



Stonewall News Northwest turns 15!

Now published every other week!

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Wednesday, February 21st

Ad and Content Deadline:
Wednesday, February 14th



Issues available free throughout the Pacific Northwest and at www.stonewallnews.net

Serving the GLBTQA Community of the Pacific Northwest since 1992



Photo by Mike Schultz

Peter Perkins, a teacher at Rogers High School for 20 years, was yearbook advisor for 14 years. Perkins has earned several state and national awards for excellence, including Columbia Scholastic Press Association's Gold Crown award in 1995 and Washington Journalism Education Association's Advisor of the Year in 1997.

Spokane School District mum on Peter Perkins investigation

Three months after placing Perkins on paid leave, District silent on credibility of accusation

By Joyce Crosby
Special to Stonewall News Northwest

SPOKANE, Wash. - Peter Perkins, a popular and respected teacher at John R. Rogers High School in Spokane, stands accused of inappropriate use of school district computers. Inappropriate use can be anything from "accessing any information that does not have educational or training value" to theft and forgery. Spokane Public Schools Ad-

ministrators refuse to disclose who filed the complaint, how they know the charge is credible or even what specific policy Perkins is alleged to have violated.

D. Michelle Loucks, Police Records Specialist, Spokane Police Department confirmed that on November 2, 2006 Spokane Public Schools filed a report with the Spokane Police Department's Sex

Please see PERKINS page 7

Equal Rights Activists Introduce Initiative that Would Require Children in Marriages

KENNEWICK, Wash. - A new initiative is turning heads around the state as the gay-marriage debate heats up again.

Washington Secretary of State Sam Reed has accepted Initiative 957, a response by gay rights activists to a State Supreme Court ruling last summer.

The Washington Supreme Court ruled that the state could prevent gay and lesbian couples from marrying because the state has a legitimate interest in preserving marriage for procreation.

The Washington Defense of Marriage Alliance then filed the

initiative.

I-957 has five clauses that would have to be met for a legal marriage.

It would allow only couples capable of having kids to marry, and that they file "proof of procreation" within three years of the marriage. If not, the marriage would be annulled.

Many people think the law is over the top.

Leaders at a Kennewick church with gay and lesbian members feel the same.

"There are many marriages that are not about having children. There are many couples who marry later in

life, they marry for companionship, they marry because they want to create a family," said the Reverend Janet Pierce.

"They don't necessarily marry to have children," Pierce said.

I-957 would also force couples who married out of state to show the same proof of procreation or their marriage wouldn't be recognized, and it would become a criminal act for anyone in an unrecognized marriage to get marriage benefits.

To make it on the November ballot they need 224,800 signatures by July 6.

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A celebration of anniversaries

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Fly your Flags on Fridays!

Westborow picketers no-show

Counter protestors gathered instead

By Mike Schultz

SPOKANE, Wash - Braving cold-numbing temperature, Drew Sweatte gathered supporters to counter-protest the potential presence of Westborow Baptist Church's homophobic funeral picketers at the funeral service of Marine Cpl. Darrel James Morris. The service was held at Morris'

Please see PICKETERS page 7



Photos by Mike Schultz



Memorial Celebration of John Deen

When:
Sunday, February 11, 2007 2-4pm

Where:
Dempsey's Brass Rail
909 W 1st Ave
Spokane, WA 99201

In keeping with John Deen's wish for a no-frills nonreligious remembrance of him, an informal Celebration of John Deen will be held at Dempsey's Brass Rail. Dempsey's is opening early for the memorial celebration and is providing food.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Spokane Cancer Care, 601 South Sherman Street, Spokane, WA 99202.

For updates, please check Stonewall's website at www.stonewallnews.net or contact:

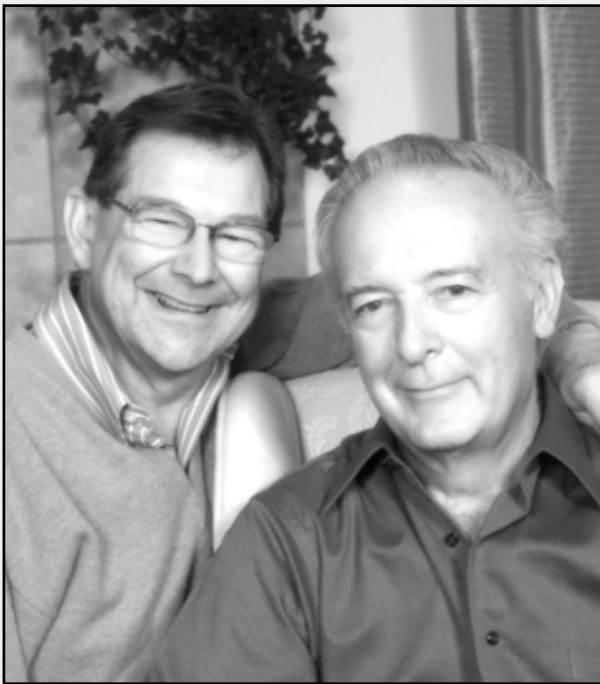
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Happy Valentine's Day!

A tribute to long-term couples

Compiled by Jim Jones - by popular request, reprinted from the December 26, 2006 issue of Stonewall News Northwest



Gene Otto & Ted Clark, Spokane WA
Together thirty years
Anniversary Date: August 2nd
One child

Gene maintains his own wallpaper/faux finish business and Ted is a retired school teacher and administrator. Gene was co-founder of the Spokane chapter of the Dorian Group (late 70's); both active in help/support for the Spokane PFLAG chapter from beginnings to current; Gene was a member of the Board of Directors for the Odyssey Youth Group for two terms. Gene (a Navy veteran) participated in both "Marches on Washington" and both have been active/supportive in local politics. Both were members/officers of the former Inland Northwest Mens Chorus and both are active members of the Millwood Presbyterian Church and sing in the choir, as well as enjoying outdoor activities (skiing, hiking) and getting together with friends at home.



Chad & Frank Hays, Spokane WA
Together nine years
Anniversary Date: April 17th

Chad and Frank were introduced to each other by a mutual friend on April 17, 1998. At first, they were both hesitant of a new relationship, but after meeting each other, they have become inseparable. Chad has worked for a major airlines company for six years. Frank has worked for the United States Postal Service delivering mail since 1984. Frank also directs and produces films on the side.

On August 27, 2004, Frank took Chad's last name sealing their relationship. "I couldn't imagine life without Chad, we are best friends" Frank says. Since Chad's job at the airlines, they have been living separately, due to the fact that Chad is based out of Phoenix, Arizona. Chad says, "For those who wonder how we sustain a long distance relationship like this, . . . when it's the right one, you make it work." Chad and Frank spend as much time together as possible on days off and vacations.



Bradley McMasters & Brian Abrahamson, Dayton WA
Together seven years
Anniversary Date: December 6th

"We met at a bar in Seattle. Brad had a fairly wild past full of bars and men. Brian was younger and more stable. Brian dealt with a lot until Brad could tame his wild ways. Now we live between rural Eastern Washington and San Francisco and are very much in love, happy, and committed."

Jan Baker & JoAnne Bailey Spokane WA
Together ten years
Anniversary Date: April 4th
Three children
Five grandchildren
Four great-grandchildren

"We met at a superbowl party in 1997. Friends invited us to their party with the 'intention' of having us meet each other. JoAnne, who does not like football, brought her knitting. Jan, who loves football, knew that "someone special" would be at the party. We had many "light dates" with other couples and friends. April, 1997 was the date that we officially "were seriously dating."

We both come from professional backgrounds -- Jan as a clinical laboratory scientist (38 yrs at SHMC), clinical instructor and employee inservice educator. JoAnne as a LPN, RN (intensive care for 10 yrs at SHMC) and finally designing and teaching the Nursing Assistant program at the Spokane Skills Center for 11 years. Upon retirement, JoAnne and Jan started Northmoon Artistic Creations in 2004. The business features "one of a kind" fiber art including scarves, shawls and wall hangings. All work is hand woven by JoAnne on a Harrisville design eight harness floor loom. Her work is currently featured at the MAC museum, Artist Tree Gallery, Pottery Place Plus, The Davenport Hotel gift shop and Barrister Winery. She is already "booked" for The Goodworks Gallery at Centerstage in the fall of 2007. She also does private commission work and has also donated "artwork" for fundraisers for Planned Parenthood, The Lands Council, the Unitarian Church of Spokane and Cancer support organizations.

Jan has been active in many aspects of Democratic Party politics and has served on numerous advisory boards and steering committees. She was named "Woman of the Year" for the Spokane County Party in 2004 and received the Party's "Human Right's Award" in 2003. Recently Jan became a certified Master Gardener. "



Wanda Mountain & Carmen Hillman, Walla Walla WA
Together twenty-three years
Anniversary Date: February 4th
Five children
Two grand children

"When Wanda and Carmen met, they didn't like each other. They each thought the other was loud and obnoxious (one wore polyester which didn't help). They dated a little and have loved a lot. Thank god they met." - written by: Tom Schmerer (one of the kids)

Tracy & Kim Sturchio, Chattaroy WA
 Together thirty years
 Anniversary Date: September 5th
 Five children
 Eight grandchildren,
 Two great-grandchildren

"I worked for Motorola and Kim worked for Willits Police as a dispatcher. Their radio went out and I was sent to fix it. Kim and I hit it off that day. I tried to see her after that day but she was only working part time and going to college and I did not even know her last name.

One afternoon when returning from the field, there was a note on my truck windshield. It stated "Hi, remember me? My name is Kim from Willits PD. If you are not doing anything Saturday night why don't you take me out". She left a phone number on the note and I called her. We went out that Saturday and never parted since."



John Lettelier & Lloyd Francis, Spokane WA
 Together twenty-seven years
 Anniversary Date: March 14th
 One child

John and Lloyd met in Houston in 1979 after working for a year right next door to each other. They have traveled extensively, been on ten cruises, and lived in Lake Tahoe/Reno, San Diego, New Orleans, San Francisco, and Spokane since earlier this year. Lloyd is a financial services professional, and John is a Realtor. They are both musicians who sing and play piano.



Michael P Flannery & Dean Lynch, Spokane WA
 Together twenty years
 Anniversary Date: July 26th
 100 foster and group care children Dean helped raise

"We met in Spokane. The attraction was immediate even though our backgrounds and personalities were quite different. Michael was a Stock Broker having grown up on Spokane's South Hill in an Irish Catholic business while Dean was a Social Worker having grown up on a small family farm outside of Quincy, Washington.

As our relationship grew so did our community involvement. Between us we have served on the boards of SAN, Planned Parenthood, Browne's Addition Neighborhood Council, Spokane Symphony, AIDS Emergency Project, Spokane City Council, local museum, No On Discrimination, Pride Foundation, Spokane County Democratic Party, Washington Trust for Historic Preservation and others. In our spare time we enjoy traveling.

It is our goal to give back to our community more than we have received. May the next 20 years be more fruitful than the last!"



Willow Williams & Bonnie Aspen, Spokane WA
 Together twenty-seven years
 Anniversary Date: March 16th

"We made three agreements when we decided to have a committed relationship with each other. Over the years, these agreements have given us the strength to continue the magic and persevere through rough waters.

The first agreement is: Neither one of us will take our dolls and go home. The second agreement is: The "we" will always be more important than either of the "me's." The third agreement is: If our relationship is really struggling, we will bring in outside help (friends, family, professional help) to support us until we can get back to agreement one and agreement two."

Emilio H Cadiz & Jerry R Morsbach, Spokane WA
 Together thirty years
 Anniversary Date: December 13th

"We met In San Francisco December 13 1969. We lived and worked in SF & San Rafael, CA until moving to Spokane in 2003. We're fortunate to have many friends in the bay area and now Spokane."



Marge Ballack & Diane Lantz, Spokane WA
 (soon to be The Ballantzs)
 Together twenty-nine years
 Anniversary Date: July 21st
 Two children
 Six grandchildren

"We met at the Chronicle in 1978 where Diane had worked for a few months and Marge for four days. It was long enough to know that we were hooked on each other and would spend the rest of our lives together.

In 2003 we drove to Nelson, BC, and were married. We have shared our kids, their kids, our parents and friends for closet o 30 years. Life only gets sweeter the longer we 're together."



Jim Jones & Ramon Alvarez, Spokane WA
 Together eleven years
 Anniversary Date: July 5th

Jim & Ramon grew up in Washington's Yakima Valley. Ramon is originally from Mexico and is an alumnus of Gonzaga University. Jim was born and raised in Toppenish, WA and moved to Seattle in 1991. The two met in Seattle in 1995 then moved to Connecticut in 2000 for work and to explore New England. Moving to Spokane in 2004 enabled both to once again be close to their large and loving families. Ramon works at Odyssey Youth Center as Executive Director and Jim works at Gonzaga in the IT department and is also the Vice President of the Board of Directors of SAN.

Anything but Straight

I'm Not Snickering

by Wayne Besen

The super bomb of the Super Bowl was the blatantly homophobic Snickers ad that aired in the first quarter of the game. It began with two homely male mechanics fixing a car while under the hood. One plucks a Snickers out of his pocket and starts to devour it, while his friend longingly watches. Unable to constrain himself, the friend chomps on the other side of the bar until the two meet in the middle of the candy bar and inadvertently kiss.

One of the revolted mechanics acknowledges that a same-sex smooch has occurred, which touches off a histrionic horrorfest. To prevent permanent sissification, the newly feminized men seek an antidote to the pansy poison.



"Quick, do something manly," exclaims one of the buffoons. Without hesitation, they undo their shirts and rip a large patch of hair off their chests, while screaming in proper repentance for their sins.

This retrograde 30-second clip shows that Mars, Inc. executives are living on another planet and that there are more nuts in their boardroom than in the actual candy bar. The vile ad was a low blow that went for a cheap laugh at the expense of a minority. The candy company should immediately apologize or at least pull the offending ad before it infects more minds with mindless stereotypes.

How in God's name did the suits at Mars find this crass garbage suitable for public consumption? In front of millions of people, including vulnerable gay youth, the company sent the divisive message that gay people are unmanly. It takes a lot to offend me and I realize laughter helps break down barriers and can lead to real dialogue. The problem here is that people were laughing at us, not with us. In terms of raw obscenity, this was a Janet Jackson moment for the GLBT Community that should provoke shock and outrage. It is not 1978, this is 2007, and such potty-humored portrayals of our love are totally, in football speak, out of bounds. (To see a comprehensive history of gay ads, visit www.CommericalCloset.com)

Last week, Sen. Joseph Biden subverted his long shot presidential bid when he clumsily referred to Sen. Barack Obama as "clean" and "articulate." On Sunday, an article in The New York Times discussed how African Americans are rightfully annoyed when white people act surprised when they are eloquent speakers and refer to them as "articulate."

"How many flukes simply constitute reality?" asked Reginald Hudlin, president of entertainment for Black Entertainment Television.

As a gay man who was formerly a second-team all-city basketball player, I am equally annoyed at blanket portrayals of homosexuality

as unmanly. We have seen so many brave gay service members die in America's wars. We have witnessed examples of tough professional athletes, such as baseball player Billy Bean or NFL lineman Esera Tuaolo. We have honored heroes like Mark Bingham, who helped keep terrorists

from slamming hijacked Flight 93 into the nation's capital. To paraphrase Hudlin, how many flukes will it take before GLBT people are recognized for their extreme bravery and, yes, manliness.

Even braver, of course, are effeminate gay men, masculine lesbians and transgender Americans who have the courage to step each day into a hostile world created by such ads. The problem is, the typecasts portrayed by our culture has made life very difficult for those who do not fit into societal "norms."

Indeed, people have gone through great extremes to fit in. The ex-gay ministries are the most potent and cartoonish example of conforming to stifling expectations. For example, a news reporter recently told me about his trip to ex-gay therapist Richard Cohen's office. He asked one of Cohen's clients if he had made the transition from gay to straight. To prove his nascent masculinity, the client shoved the straight reporter, who was stunned. Without missing a beat, the man ran into Cohen's arms and excitedly asked if he had passed the test, with the therapist assuring him that progress had been made.

Finally, aren't straight men tired of having their masculinity tied to moronic behavior? Do they really want to be seen as brawny, brainless, backwoods bumpkins? The message sent by companies who make degrading ads, like Mars, Inc., is that to be tough, one has to be a troglodyte. In one broad brushstroke, Mars, Inc., managed to insult gay people for not being macho, while painting masculinity as a quite undesirable trait.

Mars should go back to producing cavities in teeth, rather than ads that produce brain rot that dehumanizes GLBT people and portrays straight men as a step below chimpanzees. If Snickers really satisfies, as their ads claim, they will take this disgraceful dung off the air and discard it like a used candy wrapper.

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

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52 Things we can do for Transgender Equality

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 #7 February 11-17:
Create and publicize a calendar of local events and encourage people to attend them**

Ever feel frustrated when you just heard about a great event that happened last weekend? Wonder how newcomers could be better served in finding out about community happenings? Want to show community members, politicians, funders and others all of the things that are going on in your area? Here's a great way to get the word about events in your area:

Create a calendar of all the transgender related events happening in your local community. That makes it much easier for people to find all of the events that might interest or help them and builds a sense of unity among the different groups. Having this kind of information readily available makes things more convenient for everyone and provides newcomers with an easy way to get involved and informed.

If you organize a calendar on your webpage or your group's webpage, it also drives traffic to your site from people who might not have visited before. It can raise your group's profile in your local area and help you be seen as an organization that serves the community.

There are a number of software programs available that can help you build a calendar for either print or a webpage. Many of them are easy to use and may already be on your computer (check for calendar templates on your word processing, webpage or publishing software). Contact groups in your area and ask them to send you the dates of their meetings, social events and conferences, along with contact information and a link to their websites. Then put them together to form a community calendar.

To give you some ideas and get you started, here are a couple of examples of community groups that are doing this:

- TransgenderMichigan, which has a calendar with many local events from a variety of groups: <http://www.transgendermichigan.org/nextmonth.html>
- Transgender Crossroads, a regional calendar of events happening in the Midwest: <http://www.tgcrossroads.org/calendar/>

Then encourage people you know to support the events in your community.

Publisher's note: The Online GLBTQA Calendar hosted by Stonewall News Northwest facilitates events of numerous organizations. The Transgender

community is welcome to post its events on this calendar as well. Please see www.stonewallnews.net for more info.

**Week #8 February 18-24:
Start an online community or a blog that deals with an issue that is important to you**

The internet has created so many new ways for people, including transgender people, to connect. The world of blogs provides an avenue for new voices to be heard and opinions to be shared with others.

You can create a blog easily through many different portals available on the internet. You can set up a blog for just you or create a space for others in the community to share their perspectives. You can also create bulletin boards on a website for people to dialogue about their ideas or set up an e-mail list serve that covers a topic you'd like to talk about. With all of these, you'll need to keep up with them to be sure that content stays current and that folks a topic to talk about in order to keep your presence vibrant.

An excellent example is the website, www.myhusbandbetty.com, run by Helen Boyd who is the wife of NCTE Board Member Betty Crow. The myhusbandbetty.com site includes blogs, message boards, and regular columns from Helen.

Speaking about her experience, Helen comments, "Although Betty and I first created www.myhusbandbetty.com for the sake of publicity, we've been pleased to see both the blog and the message boards on the site thrive. The message boards provide a useful place for interaction, nearly a think tank, and in fact have been part & parcel of an in-person monthly group forming here in NYC. Other people on the boards have met when they travel, on business trips, and at conferences. My blog has shown up everywhere from pro-choice websites to queerday.com - which means that many feminists and queer folk of all stripes know somewhere they can learn more about trans issues. Online communities end up facilitating not only in-person communities, but make transness more visible to other sympathetic people online. It takes a lot of work to moderate the boards and write the blog, but increasing trans visibility on the 'net is worth the effort."

What do you have to say to the world? Consider creating an online community to lift up your voice as well as the lives of others.

Practical Spirituality for Daily Life

Conspiracy Theory

by Bob Schout

In the past two months, I have relocated my business and residence from Dallas to Santa Fe. A lot has happened during that time period, financially, professionally, physically and emotionally. I've thought on more than one occasion, "slow down, rest...you don't have to do it all right now".



But I ignored the thought. I thought, "I could use some help with cash flow, the move cost me a lot more than I budgeted." I thought, "Maybe this is a good time to re-think my business and begin focusing more on the business of writing, coaching, retreat facilitation and speaking; but I still like the corporate training and consulting that I do. I wonder if it's possible to do it all?"

I've had the weirdest, most wonderful few months. I've had this on again, off again physical slow down, possibly due to a cold virus that is occasionally making me stop, rest and recoup. I've had a buddy ask, out of the clear blue sky, "How are you doing financially? Do you need any help?" Then he loaned me a lot of money to tide me over, during this transition time. I've had two new opportunities to move two manuscripts to completion and to facilitate an important spiritual retreat for an organization. And on top of it, several new clients have called and asked for service. Whew!

Let me tell you, I used to hear about conspiracy theories in government, in business and even in families. Now I have one of my own. I really believe that a conspiracy exists. It is a conspiracy by the universe. I think that the universe conspires to support us at every moment. I think that the super mind of the universe is always one step ahead of us conspiring with itself to make our lives healthy, whole and prosperous.

No matter how hard we try to curtail our health or success, some thought, someone or something happens to give us a clue or an opportunity to change and succeed. We may call it coincidence, but I don't believe in coincidences. I think coincidences are the Universe's attempts to conspire for our benefit. We just happen to notice them when they occur.

A lot of people think that the universe conspires to hurt them or make their lives miserable. I don't think so. I think that we do it to ourselves. We do it every time we ignore a thought that reminds us to slow down and take care of ourselves or take care of some business. We do it to ourselves every time we think, "There's no possible way for this to work or to happen" because we then close ourselves off to offers of assistance from others. We do it to ourselves every time we don't stop and notice the opportunities right before our eyes, or pass them off as mere coincidence.

Friends, the universal deck is stacked in our favor. The universe wants us to win at this game of life, because the universe is all about creation, proliferation of life and goodness, and abundance perpetuating itself. We are ONE with the universe; a part of the whole. We cannot disconnect ourselves from the

whole. Therefore, our lives are governed by the laws of the universe: creation, life begetting life, abundance unfolding, prosperity expanding, etc.

What unnerves me about this theory—or rather this fortunate truth—is that it takes away our ability to fail. It takes away our right to blame a lack of success on something other than ourselves. Our lack of success is linked to our unwillingness to let go, simply listen to the universe and open ourselves to receiving help and guidance, on purpose. This truth doesn't give us an "out". It doesn't allow us to limit our potential. It holds us accountable and makes us responsible for our health, wealth and our destiny, or in other words, our way of life. It expects greatness, goodness and continued growth. It conspires to ensure, one way or another, that all three occur.

To profit from this fortunate truth means that we have to acknowledge it, because it's real. We have to realize then that we are greater and more powerful than that for which we have ever given ourselves credit. We have access to universal abundance with a single thought. We are the creators of our own reality. Deep inside of each of us is a natural desire and drive to love, to prosper, to grow and to know everything that we dream of knowing. This desire and drive for relationships, success and exploration of our ideas and talents is the universe conspiring to help us be all that we are meant to be.

So take the time to notice the coincidences in daily life. Notice the subtle, spontaneous opportunities at school, work or with friends to learn and receive more of what you want. Notice the dreams that are waiting to be birthed by you...and you, too, will notice how the universe is conspiring for you.

Bob Schout is based in Santa Fe New Mexico. He is a life coach, pastoral counselor, and motivational speaker for business, government, non-profit and faith-based organizations. He can be reached by e-mail at psdevelopment@sbcglobal.net.



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

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 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

National & International

Hinesville native hits the road for gay rights



Joey Heath

By Dana Clark Felty
 Savannah Morning News

Faith is often the first thing to go for many young people who leave home for college.

But the reverse was true for Hinesville native Joey Heath.

It wasn't until his freshman year at Valdosta State University that Heath began taking a serious look at his beliefs.

He discovered a deeper commitment to his Christian faith. He was baptized as a 19-year-old and became a member of the campus Methodist group.

It was also during that period of self-discovery Heath realized he is gay.

"Finding my faith allowed me to really get to who I was as person," he said.

Reconciling his identity as a "gay evangelical" has taken years of prayer and study, said Heath, now 23.

Now he is committing his spring semester to encouraging other students that it's OK to be homosexual and Christian.

Heath is one of 56 youth preparing to tour the nation seeking an audience at Christian colleges that restrict homosexual students.

Inspired by the Freedom Rides of the Civil Rights era, the seven-week "Equality Ride" is hosted by Soulforce, an advocacy group co-founded by gay Christian activist Mel White and his partner Gary Nixon.

Based in Lynchburg, Va., White is a minister and former ghost writer for evangelical leaders including Billy Graham, Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson. After therapy and faith failed to rid him of his attraction to men, White came out as gay in 1993.

Soulforce launched the Equality Ride last year to challenge restrictive policies at military and religious colleges and universities by holding vigils, Bible studies, class discussions, community forums, and news conferences.

"It's also an opportunity to bring hope to students who are in the closet at those schools where gay and lesbians can't come out, to let them see there are young gay and lesbian youth and straight ally

youth that are open and accepting," said spokesperson Paige Schilt.

The group visited 19 campuses last year.

Officials at some schools, including Oral Roberts University, declined to allow the Equality Ride group on campus. Some students were arrested for trespassing for violating the order.

Heath heard about Equality Ride from a friend who participated last year.

Now a graduate student studying political science at Valdosta State, Heath has taken the semester off to join this year's Equality Ride starting in March.

"Maybe it's young naiveté, but I believe in changing the world and making things better. And I see this as a way to do that," he said.

After praying for his homosexuality to go away, Heath said he sank into depression when change didn't come.

"One night I said, 'God, I can't do this anymore,' and I heard God say, 'That's OK. I still love you anyway,' said Heath. "That's the night when I said, 'OK, I'm gay.'"

Heath remained active in his

What is Equality Ride?

A seven-week bus tour aiming to confront colleges that ban the enrollment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students. The program is sponsored by Soulforce, a Lynchburg Va.-based advocacy group co-founded by gay Christian minister Mel White.

campus ministry and church youth group, even though "this wasn't something they were very happy about," he said.

Though he sometimes feels he's a victim of discrimination, Heath

"Since I'm an out, gay, Christian man, I feel it's my duty to stand up and say 'This is wrong.' There's definitely a problem here so we have to ask 'How can we fix it?'"

-- Joey Heath

believes students attending the schools along Equality Ride's tour live under constant oppression.

Part of his job with Equality Ride will be to or-

ganize one of the 32 campus visits scheduled in March. Heath said he is planning a stop at Covenant College in Lookout Mountain, where he hopes the group will receive permission to host a presentation, hand out materials and meet with officials and students.

"Since I'm an out, gay, Christian man, I feel it's my duty to stand up and say 'This is wrong.' There's definitely a problem here so we have to ask 'How can we fix it?'"

Ottawa ends discrimination for same-sex couples married outside Canada

By Arielle Godbout
 CanWest News Service

OTTAWA - The Conservative government has quietly scrapped one of the last remnants of official discrimination against gay couples by allowing same-sex couples married outside of Canada to be fully recognized as spouses for immigration purposes.

The controversial policy was introduced in June 2004, soon after Quebec became the third province to legalize gay marriage. When same-sex marriage was made legal throughout Canada in 2005, the bar on foreign gay marriages remained in place.

The policy recognized same-sex marriages for immigration purposes only if the ceremony was performed in Canada, and if at least one of the partners was Canadian or a permanent resident.

It also clearly stated: "If you were married outside Canada, you cannot apply to sponsor your same-sex partner as a spouse."

In December, CanWest News

Service reported on the struggle of same-sex rights group LEGIT to end the "maddening" policy, prompting NDP immigration critic Bill Siksay to spotlight the "huge inconsistency" at a parliamentary committee and press the government for change.

"To have a policy on the books that departed from full equality, that treated gay and lesbian couples that were legally married in other jurisdictions in a fundamentally different way than heterosexual couples, was wrong," said Siksay.

Now the government has agreed.

In a letter sent Jan. 24 to the immigration committee, Citizenship and Immigration Minister Diane Finley said that although "it was necessary for

the department to take the appropriate time" to review the matter, the policy has been changed.

"CIC has moved to annul the interim policy on same-sex marriage," she wrote. "As a result, same-sex marriages legally performed in Canada and in foreign jurisdictions are now recognized for all immigration purposes.

GLAAD tidings: Alliance campaigns for newspapers to announce gay engagements, civil unions

Communities increasingly acknowledge equality in newspaper announcements

By Marylynne Pitz, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Only a handful of states have legalized gay marriage or civil unions, but that hasn't stopped same-sex couples from announcing their intentions in newspapers across the country.

Of the 883 daily newspapers in the United States whose editors have agreed to publish news of a same-sex couple's engagement or civil union, 319 have printed one, according to a recent survey by the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. (GLAAD).

The alliance, which persuaded The New York Times to begin publishing this news five years ago and has campaigned for other papers to do so, praised this progress and is urging couples to submit announcements to their local newspaper.

"When we started the campaign in 2002, we were at 129 papers. We are now at 883 newspapers across the country. That's a 584 percent increase," said Rashad Robinson, senior director of media programs at the organization's Manhattan headquarters. It has 20,000 dues-paying members.

The next effort, Mr. Robinson said, is to make gay people aware of this opportunity. To assist couples who want to announce their engagement or commitment ceremony, the alliance's Web site, www.glaad.org, offers a list of newspapers that are willing to print these announcements and whether they have done so.

"We know that there are folks who want to make our lives and our families invisible. But we also know that opinions are changing and minds are changing and hearts are changing," Mr. Robinson added.

Currently, Massachusetts is

the only state that allows same-sex marriage. Vermont and Connecticut allow civil unions, and New Jersey's law allowing civil unions takes effect Feb. 19. California has domestic partnerships that bring full marriage rights under state law.

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette would publish such announcements in its Celebrations page that appears each Tuesday, said Susan Aschenbrenner, a classified ad representative who handles submissions. The Celebrations page is overseen by Susan Morris, classified contact center manager.

In the past three years, Ms. Aschenbrenner said, she has received two inquiries, but no announcements were submitted that she recalls.

"It's important for all of us to have the opportunity to share our commitments," he said. "When people are shut out of that process, it is not only a form of discrimination, but in many ways, it creates a separate but unequal structure where certain families are valued more in our society."

--David Sullivan

"I think they were just testing the waters," she added.

The Erie Times, a daily newspaper in Erie, has no formal policy in place, said advertising

director Terry Cascioli. He said the paper probably would publish such an announcement if it were submitted, adding, "We would probably prepare for some backlash."

David Sullivan, assistant managing editor for copy desks at The Philadelphia Inquirer, said the newspaper began publishing this type of news more than a decade

ago. At the time, Mr. Sullivan recalled, Maxwell King, now head of The Heinz Endowments, was the paper's top editor.

"We did this for the first time in the mid-1990s. We could think of no compelling reason why we should not print these announcements. We ran them in the suburban sections. I'm sure we got calls about it but nothing that would have caused us to say, ooh, gosh, we can't do that."

Mr. Robinson said the alliance is intensifying its campaign to encourage gays and lesbians to submit news of their engagements and commitment ceremonies.

"For a lot of daily newspapers, a lot of editorial decisions are driven by their community," he said.

"When we hear about same-sex relationships or same-sex households and families, it's often in a political context. We really want to revisit this from the aspect of people celebrating their lives every day -- couples celebrating their commitments, just like everyone else, in the pages of the newspaper."

The initiative began in 2002 when the alliance's leadership met with members of The New York Times' editorial board, which at the time would not publish such announcements. It changed that policy.

Now all of the nation's top 50 media markets and 99 out of the top 100 are home to a newspaper with an inclusive announcement policy.

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PERKINS

continued from Front Page

Crimes Unit regarding Perkins' computer use. Loucks stated that although a report was filed, "there is currently no criminal investigation into the conduct of Peter Perkins regarding his use/misuse of computers at Rogers High School."

On November 8, Spokane Public Schools Human Resources Department began an official investigation into the allegations that came from a source outside of the district. Investigators seized four computers, including a laptop, from the classroom where Perkins taught Social Studies. On November 14, 2006, Perkins was placed on paid administrative leave. Perkins, 48, continues to receive his \$56,000 salary pending the outcome of the investigation.

Perkins, who has been a teacher at Rogers for 20 years, was year-book advisor for 14 years. Perkins has earned several state and national awards for excellence, including Columbia Scholastic Press Association's illustrious Gold Crown award in 1995 and Washington Journalism Education Association's Advisor of the Year in 1997.

Perkins was inspired to come out at school in 2001 after a colleague suggested a letter that denounced the association of homosexuals with a Martin Luther King Jr. celebration be published in the student newspaper. He subsequently became staff advisor for Rogers High School's Gay-Straight Alliance. Terren Roloff, Community Relations Director, Spokane Public Schools, is unwavering in her assertion that, "Mr. Perkins' sexual orientation, that has absolutely no bearing on the investigation."

"The district's computer use policy is shared regularly with employees and all employees agree to it as a condition of employment," Roloff stated. In fact, on the web page for the online American Studies course Perkins was teaching, a component of Spokane Public Schools Virtual Learning website, he has listed course policies, including academic integrity and accountability for computer and Internet usage. Perkins statement that "Careful and ethical use of computing resources is the responsibility of every user" is followed by a link to the district's official Internet Acceptable Use Policy.

When asked about the investigation, District Superintendent Brian Benzel stated that he "will not be responding to a personnel matter... out of respect to all parties involved. Our investigation is in process, and decisions will be made based on its outcome." During the summer of 2006, Spokane Public Schools updated its software to better monitor Internet usage by students and staff. When questioned as to the criteria that the school district uses to determine whether an investigation is warranted, Roloff stated, "We monitor Internet use and investigate when we have a report of possible misuse." She declined to elaborate further.

One teacher, who spoke to Stonewall News Northwest on the condition of anonymity due to fear of reprisal, said that she doesn't understand how anyone could misuse school computers with all of the filters incorporated by the district. "I can't even access my bank account balance from my classroom computer," the teacher remarked. According to a document distributed

PICKETERS

continued from Front Page

alma mater, Ferris High School on Spokane's south hill on Saturday, Feb 3, 2007. While the picketers never showed, Sweatte and others waved signs and flags supporting Morris and the troops. Also gathered at the service to shield family and friends from Westborow picketers were more than 100 members of the PatriotGuardRiders. Mike Gregoire, Washington State Governor Chris Gregoire's husband, was also in attendance.

A day earlier, Governor Gregoire hastily signed into law "The Washington Rest in Peace Act" prohibiting "Tumultuous conduct" within 500 feet of funerals such as the Morris funeral threatened by Westborow Baptist Church. Dozens of police and state troopers quietly monitored the activity.

Please see PERKINS page 12

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Christopher Lawrence, A & E Editor

Assassins Knocks 'em Dead at Firth

It has been a very long time since I attended a play during which I actually forgot that it was local community theater. Opening night of *Assassins* at the George W. Firth Theater was a refreshing reminder that we can hold ourselves to a higher standard and strive to achieve the very best. If you have not already seen it, call for your tickets **NOW!**

Stephen Sondheim possesses the heart and soul of an anarchist. It shines through wonderfully wicked and evocative lyrics and musical scores that could send a mere dyslexic mortal like myself screaming into the night. Nevertheless, when viewing his work, I remain transfixed by the complexity of his characters and the creativity of his genius. He tickles, tweaks, terrifies and intimidates his fans into submission, and then riles them into thunderous applause in appreciation of the roller coaster ride he perpetrates as musical theater.

Nowhere are these traits more apparent than in director Troy Nickerson's vision of *Assassins*. Troy has aspired to do this play for 10 years, and his dream has come to fruition through the collaboration of some of our area's finer actors and Civic Theatre's desire to offer something edgier than their usual fare. If their intent was to capture new audiences as well as challenge the typical Spokane theater buff, they have succeeded in spades!

Every part is played to perfection in this production. I was especially pleased to see Andrew Ware Lewis return to the stage. He has an excellent voice when he puts enough power behind it. His swagger and confidence as the Balladeer is balanced perfectly with the sweetness of his voice. He looks comfortably at home on the stage and emanates an earnest quality that allows him to be both the narrator (singing) for the audience and the confidante of the many grisly characters on the stage.

The main characters have achieved a sort of immortality by living on in infamy. Each time a new assassin wreaks havoc, the dark history of predecessors springs



At Left from top:
Patrick McHenry-Kroetch,
2nd Row:
David Giger Gavin Smith,
3rd Row:
Matthew Harget,
Marianne McLaughlin,
Dougie Dawson,
Front:
Abbey Crawford, Gary Pierce.

Right: Marianne McLaughlin and Abbey Crawford as Sarah Jane Moore and "Squeaky" Fromme who attempted to assassinate President Ford in 1975.



once again into the minds of the public. I might mention that most of the cast is on the stage nearly all the time as observers of the other assassins in history. Even unmoving, each one of them holds the energy and keeps the focus, never breaking character for a moment. This alone, has a powerful effect on the events taking place.

The assassins list begins with John Wilkes Booth played by Patrick McHenry-Kroetch as an actor/activist who believes murdering Lincoln in 1865 will re-unite a divided country after the Civil War. Patrick's talents have become more honed. He seems more self-assured and his character reeks of warm self-righteousness. If you have not seen this handsome devil, you can expect to be charmed by his charisma and revel in his masterful take on Booth.

Gavin Smith is Charles Guiteau who assassinated President James Garfield in 1881. His delightfully smarmy and pompous self-aggrandizing portrayal leaves an unfamiliar and unwelcome taste.

Dougie Dawson is the personification of proletariat as Leon Csolgosz who ended President William McKinley's term and life in 1901. As a poor worker long repressed by the bourgeoisie, his convictions that progress will only happen with action is believable and eerily easy

to comprehend. In musicals, Dawson is usually cast as something closer to a caricature because of his slender lanky frame and physical ability. Here, he tugs at our collective conscience about the inequities fraught upon the monetarily challenged. His Leon exudes a history of abuse and the overwhelming desolation of the working class before unions began to improve the lives of the common man.

Old friend Gary Pierce is the crazed Giuseppe Zangara who attempted to assassinate President-elect Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1933. Gary's energy is always electric when he is on stage, and clearly nobody does a death scene in the electric chair better than he.

Matthew Harget plays Samuel Byck, the man who tried to assassinate Richard Nixon by crashing a commercial jetliner into the White House in 1974. Harget deftly portrays the beleaguered Byck with quiet desperation and the baleful stare of someone no longer present to reality.

Abbey Crawford aces the character of Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme, whose over-identification as the ex-lover of Charles Manson is eerily woven into a blend of religious fervor and concentrated disdain for the morals of society. Abbey not only demonstrates her locally famous pipes, she really shows her chops as an actress. "Squeaky" and Sara Jane Moore attempted unsuccessfully to assassinate President Gerald Ford in 1975.

Sara Jane Moore (the other ex-lover of Manson) is portrayed by Marianne McLaughlin as a darkly humorous and

slightly off-kilter woman who has lost her way and yearns for recognition. McLaughlin is often the relief comedy needed to break the mood of such serious business as murder. She shows a remarkable lack of self-consciousness in bringing Moore to life.

John Hinckley is played by David Giger. His obsession with gaining respect and love is tainted by depression, self-loathing and medication. In his twisted mind, the notoriety of being the assassin of Ronald Reagan in 1981 might give him what he wants. If Giger's take on Hinckley is even close to the truth, it is no wonder our own Jody Foster was put off.

George Green played the latest of this sordid rat-pack of assassins, Lee Harvey Oswald. Green seems to internalize Oswald's feelings as they simmer and build pressure until he succumbs to the cries of the ghosts of Assassins Past. The end result is the rifle shots that end the life of President John Kennedy in 1963.

This scene is devastating. Perhaps because it happened so recently, it opens the door to the past and ties us together with those who have suffered a similar loss in history.

And here is where the wonderful chorus, who really represent Everyman (and Woman) come in and express our own grief. Each one of them offers heart tugging portrayals of that momentary slice of time when the unspeakable happens. The performances were beyond the synchronized choreography and singing. They bring us to our own deeper hidden selves to wonder how these things can happen. Admittedly, much of this is because of the superior writing by Sondheim, but each of the chorus brings him/herself to the fray with real presence.

Bravo to the whole cast! Bravo to the music by one man music machine Gay Laing (Music Director) and his drummer!

Bravo to Tony Nickerson who so thoroughly infused his own spirit and the essence of his dream into the production! Spokane is better for it.

This is the first time in many years that a Civic production is slated for Washington State Community Theater competition. *Assassins* has an excellent chance of winning in the spring and going on to National competition.

If you are of a mind to help send our local troop to the competitions, they can use your donation. To donate, call Donovan Stohlberg at (509) 325-1413.

Call (509) 325-2507 for tickets to see this excellent production before it sells out completely and closes on Feb. 18.

Pride & Joy Movie Night Is Back!

The first Thursday of February was the first of twelve months slated for the GLBTQA community at CenterStage Theater. What a treat for an alternative venue. The food is inexpensive and tasty, and the well drinks are 50% off!

Yes Nurse, No Nurse The movie is free! March 1 will be yielded a great response from attendees, despite the sub-titles needed for a Dutch musical.

Laughter and camaraderie bounced around the room as we all watched a movie with queer sensibilities in the company of our peers and in the safety of the warm and beautiful theater on the second floor.

Tim Behrens self identifies as an Ally with great enthusiasm. He was raised in West Hollywood by his actress mother and so has always been a part of the community. I understand he is straight, but the folks there are not narrow.

all are welcome. We expect to alternate between Gay and Lesbian each month through the end of 2007.

Invite a group of friends and join us!

GLBT Book Group

Spokane's GLBT Book Group meets the first Wednesday monthly in the second floor conference room of Auntie's Bookstore. Facilitator Julie Smith says review sessions begin at 7 P.M.

The upcoming review session is **Blue Place** by Nicola Griffith, Feb. 7.

Mathis Croons at INB Performing Arts Center

Johnny Mathis Gold: a 50th Anniversary Celebration features the legendary crooner on Sunday, Feb. 11 at 8 p.m. Mathis is an icon in American pop music with his velvet voice and is considered by many to be "the best ballad singer in the world."

Mathis, known for singing songs in their entirety, has thrilled audiences with his romantic ballads, jazz and pop standards, and songs from Broadway musicals for 50 years.

He has never publicly discussed his orientation, but most of us in the GLBTQ community consider him 'family.' His sensitive renditions deliver that feel-so-good nostalgia we all love.



Mathis has performed for more heads of state than any other performer. I look forward to seeing his handsome face and hearing those golden tones again.

REVIEWS PREVIEWIEWS

BOOKS - VIDEO - MUSIC

Catherine Willis, Christopher Lawrence & Graham Ames

Thinking Points

George Lakoff
Rockridge Institute

University of California at Berkeley linguistics professor George Lakoff and his colleagues at the Rockridge Institute, a progressive think tank, challenged this former Republican's cherished commitment to moderation in the preface to **Thinking Points**, declaring, "Most important, we examine and reject the idea of an ideological 'center.'"

I almost shut the book then and there, but I forced myself to read on. Two sentences later the authors introduced the notion of "biconceptualism," a scholarly sounding descriptive for the reality we all know: There are many means to every end; few of us live our lives fully entrenched in a single mind-set. We have our conservative areas of being and our progressive areas. Both are rooted in values. Which values prevail in a given situation will influence our actions and ultimately our voting behavior.

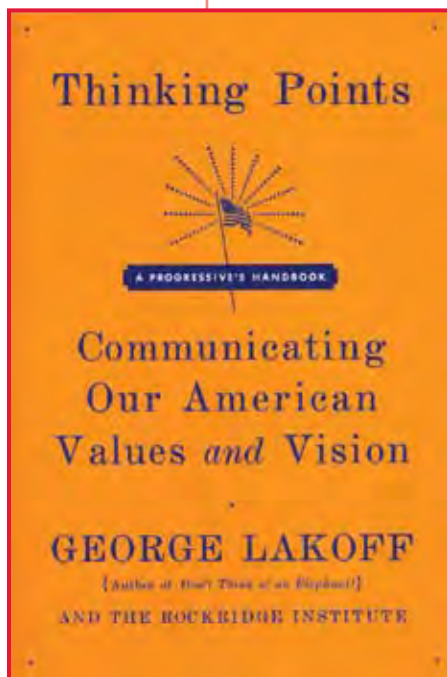
Lakoff and associates fashioned **Thinking Points** "a progressive's handbook," a tool not for winning at the polls but for winning the hearts and minds of Americans. Our nation enjoys a solid legacy of progressive sensibility, they noted. Progressives can reclaim - and loudly, proudly proclaim! - this rich history.

Freedom, fairness, equality, responsibility, human dignity, diversity, integrity and security are among the core values that underscore America's progressive experience. We forget this because, for more than a quarter century, conservative strategists have effectively controlled political discourse, defining issues, laying claim to the moral high ground, demonizing words and concepts that once held honored places at our national table. The authors elaborated on several of these, including "liberal," "family values," "rule of law," "national security," "patriotism" and "life."

Lakoff calls "frames," the focus of much of his research, "the mental structures that allow human beings to understand reality - and sometimes to create what we take to be reality." Frames go beyond mere words, beyond politics, even beyond everyday awareness. These unseen constructs are crucial to an individual's worldview and will sway decision-making even when the person is faced with rational information to the contrary.

Progressive argumentation tends to assume that people respond to reason, which is not necessarily so. **Thinking Points** ends with a chapter aptly titled "The Art of Arguments."

The book was written for popular



consumption despite its academic veneer. Don't let a few big words or slightly convoluted concepts interfere with a quick and potentially inspiring read!

- Catherine D. Willis

here! Comedy Presents Kate Clinton

Kate Clinton

here! Comedy

This 2005 DVD was recorded live at the Lily Tomlin/Jane Wagner Cultural Arts Center.

The now much more slender and sleek Kate Clinton is personable, terse and ever-so-clever whilst sliding her needles into the political characters' balloons she is so willing to pierce.

As a Lesbianese stalwart, hardcore equal rights activist, she seems delighted to take on "the burning issues of the day:

same and same-old sex, marriage, pop and Pope culture, good and bad Bush fatigue. Her one-funny woman, stand-up performance will make you laugh until you think!

Kate serves up her take on politics with a fresh and enduring sense of revolution and a great side helping of 'very-naughty' that I find appealing. Her audience was a bit timid and "tender" in late 2005. Her observations are even more meaningful after the insensitivity of our administration's last two years.

Republicans are not her only targets. In a fast rhythmic rattle, she is quick to point out that many of our clueless "Democrats could see a picture of Bush, stark naked, going down on Cheney in the Lincoln Bedroom and not know what to do with it!" (Pa dump-bump.)

Her rambling and change-of-hormone patter is so quick and quirky that you can easily miss the subtle punch line or roll of the eyes that clinches her meandering soliloquy.

Kate Clinton may be the country's most prominent and respected lesbian comedienne. She has performed nationally since 1981, including several off-Broadway runs, countless live solo dates all over the country, comedy festivals, fund-raising events and most popular lesbian/gay cruise ships and resorts.

Her second book, **What the L?**, is currently in its fourth printing and was nominated in the humor category for the prestigious 2005 Lambda Literary Award. She writes monthly columns for The Progressive and The Advocate and has also written for The New York Times and George Magazine, among others.

Rent it before you buy it. For more on Kate, please visit www.kateclinton.com.



Get Into It

CAZWELL
Peace Bisquit/West End Records

Completely fun and quite refreshing, CAZWELL's debut features seven songs and eight remixes, and is about half excellent. The half I prefer is the "mini album," each of the songs gloriously retro and completely original. While the record label puts this in the "Electro-Pop" genre, there is really only one thing it can be called: rap. White Gay NYC rap, no less, filled with humor and sex and humor and drugs and humor and attitude. Did I mention humor?

The infectious rhythms taken from disco and '80s synth-pop make this album a definite booty shaker. But do not let that fool you. Over top those catchy beats are words worth catching. Opening track "I Buy My Socks On 14th Street" takes the Fresh Prince on a Hunter S. Thompsonesque ego binge across Manhattan on a quest for clean footwear.

"Watch My Mouth" is a dance floor-filling call to move. But that doesn't prepare you for the Prince-inspired funk of "The Sex That I Need (featuring Avenue D)," which is so wonderfully filthy it made even my jaded mind blush. And may I be perhaps the first to say it, thank the gods for a rap album which doesn't refer to women (or anyone) as "bitches and hos." That does not mean to suggest that the fairly hardcore language may not offend. Parents be warned, and teens be alerted.

This frank tour of urban gay life includes kicking a useless mooching boyfriend out the door ("Gettin' Over,") breaking off a one-night-stand which has continued far too long ("Do You Wanna Break Up?") and "transsexual siren" Amanda LePore nearly taking over on the title track. So far, so fabulous.

Which leads us to the "bonus" remix portion of the album. I am a huge fan of the art of the remix. Sadly, I do not find much artistry amongst these tracks. The Old School Mix of "I Buy My Socks On 14th Street" is a nice jazzy retake of the original, and Gomi's West 22nd Street Mix of "All Over Your Face" would sound AMAZING blasting out of a sophisticated club sound system. But the rest of the remixes are unimaginative at best, and completely dull at worst. Still, I have often waded through more than eight mixes before I find two worth keeping.

"Get Into It" is a great debut, er, mini-debut. At least he had the insight to release just seven great tracks rather than creating mediocre filler to pad out the album. Or perhaps I should read that previous paragraph one more time.

Check out CAZWELL online at www.cazwell.com.

Voila

Belinda Carlisle
Rykodisc

Who thinks these things up? Belinda Carlisle, ex Go-Go (look 'em up, kids, they're great,) ex "Heaven Is a Place on Earth" girl, suddenly decides to release an album of French popular and cabaret songs. She gathers around herself veteran producer and drummer John Reynolds (Indigo Girls, U2), bassist Clare Kenny (another Indigo Girls alum) and keyboardist Brian Eno (legend) to record this album. In French. Who greenlighted this project?

Certainly Rykodisc's reputation for releasing creative niche market music made it the perfect label for this hypnotic, startling work. With such a creative group in the studio, the music explodes outside any preconceptions.

It remains very French and at times quite traditional, as in the heartbreaking "Avec Le Temps." "Sous Le Ciel De Paris" becomes a strangely well-choreographed drunken street singalong. Eno's electronic textures bring "Des Ronds Dans L'eau" smoothly into the 21st century. And as for "La Vie En Rose?" It suffers a disco backbeat, but even that makes it feel somehow so very French. The adventure of this album is admirable, and quickly makes it an addictive listen.

The first release of this album includes a "Bonus CD en Anglais" that features four songs recorded in English. Unfortunately, the selections are mostly the more modern, radio-friendly style songs, which feel a bit flat after the melodrama of 60's Mod flavored "Contact" or the Tarantino-tinged "Jezebel." This is nearly forgotten during the over-the-top "Bonnie and Clyde," but even then, it just all seemed so much more "something" in French.

I do not speak French, nor understand it very well. But I used to have a boyfriend who would growl into my ear in French. He may have been reciting the shopping list for all I know, but it was so very... "something."

Voila is fascinating, sexy, sad and daring. It is a great glimpse into a world of interpretive singing which is largely unfamiliar in America outside of Broadway.

This album also has some of the great minds in modern music and recording shaping and remolding that world to fit today.

Bravo, Belinda!
Voila arrived on shelves February 6.



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

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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 Bonnie at 509/325-3637 for more information.

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

OUTSPOKANE IS LOOKING for community-minded people to help with the 2007 Pride
Call Christopher at 509/624-9639 for details on meeting the 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month.

22 - Housing For Rent

Beautiful 1913 Craftsman Home for rent on Spokane's lower South Hill. Please see ad on page 14.

31 - Help Wanted

PROJECT COORDINATOR - HIV PREVENTION PROGRAM. .75 FTE, requires volunteer coordination, meeting facilitation, collaboration, events planning, and community outreach. Must be able to work in a diverse

workplace with flexible hours. Some nights and weekends. Prefer some college but will consider a combination of experience and education. Compensation based on experience. Send resume to Spokane AIDS Network, 905 S. Monroe, Spokane, WA, 992042, attn. Monica Lahr or visit www.lilaccitymensproject.org.

44 - Travel

Montana



Cowboy Up Montana Roadhouse
Dinner & Bed

Your special GAY Hideaway in the beautiful mountains of western Montana!

Soft beds and gourmet meals! Only 2 hours from Spokane via I-90. Info at www.cowboyupmontana.com

Washington



Island Hideaway

Discover Whidwood On Whidbey Island, just 2 hours northwest of Seattle. Enjoy a hot-tub, library, sun-room and breakfast. Explore island shopping, parks, gardens & beaches. Info at www.whidwood.com

13 - Personal-General Services

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AROUND-the-world massage by 6-ft., 175-lb., 49, handsome, clean, muscular, willing to please, blue-eyed bottom masseur using latest technique and essential oils. Call Gary: (509) 889-9294.

Rates: Classified Ads are \$10 for up to 25 words. Each additional word is 25 cents. For a bold face headline, add \$1.50.

Payment Method: You may pay for your Classified Ad by check or money order via the US Postal Service or by credit card, debit card, or PayPal by mailing, E-mailing, or telephoning your information.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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FEBRUARY 7 - 28, 2007 CALENDAR

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

Spokane, WA

FEBRUARY

Wednesday, February 7th 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

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm **Vow To Take A Stand** (at Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane) This is an opportunity for our community to: come together, hear about exciting local, state and national plans in our work for equality and to have a chance to have your voices heard. Sponsors include: Equal Rights Washington, PRIDE Foundation, Inland NW Equality
Contact: Carla Brannan
Email: inwe@qwest.net
Phone: 838-7870

Thursday, February 8th

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, February 9th

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, February 10th

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, February 11th

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm **John Deen Memorial Celebration** (at Dempsey's Brass Rail)
In keeping with John Deen's wish for a no-frills nonreligious remembrance of him, an informal Celebration of John Deen will be held at Dempsey's Brass Rail. Dempsey's is opening early for the memorial celebration and is providing food. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Spokane Cancer Care, 601 South Sherman Street, Spokane, WA 99202. For updates, please check Stonewall's website at www.stonewallnews.net or contact: John Marshall 509-209-0312 or Mike Schultz 509-570-3750
publisher@stonewallnews.net
More Info: www.stonewallnews.net

Tuesday, February 13th

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm **RRCC Board Meeting** (at SAN)
Board meetings are open to the public, but please contact at least one week in advance with requests to be on the agenda. Meetings will be at SAN until further notice.
Contact: RRCC
Email: info@spokanerainbowcenter.org
Phone: 489-1914

Wednesday, February 14th Valentine's Day

11:30 am – 1:00 pm **INBA Luncheon** (at Europa Pizzeria) Guest speaker: Kim Thornburn, MD, MPH
Contact: INBA
Email: info@inbaspokane.org
Phone: 509-455-3699
More Info: <http://www.inbaspokane.org/>

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

8:00 pm – 11:00 pm **ISCS Valentines Show** (at Irv's)
This is an open Show, all are invited to Participate or to come and enjoy the Entertainment! Line up at 8 PM show at 9 PM
Contact: Emperor 31 Leonard
Email: ISCSEmperor31@aol.com
Phone: 509-953-7803

Thursday, February 15th

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, February 17th

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

8:00 pm – 1:00 am **Valentine's Ball!** (at Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane)
Giant Ass Drum Corp Presents its Third Annual Valentine's Ball! Semi-Formal/Formal Affair. A night of dance and romance for everyone in Spokane's GLBTO & friends community! Solo's encouraged to attend, you never know when Cupid may strike!
Special Features: Professional Photographer! 50/50 Drawing! Reserve a table: \$100 includes 8 tickets and a special table reserved for your party. Reserve early, tables are limited. Tickets: \$10.00 each. Bring your own Beer/Wine/Snacks (21+only).
Phone 466-1853

Sunday, February 18th

12:30 pm – 3:00 pm **Gay/Bi Men's Bowling Group** (at Northbow) Come hang out with the guys and bowl. Ten bucks gets you 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

Monday, February 19th President's Day

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, February 20th

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm **PFLAG Monthly Meeting** (at Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane) We meet the third Tuesday of every month at 7 PM. Our mission is to provide support, education and advocacy for GLBTO family and friends.
Contact: Tiina Buckaloo
Email: info@pflagspokane.org
More Info: www.pflagspokane.org

7:15 pm – 9:00 pm **OutSpokane Meeting** (at RiverPark Square) Meetings are the Kress Gallery on the 3rd floor of RiverPark Square located next to and behind the food gallery near the theater ticket outlets.
More Info: <http://www.outspokane.com>

Wednesday, February 21st Ash Wednesday
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, February 22nd

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, February 25th

4:30 pm **SAN 9th Annual Oscar Night Gala!** (at Davenport Hotel)
Doors open at 4:30pm, Awards Telecast 5:30pm, Elegant Plated Dinner 6:30pm. Special Honors to Outstanding Advocates: Mark Garrett and Dave Williams. Tickets \$125. Silent Auction. Formal evening attire recommended.
Phone: (509) 455-8993
<http://www.spokaneaidsnetwork.org/>

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

10:00 pm - 2:00 am **After Oscar Night Gala Party** (at Dempsey's)
After Hours Party with Auction Items all money raised benefits SAN and Dempseys Diva Show
Contact: Dempseys
Phone: 509-747-5362
More Info: www.dempseysBrassRail.net

Wednesday, February 28th

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

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

FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 11th

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, February 12th

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, February 18th

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)

Monday, February 19th

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

Thursday, February 22nd

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, February 25th

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, February 26th

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

Beautiful 1913 Craftsman Home for Rent

Spokane, Lower South Hill



More photos and info: www.stonewallnews.net/craftsmanhome.htm

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Whether you have cocktails and meet new friends at Irv's or party until the wee hours at Dempsey's Brass Rail, you can have fun! Spend the night at The Montvale,, have lunch at Wild Sage and dinner & live theater at CenterStage. Check out the wide selection of books including an alternative section at Auntie's Bookstore and be sure to pick up your Inland Northwest Business Alliance Directory... everywhere!

Welcome to Spokane!

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3 The Fotheringham House B&B
2128 W 2nd Ave (509) 838-1891
www.FotheringhamHouse.com

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7 CenterStage
1017 W 1st Ave (509) 74-STAGE
www.spokanecenterstage.com

15 InterPlayers
174 S Howard St (509) 455-PLAY
www.interplayers.com

16 Spokane Civic Theatre
1020 N Noward St (509) 325-2507
www.spokanecivictheatre.com

BARS & CLUBS

1 Dempsey's Brass Rail
909 W 1st Ave (509) 747-5362
www.dempseysbrassrail.net

2 Irv's Bar
415 W Sprague (509) 624-4450

BOOK STORES

5 Auntie's Bookstore
402 W Main Ave (509) 838-0206
www.auntiesbooks.com
Hours: Mon-Sat 9am-9pm, Sun 11am-6pm

6 Best Buy Adult Books
123 E Sprague Ave (509) 536-7001
2425 E Springfield (509) 624-7522

COFFEE HOUSES

Rocket Bakery
10 1325 W 1st Ave (509) 747-1834
11 24 W Main Ave (509) 835-3647
12 157 S Howard St (509) 838-3887

DINING PLACES

4 Wild Sage American Bistro
916 W 2nd Ave (509) 456-7575
www.wildsagebistro.com/

7 CenterStage
1017 W 1st Ave (509) 74-STAGE
www.spokanecenterstage.com

8 Europa Pizzeria
126 S Wall St (509) 455-4051

9 Satellite Diner
425 W Sprague Ave (509) 624-3952

CASINOS

18 Northern Quest Casino
N 100 Hayford Rd, Airway Heights
(509) 242-7000 www.northernquest.com



I-957
continued from Front Page

If passed by Washington voters, the Defense of Marriage Initiative I-957 would:

- Add the phrase, "who are capable of having children with one another" to the legal definition of marriage;
- Require that couples married in Washington file proof of procreation within three years of the date of marriage or have their marriage automatically annulled;
- Require that couples married out of state file proof of procreation within three years of the date of marriage or have their marriage classed as "unrecognized;"
- Establish a process for filing proof of procreation; and
- Make it a criminal act for people in an unrecognized marriage to receive marriage benefits.

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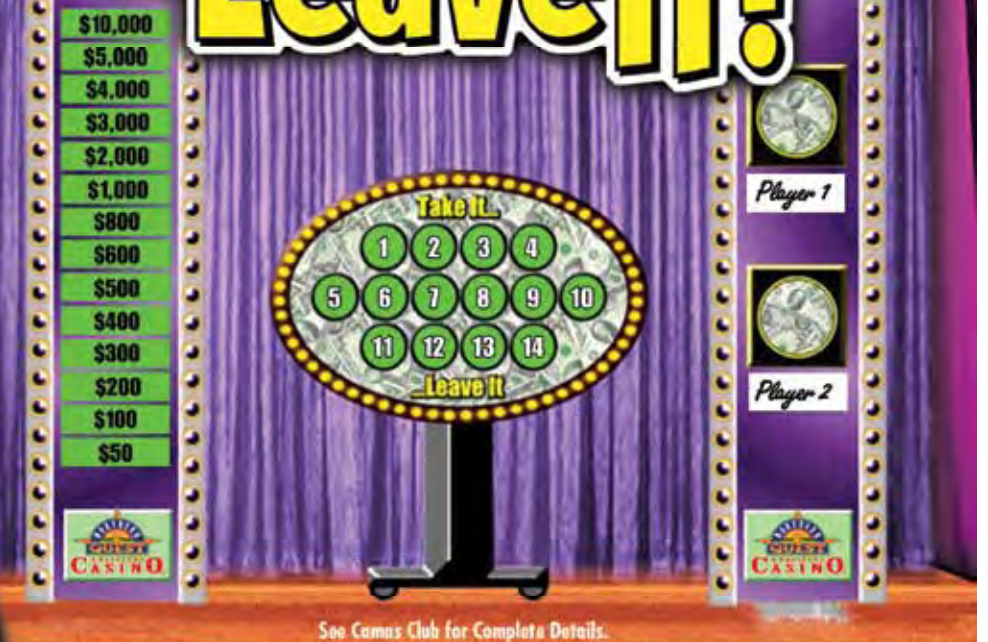
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February 3

Beginning
February 1

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**Brad
Garrett**



February 17

**Paul
Anka**
March 1



**BIG GAME
PARTY**



Sunday, Feb. 4
IN THE PEND OREILLE PAVILION



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All events are 18 years and older unless specified.