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STONEWALL News Northwest

Serving the GLBTQA Community of the Pacific Northwest since 1992

Annual Oscar Gala nets more than awards



Oscar Boys Patrick Thomas, left, and John Smith, center, collect payment for a raffle ticket for a week long vacation in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico at SAN's Oscar Gala.

Photo by Steve Dawson

Spokane AIDS Network (SAN) 9th Annual Oscar Night Gala at the Davenport Hotel on Feb 25th held true to its form. An evening of charity and

elegance, emceed by Mark Peterson and Debra Wilde, included fine dining, silent and live auctions of donated items, four large ceiling dropped projection screens

telecasting the Oscars, and an Oscar Post

Please see OSCARS page 2

More Oscars Photos on page 10

WA Domestic Partnerships Bill Passes Senate

By Jim Jones
Special to Stonewall News Northwest

A small yet significant step was made in Washington State last week towards legally recognizing same-sex relationships. The Senate passed SB 5336, the domestic partnership registry bill. SB 5336 grants just a few of the 300 or so rights granted to heterosexual married couples in Washington State. The bill creates a registry for same sex couples and grants those who are registered the right to visit their domestic partner in the hospital, to make medical decisions and to inherit when no will has been made.

The debate on the senate floor was typical; the Republican from Arlington, Val Stevens, tried to link these few rights to the old "slippery slope" fallacy of "this will lead to bestiality, necrophilia and incest."

During debate, Senator Brian Weinstein, D-Mercer Island said it best:

"I don't believe this bill is about bombs exploding. I don't believe this bill is about having sex with dead people or having sex with animals. What this bill is about is whether or not two people who love each other and have a committed relationship with each other can merely file a form with the Secretary of State and have the state recognize that union and give them just some of the rights that married people have. My good friend (Sen. James Hargrove, D-Hoquiam), who just said that this bill discriminates against married people - No it doesn't, because married people already have all these rights."

The most memorable quote came

from the bill's sponsor, Ed Murray "You have prevented us from marrying; please do not prevent us from caring for each other." The bill passed 28 to 19 and is expected to have the support of the House as well. Governor Gregoire has said she will sign it into law as soon as it reaches her desk.

This is a small step towards marriage equality in Washington State, but it is still a far cry from full marriage equality. Only Federal recognition can grant the right to file joint tax returns, travel freely as a married couple and all of the other 1200 rights that most heterosexuals take for granted. In addition, rights granted by the domestic partnership registry will



One of the prime sponsors of the domestic partnership bill, SB 5336, Sen. Ed Murray.

not be recognized in a state that has a "Defense of Marriage" amendment to its constitution. Twenty-nine states are still free from these amendments.

Local ex-gay ministry forms

By Joyce Crosby
Special to Stonewall News Northwest

The Greater Spokane Association of Evangelicals (GSAE) is forming a new transformational ministry, CPR Outreach, which according to its mission statement, is dedicated to "preventing homosexuality and restoring those caught in the lifestyle through the power of Jesus Christ."

There are no less than a dozen mental health professionals in Spokane County who practice reparative therapy in an effort to "deliver" their clients from the "homosexual lifestyle." This therapy is in blatant opposition to the American Psychological Association's official statement on the issue: *The potential risks of 'reparative therapy' are great, including depression, anxiety and self-destructive behavior, since therapist*

alignment with societal prejudices against homosexuality may reinforce self-hatred already experienced by the patient.

There are also "transformational ministries" that claim by using "reparative or conversion therapy," they can turn a gay man or lesbian into a heterosexual. However, American Psychological Association President Rodrigo Muñoz, M.D countered, "There is no scientific evidence that reparative or conversion therapy is effective in changing a person's sexual orientation." He added, "There is, however, evidence that this type of therapy can be destructive."

In addition to the ministries, several local churches offer ex-gay support groups that reinforce the idea that all people are born heterosexual; therefore GLBT people are defective or sick and

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Fly your Flags on Fridays!

Spokane & Regional



Photo by Steve Dawson

Attendees seated in the Grand Pennington Ballroom for fine dining and the Oscars telecast. Adjacent is the Hall of Doges (seen on page 10) where items auctioned contributed to the estimated \$20,000 in total auction income. Ticket sales generated another \$29,095, added to \$25,000 in corporate sponsorships, brought the total dollars raised for SAN at this year's gala to \$75,000. The money raised at this annual event represents more than half of all of SAN's annual fundraising income, and approximately 14% of SAN's total annual budget.

OSCARS *continued from FRONT PAGE*

Party hosted by Dempseys' Brass Rail. Attendance, however, was down to 325 from the sellout of 400 the previous year. "Last year was an amazing event", notes SAN Board Vice President, Jim Jones, "because we sold out for the first time. Typically we see 300 to 380 so this is more of an average year."

This year's special honorees went to Mark Garrett and Dave Williams, both with SAN, "for their years and years of selfless contributions to the Agency – be through their hundreds of volunteer hours, personal dollars contributed or the incredible love and graciousness they have shared with our clients, staff and the entire community," Jones stated, adding "It is always amazing to me that when we are walking the fine line of providing

service and acquiring resources for those living with HIV and AIDS, our community always steps forward and gives in one form or the other. We could not do it without our community. A simple 'thank you' seems inadequate to express our sincerest appreciation and gratitude to our community members for making our mission possible."

More Oscars Photos on page 10

EX-GAY *continued from FRONT PAGE*

need to be "cured." The tactics these groups employ, which are similar to those used by cults, are often excruciatingly painful and can lead to depression, anxiety, sexual dysfunction and stress-related illnesses. In addition, keeping up the heterosexual charade requires intensive, often daily, use of the group's reparative therapy and other tactics, which may include being told that they are inferior and will burn in hell for being gay, extensive daily prayer, isolation, fasting, exorcism, 12-step programs and aversion therapy.

With a dozen mental health professionals poised to make ex-gays out of anyone who will buy into their "reparative therapy," CPR Outreach, with two ex-lesbians on the steering committee, wants to pray homosexuals out of existence. Their website proclaims, "As churches address the issue of the Homosexual Agenda, they must hold up two hands. One hand signals 'STOP! In the name of Christian Truth,' and the other hand signals, 'Let us help you up & out.'"

Stonewall News attempted to contact two of the board members of CPR Outreach's Steering Committee. John Tusan, Executive Director of GSAE, did not respond. Paula Cullen, Executive Director, Life Services, stated, "I'm not an expert on this topic. Others have more expertise than me, as well as a personal investment in this issue. I have a heart for strugglers and want to see the church involved in outreach to homosexuals and their loved ones. While I'm on the board of CPR, facilitating the start-up of this new ministry, my role has been to provide administrative support so that CPR is established on a solid foundation."

Stonewall then requested contact information for the board members who had more expertise or personal investment. Cullen did not respond.

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GLBTQ community responds to CPR Outreach

By Joyce Crosby
Special to Stonewall News Northwest

Ramon Alvarez, Executive Director, Odyssey Youth Center, expressed the outrage felt by many LGBTQA leaders concerning the formation of CPR Outreach. (See *"Local ex-gay ministry forms"* on Front Page). "They have a document and strategy based on stereotypes and some of the most skewed statistics and outright misinformation. It also looks like their potential client list is full of folks in the LGBT community who are in obvious pain and targets them for "conversion" to heterosexuality. We should not tolerate the stereotyping, fear mongering and targeting of people who are in some of the most vulnerable times in their lives."

Timothy Anderson, a resident of rural Pend Orielle County, reports that, "I am an 'ex' ex-gay guy. In fact, my participation in Homosexuals Anonymous meetings was required for me to remain enrolled

at the Lutheran Bible Institute of Seattle. (Now Trinity College)." Later, during his senior year at Seattle Pacific University, Anderson stopped attending homosexuals anonymous "because it just seemed no one ever found serenity. The guys and gals would hook up after meetings, and then the following week there'd be a guilt fest, and all this misery... for what? Living in suspension, waiting on a 'recovery' that for most never came?"

Often, when youth begin to realize they are gay they feel a plethora of conflicting emotions: excitement of sexual discovery, attraction, confusion, isolation and fear that family, friends and even God will hate them. Anderson, whose father was a conservative minister stated, "I would be the Preacher's Gay Kid. Worse than a drug user, worse than getting the choir director's daughter pregnant, worse than becoming the lead

Please see CPR page 15

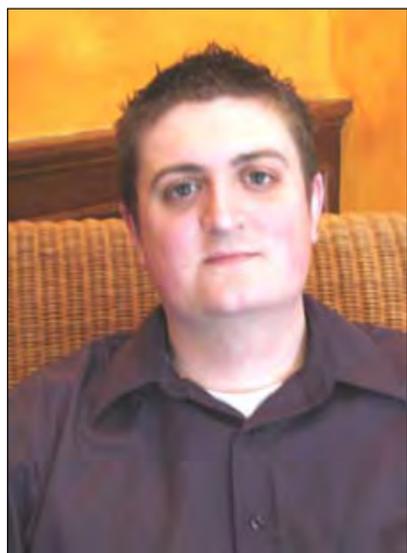
LCS SAFeT offers help

Spokane disproportionately high in hate crimes

By Joyce Crosby
Special to Stonewall News Northwest

Lutheran Community Service's (LCS) Sexual Assault & Family Trauma (SAFeT) Response Center is now offering assistance to victims and witnesses of all crimes. The new program that began in April 2006 "allows us to provide advocacy—to provide all of our services in fact—to victims of crimes ranging from identity theft to being injured by a drunk driver to robbery, not just victims of sex assault" explained Victims Rights Response Team outreach specialist Grant Stancliff, 26, "Services are also available to survivors of a loved ones homicide or suicide."

"The Victims Rights Response Team is placing a heavy emphasis on hate crimes, because victims of hate crimes are attacked on a very personal level, at the core of their identity, for something they cannot change, with fifteen percent of hate crimes statewide based on sexual orientation," Stancliff, who has a BA in Philosophy and Comparative Ethnic Studies, elaborated. "Hate crimes are particularly heinous because they are intended to impact the whole community."



Grant Stancliff serves as Victims Rights Response Team outreach specialist with Lutheran Community Service's (LCS) Sexual Assault & Family Trauma (SAFeT) Response Center

According to Stancliff, Spokane County has seven percent of Washington's population but experienced twenty percent of the state's hate crimes in 2005. Of the 229 hate crimes reported to police in 2005, "Spokane County (population 400,000) had 43 of them, compared to King County (population 1.7 million)

Please see LCS page 15

EWU GLBTQ Survey to determine community needs

A research project by two Eastern Washington University social work students may help determine future programming for the new Spokane-based LGBT community center.

Students Heather Veeder and Nicole Williams have written the EWU GLBTQ Research Survey to identify community needs and assist the board of the center's reorganization efforts in focusing their efforts.

The survey, which is a project of the two students in their second year of study in the Master's in Social Work program, was originally conceived as an effort to organize the community after the closing of the old community center. After talking to some board members, they realized that reorganization efforts were already underway, and the survey was an ideal way to complement those efforts. The survey is currently online, and can be accessed by clicking on a link on www.spokanerainbowcenter.org.

"We are so appreciative of the work that Nikki and Heather have done toward getting this survey off the ground," says Cat Carrel, chair of the board that is overseeing the reorganization of the

center. "Our hope is that the community will support their project and in turn, the future Center, by giving us valuable information about meaningful services. In talking to the community over the last year, we know that our future focus will be education, advocacy and wellness, but this survey narrows it down to specific programming suggestions," Carrel adds.

The Center's board had a successful board retreat in January, and will roll out the new center's vision, mission, web site and name in the second quarter of 2007. Fundraising efforts are still underway to open at a new location, and the current goal is to have the doors open by Pride weekend.

"We know that people are anxiously awaiting the opening of our new location," Carrel says. "We want to do this the right way, with money in the bank and a firm handle on what we will be offering in terms of programming and resources. That way, we will be setting ourselves up for success instead of constantly operating in emergency mode," she adds.

For more information, contact Cat Carrel at catcarrel@spokanerainbowcenter.org.

QHP Timeline Develops

Tincan joins with Odyssey and MAC on QHP; Youths take lead in search for LGBT artifacts



Volunteers comb through archives on Feb 9th at Joel E. Ferris Research Library in the Cheney Cowles Center in Spokane

By Joyce Crosby
Special to Stonewall News Northwest

Today and Yesterday: A Century of LGBT Faces in the Inland Northwest, also known as the Queer History Project (QHP), has partnered with The Inland Northwest Community Access Network (TINCAN). TINCAN is a local nonprofit that provides education and support for social, economic and community development for the Inland Northwest

Region through the use of information technology and interactive media. TINCAN

houses the Inland Northwest Memories Project (INMP), a regional online database for sharing historical documents and resources. TINCAN's Virtual Teen Center is also assisting Odyssey on the project. Memorabilia donated to QHP will be archived at the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture (MAC), and their photos posted on INMP, where they can be accessed by the community. QHP interviews, meanwhile, will be posted on TINCAN's Oral History site.

According to Maureen Nickerson, coordinator of QHP, "The purpose of QHP is to establish an archive where future researchers can go to find items collected through the project. The project

has several phases. Phase One, the Historical Figures Exhibit at Odyssey, is nearing completion." Phase Two involves compiling information and gathering donations as well as posting oral histories on TINCAN's website. The primary task of Phase Three is placing all of the historical artifacts in QHP's repository at the MAC.

In reference to the importance of QHP for our youth, Karen Michaelson, Executive Director of TINCAN, said,

"Help us to give our youth the gift of their past."

-Maureen Nickerson

"The project will not only catalog significant events in the history of the GLBT community in the region, but will also shed light on the experience of living as a gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender person in the Inland Northwest." Michaelson continued, "To me, the QHP is important because every group, whether ethnic, social, gender, needs to know its history. This is particularly true for groups that have historically suffered discrimination. Knowing one's history helps one to understand the roots of current issues, the struggles of the past, and the figures that have made important contributions to change in public attitudes."

A flyer announcing the recent

Please see QHP page 4

Odyssey youths help QHP

Odyssey Youth Katya Madden and Nat Wall, both 19 and both SFCC students, are unpaid QHP interns at TINCAN. Nickerson stated, "They spend 5-10 hours per week helping in the interview process, conducting research of past LGBT figures as well as verifying the names and events we learn about through the

interview process. They also assist with archiving materials donated to the QHP repository at the MAC and obtaining and uploading collections to the INMP online archive."

Hannah Whitmore, Virtual Teen Center Media Integration Coordinator invited interested students to "receive training in gathering oral histories and digital archiving through an internship with TINCAN."



L-R: Maureen Nickerson, Katya Madden and Nat Wall

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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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All Proceeds will stay in Spokane to help people with HIV & AIDS

QHP

continued from PAGE 3

February 9 QHP research party invited participants to examine "the crime logs of Spokane's seedy past in search of our queer ancestors." A dozen volunteers spent four hours culling the archives in the Joel E. Ferris Research Library in the Cheney Cowles Center, 2316 W. First Avenue in Spokane's Browne's Addition. "The party was a smashing success!" said Nickerson. "We looked for key words like 'morals charges' and articles about cross dressers." The volunteer researchers, including several LGBTQA youth from Odyssey, discovered several newspaper articles relevant to Spokane's LGBT history.

But interested individuals don't need to wait for the next research party to become involved in LGBT research. There is a QHP volunteer sign in sheet at Ferris Research Library on the MAC campus, and a digital camera is available for QHP volunteers to photograph any references to LGBT history that they find.

At the request of MAC historians, QHP volunteers are also putting together a historical timeline chronicling LGBT events in the Inland Northwest. "The timeline is really putting things in perspective," Nickerson commented. "The first entry is Qangon, a Kootenai Indian woman who was married to another woman and acted as a guide for trappers and explorers. She begins to appear in their journals in 1811. Then it skips forward to Dr. Alan Hart, a female to male transgender physician who was married and lived in Spokane for a time in the 1930s."

When asked what items she would most like to discover for inclusion in QHP, Nickerson replied, "Information on the Gay Liberation Front! It amazes me that such an organization existed in Spokane in the 1970s." She added, "I would love to get my hands on t-shirts and posters and any kind of art from the early movement. That is an area of personal interest."

Nickerson went on, "If I can get a few more volunteers, I would love to hold a workshop to train interested individuals on the interview process and conducting research so that members of the community can take the initiative to gather artifacts and oral histories." Currently, she is working on putting the infrastructure in place so that QHP will be self-perpetuating. With a look of satisfaction Nickerson proclaimed, "It is going quite well."

However, Nickerson emphasized how important it is for the community to start keeping scrapbooks and collecting memorabilia from the present day, so that in ten years' time the events of today can be added to the MAC's QHP repository. "If people have boxes of stuff that they have been storing, that they want to give back to the community, this would be the perfect opportunity because it would go to the museum, which is a public community resource," Nickerson said. "People keep telling me things like that 'Oh I need to give back to the community.' Well this is it! Bequests are also a possibility for those who wish to hold onto their memorabilia."

"Help us to give our youth the gift of their past."

CORRECTION

Feb 21, 2007 Stonewall issue, Page 2, article "ERW organizes Vow to Take a Stand" incorrectly referred to Diane Ballantz. Her correct name is Marge Ballantz. Additionally, in the same article, Ballantz was identified as a plaintiff in the "Anderson -v- Washington" lawsuit. The article should have instead referred to Ballantz as one of the plaintiffs in the "Castle -v- Washington" lawsuit.

Cody

By Tim Anderson
Part 1 of 3

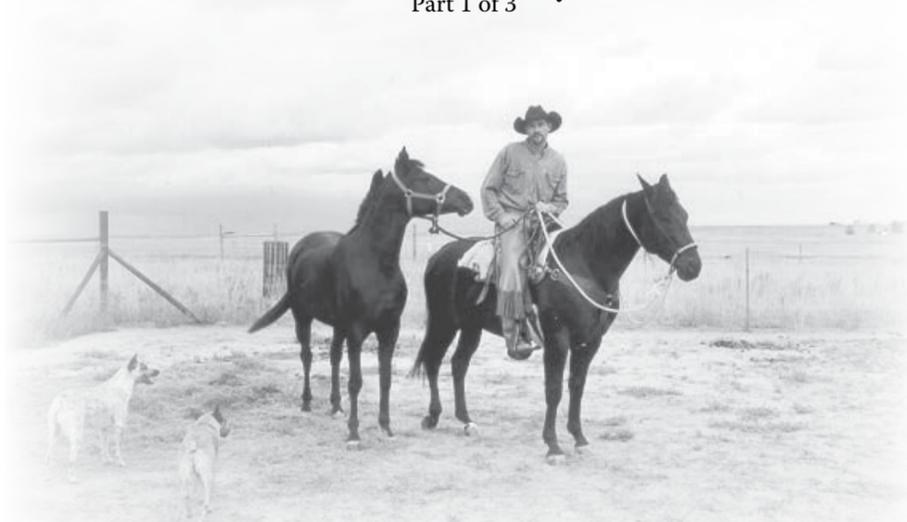
This year marks the 20th anniversary of essays I've written for the gay community. During all that time, especially via my former trucking career, I've been fortunate to meet many fascinating people. In 1992, I crossed paths with one such remarkable individual, a stir crazy, handsome, closeted cowboy 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 letters mostly arrive without warning. Random. Glorious. Haunting. Written in fits and starts, narrating history uneasily replicated in this day and age. His tough luck experience ratio speaks louder than any phrasing. The constant struggle between the usefulness and uselessness of words is his juggling act. When thoughts are on the table, words pin a person down and create boundaries and definition—often the Achilles heel of the free spirited. So it's possible when reading one of his letters to read contradiction and harmony in the same sentence.

It's always been that way over the 15 years I've known Cody. Of all the people I've written about, none has come close to equaling the response that Cody inspired in readers. Independence, love of freedom and courage are a natural draw. Yet the romantic wildness that draws readers toward him is also, by definition, the same untamed spirit that is difficult to contain and satiate. Men like Cody, living by a code of "Don't Fence Me In", speak the dialect of "Wide Open Spaces". Often they are far easier to read than they are to partner or cul de sac.

The Cody's of the Front Range and the American Outback exist outside of definition's convenience. Defying the social codes of the in-between landscapes that pass for rural and frontier census categories, their lives hardly mirror those of their exiled



Cody

urban counterparts. They've always lived in the silent spaces, battling loneliness and the temptations of easier lives. Weighing the benefits of rural spaces paired against the glorified opportunities and group acceptance provided by pride parades, puffy lofts, and high cost credentials that could have followed their names.

Yet Cody is educated and traveled. He's worn many hats. Trucker, Western Artist. Sometimes former Roughstock Rider, sometimes unintentional current one. Depending on the most recent injury list, his resume also includes rancher, caretaker, horse trainer, soul mender and jerry rigging mechanic. He's been with men; been with women; loved both.

Born on a Northern Idaho ranch, Cody spent part of his teenage years back east. Somewhere in all that transient mix, the cowboy began wrestling with sexual orientation. Joining the military, he eventually became charged with overseeing 39 agencies on base. After being stationed overseas, for all his trouble dedicating his life to Uncle Sam, he still got sucked into an anti-gay witch hunt. A letter was intercepted and everything about his personal life became the subject of an investigation. The scars from that ordeal still sting—his version of don't ask, don't tell was his way long before it became standard operating procedure.

When I first met Cody, he was in the service, still riding rodeo bulls, saddlebrons and competition bareback—both in and out of the military. Later, after an honorable discharge, he began years of working on ranches throughout the Intermountain West, often for wealthy, mostly absent owners—men who liked the idea of

owning space but not getting their fingernails dirty.

If life experience is a possible literary platform, his version of independence will launch a reader just about anywhere. His earnest kitchen table journals represent a unique discourse with the universe. Written in HBO Deadwood-speak starkness, his dialect ruffles the spaces between conflict, certainty and serenity. Sometimes he writes of the road, postcards from a place of perpetual motion. Trucking runs already late before you got started—a dance that incorporates the infinite place of movement and stillness in life. Sometimes, he journals about the art of straddling age 45. Battling the tug-of-war between putting down roots and the draw of nomadic travels, he recognizes that both can have the strongest hold on a man.

"Ended up running out to Gunnison, Colorado Wednesday when I left out. Quit just outside of Telluride that night. Camped out there along the road. The stars were something else! I thought I was in heaven for a minute or two. Dark, dark, high elevation night sky. Steep, steep mountains up there. Makes ya dizzy just looking up. With the river running alongside the road there, it just rocked me to sleep. Like a big old baby! Trucking works good for me right now. I was up and about way before the town of Telluride. So I walked around in the early morning ghost town, that mix of past, present and future, I suppose. Waiting for the hardware store to open so I could unload. Then I ran Montrose, Hotchkins, and Clifford, Colorado. Grabbed some chow in Cameo, fueled up and headed back toward home. Now, I'm just hanging here at the fort. Me and Jack Daniels

just taking a break."

From his kitchen table, as he sits and sorts out the world, maybe he'll read Cormac McCarthy's "The Crossing" by candlelight. That fading velvet Western wallpaper to his back, stick pinned with pictures of horses, cowboys, and people that he's loved. Maybe there'll be music playing. Sting. Gary Allen. Or Marty Robbins and the soundtrack from "All the Pretty Horses". There'll be the dogs wanting in. The dogs wanting out. Maybe this letter's written as his encouragement to bring on midnight. Or, written as a heartfelt salute to the copper red sunrise inching over the plains and lighting the Rockies.

Some letters get composed in the middle of his taking a break from working the latest charity horses. Or maybe he's just quit trying to wear out the bad-appled, bad-habited horses, the one's that against his better judgment he took on and tried to save. Maybe there are still chores to be done, or he's putting off a grocery run forty miles back into town. Maybe he'll have nothing on the agenda but his thoughts.

"Some nights it's kinda' fun to go back to those days, for a minute or two. I pass by Pasco and Polo Ranch from a distance every so often. I can recall times it felt like I'd died and went to heaven there. Other times were pure hell. Still makes me ache to look back. Growing pangs? I try to sort out and hold on to the best images. I miss the other ranch hands. The land. The horses, especially. But not the working conditions. Now, things are going just fine and I'm starting to get a feel for the road again. It's good to see old familiar places. Boy, it's amazing how many stories and events play through my heart and soul. I've covered some ground-lived, died, gave and tried. So here I am plowing along, and I think, 'Dang I should have been more worn and torn than I am.' When it's all said and done I've been richly blessed overall."

Please see Part 2 in the next March 21st issue of Stonewall News Northwest



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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Romney criticizes McCain and Giuliani on gay rights

Presidential hopeful attempts to explain his past gay support



Former Gov. Mitt Romney of Massachusetts, at a rally last November in Boston against equal marriage.

(AP) Republican Mitt Romney assailed his two leading presidential rivals Thursday, March 1st, criticizing John McCain and Rudy Giuliani on their positions on gay rights.

In an interview with the Christian Broadcasting Network, the former

Massachusetts governor criticized Giuliani for his moderate stands on abortion, gays and gun control — even though Romney expressed similar views in previous campaigns.

In the interview posted on the CBN website, Romney said of Giuliani: "He is pro-choice, he is pro-gay marriage and anti-gun. That's a tough combination in a Republican primary."

He also criticize McCain for opposing a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage.

In Utah, McCain responded, saying: "I believe in the sanctity of marriage between a man and a woman, but I believe the states should decide."

In his criticisms, Romney drew renewed scrutiny to his own past positions.

In previous campaigns, Romney has said that regardless of his own personal beliefs, abortion should be safe and legal. He changed his position about two years ago and now describes himself as "pro-life." In 1994, he wrote a letter promising a gay Republican group he would be a stronger advocate for gays and their

Please see ROMNEY page 15

Year-old debt puts Seattle gay-pride event in jeopardy

If it isn't paid, Center won't allow festival



Seattle Gay Pride 2006 festival at the Seattle Center

By Kery Murkami
Seattle Post-Intelligencer

SEATTLE, Wash. Moving Seattle's gay pride parade and festival downtown from Capitol Hill last year was supposed to make it bigger and better. But debt stemming from the 2006 festival has

raised questions about this year's event.

The Seattle Center says organizers of the annual parade and festival still haven't paid the \$96,000 owed to the Center for last year's three-day fest, and Center officials told organizers Seattle Out and Proud in February that they

Please see SEATTLE page 15



Rainbow flags on 19th Street in Castro District

S.F.'s Castro district faces an identity crisis

As straights move in, some fear loss of the area's character

By Wyatt Buchanan
Staff Writer, San Francisco Chronicle

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. To walk down San Francisco's Castro Street -- where men casually embrace on sidewalks in the shadow of an enormous rainbow flag -- the neighborhood's status as "gay Mecca" seems obvious.

But up and down the enclave that has been a symbol of gay culture for more than three decades, heterosexuals are moving in. They have come to enjoy some of the same amenities that have attracted the neighborhood's many gay and lesbian residents: charming houses, convenient public transportation, safe streets and nice weather.

The integration of gay and straight is increasingly evident not only in the Castro District but across North America, from Chicago to New York City to Toronto, where urban revitalization is bringing new residents at the same time some gays are settling in other parts of cities or the suburbs -- such as the East Bay.

But some gay and lesbian residents

of the Castro are worried that the culture and history of their world-famous neighborhood could be lost in the process, and they have started a campaign to preserve its character. The city, meanwhile, is spending \$100,000 on a plan aimed at keeping the area's gay identity intact.

Heterosexuals "are welcome as long as they understand this is our community," said Adam Light, a leader in the Castro Coalition, a group formed eight months ago to address the shifts in the neighborhood in recent years.

In San Francisco, the line between the Castro and nearby Noe Valley has blurred, said Aldo Congi, a San Francisco native and vice president of McGuire Real Estate who has sold property in the city since 1979. In the 1970s, the gay revolution in the Castro was shocking to straight people, including him.

"There used to be demarcation, where straight families would want to be in Noe and gay families or couples in the Castro," Congi said. "I think it's much

Please see SAN FRANCISCO page 15

Senior housing for gays announced in Oakland

First generation of *out* seniors refuse to go back into the closet for retirement

By Quynh Tran
Contra Costa Times

OAKLAND, Calif. Inspired by Armistead Maupin's landmark series "Tales of the City," Oakland's Barbary Lane will become the first of its kind in the country to offer a senior residential community for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered individuals and couples.

The 46-unit building, announced

today, is slated to open this fall, complete with a glass-enclosed terrace dining room with views of Lake Merritt to be named after Anna Madrigal, the landlady character in Maupin's tales.

The project is the nexus of the growing elderly population and the large gay community in the Bay Area.

"This is the first generation of seniors that are out," said David Latina, president

Please see OAKLAND page 15

Hawaii civil unions plan goes nowhere

House panel declines to vote

HONOLULU (AP) Hawaii lawmakers effectively killed a proposal to create civil unions for gay couples by declining to vote on the legislation.

More than 100 people packed the House Judiciary Committee hearing Tuesday, Feb 27th, many waving pink signs reading, "Civil Unions. Equal protection, justice for all." At least 400 people submitted extensive written or oral testimony.

After five hours of testimony, though, the committee declined to vote. Representatives offered little explanation to the public, but it was a sign that the bill lacked enough support to become law.

Civil unions had been suggested as a way for the state to sidestep a controversy over gay marriage, but they proved to be nearly as contentious.

Please see HAWAII page 15

Gay-wedding photos back at N.Y. restaurant

Cosi rehanga photos after gay rally

NEW ROCHELLE, N.Y. (AP) An exhibit of same-sex marriage photos that was ordered removed from a Westchester County restaurant on Wednesday, Feb 28th, was allowed to go back up hours later.

The decision to rehang the 37 photo-collages at a Cosi restaurant came after a closed-door meeting between officials of the restaurant chain and the Empire State Pride Agenda, an advocacy group that organized the monthlong exhibit.

After it went up on Monday, the eatery reportedly received several complaints about the photos, which show gay and lesbian couples and their friends and families. They are part of a

Please see NEW YORK page 12

City fires city manager who plans sex-change operation

500 people attend city hall meeting



The crowd at the Tuesday, Feb 27th, meeting filled the commission chambers and other rooms at city hall, including the lobby.

LARGO, Fla. (AP) Steve Stanton loved this city he ran for 14 years. Recently, he asked the city to love him back - to accept his plans to pursue sex-change operation and let him keep his \$140,000 job as city manager.

It didn't. Almost 500 people packed into City Hall Tuesday night, Feb 27th, for a special meeting to decide if they would accept Susan instead of Steve as their top official.

And while many spoke eloquently in his defense, more called for his ouster.

"If Jesus was here tonight, I can guarantee you he'd want him terminated," said Pastor Ron Saunders of Largo's

Lighthouse Baptist Church. "Make no mistake about it."

At the end of the 3 1/2 hour meeting, the City Commission voted 5-2 to begin the legal process of firing Stanton, only a week after he was forced to reveal his secret by a local newspaper. He is on paid leave while the city begins the legal process to end his contract. He can appeal and the commission must vote again to formally fire him.

Transgender activists on Wednesday called Stanton's firing a "shameful display of ignorance and bias." But they suggested Largo's quick decision to fire a respected government

Please see LARGO page 11

"If Jesus was here tonight, I can guarantee you he'd want him terminated. Make no mistake about it"

-Pastor Ron Saunders
Largo's Lighthouse Baptist Church.



Steve Stanton walks out of the commission chambers, while commissioner Mary Black, not pictured, discusses the wording on the amendment to fire him. Largo's motto, "City of Progress", embellishes the wall mounted seal behind the commissioners.

Gay rights bills introduced in Oregon

Measures would provide for civil unions, bar anti-gay discrimination

SALEM, Ore. (AP) Bills that would create civil unions and ban discrimination based on sexual orientation were formally introduced Monday, Feb 26th, in Salem, setting the stage for a broad discussion of gay rights at the state Capitol.

One of the bills would establish a Vermont-style civil unions system in Oregon, allowing same-sex couples some

of the legal protections and rights given to opposite-sex married couples.

The bill includes a requirement that couples who enter into civil unions live in Oregon for a certain amount of time, and would allow a same-sex couple to enter a civil union via a contract, instead

Please see OREGON page 11

See what's new at Dempsey's



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- Dance 'til 4 AM with DJ Scotty!
- Dempsey's Divas at 10 PM and Midnight!



SAT

- \$5 cover charge after 9 PM
- Dance 'til 4 AM with DJ Scotty!
- Dempsey's Divas at 10 PM and Midnight!



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- Pitchers of PBR beer only \$3



MON

- Karaoke hosted by "Don't Be Shy Karaoke Company" 9 PM—1 AM



TUE

- Men's Night: with 360Presents.com and ClubChannel1.com Videos and free appetizers 8 PM—10 PM



WED

- Steak & Bake Dinner Night: only \$6.95
- Karaoke hosted by "Don't Be Shy Karaoke Company" 9 PM—1 AM



THU

- College Night: Happy Hour all night with college ID
- Movie Night: watch a new release DVD at 10 PM and enter to win 2 free tickets to Regal movie theaters
- Pitchers of PBR beer only \$3



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Christopher Lawrence, A & E Editor

All My Sons Transcends Time at Civic



L-R: Damon C. Mentzer as Chris Keller, Wes Deitrich as Joe Keller, Kathleen Malcolm as Kate Keller, Kari Mueller as Ann Deever and Steven Giaier as George Deever toast their hopes and dreams and the unpleasant destiny that awaits them all.

First produced on Broadway in 1947, this Arthur Miller classic has weathered the years fairly well. Some of the humor is a bit down-home-small-town-America, but the story line and the political/humanist theme, are still timely with our new war raging on in the Middle East, and our families still being impacted.

This story unfolds on several levels at once. The Keller family lost a son in the war. His grieving mother (Kathleen Malcolm), father (Wes Deitrich) and surviving brother (Damon C. Mentzer) process their survival guilt in disparate ways with little honest communication or comfort to each other.

Chris, the brother who still lives, has fallen in love with the former fiancée (Kari Mueller) of his fallen sibling, and she is coming to visit after years of absence.

Their two fathers were in business together manufacturing airplane parts during the war, and her father went to prison for allowing flawed components to be shipped out that caused many pilots to die.

The complexities grow as Chris and Ann attempt to let their families know that they intend to be married.

The first act begins slowly, but before the intermission, bells are going off inside the heads of the viewers, and hearts begin to race. The second act picks up, and mysteries unravel at alarming speeds.

Overall, the acting and direction were

very good. We are more fortunate than many small communities to have such an abundance of talent, and this production has no weak performances.

In Civic's *All My Sons*, there is no question that the most powerful performances are turned in by Wes Dietrich and Damon C. Mentzer. They literally take command of the stage and draw you into the psyches of their characters. The love and dedication to their craft is evident in their stirring performances.

Miller writes these strong male characters for just such actors. His female characters are often stalwart, but post-WWII was a time when women were still portrayed as the weaker sex.

This is not a play that will allow you to leave the theater uplifted. We are privy to the best and worst of humanity, and it is nearly impossible to avoid the sense of loss when the final curtain closes.

As usual, the sets and costumes are excellent. The production is smooth and professional.

All My Sons closes on Mar. 10. Get your tickets by calling (509) 325-2507.

Coming OUT at interPLAYERS

What a treat to see characters dealing with GLBT issues in a manner that is respectful and thought provoking on a stage in Spokane! New York actor Joel Richards and our own local celeb/actor Kathy Doyle-Lipe bring real texture to the two characters from *Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks* with humor and finesse.

Lily, played by Kathy Doyle-Lipe is a lonely widow who pretends her husband is still alive as a protective measure and to stave off the pity of strangers who may feel sorry for her plight.

When she decides to hire a personal dance instructor to give her *Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks*, she gets quite a bit more for her money than she intended.

Enter Michael (Joel Richards), a fairly flamboyant dance instructor who believes he is there merely to teach, as he puts it, a "tight ass old biddy" some new steps. He gets more than he bargained for as well.

It is a rocky road for the two clearly oppositional characters. Lily was a sheltered wife of a Baptist minister, and Michael has suffered plenty of trauma surrounding his sexual orientation.

Haltingly, over the period of six weeks, they become more comfortable with each other and begin to share information that has remained guardedly private in their separate pasts.

Each week, a new dance is taught that seems in synch with the secrets they share and underscores the relationship they are forging. Ms. Doyle-Lipe and Mr. Richards perform the ballroom dancing with panache, ending each scene in a gentle tableau. Nice touch.

The actors are genuine. The characters are prickly and yearning for understanding. Most importantly, they work their magic on each other and the audience through the evening.



Joel Richards is Michael Minettie and Kathy Doyle-Lipe is Lily Harrison as they gossip and entertain themselves.

One warning to those who have tender ears, there is some adult language, but we have all heard it before and it fits into the context of the play.

Even though I hate stereotypes, I really must say that every pair of Lily's pumps rocked! Seriously... **Fabulous** is the word that first came to mind.

It may be time to take away Kathy's title of "**Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Subtlety**" and dub her the Amelda Marcos of the Inland Northwest.

Truthfully, knowing that she is such a terrific over-the-top character actor, Kathy's performance was thoughtfully restrained and heart felt.

Although the breaks between some scenes seemed lengthy because of full costume changes, they were minor.

The costumes were excellent and the set was great! The new stage floor adds a lot of warmth and attention to detail was obviously taken by director Esta Rosaver.

Thanks from the GLBTQA Community to interPLAYERS for presenting such thoughtful material in Spokane and for supporting Pride 2007 with a fundraiser.

Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks will close on Mar.17, so get your tickets now by calling 455-PLAY.

OUT On The Town – Your Life Without Art?

🐾 **Mar. 9. through 31, *The Cover of Life*** opens in the George W. Firth Theatre.

Story: In 1943 three brothers are sent off to Europe during WWII, forcing their wives to move in with their mother-in-law.

When *Life* magazine gets wind of the small-town story, they send a sophisticated reporter from New York to get the scoop. What she finds, however, is a compelling story of optimistic dreams in an uncertain future.

🐾 **Mar 9** is the last day of the **Gonzaga University Print Exhibition**.

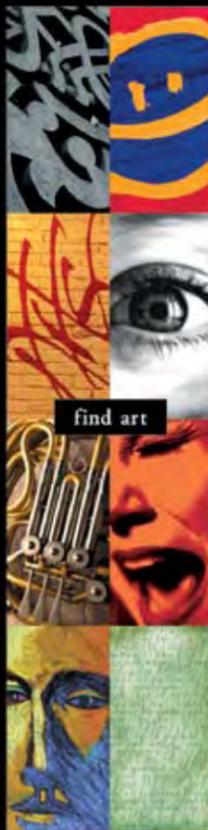
🐾 **Mar. 10, 8 p.m. Spokane Jazz Orchestra** presents "**Jazz In the City**" - featuring 2005 Grammy Nominee and jazz singing sensation Tierney Sutton and her Trio

🐾 **Mar. 10**, Spokane's new drag king troupe, **chix&dales** will be performing for **Bunko Night** from 7 to 10 p.m. at Studio 1! (1311 West Sprague)

This fundraiser for the future GLBT community center will also include a 50/50 drawing. \$15 suggested donation at the door. Food will be served by **Wild Sage American Bistro!** For more information go to www.spokanerainbowcenter.org or call (509) 489-1914.

🐾 Can you imagine your **Life without Art?** If you are starved for more in your life or think there is little to see or do in Spokane, my urgent suggestion is to check out the arts calendar immediately and daily at <http://www.spokanearts.org>

🐾 **Mar 19-23, Apr 2-5** SFCC present an exhibition, "**Installation Workshop**" with student installations that should expand your mind and open up your sensibilities. Visit <http://www.experience>



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REVIEWS & PREVIEWS

VIDEOS – BOOKS – GRAPHIC NOVELS

Christopher Lawrence & Chotley Ferguson

Shock to the System

Ron Oliver, director
here! TV, 91 minutes

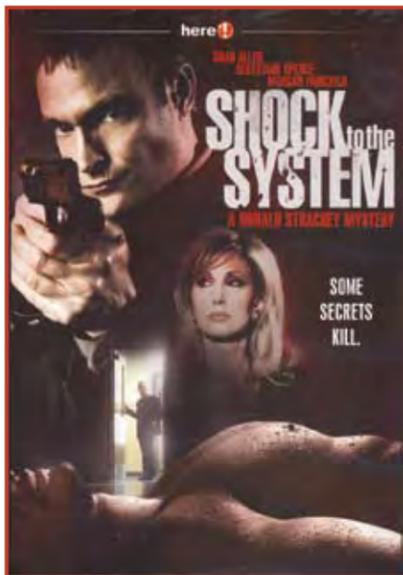
Once again, Chad Allen stars in this second offering of the Donald Strachy Murder Mystery series. The Richard Stevenson books are adapted by Ron McCoy for here! TV.

Purported by OUT Magazine to be like "Columbo, but hotter. Way way hotter" really does not do justice to this series.

The lead characters, Donald (Chad Allen) and his long term partner Tim (Sebastian Spence) are blossoming into a believable couple who share their lives with intimacy and tenderness

Donald is nearly the epitome of a "hard-boiled detective" right out of film noir, except that he is gay and refreshingly monogamous.

Aside from the fact that the actors are steamy and quirky, their characters are solid and worth being held up as role



models for the world to see. Healthy and sexy is a great combination to see on screen.

In this installment, Strachy goes undercover as a client at the Phoenix Foundation, an 'ex-gay' institute where they claim to turn gay people straight. Although the concept is easy to laugh at, the tactics used are deceptive and damaging to the clients, who suffer from internalized homophobia. Their poster boy has been murdered, but marked as suicide by police.

Morgan Fairchild is great as the boy's mother and still manages to show believable emotions with her surgically chiseled, smoothly flawless (botoxed?) face.

Kudos to **Shock to the System** for bringing this type of dark, misguided ministry that harms and destroys the lives of many of our brothers and sisters into the light!

Rent it or buy it. You will probably want to see this one more than once.

Summer Moved On

Michael Bryette
Bruno Gmünder, 83 pages

Winter has been cold and a bit dreary, but Michael Bryette's new book, **Summer Moved On** should help warm many of us up.

His artwork is hardbound into a volume of enticing men often enjoying the company of other men. Although there is frontal nudity with an occasional erection, the intent here is not pornographic, but rather a reminder of masculinity that was heralded by great artists and sculptors of history mixed with a contemporary sensibility and style.

It beckons one to gaze on each scene with some measure of magnetic warmth, and illustrates the male form and energy with a casual but insistent reminder of sexuality without losing the innocence and natural heat emanating from these pages.



Bryette pays attention to the detail of musculature and skin tones and he renders them with a balmy glow that quietly gives rise to sizzling testosterone and leaves one wondering what might happen in the next frame.

His penchant for illustration of rugged men who are often in rural surroundings and athletic arenas suggests the possibility of fitness at its peak. Often his subjects are alone and at rest in various states of undress, evoking a slightly wistful and engaging quality.

Few artists have the talent for "capturing that taboo eye candy on paper" in a way that breathes life into a page. Art brushes and sticks of pastel have been his retreat for most of his life. Coffee table book? Maybe.

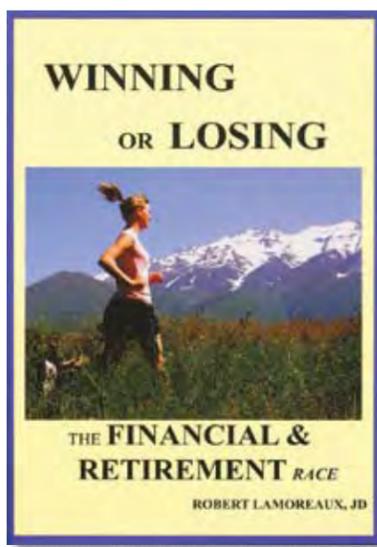
To learn more about him, check out his website. You will find it chock full of his work (some of it for sale—or you can even send a free e-card to a friend from there) at www.studio1088.com.

Winning or Losing

Robert Lamoreaux, JD
Devere Publishing, 160 pages

Although this is clearly presented information about financial and retirement, the author neglects to include anything of help to non-married or same gender couples. His seeming disinterest in sharing the more complicated proceedings in such cases should prompt you to do ONE thing that he DOES recommend:

Find an expert to guide you through your financial planning WHO UNDERSTANDS AND CARES about those who must navigate the system through alternative methods. Lloyd M. Francis, a financial services professional, has written on the subject in Stonewall News Northwest. You may reach him at (509) 626-4030.



Hana-Kim

Hisaya Nakajo
VIZ Media LLC, 176 pages

Hana-Kimi is a cute manga series following life's little, and not so little, dilemmas. The first book in this series plops you down with Mizuki Ashiya as she begins her first day of school at Osaka High. Which, I'll admit, isn't all that exciting until you discover it is a boys only school.

I give you fair warning, **Hana-Kimi** is currently 16 books long and still going strong! In manga, that is the mark of an excellent series. The main theme, standing up to pressure and being yourself, is quiet, flying under the radar and tying everything together. Mizuki goes to Osaka High to meet her favorite track star Sano, only to find out that he's quit due to pressure. As she helps him make a come back, she realizes that as long as she is at this school, she can never be herself. Meanwhile, other characters cope with issues at school, difficult breakups, and peer pressure. So far it has been both in-



teresting and intriguing, and I expect the ending will be just as rewarding as the journey to get there.

As I have already mentioned, the main character is a girl named Mizuki. She is wacky, wild, and fun. However, unlike some books, she is not the only character you see. Far from it, in fact. Three other major characters make an appearance in every book, as well as a diverse ensemble of secondary characters. My personal favorite is the queer school doctor, who provides a kind ear and useful advice to Mizuki and others. Each character has a different personality and distinct way of facing challenges. These distinctions shape their lives and the paths they take.

Hisaya Nakajo, author of **Hana-Kimi**, has some of the clearest art and layout designs I've ever seen. The background, foreground and characters are all clearly delineated, and while it might not be as beautiful to look at as some, it is still quite nice. – C.F.

Spokane AIDS Network Would Like to Thank and Acknowledge the following Contributors

The 2007 Oscar Night Gala Planning Committee
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Our Wonderful Oscar Boys
The Incredible Table Captains

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Oscar Gala

Photos by Steve Dawson & Noelle Chapman



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LARGO
continued from PAGE 7

official may be the anecdote they need to convince Congress to extend employment protections to gays, lesbians and transsexuals.

"We think this is a really clear example of the type of employment discrimination that transgendered people face every day," said Simon Aronoff, deputy director of the National Center for Transgender Equality in Washington, D.C. "By all accounts, he was doing a good job. The only reason he was fired is because he made the brave decision to live openly."

Mathew Staver, founder of the conservative Liberty Counsel legal group, said the city had a duty to reconsider the employment of a top official planning such a drastic change.

"The city hasn't changed the work environment. He has changed the work environment," Staver said. "He has to take into consideration the consequences of that personal decision. I think it would be more difficult for the city to retain this person because of how it might undermine the representation of the city in the eyes of the community. It could become very awkward."

The vote to oust Stanton came only a day after a Christian university in Michigan fired a male professor living as a woman a few days after she legally changed her name to something more feminine. The university claims the former John Nemecek did not honor the terms of her contract.

"I think they decided to terminate me rather than call me Julie," said Nemecek, an ordained Baptist minister who worked for 16 years on the faculty of Spring Arbor University. Both sides are scheduled to be in court ordered mediation in March.

Despite such high-profile setbacks, Aronoff said the transgender movement

is gaining ground.

"We think this is our year," he said.

Last summer, a judge ruled a Westchester, N.Y., cook who claims he was fired from an upscale restaurant because he was a woman living as a man was covered by the state's human rights law, even though it doesn't mention sexual orientation. The ruling cleared the way for a \$3 million discrimination lawsuit to proceed.

The Human Rights Campaign Foundation, which also lobbies for gay, lesbian and transgendered rights, estimates 10 states and more than 90 local governments have included gender identity in their nondiscrimination policies.

Stanton supported a similar ordinance in Largo in 2003, but the fact he kept his personal life a secret then intensified the anger directed at him Tuesday night. Many in the crowd accused him of harboring a hidden agenda.

"I do not feel he has the integrity, nor the trust, nor the respect, nor the confidence to continue as the city manager of the city of Largo," said Commissioner Mary Gray Black, who introduced a resolution to fire Stanton.

Stanton listened with hands clasped throughout the 3 1/2 hour meeting.

"It's just real painful to know that seven days ago I was a good guy and now I have no integrity, I have no trust and most painful, I have no followers," Stanton told the crowd before the commission voted. "Hopefully after all this is behind us, we'll be better for it."

The surprise announcement stunned this city of 76,000 near St. Petersburg. Stanton said he had planned to reveal his secret this summer when his 13-year-old son was out of school.

Stanton, who is married, said he struggled with his secret desire to be a woman since childhood and hoped to "outrun it." In 2003, he began counseling to deal with his feelings and ultimately decided to pursue a sex-change operation.

In a memo to city employees last week, Stanton said he intended to "live as a woman for one year" as part of a process to prove he is ready for a sex

change. He said he has only gone out in public as a woman a few times in cities far from Largo.

At Tuesday's meeting, there was nothing womanly about his appearance as he faced the crowd at City Hall in a dark suit and tie.

Stanton has not yet scheduled the surgery, but is undergoing counseling and hormone replacement therapy in preparation for the operation.

"I'm going to be embarrassed if we throw this man out on the trash heap after he's worked so hard for the city," said Mayor Patricia Gerard, one of a few Stanton chose to share his secret with before last week. "We have a choice to make: We can go back to intolerance, or we can be the city of progress."

Commissioner Gay Gentry praised Stanton, but supported his firing.

"I sense that he has lost his standing as a leader among the employees of the city," Gentry said. "We have need of an organizational leader that employees will follow."

Stanton left the room before the votes were cast, head down.

Gerard and Commissioner Rodney J. Woods — the first black commissioner in the city's 102-year history — cast the only votes in his favor.

OREGON
continued from PAGE 6

of needing a clergy member or judge to make it official.

The unions would also only be valid within Oregon, and couples would not receive any of the federal taxation benefits that are granted to married couples.

A similar, though not identical, bill passed the Oregon Senate in the 2005 session, but stalled in the Oregon House, then under Republican control. Democrats now control both chambers and the governor's office.

A separate bill would prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in housing, employment, public accommodation, education and public services statewide. Similar rules are already in place in a patchwork of cities and counties across the state.

Both of the bills are backed by Basic Rights Oregon, the state's largest gay rights group.

Groups likely to oppose the measures have said the anti-discrimination proposal should contain exemptions for religious groups, and warned that if legislators go too far, a ballot referral campaign could be in the works. In 2004, Oregonians voted to ban gay marriage.

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Weekly meetings for students, faculty and staff.

Call: Kat Olson: (509) 359-4253

Web site: <http://iceberg.ewu.edu/safe/safe.htm>

EMCC –

Emmanuel Metropolitan Community Church

Christian church with outreach to the GLBT community.

Call: (509) 838-0085

Web site: www.emmanuelmcc.com

Friends of SAN

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

Write: 1212 E. Front Ave. Spokane, WA 99202

Gay/Lesbian Info Line

Call: (509) 489-2266

Immediate Crisis: (509) 838-4428

GLBT Book Group

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

Call: Julie Smith: (509) 838-0206

Gonzaga University GLBT Resource Center

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

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

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

Direct line: Bryce: 323-5847

Hospice of Spokane

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

Call: (509) 456-0438

ISCS –

Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane

Call: (509) 251-1242.

Web site: www.iscspokane.com

INBA –

Inland Northwest Business Alliance

A Professional GLBTQ/Allied Business Alliance. Monthly luncheon meetings and annual community resource directory.

Write: PO Box 20163, Spokane, WA 99204

Voice mail: 509-455-3699

E-mail: info@inbaspokane.org

Web site: www.inbaspokane.org

Inland Northwest Equality

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

Call: Krista Benson: 838-7870

Web site: www.icehouse.net/pjals/issues/inwe.html

Integrity

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

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

Lutheran Community Services-SafeT Response Center

Call: (509) 747-8224

Crisis line (509) 624-7273

Lilac City Men's Project

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

Web site: www.lilaccitymensproject.org

Northwest Fair Housing Alliance

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

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

Odyssey Youth Center

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

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

Outreach Center

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

Call: (509) 838-6859

OutSpokane

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

Web site: www.OutSpokane.com

Papillon

Social support group for the transgender community.

Call: (509) 292-8852

PFLAG - Spokane –

Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays

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

Call: (509) 624-6671

Web site: www.pflagspokane.org

PJALS –

Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane

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

Call: (509) 838-7870

Planned Parenthood of The Inland Northwest

HIV antibody testing and counseling.

Call: Clinic for Appt.: (800) 788-9128

Administration: (509) 326-6292

Pride Foundation/Inland Northwest

The Pride Foundation connects, inspires and strengthens the Pacific Northwest GLBTQ community in pursuit of equality by awarding grants and scholarships and cultivating leaders.

Call: Spokane office (509) 327-8377 or (888) 575-7717

E-mail: outreach@pridefoundation.org

Website: www.pridefoundation.org

Ryan White CARE Consortium

HIV care education and planning group.

Call: Tarena Coleman: (509) 444-8200

E-mail: tcoleman@chas.org

Rainbow Regional Community Center

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

Call: (509) 489-1914

Web site: www.spokanerainbowcenter.org

SAN –

Spokane AIDS Network

Call: (509) 455-8993 or

1-888-353-2130

Web site: www.spokaneAIDSnetwork.org

Spokane County Domestic Violence Consortium

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

Call: (509) 487-6783

Spokane Falls Community College - The Alliance

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

Call: (509) 533-4507

Spokane Human Rights Commission

Call: Equity Office: (509) 625-6263

Spokane Regional Health District

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

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

Web site: www.spokanecounty.org/health

Stonewall News Northwest

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

Call: (509) 570-3750

Fax: (509) 267-6309

Web site: www.stonewallnews.net

Unitarian Universalist Church

Gay, lesbian resource committee.

Call: (509) 325-6383

Web site: www.uuchurchofspokane.org

Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery

Call: 535-3155

Web site: www.vanessabehan.org

Westminster Congregational UCC

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you ARE welcome here! An Open and Affirming Congregation of faith in downtown Spokane. Informal worship at 8:30am, traditional worship at 10:30am. Located at 411 S Washington St. (corner of 4th and Washington)

Call: 535-3155

Women and Friends

Women-only activities and events in the Spokane area.

Call: (509) 458-4709

IDAHO

Idaho for Basic Rights

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

Call: (208) 343-7402

NIAC –

North Idaho AIDS Coalition

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

Call: (208) 665-1448

Web site: www.nicon.org/niac

North Idaho College

Gay-Straight Alliance

E-mail: BCHARDISON@icehouse.net

NIGMA -

North Idaho Gay Men's Association

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

E-mail: NIGMA@yahoo.com

Panhandle Health District

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

• Kootenai County Call: (208) 667-3481

• Boundary County Call: (208) 267-5558

• Shoshone County Call: (208) 786-7474

• Bonner County Call: (208) 263-5159

• Benewah County Call: (208) 245-4556

Web site: www2.stateid.us/phd1

PFLAG - Sandpoint

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

Call: (208) 263-6699

Planned Parenthood of The Inland Northwest

HIV antibody testing and counseling.

Call: Clinic for Appt.: (800) 788-9128

Administration: (509) 326-6292

LEWISTON/CLARKSTON

PFLAG - Lewis-Clark

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

Call: (509) 758-6437

MOSES LAKE

AACW –

Alternative Alliance of Central Washington

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

Write: P.O. Box 1282,

Moses Lake, WA 98837

PULLMAN/MOSCOW

Planned Parenthood of The Inland Northwest

HIV antibody testing and counseling.

Call: Clinic for Appt.: (800) 788-9128

Administration: (509) 326-6292

Washington State University Gender Identity/Expression and Sexual Orientation Resource Center

Call: Heidi Stanton (509)335-8841

E-mail: hstanton@wsu.edu

Web site: www.thecenter.wsu.edu

Washington State University GLBA Student Group

Fun, fellowship and socializing.

Call: (509) 335-6428

Web site: <http://cubwsu.edu/GLBAP>

Out There

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

Call Melinda: (509) 335-6428

University of Idaho Gay-Straight Alliance

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

Call: (208) 885-2691

TRI-CITIES

Benton-Franklin District Health Department

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

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

Confidential voice mail also.

River of Life Metropolitan Community Church

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

Call: (509) 542-8860

Tri-Cities Chaplaincy/Tri-Cities CARES

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

Call: (509) 783-7416

WALLA WALLA

Blue Mountain Heart to Heart

AIDS prevention education, support and services.

Call: (509) 529-4744

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

Spanish: (509) 529-2174

PFLAG – Walla Walla

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

Call: (509) 529-5320

Write: 527 E. Oak

Walla Walla, WA 99362-1248

E-mail: pflag_walla2wash@hotmail.com

Web site: www.wppflag.0catch.com/

Seventh-day Adventist Kinship

Call: (509) 525-0202

WENATCHEE

SHINE

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

Call: (509) 860-7354

E-mail: shine_org@yahoo.com

YAKIMA

PFLAG - Yakima/Yakima Valley

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

Call: (509) 576-9625

Rainbow Cathedral Metropolitan Community Church

An MCC Seattle parish extension.

Call: (509) 457-6454

MONTANA

Flathead Valley Alliance

Northwest Montana information and referral services.

Call: (406) 758-6707

Web site: www.flatheadvalleyalliance.org/index.html

OAKLAND*continued from PAGE 6*

of Barbary Lane Senior Communities. "They've been out and are not going back into the closet in retirement."

According to research by the Human Rights Campaign based on the 2000 Census survey, about 2 percent of Bay Area couples are in gay or lesbian partnerships. Nationally an estimated 10 million to 15 million adults are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered, with more than 3 million over the age of 65.

"Gay people have a tribe; we've had to make one for ourselves," said Maupin, who was honored to have the lore of his tales become actualized in the new residential project.

Housed in the art deco city landmark Lake Merritt Hotel, the former corporate hotel is undergoing a \$2 million renovation for the opening. In addition to a new elevator, sprinkler system, and in-unit alarm system, the hotel rooms are being converted into studio or one-bedroom apartments with full upscale kitchens, complete with granite countertops and stainless-steel appliances.

The 510-square-foot and 710-square-foot units will rent between \$3,300 and \$4,300 per month, which includes rent, housekeeping, daily two meal services, and social programs.

The location allows elderly gay residents to remain active in their local urban community, said Jeffrey Dillon, Barbary Lane's chief operating officer.

The only other existing gay senior residential community in the country is in suburban Santa Fe, N.M., offering resort-style living. Other projects are individual tract homes in suburban areas in New Mexico, North Carolina, and Florida are under construction or in the planning stages.

Barbary Lane will become a center for social activity for the greater senior gay community, offering a social club for residents and non-residents and programs such as outings to the gay parade, gay bowling league and film festivals.

Dillon, whose background was in managing assisted living residences, said people become more socially isolated as they age because of mobility and transportation challenges. Gay people face that dilemma even greater because they are less likely to have children and the extended family networks of spouses and other relatives.

Dillon said the residential community would fulfill that need and become a resident's second, if not his or her first family.

The Anna Madrigal dining room would also be open to the public for lunch, Sunday brunch and other special events like weddings and bar mitzvahs.

The road to Barbary Lane wasn't easy. Dillon came up with the idea nine years ago, but it took three years for him and Latina to find like-minded developers and financiers.

Latina said housing and banking executives, who tend to be risk averse, had to be convinced of the idea. Finding the right location at the right price in the expensive urban Bay Area was also a challenge.

Lake Merritt Hotel's owner Randy Berger said he germinated the proposal for six months before deciding to partner with Latina and Dillon. Berger's business focused on managing commercial properties so investing in senior housing and gay housing was a new step for him.

But after learning about the housing needs of the elderly gay population and realizing its economic possibility, Berger saw the opportunity for his under-utilized hotel.

Councilwoman Nancy Nadel said Barbary Lane will fill a much-needed service in Oakland.

"The lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered community have been discriminated against for much of their lives," she said. "It's important to recognize the need for a place where they feel safe and to care for everyone in our community."

Reach Quynh Tran at 510-748-1682 or qtran@cctimes.com.

SEATTLE*continued from PAGE 6*

won't work on this year's festival until the bill is paid.

Thursday, organizers will present Center officials with a plan to pay off the debt, said the group's attorney, Dave Coffman. When asked if there would be a gay pride parade and festival this year, Coffman said, "Yes."

But he declined to discuss the proposal, and Seattle Center spokeswoman Kari Shaw said "it would be difficult" at this point to plan an event as large as last year's.

The event's financial problems came after a contentious decision last summer to move the parade after 26 years from Broadway and the festival from Volunteer Park on Capitol Hill. Instead, the parade traveled along Fourth Avenue from Westlake Mall to the Seattle Center, partly because of the symbolism of marching through downtown to the civic heart of the city.

But many residents and business people on Capitol Hill, considered the city's gay neighborhood for the past three decades, say the move abandoned the gay community's roots.

Coffman said the controversy is partly to blame for the financial difficulties.

The Seattle Center, Shaw said, estimated in October 2005 that setting up and tearing down the festival, as well as paying for additional Seattle police and fire department medics, would come to \$96,161. Shaw said the actual bill was \$554 lower.

But Coffman said issues with sponsorship and moving the event were damaging. The all-volunteer organization couldn't raise enough money to fill the gap, he said.

"The large sponsors see this big cat fight going up and down the hill, and they didn't want to be a part of it," he said, adding that organizers also underestimated the cost of performers.

Coffman said the group plans to scale back its entertainment budget this year, and has hired a professional fundraiser, Cindy Baccetti. Members of the gay community also have called to offer help.

The group might charge admission to the festival, he said.

Opponents of the move last year held a gay pride parade in June on Broadway on Saturday night, before the downtown parade on Sunday. Carl Medeiros, the owner of Panache, a clothing store on Broadway, said, "I don't know what's going to happen downtown, but we're having ours on Broadway again."

According to a series of letters and e-mails between organizers and the Seattle Center, Seattle Center officials became fed up on Feb. 16 after trying to collect the money since right after the festival.

On Oct. 27, John Merner, the Center's co-deputy director, wrote to Eric Albert-Gauthier, Seattle Out and Proud's new president, who was appointed after the 2006 summer event.

"To date, we have received no payment. ... We have made repeated efforts to set up discussions regarding your bill since mid July of 2006. ... Your organization canceled these meetings. In scheduling these meetings Katie Plymale, Seattle Center Event Service Representative, had discussions with (SOAP vice president and former treasurer) Weston Sprigg. Weston indicated to her that Seattle Out and Proud did not have sufficient resources to pay the bill, but was working on a plan to resolve this."

After Seattle Out and Proud did not submit a payment plan, Merner wrote to Sprigg, "Now on February 15, 2007, I am in receipt of a one-page e-mail from you, with no payment plan, simply a budget with a \$40,000 payment to Seattle Center at some point after your 2007 festival and a vague commitment to resolve your debt to Seattle Center by the end of 2009."

"It is in this context that I tell you that I no longer have any faith in your ability to resolve this issue."

Following the letter, Shaw said event organizers asked for Thursday's meeting. Coffman said there would be more details then, but "we don't know what's going to happen."

SAN FRANCISCO*continued from PAGE 6*

more integrated now. I don't think there's any question about that."

While evidence of the change is largely anecdotal, estimates based on census data from 2000 and 2005 show that San Francisco and other major cities in the United States are losing gay and lesbian couples, while Oakland, Berkeley and San Jose gained couples, according to a UCLA demographer.

The Castro's gay and lesbian residents need to be actively involved in neighborhood planning if they want to see the area maintain its identity, said Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris, chair of the School of Public Affairs and Urban Planning at UCLA.

"It's very difficult to stop change," she said. "But you can try to direct it in ways that you like as opposed to ways that you hate."

San Francisco's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community also is helped by its storied history. Thousands of gays and lesbians came to the city at the beginning of the Gay Liberation movement in the late 1960s, settling first in the Haight, where they fixed up Victorian homes. In the 1970s and '80s, many of them moved over the hill to the Castro, where there was less crime.

"I think the only gay neighborhood that is going to survive is the Castro," said Don Reuter, a New York writer who has spent the past seven months documenting the status of gay enclaves in 12 U.S. cities. "In every city this is going on. We're unraveling. Our gay neighborhoods are unraveling," he said.

In Chicago, the core gay neighborhood has moved farther from the urban center as real estate prices have risen. Most gay and lesbian people who own homes now live on the northern edge of the city, said filmmaker Ron Pajak,

who is documenting the history of the city's gay community.

A district of gay nightclubs in southern Washington, D.C., is being demolished to make room for a new stadium. And in Toronto, high-rise condos are replacing parking lots in the Gay Village, and more heterosexuals are moving into the neighborhood.

"You can't tell people where to live, and people are making all sorts of decisions," said Kyle Raye, Toronto's first openly gay city councilman who has represented the Gay Village area since 1991. "The lines are blurred; even the police love working (during gay pride events). There are significant social changes that have occurred."

Still, gay and lesbian residents in San Francisco are trying to draw lines around the Castro. Last week, the city began taking bids from consultants to create a plan to guide development of at least nine major properties and vacant lots on Market Street.

Supervisor Bevan Dufty, who represents the area and is leading the city planning process, sees the effort as a "community visioning process" that will include the creation of smaller units of affordable housing for young people and the elderly.

"I think we can do things in the next four to five years that will sustain us for the next 40," Dufty said.

He also wants development that will create spaces for community institutions such as Theater Rhinoceros, which bills itself as the city's "queer theater," and organizations that assist people who have HIV and AIDS. But his biggest goal is to create a permanent home in the neighborhood for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society's archives, along with a museum.

"People from around the world go to the Castro, and there is precious little they can access to know our history," he said.

That history was not a factor when Rachel Beckert and her husband decided to move their family to a flat on Eureka Street in the heart of the Castro three years ago.

"The only thing that meant anything

to me was the area would be nice," said Beckert on a recent day, as she watched her son and daughter ramble through the playground at the Eureka Valley Recreation Center a block from the center of the Castro Street shopping district. Eureka Valley is the historic name for the neighborhood that once had many Irish and German residents, some of whom still live there.

Beckert's brother, sister-in-law and their children moved into the flat below them. They picked the neighborhood for its location, safety and proximity to shopping -- attributes that attract many.

At first, Beckert wondered if her family's presence would provoke a backlash from gay and lesbian residents, but she says they have been friendly. She rejects suggestions that families like hers should live in other neighborhoods.

"You could also say this neighborhood used to be full of families," she said, adding that neighbors on both sides of her building lived in the Castro before it became a gay enclave.

The blocks surrounding the recreation center and the Beckerts' home have the highest concentration of gay and lesbian residents in the Castro -- as high as 95 percent, according to an estimate based on 2000 census data by Gary Gates, a senior research fellow at the UCLA School of Law's Williams Institute, which tracks demographic data of gays and lesbians. According to the estimate, the proportion of gay and lesbian residents ranges from about 80 percent to 30 percent elsewhere in the area.

Using census data to look at population shifts over time is more difficult. Between 2000 and 2005, same-sex couples in San Francisco declined by about 5 percent, Gates estimates. The rate was 2 1/2 times that of heterosexual couples.

The trend is also apparent in Philadelphia, Washington, New York, Houston, Detroit and Austin, Texas, according to the estimate. The population of same-sex couples in Oakland, Berkeley and San Jose, meanwhile, appeared to increase during the period -- San Jose by 34 percent, Oakland by 14 percent and Berkeley by 8 percent.

Along Castro Street, merchants are seeing another trend: high turnover among shops as business owners struggle to afford rents that are among the highest in the city.

"We need to find and attract new businesses to the neighborhood," said Paul Moffett, president of the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro. "They may not be gay-owned, but the bottom line is we want a vibrant, successful and healthy business community. Whether gay, Chinese, African American or owned by women, it doesn't matter."

Perhaps the central question expressed in community forums about the future of the Castro is whether gays and lesbians should assimilate into mainstream culture as they gain acceptance -- or maintain a separate place.

"Having a specific neighborhood politicians can point to, can go to and shake hands or kiss lesbian babies, has really solidified the gay vote, our political muscle," said longtime community activist Tommi Aviccolli Mecca at a forum in November.

He said places that are free from anti-gay violence and discrimination are important refuges. But other people believe anti-gay sentiment will fade over time.

San Francisco Convention and Visitors Bureau chief Joe D'Alessandro, who lives in the Castro with his gay partner and their six children, said he thinks gay enclaves marginalize the people who live there. He said the gay community in his previous home of Portland, Ore., a city without a historically gay neighborhood, is a model because gay and lesbian residents comfortably live in the mainstream.

"They do not live in a ghetto," D'Alessandro said, "and I think they're stronger because of it."

"It's very difficult to stop change. But you can try to direct it in ways that you like as opposed to ways that you hate."

—Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris,

MARCH 7 - 31, 2007 CALENDAR

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

Spokane, WA

MARCH

Wednesday, March 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

Thursday, March 8th

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm **Queer Sounds Radio Show**
Queer Sounds is an eclectic mix of GLBTQ 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, March 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, March 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

7:00 pm – 10:00 pm **Gay Bunko!** (at Studio 1, 1311 W Sprague) Come play Bunko with your GLBT friends and support the future LGBT Community Center at the same time! Dana and DeVerne of Studio 1 host this fun event that is sure to become a Spokane staple! Featuring an appearance by Spokane's new Drag King troupe, Chicks and Dales! Food provided by Wild Sage, 50/50 drawing, and wine/beer available for purchase.
Contact: Cat
Email: catcarrel@spokanerainbowcenter.org
Phone: 489-1914

Wednesday, March 14th

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, March 15th

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm **Queer Sounds Radio Show**
Queer Sounds is an eclectic mix of GLBTQ 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, March 17th St Patrick's Day

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, March 18th

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

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

Monday, March 19th

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, March 20th

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>

Tuesday, March 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 GLBTQ family and friends.
Contact: Tiina Buckaloo
Email: info@pflagspokane.org
More Info: www.pflagspokane.org

Wednesday, February 21st 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, March 22nd

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm **Queer Sounds Radio Show**
Queer Sounds is an eclectic mix of GLBTQ 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

Tuesday, March 27th

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm **Ryan White CARE Consortium Meeting** (at Spokane Regional Health District Rm 320/321) The Spokane County Ryan White CARE Consortium is the Title II HIV care services planning group for Spokane County. Meeting occurs every other month. 2007 meeting schedule is: January 31, March 27, May 29, July 31, September 5, November 27. Membership is open to persons living with HIV/AIDS, HIV Providers and affected or interested

individuals in the community. Meetings are informal and educational and Dinner is provided All are welcome to attend
Contact: Mark Garrett
Email: markg@san-nw.org
Phone: 509 455-8993
Location Phone: 509 324-1542

Wednesday, March 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

Thursday, March 29th

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm **Queer Sounds Radio Show**
Queer Sounds is an eclectic mix of GLBTQ 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

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

MARCH

Sunday, March 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, March 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, March 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, March 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, March 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, March 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, March 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

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CPR

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singer of Judas Priest.”

Anderson, a skilled author and expert horseman, disclosed that he “went to a regiment of counseling, HA meetings, an exorcism...to try to be straight, to be accepted, and to gain their approval. Four years of my life were spent trying to be what I could never be. I couldn’t find happiness or love in the evangelical community, and I was completely alienated from the urban gay scene because so much of what I encountered ran contrary to my upbringing and my faith. It was like trying to swim upstream with weights.”

The damage caused by “transformational ministries” reaches beyond the GLBTQ individual. When the family becomes entrenched in its teachings, or the homosexual is manipulated into a mixed orientation marriage, the consequences can be devastating. Anderson continued, “For years my sexual orientation was the biggest issue in my family. My little brother, who is also gay, saw what I was going through and choose alcohol, crystal meth and pot rather than coming out. Although he eventually did come out, he has never found full recovery from substance abuse, and I believe it is because our parents have never fully accepted us. I remember one time my mother suggested it would be better if I was castrated than engage in same sex relationships. I believe messages like that coming from your folks or the church just leave incredible scars, and I can’t imagine they originate from the Holy Spirit.”

A self-proclaimed survivor of the “transformational ministry,” Brian Mahieu, 43, stated, “After nineteen years of doing everything offered by the transformational ministry movement to be “cured” of homosexuality, my sexual orientation had not changed in the least.” To the outside world, he appeared happily heterosexual, but in reality, he was, “living an empty, tragically dishonest and unfulfilling life.”

Mahieu, a professional artist whose teenage years were also filled with angst, reveals, “By age fourteen I had words (hate speech) to describe who I was on the inside: ‘queer, faggot, homo.’ I was hated by my peers and hated myself for being unable to be straight or ‘normal.’ According to the National Mental Health Association, non-heterosexual youth hear anti-gay slurs such as “homo,” “faggot” and “sissy” about 26 times a day or once every 30 minutes. I would say that statistic is correct.”

After his first semester at college Mahieu, confronted by his parents about his sexuality, admitted that he was

indeed gay. “Adjust to the fact that you are no longer our son’ were the parting words that would resonate in my heart for years to come. I accepted the fact that I was unlovable. If my own parents can disown me, who could love me? Being shunned by my siblings and parents was a profoundly painful experience,” Mahieu confided.

Mahieu reported that the ex-gay group he joined, “taught that if you quit the homosexual behavior and accept Jesus, you are no longer gay, you are ‘HEALED!’ There was no test-driving this miracle, you just married someone of the opposite sex and turned a blind eye to the realities of your true self. When the options presented are change or burn in hell forever, change looks like the best alternative.” In 1989, he married a woman, and four years later, they had a son. “By this time, the stakes were very high for me to maintain my sham heterosexuality. I was told that if I failed, I would destroy three lives—not just my own. This restarted the long slide into depression, which had haunted me since I was fourteen years old.”

According to **Bullying in Schools:**

Harassment Puts Gay Youth At Risk, a report by the National Mental Health Association, gay, lesbian and bisexual youth are assaulted, verbally and physically, every day in our schools. Because of the prejudice and hatred that besiege them, they are three times more likely to attempt suicide than their heterosexual peers. Gay and Lesbian teens feel they have no one they can turn to for support, have low self-esteem and are extremely vulnerable to “transformational ministries” claims of a cure for homosexuality.

Mahieu asserts, “Pretending to be straight to be accepted by society, family, ‘god,’ causes an intense internal disconnect and deep, deep psychological pain. Part of the inhumanity of the ex-gay myth is the way it draws people into the unreality of the idea that people are ‘created’ universally heterosexual. That is not love: it is hatred and bigotry wrapped in a sugar coating of piety and justified by a fundamentalist interpretation of scripture.”

Wayne Besen, Director of Truth Wins Out told Stonewall News, “There are more than 100 (ex-gay groups) in America. But, they are more of a public relations tool to deny GLBT people equality than an actual threat.” Brian Mahieu believes that the prevalence of “transformational ministries” is much greater. He asserted, “Any charismatic, full gospel or evangelical church is an ex-gay group in disguise. The fundamentalist interpretation of the bible teaches that homosexuals will go to hell. To be a member of one of these groups, you have to pretend to be straight.”

The potential risks of ‘reparative therapy’ are great, including depression, anxiety and self-destructive behavior, since therapist alignment with societal prejudices against homosexuality may reinforce self-hatred already experienced by the patient.

—American Psychological Association

“Lisa,” 42, a Spokane woman, became involved with Exodus International during college in Tucson, Arizona in the 1980s. A survivor of that group as well as Homosexuals Anonymous, Lisa, who holds a master’s degree in social work and identifies as lesbian, is now very much “out” with friends, family and coworkers. Lisa reported, “I read through the information on (CPR Outreach) getting started in Spokane and am very angered by it.” Her story and those of Mahieu and Anderson parallel those of many others seduced by “transformational ministries” into believing that reforming their sexuality is not only possible and desirable, it is absolutely necessary. Groups like CPR Outreach, Metanoia Ministries, NARTH and Exodus International, recruit vulnerable youth who have been estranged from their families due to sexual orientation or gender identity issues.

LCS

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with 83 hate crimes,” Stancliff reported.

“We began as the Rape Crisis Network in 1971 in response to victims of sexual assault not receiving the dignity, services and rights that they were entitled to. Our focus is to serve victims and survivors of crime in whatever capacity they need us to, and to ensure their rights are respected and upheld.” Last year, LCS’ SAFET Response Center was awarded a state grant that has allowed it to operate as Washington’s Region 3 Crime Victims Service Center. “LCS’s Victims Rights Response Team offers 24-hour crisis intervention, information and referral,” Stancliff said.

Professionals staff the center during business hours, and volunteers, who are required to undergo a minimum of 40 hours of training, staff evenings and weekends. “Services are tailored to the needs of each individual,” Stancliff stated, “Confidential help is available whether the crime was reported to police or not, and all services are offered free of charge.” Services available through the Victims Rights Response Team include crisis intervention, medical, legal and general advocacy, information and referral.

In addition to Lutheran Community Services, agencies in each of the thirteen regions in Washington were awarded the state grants to open Crime Victims Service Centers. Now the state is able to provide comprehensive crime victims services from the most remote corner of Pend Oreille County to the heavily populated I-5 corridor. “Idaho has nothing comparable,” Stancliff reported.

In response to questions about the criteria used to determine who is a crime victim, Stancliff insisted, “Our services are open to anyone who feels a crime has been committed against them. If a person feels he or she is the victim of a crime, that is enough.” It is, unfortunately, not uncommon for people within the LGBTQA community to be verbally harassed based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Victims of this form of hate are encouraged utilize LCS’s services. Stancliff maintained, “In the case of verbal assault, it is a crime and terrorizes in much the same manner as physical assault. Severity is very difficult to measure. Someone can be more traumatized by a verbal assault than a

physical assault, and visa versa. It really comes down to the particular situation and the uniqueness of the individual and their situation. Any response to any event is within the range of normal.” LCS’ Victim Rights Response Team often works with crime victims on safety planning to help survivors feel and be safer. Stancliff avowed, “The most important thing we do is provide people with meaningful options to get their lives back on track.”

ROMNEY

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rights than his liberal opponent, Edward M. Kennedy, although Romney says he has always opposed gay marriage.

Responding to the criticism, Giuliani spokeswoman Katie Levinson said: “Mayor Giuliani has the utmost respect for Governor Romney. The mayor’s position on gay marriage has been both clear and consistent — he does not support gay marriage and believes marriage should be between a man a woman.”

During a New Hampshire news conference after his town hall meeting, Romney also sought to turn admitted flip-flops from a possible character flaw into a badge of honor. Romney, for example, likened his conversion on abortion to Ronald Reagan’s change of heart on the issue.

“If you had somebody in the private sector who didn’t change their mind when they knew they were wrong, you fired them because they were stubborn,” said Romney, a former venture capitalist. “I’m happy to admit when I make mistakes and go on. And my experience is that to the voters, the response is overwhelmingly positive: ‘We’ve got a guy who’ll admit his mistakes, tell us what he’s going to do and he’ll honor that.’”

HAWAII

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Opponents argued that civil unions were being used as a step toward legalizing gay marriage. Proponents said they want the legal guarantees granted to married couples, such as tax breaks, adoption rights and health benefits.

“This is essentially a re-examination of the same-sex marriage issue except with a different title,” said Kelly Rosati, a spokeswoman for the Hawaii Catholic Church and executive director for the Hawaii Family Forum.

Gay rights advocates said the law was needed in order to give same-sex couples equal rights as heterosexuals.

“For me, it’s very clear cut that it’s gender discrimination,” said Scott Orton, who is gay. “I would like to take on a partner in the future and have the same rights as a married person.”

Hawaii nearly legalized gay marriages more than a decade ago before stiff public opposition came from family advocacy groups, the Catholic Church and the Mormon Church.

A decision by the Hawaii Supreme Court would have allowed same-sex marriages, but a 1998 constitutional amendment and a law defined marriage as between two people of opposite sexes.

Vermont, Connecticut and New Jersey already have civil union laws. Massachusetts is the only state to allow same-sex marriages.

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