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Bunko nets big fun, big dollars for GLBT center

First of a series of "Gayme" Nights to be held as fundraisers for the future GLBT center

SPOKANE, Wash. - Bunko Night, the first of a series of "Gayme" Nights to be held as fundraisers for the future LGBT center, raised more than \$900 in community dollars for the general operating fund on March 10. After expenses, the event netted more than \$700. With the current match campaign, the money raised from the event will total more than \$1800. More than 40 people attended Bunko Night which included a debut performance by Spokane's new drag king troupe, "Chix & Dales."

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In only three hours, Bunko sponsors and participants at Studio One on March 9 doubled the GLBT center's previous seven months of fundraising efforts.

The Gittings Legacy

By Tracy Baim, Windy City Times

One of the most important pioneers of the modern gay and lesbian rights movement died Feb 18. Barbara Gittings, 75, passed away in Wilmington, after a long battle with breast cancer. Her death was announced by her partner of 46 years, Kay Tobin Lahusen, and her friend and fellow activist, Philadelphia Gay News Publisher Mark Segal.

Gittings was involved in several critical moments of the GLBT movement. Her first protest effort was in 1965 when she and a few other activists made history

in the first public demonstrations for "homosexual" rights, outside the White House in D.C. and Independence Hall in Philadelphia. She was featured in the documentary *Before Stonewall*. "There were scarcely 200 of us in the whole United States. It was like a club; we all knew each other," Gittings said of those early years.

"Things were heating up but had not yet reached their peak" in 1965 in terms of social protest over civil rights and Vietnam, said activist Frank Kameny after Gittings' passing. "At that point, picketing at the White House was the expression of dissent par excellence." It

got so congested that police assigned groups particular spots in front of and along the sides of the White House compound.

"Those demonstrations put the issue of gay rights on the table in ways that it hadn't been done before," added Ken Sherrill, professor of political science at Hunter College. "They said that this was a fit subject for discussion."

In the late 1950s Gittings helped organize the New York City chapter of the Daughters of Bilitis (DOB), at the urging of the group's national founders, Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin. It was there Gittings met Lahusen. She was chapter president for three years and edited the national publication of DOB, *The Ladder* (taking over for Lyons and Martin), from 1963-1966. She worked with her partner on *The Gay Crusaders* book in 1973. In her writing and her activism, Gittings challenged earlier gay-rights strategies that were against direct political action, a position which caused her to leave DOB.

Perhaps the most long-lasting impact of Gittings' decades-long work was in helping to change the American Psychiatric Association (APA) categorization of homosexuality as a mental illness, in 1973, and her work campaigning for GLBT books in public libraries, as a leader of the Task Force on Gay Liberation of the American

Please see GITTINGS page 11



Speaking at a Pride Week brunch sponsored by the Spokane's Rainbow Regional Community Center on Saturday, June 4, 2005, Barbara Gittings, center, is joined by Center board members, from left, Sharon O'Brien, Lorin Miller, John Brindle and Jeff Buckner.

Barbara Gittings appeared in Spokane by invitation of the Spokane GLBT Film Festival, sponsor of the Pride Week opening event, a Friday, June 3, 2005 showing of the documentary "Gay Pioneers." Gittings was featured in the film.

"You have to keep your sense of humor and work with your allies," Gittings advised. She went on to say that the GLBT community as a whole is made up of individual thinkers who have strong opinions; humor and compromise are necessary to continue to make progress. While in Spokane, Barbara Gittings marveled that 55 years of activism had just flown by. Her continuing gift to the GLBT community is a look into the past to invigorate the present and plan for the future. Whatever you do, Gittings laughed, "Don't let the bastards grind you down."

For the full article on Barbara Gittings' visit to Spokane for Pride 2005, please see the July 2005 issue of Stonewall News Northwest. Back issues are available for free download at www.stonewallnews.net.



Barbara Gittings' first protest effort was in 1965 when she and a few other activists made history in the first public demonstrations for "homosexual" rights, outside the White House in D.C. and Independence Hall in Philadelphia. Gittings, pictured above, demonstrated outside Independence Hall on July 4, 1965.

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Voices

Letters to the Editor

Publisher's Note: Mark Garrett and David Williams were the Special Honorees at this year's SAN annual Oscar Gala on Feb 25th.

Thank You

I would like to thank the Spokane AIDS Network [SAN], Board of Directors, Director Susan Fabrikant, The Oscar Committee, corporate sponsors, and Cherie Moss for her kind words. I was truly honored by the recognition on this special night, more so with my nephew and his wife, Ronald and Leslie Williams there to support me.

Our community is very fortunate to have SAN and a wide variety of advocates and volunteers at home.

Thanks also to the wonderful people who attended and supported the auction and coming together to help SAN's fight to end the threat of HIV/AIDS.

Sincerely,
David Williams

Who Are We?

Ann Coulter has once again proven she is the "Queen of Shock". But where liberals, gays, even Republicans, are calling her latest attempt at "humor" and attack disturbing, I feel differently. I despise Ann Coulter on so many levels, but her using the f-bomb did not make me dislike her even more. Instead it made me angry at the gay community.

What gives us gays and lesbians the right to "patent" words we use to refer to ourselves yet become offended when heterosexuals use the terms? The situation is akin to Whites using the n-word to refer to Blacks, who often use the term to refer to themselves. It is not allowed, hateful, and incites accusations of bigotry, they claim.

Our language and our behavior are for all to see and interpret. If we refer to ourselves as "dykes", "faggots", "queens" and "queer" that is exactly how heterosexuals will view us.

Our community is breaking new ground on a daily basis in the area of marriage equality and hate-crime legislation. How do we demand equality and respect on the one hand while calling ourselves derogatory terms, even affectionately, on the

Genetic Cleansing?

One of the nation's leading Southern Baptists has called for a policy that would support medical treatment, if it were to become available, to change the sexual orientation of a fetus inside its mother's womb from homosexual to heterosexual.

"If a biological basis is found, and if a prenatal test is then developed, and if a successful treatment to reverse the sexual orientation to heterosexual is ever developed, we would support its use as we should unapologetically support the use of any appropriate means to avoid sexual temptation and the inevitable effects of sin."

-- Rev. R. Albert Mohler, president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY

I just don't know where to begin with this one! First the evangelicals say that Homosexuality is a choice now they are moving towards the belief that it is genetic. So they suggest that it is OK to treat a fetus for homosexuality if it will make it a heterosexual. On the other hand if a fetus is determined to have a genetic abnormality of, say, Downs Syndrome treatment is forbidden because this defect is "God's will".

Is there no end to the hypocrisies?

Jim Jones
Spokane, WA

other? This sends a mixed message.

If we want respect and equal rights from the majority we must define ourselves as equal, worthy, and deserving. We must be conscious of our language, and our behavior. Right, wrong, or indifferent, they hold the power to help us be free and equal.

Ann Coulter was merely spewing a term, albeit with hurtful intent, that we use to refer to ourselves. We can not blame the Isaiah Washington's and the Ann Coulter's for using terms we ourselves utter. The mirror they put in front of us gives us the opportunity for self-reflection and definition. Who are we?

Wendy Payne
Spokane, WA



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come and paint my ceiling too.

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(but Michaelangelo, I ain't).



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Spokane & Regional

Queer Sounds to engage GLBT community issues

SPOKANE, Wash. - Queer Sounds, Spokane's GLBT radio show, will begin integrating discussion themes into its weekly live broadcast. The first theme, transgendered issues, will be covered in the show's next airing, Thurs, March 22, at 6pm.

"We are doing a series of probably three shows on transgender issues," states Irey, co-host and programmer of Queer Sounds, "this week we will focus on coming out as transgender and what that means and where a transgender person goes from there." Featured guests for this show will be Kim Stankovich and Tracy Sturchio.

Irey notes future shows will try to

cover other issues like discrimination and legal matters

Queer Sounds, which debuted in the fall of 2003, can be heard every Thursday from 6-8pm on KYRS 89.9 or 92.3 FM. Hosts Irey and Bob can be reached anytime at queersounds@kyrs.org, or during the show at 747-3807. Queer Sounds can also be found at www.myspace.com/queersounds.

Further coverage of Queer Sounds can also be found in *Queer Sounds on the airwaves*, published in the December 11, 2006 issue of Stonewall News Northwest. Stonewall back issues can be downloaded free at www.stonewallnews.net.

Kelly Stevens joins Odyssey team

SPOKANE, Wash. - Kelly Stevens has joined Odyssey Youth Center's staff. Stevens will be assuming the role of Volunteer & Facility Coordinator effective Monday, March 19, 2007.

Stevens initially came to Odyssey as a youth in 2003. During her tenure as a young person accessing services, she also gave back to Odyssey, first by completing an internship for Odyssey and Healthcare for All in an effort to educate youth on their options for healthcare. Stevens also organized several youth rallies around gay marriage which ranged from hanging signs on the Maple Street Bridge overpass to demonstrating outside the Spokane Arena.

In 2004, Stevens was an active participant in Odyssey's first Olympia

Lobby Day trip. Many of her ideas for that first trip continue to be used at Odyssey.

Following her time with Odyssey as a youth, Stevens returned and has served in multiple volunteer capacities.

"Odyssey works hard to do its part to help young LGBTQA people realize their full potential," states Ramon Alvarez, Executive Director of Odyssey, "It is most gratifying when even one of those youth returns to Odyssey and has an opportunity to give back and apply their knowledge, experience and enthusiasm to the Center's efforts."

Odyssey Youth Center is located at 1121 S Perry in Spokane and can be reached at (509) 323-2306 and on the web at www.odysseyyouth.org.



Chix & Dales (L to R) Busta Rug, James Bondage, Payton Fagina, Justin Cider, Ryder Knightly

BUNKO continued from FRONT PAGE

Dana Mathews and DeVerne Augustus, co-owners of Studio One Hair and Body Salon, hosted the event at their location at 1311 W. Sprague, with food donated by Wild Sage American Bistro. Many other gifts of food, beverages and door prizes contributed by the community-at-large surpassed \$500 in in-kind donations.

"This is a great way to spotlight the future LGBT center and allow the community to support us and learn about our mission while having a lot of fun doing it," says Cat Carrel, chair of the board responsible for the center's reorganization. "Our goal is to do many events like this throughout the year so everybody can participate in their own

way resulting in huge returns in terms of community building and visibility for the center," she adds.

The event included the Chix & Dales' performance of "Walk like a Man", with a special performance of "Where is the Love?" by Chix & Dales king Busta Rug. A 50/50 drawing raised \$176, and the winner of the drawing, Shawn H., donated his winnings back to the LGBT center. Steven Sanford had the highest overall score to win the \$50 gift certificate to Wild Sage, and James won the second place prize of a massage from Main Touch Massage & Wellness Center.

"Our many thanks go out to the generosity of the community, especially to Dana and DeVerne, for helping us pull off a fantastic debut event for the LGBT center," Carrel says, "We're looking forward to many more!"

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 1999 | *Rainbow Award* | Inland Northwest Pride
 1997 | *Vice Versa Award* | Q Syndicate
 1996 | *Rainbow Award* | Inland Northwest Pride

Remembering Barbara Gittings

By Joan Opyr

In February, the gay and lesbian community suffered an immeasurable loss. Barbara Gittings, a leader for more than fifty years in the struggle for gay rights, died of breast cancer at the age of 75. Ms. Gittings was a founding member of the New York Chapter of the Daughters of Bilitis, and she began leading protests in Washington, D. C. in 1965. She and a small number of other gay men and lesbians—dressed in “gender-conforming” suits and dresses—marched in front of the White House with signs demanding equal rights for homosexuals.

It was the year before I was born, and three years before the Stonewall riots in New York. Gays and lesbians were still being arrested, prosecuted and jailed simply for being gay or lesbian. Our bars were being raided, we ourselves were being harassed, and publications like *The Ladder*, which Barbara Gittings edited, were confiscated and destroyed. *The Ladder*, a mimeographed precursor to GLBT news magazines like *The Advocate*, featured poetry, true stories and essays. By today's standards, *The Ladder* was quite tame, but because it dealt honestly and openly with lesbian lives, it was considered pornographic, and sending it through the U. S. Mail was a federal crime. Imagine if reading *Stonewall News Northwest*, this publication, might land you in jail, and you'll get the picture. It's hard to believe but important to remember.

I met Barbara Gittings in October 1999 when she was a guest speaker at Washington State University. I loved her. She was energetic, charming, enthusiastic and modest. She spoke of having first suspected that she was a lesbian at summer camp. She realized that she “just loved being around girls.” Sound familiar? It did to me. I told Barbara that I'd realized something was different about me one day while I was standing on third base. I was waiting for Stephanie on first to throw me the ball, but I was concentrating so hard on her red hair and her fetching terrycloth wristbands that I failed to put my mitt up in time and took a softball straight to



Barbara Gittings (right) and her partner of 46 years, Kay Tobin Lahusen. Gittings, 75, passed away in Wilmington, Del., Feb. 18 after a long battle with breast cancer. Her death was announced by her partner and her friend and fellow activist, Philadelphia Gay News Publisher Mark Segal.

the face. Did I care? No. Steph admired my stoic toughness as the blood poured copiously from both nostrils, and she helped me change my ice-packs as I sat out the next inning on the bench.

Barbara Gittings was only at WSU for a few days, but I learned so much from her. She had an interesting perspective on the drama that sometimes arises in

the gay community, the silly arguments and the endless in-fighting. On the whole, she said, she thought this was a good thing. She compared the gay community to a waterbed: when pressure was applied to one corner, the water shifted and popped up somewhere else. Our greatest strength, she said, was that there really was no “Gay Agenda.” The Gay Movement comprised millions of individuals all seeking the individual rights guaranteed by the Constitution. It was hard, she felt, to argue against that.

Barbara Gittings was courageous and modest. She gave us hope. Barbara is perhaps best known for spearheading the campaign that led the American Psychiatric Association to declassify homosexuality as a mental illness. Thanks to her work, being gay or lesbian is not crazy, but being Jerry Falwell is. Whenever I see his loathsome face on television, blaming you and me for natural disasters, terrorist attacks and foul weather in the State of Virginia, I think of Barbara Gittings, and I take heart. I remember how far we've come, and I know that in the end, we will win. Barbara never seemed to doubt it.



Joan Opyr, AKA Auntie Establishment, is a Moscow area fiction writer, the author of the novel Idaho Code, and the Northern Idaho Editor for New West Magazine. She invites your questions, comments, mint julep and rat recipes at joanopyr@moscow.com.



By The National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE)

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

Week #13 March 25 - 31:
Support a Day of Silence

On April 26, students around the country will take part in a Day of Silence, a program sponsored by the Gay and Lesbian Student/Educators Network (GLSEN). The Day of Silence began in 1996 at the University of Virginia with students determined to raise awareness about the ways in which lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students were silenced by prejudice based on gender identity and sexual orientation. In the last decade, students at thousands of schools have taken part by remaining silent for a day.

Riley Snorton, a member of NCTE's Board of Directors is a staff member at GLSEN. He notes, “This is the tenth anniversary of the Day of Silence and it looks like more students than ever will be participating this year. This is already the largest student-led action on LGBT issues that happens in this country and has ever happened in American history.

52 Things we can do for Transgender Equality

I think it is so important that we draw attention to the kinds of harassment and silencing that students face regularly in schools because of their gender identity and expression.”

You can find a resource manual, posters and lots of information at the Day of Silence website at www.dayofsilence.org. Start planning now to make a statement with your silence on April 26.

Week #14 April 1 - 7:
Preach or speak at a local community of faith, such as a synagogue, church or mosque

April is a month of many religious festivals—you can commemorate the births of Buddha, Muhammad or Rama and celebrate Passover, Easter, Beltane and Baisakhi. Trans people practice the many religions of our world. Whatever your spiritual practice, if you are involved in a community of faith, consider talking to your community about transgender

issues.

You might want to preach a sermon or give a short testimony about your experience as a transgender person, significant other, or ally. Another idea is to suggest a book, article or reading for a discussion group. You might organize a speaker to come do a trans 101 training for your community. Talk to the leader of your temple, mosque or church to get ideas about what might be appropriate. If you are able to speak to a gathering, your religious leader can also help you as you prepare your remarks.

Justin Tanis, NCTE staff member and author of *Transgendered Ministry, Theology and Communities of Faith* (Pilgrim Press, 2003), comments, “People need to hear our voices as transgender people. We have learned important things spiritually from our journeys of self-discovery. The fact that we dig deeper than the obvious about our bodies in learning about ourselves helps us to go below the surface spiritually as well. It is a powerful thing to hear our stories from pulpits and spiritual spaces.”

Other excellent spiritual resources to check out are:

- *Made in God's Image: A Resource for Dialogue about the Church and Gender Differences* (Reconciling Ministries Network, 2003), by Ann Thompson Cook

- *Transgender Journeys* (Pilgrim Press, 2003), by Virginia Ramey Mollenkott and Vanessa Sheridan

So, bring trans liberation to your community of faith.

Cody

By Tim Anderson

Part 2 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.

Revisiting Cody's story, nearly a decade after I wrote the first story, seemed especially fitting last month as February 2007 marked the first anniversary of the hyped Oscar run of Brokeback Mountain. The controversial movie, based upon an acclaimed fictional short story by Annie Proulx, won film award after film award. Brokeback Mountain turned the Oscars upside down, leaving audiences unsettled and smelling of homophobic controversy. A year later, the film remains just as earthshaking, as evidenced by its countless interpretations on Youtube. From Eastern Europe, to Australia, to Asia, "that independent arty cowboy movie" still taps something universal and deep inside moviegoers.

Cody saw Brokeback Mountain in Colorado Springs with another cowboy. They entered the theater apart, found one another again once inside the theater. After the credits rolled, the two men also left the theater apart, meeting back up in the parking lot. "It just worked out that way. For some reason, we just naturally split up after looking around the parking lot. We came out of the theater in different directions too. Not that anyone was going to do anything to us, but we just separated. My favorite part of the movie was the shirt part. It's a good story, and I've



Cody

read and reread it. But once the movie got things stirred up, I got kinda' tired of hearing about it."

Yet the movie has also inspired many of Cody's more recent western art pieces. Several of these works are identifiable scenes from the movie. The story continued to resonate with him long after his first read of Jack and Ennis and long before the picture hit the local theater.

I can still see him, 15 years ago, staring at the edge of change. Looking over a landscape perched on the edge of a front range, interstate highway: terrain that was best described as part high plains, part foothills, but all hard luck country. I've often thought either Jack or Ennis could have been him, especially with Cody's intimate understanding of the point where mountainous Wyoming and Colorado turn to no man's land and that the same definition could encompass just about any Wyoming bar stool on a Saturday night.

In reading Proulx's story nearly a decade after meeting Cody, it seemed the author had crossed paths with my friend. Had she encountered Cody during some full moon whoop it up off base in Cheyenne? Or had she seen him standing at the brink of last call in some cowboy bar, perched on the edge of no return, in Rawlins? In interviews, Proulx said the story originated watching an old cowhand hungrily watching young renegades playing pool. Nevertheless, there was a time when "Cody" could have been Jack or Ennis—depending on the day, the hour, or the adult beverage.

Yet through all the years, throughout his wanderings, I've witnessed a slow but steady transition,

almost as if Cody was going to take his time before settling into any one skin. That awakening also included a quiet settling of his sexual orientation. "I'd say I used to be bisexual, but I said that because I'd been with more men than women. I'd say now that yeah, I'm gay. But I don't even like that word. I am not embarrassed by sexuality, or my sexuality. I know who I am, and I am honest with myself. I know my name. But I am not going to be waving any flags. I'm a more private person.

"I finally went to the gay rodeo in Denver. It was better than I thought it would be, but when someone approached me, I told them they didn't want none of this. There's a lot of times when I think that being in the closet is easier than dealing with all the scene, the terms. "Eye candy." "Wolf." When I start to hear that stuff it turns me off, and I feel out of place. The over compensation, the way everything is overdone. I don't think it's necessary, and here I've done all the walk the walk and talk the talk.

"I'm still not that sexually active, and sex is not how I center myself. I think that any body with a creative imagination needs alone time or restoration time. You have to take in. You can't always be giving or be over stimulated. I'm just out of practice when it comes to dealing with people and I spend a lot of time alone. I don't get lonely, but in the back of my mind, there is always a longing for being with someone that could get that about me and not fight it. Yet, I'm used to being by myself. I still like my own company, and I think you just hit that dimension where it's hard to get back out it. Maybe it's a

cowboy thing, because I know that everybody is not like that. I might be more of a loner than most people. It's like sacred ground out here. I rarely have anyone out."

Cody talks of horse training fiascos and wincing, remembering come-to-Jesus moments, post bucking chute, easy on the bravado. His recollections are understated, if not broken and stark. He can just as easily switch toward misplaced truck driving nirvana or speculate about a near miss heart thing gone unclaimed. A smile exchanged with the tall hatted fella standing on the other side of the fuel island in town, or the men from years back who held his gaze a little too long at that Cheyenne two stepping bar. He recoils at the Internet-born love struck stalkers, then talks of maybe setting out to make some new introductions, but then again remembers shutting doors when the face didn't look like the picture.

There are mentions of the cussed truck repairs gone south in the same paragraph as the people who've recently caught his eye. The married men he knows who are hitched but still available. Sometimes those accounts trail off into an examination of something deeper. Relating on love longed for and lost can sidestep into the retelling of a bad horse wreck or his attempt to rescue some concentration camp bound BLM horse. Or what starts out as a literary exercise in horse training 101 might end up reading like a conversation with Gandhi or the Dalai Lama about the human condition. If the moon is right, the comets are near, or the wind is spitting flurries down from the high county, an old soul stands ready on deck, complete with his ride ticket written in the philosophy of horse training and humanity's expectations of the four legged set and of each other.

Please see Part 3 in the next April 4th 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.

What's on Stonewall's Website? Your GLBTQA Community.

Online Interactive GLBTQA Calendar, Current Issue, Current Headlines, Downtown Spokane Map, Back Issues, Blogger, Business Directory, Resources, Links, Press Releases, Advertising Rates, Demographics, Distribution Locations, Subscription Info, Web Statistics



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National & International

Controversy brews over gay stories for schools

The prince married a man, and lived happily ever after

Religious groups attack circulation of books raising gay issues among primary school pupils

By Anushka Asthana, The Observer, UK

U.K. - A pilot scheme introducing books dealing with gay issues to children from the ages of four to 11 has just been launched in England's schools.

It is being argued that the books, one of which is a fairytale featuring a prince who turns down three princesses before

falling in love and marrying a man, are necessary to make homosexuality seem normal to children. Fourteen schools and one local authority, backed by teaching unions and a government-funded organisation, are running the controversial scheme, which has been attacked by Christian groups.

Twenty years ago the publication of

Please see SCHOOLS page 15

Anti-gay bias rages in Dallas schools

16-year-old anti-discrimination policy not enforced; committee forms to demand its implementation



Kristine Vowels, a DISD administration employee, is pushing the district to enforce its existing anti-discrimination policy. She wants the district to hire a director of LGBT initiatives and to conduct staff training.

By John Wright, Dallas Voice

DALLAS, Texas - Kristine Vowels, a DISD administration employee, is pushing the district to enforce its existing anti-discrimination policy. She wants the district to hire a director of LGBT initiatives and to conduct staff training.

A teacher uses class time to talk about how specific LGBT students are going to hell.

A security guard calls an LGBT student a "faggot" within earshot of school administrators, who do nothing about it. The student subsequently drops out.

An LGBT teacher is reprimanded for using his school's video system to disseminate information about the Gay-Straight Alliance.

These are just a few examples of a big problem within the Dallas Independent School District, according to LGBT district employees and members of a citizens committee.

Kristine Vowels is a DISD administration employee who started the committee to address the problem last summer. Vowels said the committee is demanding that the

district enforce its 16-year-old policy prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation by conducting staff training and hiring a director of LGBT initiatives.

Committee members plan to meet with district officials Tuesday, March 20.

"This [anti-discrimination] policy that the Dallas Independent School District has means nothing without implementation," said Vowels, who recently completed a doctoral dissertation related to the subject.

The committee is also suggesting that the district adopt a curriculum that's more LGBT-inclusive; extend benefits to the same-sex partners of employees; and create an environment that's more sensitive to transgender students when it comes to names, pronouns, bathrooms and locker rooms.

Ivette Cruz Weis, a spokeswoman for the district, said officials will listen to the committee's concerns and address them as necessary.

"The district does not promote discrimination against anyone regardless of what type of discrimination it is," Weis said.

District offices were closed for spring break Thursday, March 15, and Weis said no other officials were available for comment.

Another member of the committee, Youth First Texas co-founder Bob Miskinnis, said the issue is critical because dropout and suicide rates for LGBT youth are three times as high as for their straight peers. He also said nowadays, many LGBT youth are coming out in their early teens.

"I think our [the LGBT] community hasn't made it the issue it needs to be made, and if we don't, the youth aren't strong enough to do it," Miskinnis said. "I think we have to stand up for them."

Miskinnis said he is "pretty optimistic" that the district will take action.

"I don't think that in the long run, they can do nothing," he said.

Lambda Legal Regional Director Dennis Coleman, a member of the committee, said DISD is not legally required to implement the policy.

However, if it does not, it runs the risk of lawsuits from those who are discriminated against, he said. "The school district has been very lucky," Coleman said.

Gay Athletes Slowly Enter the Endorsement Arena

By Stuart Elliott, NY Times



John Amaechi, a former professional basketball player who is openly gay, will soon start endorsing HeadBlade male grooming products.

For years, the number of athletes who were openly gay and had endorsement deals could have been counted on the hand of the old-time baseball player Mordecai Brown, known after a farm accident by the nickname Three Finger.

Recently, however, that has started to change, as Americans have reassessed their ideas about homosexuality and as athletes have become more willing to discuss their sexuality. In another sign of the times, a company that sells men's grooming products, HeadBlade, is to announce today that it is adding to its roster of endorsers John Amaechi, the former professional basketball player who said last month that he is gay.

Mr. Amaechi was a journeyman center for such teams as the Orlando Magic and Utah Jazz. He is the first National Basketball Association player to disclose his homosexuality. He also became the sixth retired male pro athlete

Please see ATHLETES page 15

Clinton, Obama skirt queries on gays in the military

By Glenn Thrush, Newsday.com

WASHINGTON -- If gays and lesbians were looking for a champion to dispute Gen. Peter Pace's claim that homosexuality is immoral, they might have expected Hillary Rodham Clinton or Barack Obama to leap forward.

Not quite. While both Clinton and Obama are courting gays and lesbians, and would allow them to serve openly in the military, the Democratic front-runners have been curiously reticent about challenging the statements of the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The highest-profile pol to say homosexuality is not immoral? It's former Navy secretary, ex-spouse of Liz Taylor and current Republican senator from Virginia John Warner, who told reporters Tuesday, "I respectfully but strongly disagree with the chairman's view that homosexuality is immoral."

Please see CLINTON, OBAMA page 15



Earlier this week, Gen. Peter Pace, head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, called homosexuality "immoral." He later said he shouldn't have stated his personal view.

Gay Rights Activists Protest Pace's Remarks



MANHATTAN, N.Y. - Gay rights activists demonstrated outside the Times Square Army recruiting center Thursday, March 15th, to denounce recent comments made by a senior U.S. military official.

Members of ACT UP New York, an AIDS coalition, and other groups protested remarks made by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Peter Pace.

Speaking to the Chicago Tribune recently, Pace called homosexual acts, "immoral" and said the United States was "not served by a policy that says it is OK to be immoral."

Protestors, including former New Jersey Governor James McGreevey say Pace's comments were out of line and called the Military's "Don't Ask Don't Tell" policy unfair and discriminatory.

"He's chairman of the joint chiefs of staff and ironically, his statement was a blessing in so far as it ripped apart the façade of 'Don't Ask Don't Tell,' 'Don't Ask Don't Tell' at its core says gays are second class citizens. If you're truthful as to who you are, you'll be discharged," said McGreevey.

Demonstrators also say the policy is counter-productive for the military.

Furor Over Baptist's 'Gay Baby' Article



The right blasted the Rev. R. Albert Mohler Jr. for saying homosexuality may be rooted in biology. He also called it sinful and a treatable condition, angering the left.

By David Crary, AP

NEW YORK, N.Y. - The president of the leading Southern Baptist seminary has incurred sharp attacks from both the left and right by suggesting that a biological basis for homosexuality may be proven, and that prenatal treatment to reverse gay orientation would be biblically justified.

The Rev. R. Albert Mohler Jr., one of the country's pre-eminent evangelical leaders, acknowledged that he irked many fellow conservatives with an article earlier this month saying scientific research "points to some level of

biological causation" for homosexuality.

Proof of a biological basis would challenge the belief of many conservative Christians that homosexuality - which they view as sinful - is a matter of choice that can be overcome through prayer and counseling.

However, Mohler, president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., was assailed even more harshly by gay-rights supporters. They were upset by his assertion that homosexuality would remain a sin even if it were biologically based, and by his support for possible medical treatment

Please see MOHLER page 15

Reaction to Coulter's slur hints at shift in view of gays

By Wyatt Buchanan, San Francisco Chronicle

When conservative commentator Ann Coulter called former Vice President Al Gore a "total fag" on national television nearly a year ago, it barely caused a stir.

Coulter's recent labeling of presidential candidate John Edwards as a "faggot," however, has triggered a huge response, including a campaign initiated today by a gay rights group and media watchdog to persuade mainstream media outlets to dump her for good.

At least four newspapers have dropped Coulter's syndicated column, and 40,000 people signed an online petition to Universal Press Syndicate,

which distributes her column, demanding that it release her. Three corporations, including Verizon, stopped advertising on Coulter's Web site after she made the comment.

This follows recent controversies over the use of the new "f-word" -- as some call it -- by actor Isaiah Washington and an antigay rant by NBA player Tim Hardaway. Washington apologized and announced he would go to "rehab," and Hardaway lost endorsements and was penalized by the league.

Coulter wondered on the "Hannity & Colmes" show on the Fox News Channel on Monday about the difference between the reactions this year and last.

Please see COULTER page 10



Ann Coulter's use of an anti-gay slur has caused a furor.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Christopher Lawrence, A & E Editor

Life's Exposé of Poignant Social Issues

Left to Right:
Andrew Biviano
Tanya Morton
Sara Nicholls
Susan Creed
Donna Skoog
Melanie Simka
Lauren Waterbury



Sisters left behind-M. Simka, L. Waterbury, T. Morton



R.T. Robinson's well crafted play takes place in Sterlington, Louisiana, a place so "humid that sound waves stick together." The wives of three brothers off to WWII are living with their Aunt Ola and begin to understand that women are easily relegated to second class status, while their men can create and follow their dreams. The story is good, but the dialogue is more like Tennessee Williams-lite.

The Cover of Life is definitely worth seeing, but don't expect most of R.T. Robinson's characters to possess the gravitas and grittiness that really seasoned actors might bring to the stage.

In fact, most of these community theater actors do a pretty good job with the material at hand. The dutiful, devoted dames that are married to absent "slobbering, red-neck sharecroppers" bear a striking resemblance to some of the cousins I grew up with from the South who held these typical all-American ideals.

The overall look and feel of the play is authentic. The sets and lighting produce good results and help magically transport the audience sitting in that small black box of Civic's Firth Theatre to the deep South. The staging is effective, often showing more than one character

playing off another from different locales simultaneously.

What is lacking here is the texture. Possibly it was just the discomfort of opening night, but the back-story of the characters seems to be missing.

There are several very good moments. In particular, the portrayals of the female temptress, Sybil (Waterbury), who believes that she and her man are "modern." She wields the bitter hand of tragedy in the end. Kate (Sara Nicholls), the slightly less than hard-bitten reporter assigned to the story of the 'Wives who are left behind' for Life Magazine, turns in a fairly strong performance. Opening nights are difficult, and I trust that the cast will be stronger and more grounded in their characters each night. Try to catch The Cover of Life before it closes on Mar 31. Call (509) 325-2507 for tickets.

SJO – Masters of Big Band Jazz

Dan Keberle lives, breathes and twitches Jazz at its very best. Under his musical direction, Spokane Jazz Orchestra holds its own with any of the Big Bands – past – or present and their professional camaraderie is a wonder to behold.

The first half of the evening was packed with ingenious arrangements of classic jazz and featured two local winners of their annual **Young Giants of Jazz Competition**, pianist Dan Bullard from Lake City High and trombonist Preston Terry from Medical Lake High. It was an honor to hear these two young stars and realize they are on the fast track to very successful futures in the world of music.

The second half of the concert featured the incredible **Tierney Sutton Band**. Tierney is a strikingly beautiful woman of Celtic descent and pipes reminiscent of Ella Fitzgerald and Della Reese with a touch of 'Satchmo.' Her bell-like tones and distinctly unusual styling (whether



she is growling or singing lyrical scat) is hypnotic. She and her trio seem to make each song a profound experience. They have been together for 14 years. That time has brought them some fame (2005 Grammy nomination) and an ease that allows them to weave any of the old great American songs into an entirely new sensibility that transports the audience into a mesmerizing experience.

Her praise for SJO as a "prize that Spokane should treasure" was no understatement. If you missed this performance, pounce on the next opportunity for an incredible evening. Get your tickets now for May 12 with Horace Alexander Young. Call TicketsWest at (800) 325-SEAT.

N.Q.C. Hit by Hurricane Divas

Born Divas made its World Premiere at Northern Quest Casino on Mar 20 and closes on Sat., Mar. 24.

The show pays tribute to all the Divas: Billy Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald, Aretha Franklin, Diana Ross and the Supremes, Natalie Cole, Gladys Night, Janis Joplin and a special tribute to **DreamGirls**. These women know how to sing and perform like the greats. Add four hot Las Vegas dancers, an eight piece award winning orchestra and costumes inspired by Bob Mackie to a Vegas-style set, and get ready for one of the hottest shows to hit



the casino in some time. Tickets are available at TicketsWest. Don't miss this one!

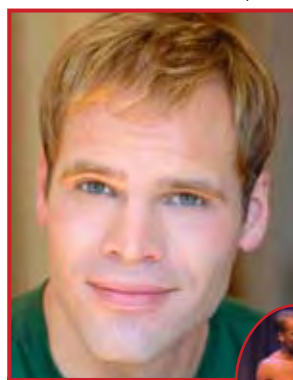
OUT n' About in The Lilac City

- ♣ **Mar. 20-24, Born Divas** at Northern Quest Casino. Tickets are available at the N. Q. box office at (509) 340-6700 or TicketsWest at (800) 325-7328.
- ♣ **March 22-24, 29-31 & Apr 12-14, Relative Chaos: The Plumb-Nutts Family Reunion** at CenterStage Dinner Theater. For tickets call: Call (509) 74-STAGE or TicketsWest at (800) 325-SEAT.
- ♣ **March 24, 25, 31, Apr. 1, 5, 12, 14, Sonnet 23**, (written by local playwright Will Gilman) at The **Blue Door Theatre**. Call TicketsWest at (800) 325-SEAT for tickets.
- ♣ **Mar. 25, "Best of Civic – 60th Anniversary Celebration," 7:30pm**. More information is available at <http://www.SpokaneCivicTheatre.com>
- ♣ **Mar. 29-Apr.1, AIDA** at **Spokane Opera House**. For more information go to <http://www.bestofbroadwayspokane.com> or call: (800)-325-SEAT
- ♣ **Mar. 30 & 31 at 7:30 pm, Carousel in Concert** at Coeur d'Alene Summer Theater North Idaho College's Auditorium in Boswell Hall, 1000 W. Garden Avenue, Coeur d'Alene, ID. Call (208) 769-7780 or (800) 423-2849 for tickets.
- ♣ **Mar. 30-April 22, The Nerd** at Spokane Civic Theatre. Call (509) 325-2507 for tickets. For information go to <http://www.spokanecivictheatre.com>
- ♣ **Mar. 31, Interplayers Annual Auction, 5-9:30 p.m.** Unitarian Universalist Church, 4340 W. Fort Wright Drive, Spokane. To reserve a space, contact Mary Ann McCurdy at 456-7131. To volunteer or donate items, call 495-2436.
- ♣ **Apr. 6-21, Art's Humble Boy** at the SFCC's Spartan Theater starring **Patty Duke!** Call (509) 838-4013 for tickets. For more information go to <http://actorsreptheatre.com>.
- ♣ **Apr. 6-27, Prints from the Tamarind Institute** at Spokane Art School's Huneke Gallery, 920 N. Howard. Free. For information call (509) 328-0900
- ♣ **Apr. 5-21, The Price** by Arthur Miller at interPLAYERS. For tickets or more information, call (509) 455-PLAY or visit <http://www.interplayers.com>.
- ♣ **Apr. 11-15, The Crucible** by Arthur Miller, 7:30 pm. Russell Theatre, Gonzaga U. E-mail: berry@gonzaga.edu or call: 509-323-3606

The Nerd
by Larry Shue
Starring
Hanna Capote



C.S.T. Jumps on (the) Carousel



David Jon Williams
as Billy Bigelow

The 40th Anniversary Celebration & Fundraiser Revival of Coeur d'Alene Summer Theatre's first musical, **CAROUSEL IN CONCERT** will feature a lavish 28-piece orchestra, the 60-member North Idaho College Chorale and performances by some favorite CST players.

Notably, David Jon Williams (the strapping young guy on the left) will play Billy Bigelow who sings the hauntingly beautiful "Soliloquy" in which Billy imagines his future child. Director Roger Welch sings the praises of all his performers and hopes that everyone will attend this fundraiser.

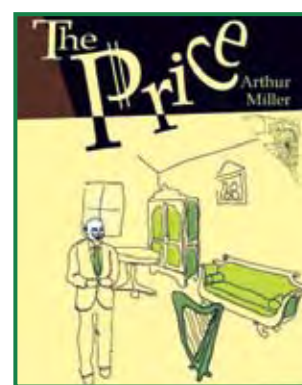
Tickets are available for March 30 & 31 at 7:30 pm by calling (208) 769-7780 or (800) 423-2849

Miller Exacts The Price

Arthur Miller noted about **The Price**, "Despite my wishes, I could not tamper with something the play and life seemed to be telling me: that we are doomed to perpetuate our illusions because truth [is] too costly to face."

This may be one of the most engrossing and entertaining plays that Miller has ever written. More flamboyant and theatrical than his better known plays, **All My Sons** or **Death of a Salesman**, it still has similarity in that the real story has already passed and the telling is more about his characters in reflection about choices made and "what if" visions.

Two brothers meet after a sixteen-year estrangement. The old family fur-



niture is to be disposed of. Miller works up to the showdown scene slowly, where the siblings feel each other out before the basis of their long alienation and bitterness emerges into short, blunt, enraged accusations. A taut, exciting scene reveals the characters, including strengths and weaknesses, to each other. To get your tickets for performances from April 5-21. call (509) 455-PLAY or visit <http://www.interplayers.com>.

REVIEWS & PREVIEWES

VIDEOS - BOOKS

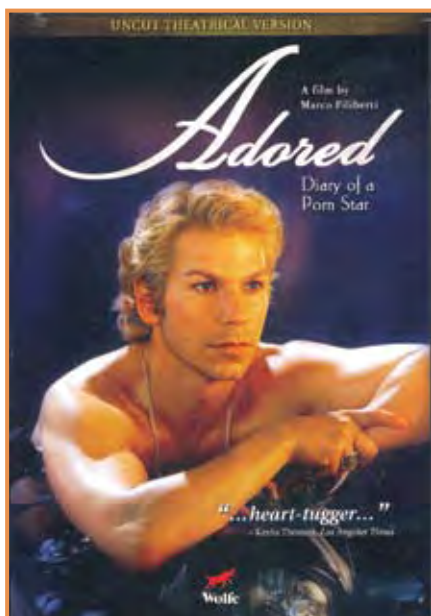
Adored: Diary of a Porn Star

Marco Filiberti
Wolfe Video

The plot is a bit simplistic and the characters never achieve the depth they are trying to achieve, but is nevertheless, touching.

At the heart, this story is about two estranged brothers, one of whom happens to be Riki Kandinsky (Filiberti), one of the hottest porn stars in Italy. Adored is told as a pseudo-documentary that flashes back to one year after the actual events in the film. Riki and his brother Federico see each other at the funeral of their father, a wealthy businessman. Federico has no idea what Riki (still known to him as Riccardo) does for a living, and everyone is dismayed at Riki's hair, sculpted eyebrows and mascara. Federico is glad to see Riki after such a long time. Of course Riki is less than transparent about his profession, which leads Federico to believe he is on drugs.

Federico follows Riki back to the city, where he wants to reconnect with his brother. Eventually, Riki tells Federico what he does, and as expected, it is a



huge shock that eventually turns to acceptance. The time they spend together helps each of them to see what they may have been missing. Federico loses his provincial attitudes about sexuality, and Riki realizes that he longs for some deeper sense of companionship.

When Riki saves the life of a young orphaned boy, he realizes that he wants to adopt the child. During a TV expose of pornography that features our umm... hero, he is spotted by the child's grandparents. Now that they know his secret, will he be able to adopt?

Italian soap operas such as this are fairly predictable: Tragedy must prevail to make the story emotionally worthwhile.

Watch for Luna, one of Riki's friends, played by Rosalinda Celetano who played Satan in The Passion of the Christ. Her trademark of oddly strange appearance seems to suit each of her roles even though they are very different.

I enjoyed it in spite of its shortcomings. See it at Pride and Joy Movie Night on Apr. 5 at CenterStage Theater. FREE!

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. 20% of anything at Ella's and 50% off well drinks.

M4M: For an Hour or Forever The Gay Man's Guide to Finding Love Online

by Jack Mauro

Simon Spotlight Entertainment, 236 pp

"Millions of gay men are looking for love. The vast majority are searching online. With an estimated 11 million gay users online in North America alone, chances may be good that any gay man could find what he is looking for... if he only where and how to look," says author Jack Mauro.

In truth, Mauro seems to approach the subject with the assumption that he is dealing mostly with the lowest common denominator of the human male: sexuality. It would be difficult to make a successful argument against his point of view, because often that baser sexual drive is what links us to our sometimes Neanderthal heterosexual brothers. But leave that club in the closet for now.

That being said, he does present a manual that is inclusive of the necessary vernacular for Internet "dating," tips on what to put in your profile, some shallow assessments of various online sites for men looking for men and advice on how to determine what you are looking for.

Although his experience seems to slant heavily toward AOL, chat rooms for hook-ups are so numerous that I doubt anyone can keep up with all the new sites that seem to be going into business

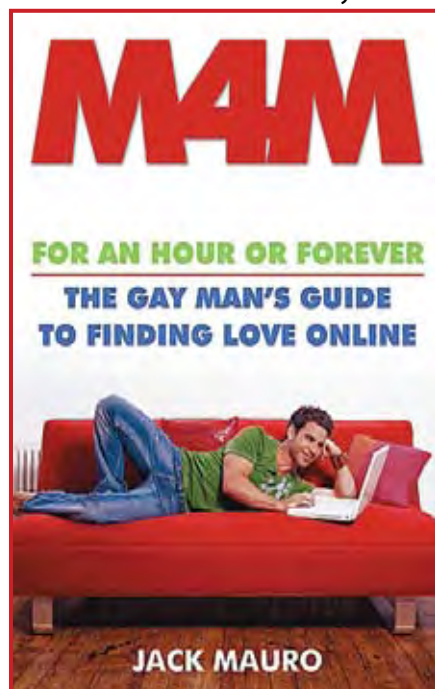
as the next new Gay MySpace. It really doesn't matter where as much as how you go about your self presentation and the dialogue that includes.

So where does that leave those who are really looking for a LTR (Long Term Relationship) or the chance to find someone else who would be open to monogamous dating? Well, right where we were in the first place, of course. However, we can now be girded with the knowledge and information we need to search more effectively for what we may want.

Perhaps, as the author seems to suggest, the key here is to really understand what you are looking for. If you can't be sure what you want, you may never find it.

In that case, look inward. Be bold in discovering what you need. No one can do that for you, except you.

Once that is done, log on and follow your dreams, wet or dry, base or heavenly, physically or emotionally, until you meet the one you want.



GLBT Book Group

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

The upcoming review session is **Alternatives to Sex** by Stephen McCauley on Tuesday, April 3.

Trapped

Roy Spinetti, director
here! TV Films, 80 minutes

Like many of the presentations by here! TV, this may feel like a B rated TV movie, and although the plot is pretty good, with adequate performances from all the female actors, it is predictable.

Samantha, played by Alexandra Paul (known best for her portrayal of Lt. Stephanie Holden in Baywatch) is an Internet security expert who is struggling to balance work, her relationship with her girlfriend and the raising of her temperamental 16-year old daughter, Gwen. Heading out to a weekend vacation, Samantha and Gwen are kidnapped by the

mysterious and creepy Adrien (Dennis Christopher). Adrien forces Samantha to hack her way into an FBI database and locate a woman hidden in the Witness

Protection Program by threatening to mutilate her daughter.

In a race against time, Samantha must break free of her kidnapers, save her daughter and foil Adrien's plot to hunt down and kill the witness. Not as ho-hum as it sounds, the video does manage to create intensity and even though *Trapped* isn't perfect, the ending is and it is always a pleasant change to see LGBTQ characters as the heroes. Try it,

you might like it.
Thanks, here! TV.



Would you like to be a guest music reviewer?

Stonewall is looking for GLBTQA community members to tell us what you like in your music and why.

A background in music is helpful, but not essential. If you are interested in being a guest reviewer, contact A&E editor, Christopher Lawrence at a-e@stonewallnews.net.

We want to hear from you!

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NIC Schuler Auditorium, 1000 West Garden Avenue, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

COULTER

continued from PAGE 7

Dan Savage, editor of the Stranger, a Seattle alternative news weekly, and author of several books on his life as a gay man, said the reaction to Coulter could indicate a change in how people view gays.

"I always thought we would be reaching a tipping point with anti-gay hate where it will no longer be acceptable, and maybe we are reaching that tipping point now," said Savage.

Neil Giuliano, the president of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against

Defamation, the rights group starting a campaign to get Coulter's voice out of mainstream media, said public opinion about anti-gay slurs is changing because gay and lesbian people are more visible than ever.

"As this happens, those in the overall culture who don't like that are going to raise their voices and become even louder, and that's why I think a lot of this is going on," Giuliano said.

Ronald Butters, a Duke University professor who studies the changing meaning of taboo words in American English, said he doesn't think "faggot" has become more or less offensive.

"Words mean what the public takes

them to mean," he said. "The very reason that there is a furor is a pretty good indication of how insulting that term was."

Leaders in the gay community said the Coulter fallout could become the prototype for how the public will respond to the use of the term "faggot."

"People are actually realizing this word hurts and defames an entire group of people, and having people other than ourselves standing with us is very significant," said Giuliano, whose organization is known as GLAAD.

GLAAD is issuing a "call to action" today to its 40,000 constituents, asking them to contact the heads of cable news organizations and NBC and "call on them publicly to state that they will no longer feature Ann Coulter as an on-air commentator."

The Human Rights Campaign, another gay and lesbian civil rights organization, started a campaign earlier this week to pressure the Universal Press Syndicate and newspapers that publish Coulter's words to drop her. So far, people have sent about 40,000 e-mails through the organization's Web site.

"It just seems to me the conventional wisdom around Ann Coulter till now has been that the most important thing for anyone to do is ignore her, but I think we have a more serious problem here that we are addressing," said Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign. "This word ought to be seen as offensive and dangerous as any hate-based word."

Conservative gay scholar Andrew Sullivan, who heard Coulter's comments live, said she uttered it with "malice aforethought." But equating it to other slurs is a difficult comparison, Sullivan said.

"Nothing has the power of the n-word," he said.

Coulter made the offending utterance last Friday at a major gathering of conservatives, where she shared the stage with several Republican candidates for president.

During her speech, a series of jokes about Democrats, Coulter said, "I was going to have a few comments on the other Democratic presidential candidate, John Edwards, but it turns out that you have to go into rehab if you use the word 'faggot.' So ... I can't really talk about Edwards."

Coulter has defended her use of the term as a "schoolyard taunt."

"The word I used has nothing to do with sexual preference ... and unless you're going to announce here on national TV that John Edwards, married father of many children, is gay, it clearly had nothing to do with that," Coulter said in an interview this week on "Hannity & Colmes."

The explanation has not satisfied her critics, including three Republican presidential candidates, Rudolph Giuliani of New York, John McCain of Arizona and Mitt Romney of Massachusetts. Edwards and Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean also criticized Coulter.

And the Shreveport (La.) Times on Thursday became at least the fourth newspaper to drop her column out of 35 publications that carried it.

"Today, we move past the rhetoric and unproductive dialogue offered by Ann Coulter," the newspaper's executive editor, Alan English, wrote in an announcement on the newspaper's Web site.

Butters, the Duke professor, called Coulter's explanation of her use of the word "simply ridiculous and untrue."

"It is always intended, I think, as a derogatory term of one of the most pernicious sorts," he said.

Thom Lynch, who leads San Francisco's Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Community Center, said he does not hear the word used often among gay men.

"It's not a word people have reclaimed in any sense. If straight people use it in the same way Ann Coulter did, people will get really angry about it," he said.

Still, some gay people are skeptical of the condemnation of Coulter.

"I don't have a problem with people using the word 'faggot.' I use the word 'faggot' all the time," said Seattle's Savage. He started a public humiliation campaign against former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, a Republican, after Santorum made derogatory statements about gay men. But he does not think there should be a campaign to silence Coulter.

"When we start acting like the thought police, it plays into the right-wing paranoia that we are going to force them all to say only nice things about us in public," Savage said. "I think we would gain ground faster in the gay and lesbian civil rights movement if we drop the Sally Field act of, 'You like me! You really like me!'"



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About Stonewall:

Through a network of contributors, Stonewall informs, enlightens, and engages the GLBTQA community of the Pacific Northwest. Stonewall News Northwest is the Pacific Inland Northwest GLBT flagship publication. Begun in 1992 as a monthly newspaper, Stonewall now enjoys over 20,000 monthly readers; goes to press every other week and is distributed free of charge at distribution points in Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon and on Stonewall's website, www.stonewallnews.net.

Responsibilities include:

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- In concert with the Publisher, assess the market, develop strategy to grow the overall space and develop a plan to work for growing the business;
- Cultivate relationships with existing clients and prospect for new business;
- Meet monthly, quarterly and annual goals;
- Take an aggressive approach to creating own leads to compliment the leads provided by management;
- Communicate regularly with Publisher, keeping all required sales forecasts updated for all upcoming issues;
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GITTINGS

continued from FRONT PAGE

Library Association (now called the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Round Table) .

At a 1972 APA conference, Gittings recruited "Dr. H. Anonymous," a gay psychiatrist who appeared, masked, on a panel to tell his colleagues why he couldn't be open in his own profession. Gittings had joined the APA project at the urging of Kameny, also a pioneer of direct activism.

In her later years, Gittings continued to help push for GLBT rights, and she was honored by GLAAD, Equality Forum and other groups. In 2003 The American Library Association presented Gittings with its highest honor, a lifetime membership, and in 2006 she received an award from the American Psychiatric Association.

"When GLSEN Chicago premiered the documentary Out of the Past—a film profiling people who made great contributions to LGBT history, and following the rise of the present-day Gay-Straight Alliance movement—Barbara came as our honored guest speaker," said Toni Armstrong Jr., a longtime Chicago activist now living in Florida. "She was fond of saying she and her partner Kay were 'movement junkies,' and as long as the LGBT movement was still moving, she would be there."

"Although Barbara was already ill and didn't even live in Chicago, she continued to be an enthusiastic supporter of GLSEN Chicago's work with young people. The Barbara Gittings Legacy Award scholarship was given out in her honor and with her blessing, providing youth recipients not only with cash, but also valuable items, LGBT memorabilia, handmade art, documentaries in which

Barbara was featured, and offers of adult mentoring. Those of us who coordinated the Legacy Award, including Barbara, felt it was important not just to give young people money for their 'today'—the youth needed a sense of how they fit into the larger picture, and a sense that they themselves were making LGBT history in the grand sweeping tradition of Barbara Gittings.

"Barbara Gittings was, to my great fortune, the first lesbian I ever saw," Armstrong continued. "This was in 1971, when I was still in high school and had never yet heard a good word about gay people. I happened to tune into the David Susskind show, during a segment on 'Women Who Love Women.' Barbara made her famous statement: 'Homosexuals today are taking it for granted that their homosexuality is not at all something dreadful—it's good, it's right, it's natural, it's moral, and this is the way they are going to be!' I completely believed her, and she has been my role model and guiding light since I was 17 years old. In later years we became friends, but she continued to be high on a pedestal for me, as an activist. As the editor of HOT WIRE lesbian magazine, I was further inspired by her work with the pioneering lesbian publication The Ladder. All that I wanted to do, she had done decades earlier—when it was so much scarier. I think in later years the two most important lessons she taught me directly were that LGBT activists need to work on many, many issues all at once—that way those who oppose us can't ever stop us all—and that you can have a lot of FUN the whole time you're being an activist.

"Whether they know it or not, whether they have heard of her or not, I believe every single gay person on the planet's life is better because Barbara Gittings was here. Whenever someone

dies, the word 'beloved' gets thrown about, but in this case, it truly applies. She was as nice, generous, and upbeat as she was formidable, courageous, and effective. Legacies don't get much better than that," Armstrong said.

Gittings was born in 1932 in Vienna, Austria, where her father was serving as a U.S. diplomat, according to Wikipedia. She attended Northwestern University, where she first discovered her sexuality—and first realized how few resources there were on the subject.

Gittings would serve on the founding boards of directors of many organizations, including the National Gay [and Lesbian] Task Force (1973) and the Gay Rights

National Lobby (1976) , a precursor to the Human Rights Campaign Fund.

"She exuded this incredible warmth and friendliness," she was the glue that helped keep together often contentious organizations during the early phase of the movement, said Sherrill. He first met Gittings through the founding of the short-lived Gay Academic Union in 1973. "She was a deeply principled highly courageous person, but also warm and focused. If she had any enemies, I never met them."

Donations can be made in Gittings' memory to Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.

— Also contributing: Bob Roehr

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13 - Volunteers

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

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

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

22 - Housing For Rent

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

31 - Help Wanted

VOLUNTEER & FACILITY COORDINATOR – Odyssey Youth Center, located in Spokane, WA, seeks a motivated and energetic individual for immediate opening. Successful candidate will have prior experience working with

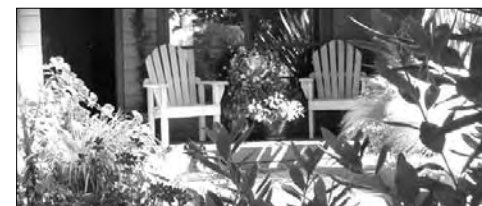
youth and experience working with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth a plus. Successful candidate will be over 24 years of age and without significant friendships or relationships with any current Odyssey youth. 30hr/wk at \$12.00/hr. Applications due Monday, February 26, 2007. Send to Odyssey@OdysseyYouth.org or Odyssey Youth Center, Attn: Hiring Committee, 1121 South Perry St, Spokane, WA 99202.

44 - Travel



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Mail-In Ads: Type or legibly print your ad on an 8 1/2 x 11 sheet of paper along with your name, address, and phone number; include your signature. Mail your completed ad along with your payment to: SNN, PO Box 2704, Spokane, WA 99220.
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MARCH 21 - APRIL 30, 2007 CALENDAR

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Spokane, WA

MARCH

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.

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.

Sunday, March 25TH

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

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.

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.

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.

Saturday, March 31st

10:00 am - 5:00 pm Funky Junk Antique Show (at Paradise Grange) Funky Junk Antique Show Saturday, March 31 from 10-5 and Sunday, April 1 from 10-4 will be held at the Paradise Grange (16120 S. Keeney), north of Spangle and 10 miles south of Spokane, WA off Hwy. 195.

6:00 pm - 9:00 pm ISCS White Knight & Debutante Pageant (at Dempseys Brass Rail) White Knight & Debutantes are titles in the ISCS. These titles are open for anyone to run for, however, you must join the ISCS before march 31st.

Contact: Emperor Leonard Email: ISCSEmperor31@aol.com Phone: 509-953-7803 Location Details Dempsey's Brass Rail 909 W First Ave Spokane WA 99201

APRIL

Stonewall News Northwest turns 15!

Sunday, April 1st

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

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

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

Contact: Mark Email: MarkJGarrett@comcast.net Phone: 879-8747 More Info: www.lilaccitymensproject.org Location Details North Bowl 125 W. Sinto Spokane WA Location Contact: Phylis

Location Phone: 509 328-7090

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

Tuesday, April 3rd

7:15 pm - 9:00 pm OutSpokane Meeting (at RiverPark Square) Meetings are the Kress Gallery on the 3rd floor of RiverPark Square each Thursday from 7:15 to 9 pm.

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

Wednesday, April 4th Stonewall Goes To Press

7:15 pm - 9:00 pm OutSpokane Meeting (at RiverPark Square) Meetings are the Kress Gallery on the 3rd floor of RiverPark Square each Thursday from 7:15 to 9 pm.

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

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 GLBTQA community. Currently working on a local billboard project.

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

Thursday, April 5th

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.

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

7:00 pm - 10:30 pm Pride & Joy Movie Night (at CenterStage) Made Possible by The Pride Foundation Eat. Drink. Mingle. Be Entertained! CenterStage hosts this LGBT activity night to showcase films that directly portray, support, nurture and challenge the LGBT community and allied supporters.

Sunday, April 8th

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

Wednesday, April 11th

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

Thursday, April 12th

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.

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

Friday, April 13th

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm CHAS HIV Educational Support Group (at Community Health Association of Spokane (CHAS)) Monthly educational/support group developed to help meet the needs of people living with HIV/AIDS and their families and friends in Idaho & Washington.

Saturday, April 14th

9:30 am - 10:30 am PFLAG Moms Group (at Conley's Restaurant) The MOM'S Group, an informal support group welcomes and supports mothers (and occasionally grandmothers!) of gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered children.

Sunday, April 15th

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

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm ISCS Court Meeting

Monday, April 16th

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm Vision Committee Meeting (at Northern Exposures Studio) Meetings are informal potlucks at Northern Exposures Studio on the first Wednesday and third Monday of each month.

Tuesday, April 17th

7:15 pm - 9:00 pm OutSpokane Meeting (at RiverPark Square) Meetings are the Kress Gallery on the 3rd floor of RiverPark Square each Thursday from 7:15 to 9 pm.

Wednesday, April 18th Stonewall Goes To Press

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

Thursday, April 19th

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.

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

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

MARCH

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

Saturday, March 31st

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm [Moscow, ID] The Prom You Never Went To (at The Beach) This is an event sponsored by the U of Idaho GSA and the WSU GLBTA. It is a kick ass dance that everyone should come to even if they do not attend these two schools.

Sunday, April 1st

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

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

Monday, April 2nd

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

Friday, April 7th

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm [Yakima, WA] First Fridays (at 1st Street Conference Center)

Saturday, April 21st

10:30 am - 12:30 pm OWLS Brunch (at Old Country Buffet-Franklin Park Mall) OWLS Brunches will be held the 3rd Sat. of the month (Sep-May) at 10:30am at The Old Country Buffet in Franklin Park Mall on N. Division.

Sunday, April 22nd

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

Wednesday, April 25th

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

Thursday, April 26th

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.

Sunday, April 29th

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

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

Yakima's gay social group welcomes you and your friends to our monthly gathering Email: 1st-Fridays@gayakima.com Phone: 509/576-0276 More Info: http://www.gayakima.com/1stfridays.html

Sunday, April 8th

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

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

Monday, April 9th

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

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

Sunday, April 15th

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

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

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

Sunday, April 22nd

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

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

Thursday, April 26th

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

Sunday, April 29th

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

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

SCHOOLS*continued from PAGE 6***“The most important thing these books do is reflect reality for young children”**

Elizabeth Atkinson, director of the No Outsiders project

Jenny Lives With Eric And Martin for use in schools led to an angry public debate. In response the government passed Section 28, an amendment to the Local Government Act 1988, that prevented local authorities and, by extension, schools from ‘promoting homosexuality’ or its acceptability as a ‘pretended family relationship.’ The amendment was repealed in 2003 and this is the first large-scale attempt to put similar books back into the curriculum. Other books on the list of recommended texts for the schools, which have not been named, include a story about a spacegirl with two mothers and a baby penguin with two fathers. If successful, the scheme will be extended nationwide.

‘The most important thing these books do is reflect reality for young children,’ said Elizabeth Atkinson, director of the No Outsiders project that is being run by Sunderland and Exeter universities and the Institute of Education (IoE) in London. ‘My background is in children’s literature and I know how powerful it is in shaping social values and emotional development. What books do not say is as important as what they do.’ Atkinson argued that leaving images of gay relationships out of children’s books was ‘silencing a social message,’ and could end up with children being bullied later in their school lives if they were gay or were perceived as gay. Atkinson and co-director Renee DePalma have received nearly £600,000 in funding from the Economic and Social Research Council and backing from the National Union of Teachers and General Teaching Council.

Waterstone’s last week alerted its chain of shops to the titles that include King & King, Asha’s Mums and Spacegirl Pukes and says it will start stocking them if the pilot is successful.

‘Lots of fairy tales are about princes and princesses - why not two princes?’ said Mark Jennett, who is training staff involved in the pilot from 14 schools and one local authority. ‘King & King is nothing to do with sex, it is about falling in love. Cinderella is not about sex - the problem comes from kids but the nervousness of adults.’ Jennett who wrote Stand Up For Us, a government document on homophobia, said the work was ‘cutting edge’ and teachers were now more likely to challenge children if they used the word ‘gay’ in a negative way.

Critics say that the launch of the scheme shows that there is still a need for Section 28 type legislation. ‘The predictions of those who said the repeal of Section 28 would result in the active promotion of homosexuality in schools are coming true,’ said Simon Calvert, spokesman for the Christian Institute. ‘Let’s arrange a series of meetings around the country where parents of primary school children can look at these books. The majority would be aghast.’

Tahir Alam, education spokesman for the Muslim Council of Britain, agreed: ‘This is not consistent with Islamic teachings and from our point of view many parents would be concerned.’

Other parents felt that children aged four and five were too young for the books. ‘I don’t know of many younger primary school children who would really understand what homosexuality is,’ said Andy Hibberd, co-founder of the support group, the Parent Organisation, who has sons aged seven and nine. ‘I don’t have a problem with what happens between consenting adults, but I don’t believe it needs to be forced on young children.’

ATHLETES*continued from PAGE 6*

to acknowledge it, joining Billy Bean, a baseball player, and Esera Tuaolo, a football player.

Mr. Amaechi “is the perfect storm,” said Todd Greene, chief executive at the HeadBlade Company in Culver City, Calif., which specializes in products for bald men, because “he’s African-American, a basketball player and gay, and those are all huge demographics for us.”

“And he uses the product,” Mr. Greene said, adding that he learned Mr. Amaechi was a “HeadBlader,” as Mr. Greene calls his customers, while deciding whether Mr. Amaechi would make an effective spokesman.

“You want to do due diligence on who endorses your stuff,” is how Mr. Greene described the research process. Other HeadBlade endorsers include the singer Chris Daughtry, who appeared on “American Idol”; Toney Freeman, a professional bodybuilder; and Howie Mandel, of NBC’s “Deal or No Deal.”

Mr. Greene declined to discuss how much the two-year deal would be worth to Mr. Amaechi, although he said it would include shares in HeadBlade, a private company with revenue that he estimated at under \$10 million.

In a twist, another company that makes men’s grooming products, Bald Guyz, recently fired its first athletic endorser, the former pro basketball player Tim Hardaway, after Mr. Hardaway attacked Mr. Amaechi and homosexuals in sports, declaring on a Florida radio show, “I hate gay people.”

Howard Brauner, chief executive, said in a statement, “Bald Guyz, like baldness, does not discriminate based on lifestyle choice, color, education, financial resources, religion, physical capabilities or any other way.”

In other words, the gay guy landed an endorsement contract after the straight guy lost his. What next, a Snickers commercial in which two men accidentally kiss and are completely cool about it?

Mr. Amaechi’s endorsement deal “seems to indicate a bit of a turning point,” said Michael Wilke, executive director at the Commercial Closet Association in New York, which tracks the representation of gay men and lesbians in marketing and maintains an online archive of advertising imagery (commercialcloset.org).

“Society, and sports fans, are becoming more used to gays,” Mr. Wilke said, “and advertising is growing more comfortable with gays.” Among the initial examples, Mr. Wilke cited a deal in 2000 in which Martina Navratilova began appearing in a general campaign for Subaru of America along with three other female athletes.

The campaign, by the agency now known as TM Advertising, part of the Interpublic Group of Companies, was her first appearance as a pitchwoman in national television ads. For decades, Ms. Navratilova had asserted that her openness about being a lesbian had cost her endorsements.

And in 2003, the Chili’s restaurant chain featured Mr. Tuaolo in a TV commercial by GSD&M, part of the Omnicom Group, which came out a year after he did. The spot was aimed at mainstream audiences and identified him as “Esera, retired athlete.”

The first ads featuring Mr. Amaechi for HeadBlade, being created internally, do not identify him as gay but carry a headline with an intriguing double meaning, “Against the grain.”

The ads will run in two magazines for basketball fans, Hoop and Slam, and appear on the HeadBlade Web site (HeadBlade.com) and MySpace page (myspace.com/headblade). The ads are also planned for other magazines in which HeadBlade regularly advertises.

Mr. Amaechi, who is British, said he might make personal appearances for HeadBlade as the company expands into Europe. He spoke in a telephone interview from Washington, where he was on a book tour for “Man in the Middle,” which he wrote with Chris Bull for ESPN Books.

“It’s quite nice when you can say you use the product you endorse,” Mr. Amaechi said. “I have to shave my head every two days. I would love to tell you it’s a style thing, but I have a bald spot.”

More seriously, Mr. Amaechi said that it was “good for young G.L.B.T. people,” using the abbreviation for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered, “to see us not just in ads for drinks and H.I.V. medications but also in mainstream ads as well, because we are mainstream consumers.”

There may have been “a small amount of karmic justice” in Mr. Hardaway’s losing his endorsement deal, Mr. Amaechi said, “but I don’t feel any joy.”

Mr. Amaechi said he “would like to believe I would be eligible” to endorse bigger brands like Gatorade, McDonald’s and Nike, known for hiring athletes for ads, but “I’m not going to hold my breath.”

Mr. Wilke of Commercial Closet said that “the smaller and/or edgier brands tend to be the ones that step up and do something unusual” like signing openly gay athletes as endorsers. “A large brand may perceive itself as having something to lose if controversy should happen,” he added.

That aptly described what happened to Snickers, sold by the Masterfoods USA division of Mars, after it ran an ad during the Super Bowl. Gay activists complained about the spot, which showed two men who had accidentally kissed reacting by harming themselves. Masterfoods withdrew the commercial, created by the TBWA/Chiat/Day unit of Omnicom.

“The problem is that it was conditioning, modeling behavior,” Mr. Amaechi said, by showing that “real men” were supposed to feel conflicted and horrified when two men kiss.

Asked if he would accept an offer to endorse Snickers, Mr. Amaechi replied: “I could show you how to react to two men kissing. Smile broadly.”

CLINTON, OBAMA*continued from PAGE 6*

On Wednesday, Newsday repeatedly asked Obama if same-sex relationships were immoral.

“I think traditionally the Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman has restricted his public comments to military matters,” said Obama, leaving Capitol Hill. “That’s probably a good tradition to follow.”

He turned the conversation to opposition to the military’s “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy: “I think the question here is whether somebody is willing to sacrifice for their country.”

Later, an Obama spokesman said the senator, in fact, disagrees with Pace.

That sequence was remarkably similar to Clinton’s responses Tuesday. When an ABC reporter asked her about the issue, she replied, “Well, I am going to leave that to others to conclude.”

Later, a Clinton spokesman said the senator, in fact, also disagrees with Pace.

So why the dance? Clinton and Obama supporters, speaking on condition of anonymity, said both might have been trying to avoid offending socially conservative Democrats, particularly churchgoing African-Americans, who share Pace’s views.

Steve Sanders, a gay Democrat who sat on the party’s platform committee in 2000, said Clinton and Obama are engaged in a delicate balancing act. “Hillary and Barack have made very public overtures to religious Americans. They are trying to figure out how progressive Democrats can also make appeals to Americans of faith. It’s a work in progress.”

MOHLER*continued from PAGE 7*

that could switch an unborn gay baby’s sexual orientation to heterosexual.

“He’s willing to play God,” said Harry Knox, a spokesman on religious issues for the Human Rights Campaign, a national gay-rights group. “He’s more than willing to let homophobia take over and be the determinant of how he responds to this issue, in spite of everything else he believes about not tinkering with the unborn.”

Mohler said he was aware of the invective being directed at him on gay-rights blogs, where some participants have likened him to Josef Mengele, the Nazi doctor notorious for death-camp experimentation.

“I wonder if people actually read what I wrote,” Mohler said in a telephone interview. “But I wrote the article intending to start a conversation, and I think I’ve been successful at that.”

The article, published March 2 on Mohler’s personal Web site, carried a long but intriguing title: “Is Your Baby Gay? What If You Could Know? What If You Could Do Something About It?”

Mohler began by summarizing some recent research into sexual orientation, and advising his Christian readership that they should brace for the possibility that a biological basis for homosexuality may be proven.

Mohler wrote that such proof would not alter the Bible’s condemnation of homosexuality, but said the discovery would be “of great pastoral significance, allowing for a greater understanding of why certain persons struggle with these particular sexual temptations.”

He also referred to a recent article in the pop-culture magazine Radar, which explored the possibility that sexual orientation could be detected in unborn babies and raised the question of whether parents - even liberals who support gay rights - might be open to trying future prenatal techniques that would reverse homosexuality.

Mohler said he would strongly oppose any move to encourage abortion or genetic manipulation of fetuses on grounds of sexual orientation, but he would endorse prenatal hormonal treatment - if such a technology were developed - to reverse homosexuality. He said this would no different, in moral terms, to using technology that would restore vision to a blind fetus.

“I realize this sounds very offensive to homosexuals, but it’s the only way a Christian can look at it,” Mohler said. “We should have no more problem with that than treating any medical problem.”

Mohler’s argument was endorsed by a prominent Roman Catholic thinker, the Rev. Joseph Fessio, provost of Ave Maria University in Naples, Fla., and editor of Ignatius Press, Pope Benedict XVI’s U.S. publisher.

“Same-sex activity is considered disordered,” Fessio said. “If there are ways of detecting diseases or disorders of children in the womb, and a way of treating them that respected the dignity of the child and mother, it would be a wonderful advancement of science.”

Such logic dismayed Jennifer Chrisler of Family Pride, a group that supports gay and lesbian families.

“What bothers me is the hypocrisy,” she said. “In one breath, they say the sanctity of an unborn life is unconditional, and in the next breath, it’s OK to perform medical treatments on them because of their own moral convictions, not because there’s anything wrong with the child.”

Paul Myers, a biology professor at the University of Minnesota-Morris, wrote a detailed critique of Mohler’s column, contending that there could be many genes contributing to sexual orientation and that medical attempts to alter it could be risky.

“If there are such genes, they will also contribute to other aspects of social and sexual interactions,” Myers wrote. “Disentangling the nuances of preference from the whole damn problem of loving people might well be impossible.”

Not all reaction to Mohler’s article has been negative.

Dr. Jack Drescher, a New York City psychiatrist critical of those who consider homosexuality a disorder, commended Mohler’s openness to the prospect that it is biologically based.

“This represents a major shift,” Drescher said. “This is a man who actually has an open mind, who is struggling to reconcile his religious beliefs with facts that contradict it.”

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