anti-gay T-shirt for the sake of free speech.

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MUSLIM

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for) a jihad, a struggle against oppression and injustice," explains the immigration lawyer from his small office on the fringe of Toronto's gay village, at Yonge and Alexander Sts. "Our biggest enemy is our perpetuating invisibility. By being invisible, your existence is denied.

"There are many taboo issues around us, but people choose not to acknowledge them. To create a just society, we need to talk about the dirty and dark secrets among us."

Khaki has raised awareness of racial discrimination in the gay community and homophobia in the Muslim community, and pushed the boundaries of Canada's immigration and refugee system to extend equality rights to gays, lesbians, bisexual and transgender people.

His dedication to promoting understanding of the LGBT community has earned him the 2007 Steinert and Ferreiro Award from the Lesbian and Gay Community Appeal Foundation. He was honoured Tuesday at a reception at the Fuzion Lounge on Church St. Born in Tanzania, Khaki and his political activist parents, Aziz and Gul, of Indo-Persian-Arab blood, fled to England in 1971 before moving to Vancouver three years later.

Khaki sensed his attraction to men at 11. But growing up among the few Muslims then living on the West Coast, he found it difficult to find friends who could relate to his experience as a minority in every circle – gay or straight, Muslim or not.

On the rare occasions he came across a gay Muslim, they tended to ignore each other, fearing being "outed" in a close-knit, disapproving community.

"It's always a challenge for a gay person to come to terms with any faith. My parents are very religious; they pray five times a day and there's no alcohol allowed at home, but their practice of Islam preaches God as a merciful and embracing creator," says Khaki. "The one thing taught by my parents is God's forgiveness," he says. "Why would God create gay men to be second-class citizens? Why did he create them only to have them condemned?"

Khaki strikes an unmistakable figure, in court or walking through the Church St. village: faux-Mohawk hairstyle and ring-studded ears and hands.

"El-Farouk has a reputation of being a quirky, unorthodox lawyer because he doesn't fit into the stereotypes. He's just a walking anti-stereotype," says friend and colleague Andrew Hwang.

While his wardrobe may draw the occasional double-take from judges and Crown attorneys, Hwang says Khaki is highly regarded, especially as a pioneer in the movement to extend asylum to refugees facing persecution as a result of gender or sexual orientation.

"He's a high-profile, out-and-proud gay man who is also Muslim and a visible minority. His ability to successfully reconcile three distinct identities into one cohesive and adjusted whole, combined with his outspoken advocacy and activism, makes him a great role model." In 1991, Khaki founded Salaam, a social support group for gay Muslims.

Three years later, he helped set a new tone in the Immigration and Refugee Board, spending eight sittings educating adjudicators about a gay refugee's claim. The case led to sensitivity training for IRB members.

He also fought – successfully – for the claim lodged by an incest victim, a dual British/U.S. citizen who had fled both countries with his mother because neither offered protection against his abusive father.

"There is still a mentality out there that if you remained discreet about your sexuality, you wouldn't be persecuted. But people wouldn't ask you to stop practising your religion or (political) belief so you wouldn't face persecution," notes Khaki. A graduate of the University of British Columbia law school, Khaki, 43, was called to the bar in 1988 and worked as a legal adviser at the refugee board and later was a political staffer at Queen's Park until 1993, when he started his own practice.

He plans to dedicate the award to his late partner of 15 years, Guy Lahaie, who helped inspire his love for life and commitment to social justice. "The award recognizes the work I do. It recognizes all the (sexual, religious, cultural and racial) identities that exist. It recognizes all these invisible lives out there and gives them hope and a future – that they don't have to be invisible any more," he adds.

He plans to spend the \$10,000 prize to realize his dream of becoming a father with the help of a surrogate mother. "The money from the award," he says with a smile, "will be my seed money."

OBAMA

continued from Page 7

"What's clear to me is that for lesbians and gays, it's not just the marriage issue, it's also, you know, the moral issue of recognition and acceptance," Obama told the Daily Herald editorial board in February 2004.

Obama went on to compare the gay rights struggle to the civil rights movement of the 1960s – pointing out his African father and white mother wouldn't have been allowed to marry in some Southern states.

"So it's not as if I'm not sympathetic to the idea that... politics shouldn't get in the way if something's right," Obama said. "But what I also tell my gay and lesbian friends is, look, if I was, you know, functioning in the early '60s trying to get the Voting Rights Act passed and the Civil Rights Act passed, then I might not lead politically with, you know, trying to reverse anti-miscegenation laws. ... I might really focus on getting rights that are concrete and that are going to be important and politically are achievable."

One editor called Obama out on that position, asking him if he was being more "politically expedient than principled."

"This is one of those situations where I genuinely think that I can get more done on an issue that I care deeply about, and I wouldn't consider that political expedience. This is not me avoiding the issue," replied Obama, who went on to point out his co-sponsorship of a state gay rights measure at the time. "It is strategic, and I think that that's fair to say."

Obama also explained why he backs civil unions but not gay marriage.

"It's a powerful argument from the perspective of same-sex couples. They'll say, 'You know the problem is having to codify each and every right is so cumbersome, versus, you know, 'Just give us the right to marry and then we just immediately get that package.' And I'm sympathetic to that," Obama said. "But part of this is also politics. ... This is the latest wedge issue to divide the Democratic Party. And, you know, my interest is to avoid playing on their (Bush adviser Karl Rove's) court on this issue."

Asked for a response to how Obama's views and political calculations then square with his views today, spokesman Robert Gibbs said Obama stands by his 2004 statements.

"Barack Obama supports civil unions and worked to ensure that gays and lesbians are not discriminated against. It's a record he is proud of," Gibbs said.

Democratic presidential contender Sen. Hillary Clinton fell into the same situation Obama did, initially declining to address head-on the general's "immoral" comment. Later, Clinton clarified, saying she does not consider homosexuality to be immoral.

David Smith, a leader in the nation's largest gay advocacy organization, said Obama's positions are similar, if not identical, to other Democratic presidential contenders.

"What is striking is his sympathies to the arguments of people in seeking the right to marry. We are hopeful as he promises to run for president on a new kind of politics that his leadership will only grow stronger on these issues," said Smith, vice president of programs at the Human Rights Campaign.

In the 2004 interview, Obama also talked about how his own faith shaped his views on the issue.

"My personal philosophy is that as a Christian, I see no contradiction with embracing same-sex couples as part of our community. That's my Christian ethos. But I think others within the Christian faith can feel very differently about it," Obama said. "It's one of those issues where I don't feel the need to, it's not clear to me that we should shove the issue, push the issue front and center, if we are able to get them to agree on the principle of non-discrimination, which I think you can."

And Obama said he would be open to extending federal tax benefits to same-sex couples on a "case-by-case basis."

"I think there may be some tax benefits that are tied to children. Child rearing, for example, or the underlying rationale for them is child rearing in which I would be supportive of a couple that's raising a child being able to access them," Obama said.

"My personal philosophy is that as a Christian, I see no contradiction with embracing same-sex couples as part of our community."

–Barack Obama

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13 - Volunteers

Odyssey Youth Center has both short-term and on-going volunteer opportunities available. Are you interested in becoming a Facilitator during open youth hours? Are you information technology savvy enough to be one of our regular IT volunteers? Call 509/325-3637 for more information.

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Your time is the greatest most valuable gift you have to give. Spokane AIDS Network (SAN) is in need of front desk/reception volunteers and two drivers for our weekly food delivery program on Thursday afternoons.

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These volunteer positions, if you wish, can lead to other opportunities within SAN if you are looking to assist more. We also understand that vacations and scheduling conflicts arise and there are times that you may be unable meet your obligation. Not a problem just let the Volunteer Coordinator know in advance. We also request a three month commitment.

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APRIL 1 - 30, 2007 CALENDAR

Covering Spokane, Tri-Cities, Pullman, Moscow, Walla Walla, and Yakima

Spokane, WA

APRIL

Stonewall News Northwest turns 15!

Sunday, April 1st

10:00 am – 4:00 pm **Funky Junk Antique Show** (at Paradise Grange) Funky Junk Antique Show Saturday, March 31 from 10-5 and Sunday, April 1 from 10-4 (Continued from March 31st listing)

11:00 am – 2:00 pm **FSAN's Palm Sunday Brunch** (at Dempseys Brass Rail) Annual fundraiser brunch sponsored by Friends of SAN.

12:30 pm – 3:00 pm **Gay/Bi Men's Bowling Group** (at Northbowl) Come hang out with the guys and bowl. Ten bucks gets you three games of bowling and shoes. Space is limited, so reserve your spot early by calling Mark @ 879-8747.

Contact: Mark
Email: MarkJGarrett@comcast.net
Phone: 879-8747
More Info: www.lilaccitymensproject.org

Location Details
North Bowl
125 W. Sinto
Spokane WA
Location Contact: Phyllis
Location Phone: 509 328-7090

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm **EMCC Worship Service** (at Bethany Presbyterian Church)
Contact: Wayne Shull

Tuesday, April 3rd

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

Contact: Christopher Lawrence
Email: simba82047@comcast.net
Phone: 509 624-9639
More Info: http://www.outspokane.com

Wednesday, April 4th Stonewall Goes To Press

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm **Vision Committee Meeting** (at Northern Exposures Studio)

Meetings are informal potlucks at Northern Exposures Studio on the first Wednesday and third Monday of each month. We work on projects to help the visibility of Spokane's GLBTOA community. Currently working on a local billboard project.
Contact: Bonnie Aspen
Phone: 509.838.3866

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm **Pride in Sobriety Gay AA Meeting** (at Bethany Presbyterian Church) Open AA meeting to support those in our community who have the disease of alcoholism and or addiction.
Phone: 624-1442

Thursday, April 5th

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm **Queer Sounds Radio Show**
Queer Sounds is an eclectic mix of GLBTO music and commentary at 92.3 or 89.9 FM, KYRS "Thin Air Radio," your local community radio station. Hosted by Irey and Bob. Call-in number is 747-3807.

Contact: Irey
Email: queersounds@kyrs.org
Phone: 747-3807

7:00 pm – 10:30 pm **Pride & Joy Movie Night** (at CenterStage) Made Possible by The Pride Foundation Eat. Drink. Mingle. Be Entertained! CenterStage hosts this LGBT activity night to showcase films that directly portray, support, nurture and challenge the LGBT community and allied supporters. Join us as we view feature films, shorts & videos by the hottest national & international filmmakers of our time. *FREE (excludes food & beverage) Join us for Live Music & a Spaghetti Dinner at ella's before each showing! Cocktail Service Available
Contact: Deb Noah
Email: deb@spokanecenterstage.com
Phone: (509) 747-8243 ext. 114
More Info: www.SpokaneCenterStage.com
Location Details
CenterStage
1017 West First Avenue
Spokane WA 99201

Saturday, April 7th

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm **LCMP Riverside State Park Hike!** (at Riverside State Park)

LCMP is hiking through Riverside State Park! Please call or e-mail if you'd like to attend, and we'll fill you in on the details. Also remember to bring water and comfortable hiking shoes and plan on hiking 3-4 miles. Come on out and meet some new friends-
Contact: Ryan
Email: Ryano@san-nw.org
Phone: 455-8993 ext. 231

Sunday, April 8th

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm **EMCC Easter Cantata** (at Bethany Presbyterian Church)
Contact: Wayne Shull

Wednesday, April 11th

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm **Pride in Sobriety Gay AA Meeting** (at Bethany Presbyterian Church) Open AA meeting to support those in our community who have the disease of alcoholism and or addiction.
Phone: 624-1442

Thursday, April 12th

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm **Queer Sounds Radio Show**
Queer Sounds is an eclectic mix of GLBTO music and commentary at 92.3 or 89.9 FM, KYRS "Thin Air Radio," your local community radio station. Hosted by Irey and Bob. Call-in number is 747-3807.
Contact: Irey

Email: queersounds@kyrs.org
Phone: 747-3807

Friday, April 13th

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm **CHAS HIV Educational Support Group** (at Community Health Association of Spokane (CHAS)) Monthly educational/support group developed to help meet the needs of people living with HIV/AIDS and their families and friends in Idaho & Washington. The meetings will cover the topic of the night & provide time for discussion and support between those attending.

Contact: Tarena Coleman
Email: tcolman@chas.org
Phone: 509 434-0313

Saturday, April 14th

9:30 am – 10:30 am **PFLAG Moms Group** (at Conley's Restaurant) The MOM'S Group, an informal support group welcomes and supports mothers (and occasionally grandmothers!) of gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered children. It meets monthly, on the second Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. for breakfast at Conley's Restaurant on east Sprague. Call the PFLAG help line 509.624.6671 for more information.
Phone: 509-624-6671

Sunday, April 15th

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm **EMCC Worship Service** (at Bethany Presbyterian Church)
Contact: Wayne Shull

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm **ISCS Court Meeting**

Monday, April 16th

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm **Vision Committee Meeting** (at Northern Exposures Studio)
Meetings are informal potlucks at Northern Exposures Studio on the first Wednesday and third Monday of each month. We work on projects to help the visibility of Spokane's GLBTOA community. Currently working on a local billboard project.
Contact: Bonnie Aspen
Phone: 509.838.3866

Tuesday, April 17th

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

Contact: Christopher Lawrence
Email: simba82047@comcast.net
Phone: 509 624-9639
More Info: http://www.outspokane.com

Wednesday, April 18th Stonewall Goes To Press

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm **Pride in Sobriety Gay AA Meeting** (at Bethany Presbyterian Church) Open AA meeting to support those in our community who have the disease of alcoholism and or addiction.
Phone: 624-1442

Thursday, April 19th

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm **Queer Sounds Radio Show**
Queer Sounds is an eclectic mix of GLBTO music and commentary at 92.3 or 89.9 FM, KYRS "Thin Air Radio," your local community radio station. Hosted by Irey and Bob. Call-in number is 747-3807.
Contact: Irey
Email: queersounds@kyrs.org
Phone: 747-3807

Saturday, April 21st

10:30 am – 12:30 pm **OWLS Brunch** (at Old Country Buffet-Franklin Park Mall) OWLS Brunches will be held the 3rd Sat. of the month (Sep-May) at 10:30am at The Old Country Buffet in Franklin Park Mall on N. Division. If you are the first to arrive, ask the cashier where we can pull tables together for approx. 20 women. Then ask the cashier to direct arriving OWLS to that area. (Schedule for Jun, Jul, & Aug to be announced)
Contact: Ginny
Email: way2qt_99@yahoo.com

Sunday, April 22nd

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm **EMCC Worship Service** (at Bethany Presbyterian Church)
Contact: Wayne Shull

Wednesday, April 25th

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm **Pride in Sobriety Gay AA Meeting** (at Bethany Presbyterian Church) Open AA meeting to support those in our community who have the disease of alcoholism and or addiction.
Phone: 624-1442

Thursday, April 26th

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm **Queer Sounds Radio Show**
Queer Sounds is an eclectic mix of GLBTO music and commentary at 92.3 or 89.9 FM, KYRS "Thin Air Radio," your local community radio station. Hosted by Irey and Bob. Call-in number is 747-3807.
Contact: Irey
Email: queersounds@kyrs.org
Phone: 747-3807

Sunday, April 29th

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm **EMCC Worship Service** (at Bethany Presbyterian Church)
Contact: Wayne Shull

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

APRIL

Sunday, April 1st

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

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

Monday, April 2nd

7:30 pm – 8:30 pm [Kennewick, WA] **Rainbow Sobriety AA Meetings** (at ROLMCC)
Contact: Edna Mae W.
Email: fiddlebanjo@charter.net
Phone: 509-546-2626

Friday, April 7th

7:30 pm – 8:30 pm [Yakima, WA] **First Fridays** (at 1st Street Conference Center)
Yakima's gay social group welcomes you and your friends to our monthly gathering
Email: 1st-Fridays@gayakima.com
Phone: 509/576-0276
More Info: http://www.gayakima.com/1stfridays.html
Location Details
1st Street Conference Center
North 1st Street at East Lincoln Avenue
Yakima WA

Sunday, April 8th

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

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

Monday, April 9th

7:00 pm [Walla Walla, WA] **PFLAG Monthly Meeting** (at First Congregational Church Fellowship Hall)
Contact: Carol
Email: pflag_walla2wash@hotmail.com
Phone: 509-529-5320
More Info: http://www.pflag.0catch.com/

7:30 pm – 8:30 pm [Kennewick, WA] **Rainbow Sobriety AA Meetings** (at ROLMCC)
Contact: Edna Mae W.
Email: fiddlebanjo@charter.net
Phone: 509-546-2626

Sunday, April 15th

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

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

7:00 pm [Yakima, WA] **PFLAG Monthly Meeting** (at First Street Conference Center, 223 N 1st St, Yakima WA)

Sunday, April 22nd

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

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

Thursday, April 26th

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm [Tri-Cities, WA] **PFLAG Monthly Meeting**
Check website for meeting location
Email: info@tcpflag.org
More Info: http://www.TCPFLAG.org

Sunday, April 29th

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

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

HOTEL

continued from Page 7

who the room was going to be for, and I said for my partner and I," Pickel said. "She said, 'Oh we don't rent to multiple people of the same sex.' I said, so you don't rent to gay couples? She said, 'No, we don't rent to gay people at all.'"

The Web site for Affordable Suites of America states the company does not allow children or pets in its suites, but there is no mention of same sex couples.

News10's sister station WLTX contacted the hotel, posing as a potential renter and inquired about two men staying in the same room. The receptionist who answered the phone said, "Our policy is we don't rent to two people of the same sex if we only have one bed." "Is that your policy," the reporter asked. "That's corporate policy because they only have one sleeping area." We then asked, "OK, but they can't share the bed?" "I suppose they could, but most men don't want to," she said.

However, when WLTX called the owner of the hotel, Carroll Atkisson, he said there had been some confusion. He said any couple can come to the place and they will rent to them, period. Atkisson says the policy was not meant to target homosexuals. He says they were just trying to stop two single people from being in the same bed.

Pickel and Black Bear say they still plan to seek legal action. "Everyone is floored, shocked and outraged," said Pickel. "We have contacted some of our friends who are activists."

Currently, there is no state law in South Carolina preventing a hotel from refusing service to a same-sex couple. However, it is illegal to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, gender, disability, or marital status.

"If they have a policy, it has to be maintained fair and equitably," says Tom Sponseller, president of the Hospitality Association of South Carolina. "At the beach, for example, because there are different bike weekends at the beach,

that policy has to be enforced, and consistent."

There is currently a bill in the South Carolina Senate that addresses this issue. The measure, proposed by Charleston Democrat Robert Ford, would expand the Lodging Establishment Act to include prohibition of discrimination because of sexual orientation or gender identity.

BULLIED

continued from Page 7

percent as lesbian or gay. Nearly half of the lesbian and gay youth in the study had been bullied in the past year.

Berlan and Austin said they hope to conduct a more detailed follow-up study to better understand how bullying affects health outcomes.

"We know that, in general, sexual minorities are more likely to smoke, drink, use drugs and have eating disorders and depression," said Austin.

"We suspect that social isolation, harassment, bullying and sometimes frank violence against these adolescents may be an explanation."

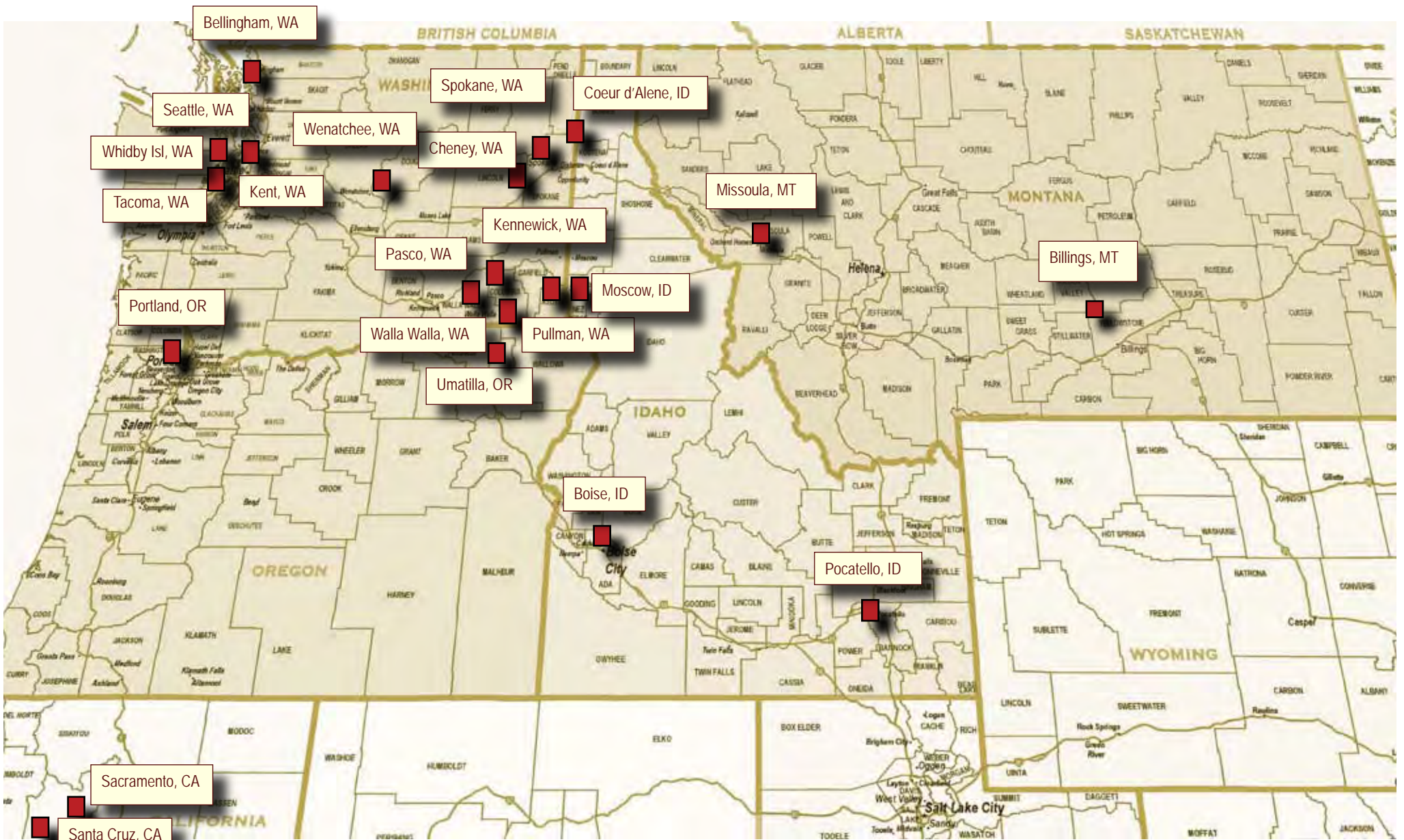
Bullying and harassment of children who behave or appear outside expected gender norms begins in elementary school, the researchers said.

According to the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network, a national advocacy group, students who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered are five times more likely to skip school than the general population, and do worse academically.

Ten states and the District of Columbia now have a safe schools initiative to prevent harassment based on sexual orientation, and a bill in the U.S. House of Representatives proposes amending the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act to include bullying and harassment prevention programs.

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Treasure Valley MCC, 6200 Garratt St

Coeur d'Alene
Mic-n-Mac's, 406 N 4th St
North Idaho AIDS Coalition, 410 S Sherman Ave

Moscow
Moscow Food Co-Op, 221 E 3rd St

Pocatello
Main St Coffee & News, 234 N Main

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Great Northern Books, 1308 Railroad Ave
Rumours, 1119 Railroad Ave
Village Books, 1210 11th St
Cheney
Eastern Washington University, 320 Pence Union Bldg

Kennewick
River of Life MCC, 2625 W Bruneau Pl Ste A

Kent
Trax Terminal, 226 1st Ave S

Pasco
Out & About Nightclub, 327 W Lewis

Pullman
Washington State University-GLBA Program

Tacoma
Tacoma Rainbow Center, 917 Pacific Ave

Walla Walla
Blue Mountain Heart to Heart, 2330 Eastgate B

Wenatchee,
The Cellar Cafe, 249 N Mission St
Cocoa's Fine Deserts, 113 Orlando Ave

Whidby Island
Whidwood on Whidby Island, 1433 W Arnold Rd

Seattle
Babeland,
Bailey Boushay,
Bailey/Coy Books, 414 Broadway E
Broadway Grill,
Capital Hill Alano Club,
CC Attle's/Men's Room, 1501 E Madison St
Changes Tavern,
Charlie's Bar & Restaurant,
The Crescent Lounge, 1413 E Olive Wa
The Crypt, 113 10th Ave E
The Cuff, 1533 13th Ave
The Eagle,
The Elite, 622 Broadway Ave E
The Erotic Bakery
GLSEN Puget Sound, 1605 12th Ave
Lifelong Thrift Store
Madison Market Natural Foods, 1600 E Madison St
Madison Pub, 1315 E Madison St
Manray Video Bar
Martins Off Madison, 1413 14th Ave
MultiFaith Works
Neighbors, 1509 Broadway Ave
Purr Cocktail Lounge, 1518 11th Ave
R Place, 619 E Pine St
Seattle LGBT Community Center, 1115 E Pike St
Wildrose

Spokane
Auntie's Bookstore, 402 W Main Ave
Best Buy Adult Books, 123 E Sprague Ave
Best Buy Adult Books, 2425 E Springfield
Boo Radley's, 232 N Howard St
Borders Bookstore, 9980 N Division St
CenterStage, 1017 W 1st Ave
Dempsey's, 909 W 1st Ave
Diversity Counseling, 12 E Rowan Ave
Europa Pizzeria, 126 S Wall St
Emmanuel MCC, 301 S Freya St
Gonzaga University, 709 E Desmet
Hastings Bookstore, 7304 N Division St
Hastings Bookstore, 2512 E 29th Ave
Hastings Bookstore, 15312 E Sprague Ave
Interplayers, 174 S Howard St
Irv's, 415 W Sprague Ave
Odyssey Youth Center, 1121 S Perry St
Outreach Center, 1103 W 1st Ave
Planned Parenthood, 123 E Indiana Ave
Satellite Diner, 425 W Sprague Ave
The Shop, 924 S Perry
Spokane AIDS Network, 905 S Monroe St
Spokane City Hall, 808 W Spokane Falls Blvd
Spokane Falls Comm. College, W Fort George Wright Dr
Spokane Public School District
Spokane Regional Health District, 1101 W College Ave
Studio One Hair Salon, 1311 W Sprague Ave
Unitarian Universalist Church, W Fort George Wright Dr
Unity Church of Truth, 2900 S Bernard St
Westminster Unity Church, 411 S Washington St
Zanies, 2718 N Division

WESTMINSTER *continued from PAGE 3*

the same sacraments, support, and nurturing as all other couples in the church when faced with hardship or loss of one of the partners

Johnston explained, "By Open and Affirming, Westminster means that GLBTQ people are not only welcome to worship here, we expect them to participate in the work and worship of our church by serving on committees, singing in the choir or in any other capacity as they are able."

"We are very excited about the two upcoming commitment ceremonies we have planned. One will occur this summer, and the other is on our fall schedule." Pastor Castro-Lang advised, "We get to know the couples; where they are in their relationship as well as in their spiritual journey, just like any other couple." In June, Johnston will be conducting a commitment ceremony for two local women. The couple, who were unavailable for comment, have been together for 7 or 8 years and will "return to Spokane in April or early May from the Southwest." Castro-Lang will perform the holy union, planned for early Octo-

ber, of Marj Johnston and her partner of five years, Cindi Abbott, who served on Westminster's Open and Affirming steering committee.

The church will offer a Good Friday service at 7: p.m. on April 6, as well as Easter services on April 8. With words borrowed from a colleague, Johnston, who is the embodiment of compassion, invited the community to experience what Westminster has to offer, "Come all who are questioners, believers and questioning believers! To those in the LGBTQ community who have walked away from previous faith traditions, come worship with us and see that God is indeed good ... all the time!"

In conclusion, Castro-Lang added, "Our gift to others is a rich history that goes back to the very beginning of Spokane, and it is an interesting history, and the beauty of a church that is unique in the city, filled with creative and welcoming people." Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ is now listed among 148 welcoming gay friendly churches in Washington State.

The Conservative Self-Help Corner presents:

Rev. Ted Haggard's EX-GAY REVOLUTION

From Sinfully Gay to Godly Straight in 3 WEEKS OR LESS!

BEFORE EX-GAY
BOOBS! I just LOVE boobs!

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WIVES LOVE EX-GAY TOO!
My hubby recoils with SO much less disgust now when we make babies for the Lord!

Next Week on the Self-Help Corner: Mitt Romney's From Gay-Friendly to Gay-Bashing in Six Years or Less!

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Nitty Gritty Dirt Band

April 7



SEE CAMAS CLUB FOR COMPLETE DETAILS

\$50,000

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7:30pm

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STARTS MONDAY
APRIL 2
Admission 4:30PM Play 6:30PM

Give the MIKE!
KHC 16
KNDO 23
KNDU 25

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