

SNN THIS MONTH

SPOKANE – Nathan Lane demonstrated John Wayne's walk in *The Birdcage*. Now we get to see The Duke act – in the same manner – at Gay Movie Night at CenterStage. *Page 17.*

SPOKANE – Like a young Jim Carrey, Damon Mentzer's rubbery features light up *Inspecting Carol* at Interplayers. *Page 14.*



Damon Mentzer

SPOKANE – In its search for new strategies effective in halting the spread of HIV and AIDS, Spokane AIDS Network is shelving a program it pioneered a decade ago. *Page 7.*

SPOKANE – New monarchs for the Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane for 2004-2005 include an empress and two emperors. *Page 5.*

COEUR D'ALENE – Five years ago, Keith Wolter won the coveted Rainbow Award for his activism in the gay community. This month, he's stepping down from his post at North Idaho AIDS Coalition. *Page 8.*



Peter Boal

SEATTLE – Peter Boal, a principal with New York City Ballet since 1989, will succeed Kent Stowell and Francia Russell as artistic director of Pacific Northwest Ballet at the end of the current season.

SEATTLE – The Seattle Men's Chorus and the Seattle Women's Chorus will present holiday concerts this month. *Calendar, page 9.*

PORTLAND – Travelers to the Rose City in mid-December are invited to enjoy the Portland Gay Men's Chorus in concert. For tickets and information, phone (503) 226-2588.

TRENTON – The former governor of New Jersey is touted as the next "powerful voice" for the gay community. *Page 10.*

ATLANTA – A close shave on certain parts of the body may be hazardous to one's health. *Page 11.*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Supreme Court says it will not hear a challenge to the legality of same-sex marriage in Massachusetts. *Page 21.*

JAMAICA – Human rights advocates here see anti-gay violence and homophobia as deterrents to HIV and AIDS education. *Page 12.*

NORTH POLE – Santa's coming and Stonewall's got some gift ideas, whether you're shopping for others or for yourself. *Pages 16 and 24.*

STONEWALL

News Northwest

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Serving the Gay and Lesbian Community of the Inland Northwest

December 2004

Cincy loses \$25 million in tourism revenue due to discrimination of gays

CINCINNATI – Tourism officials here are targeting organizations and groups that previously had taken their convention business elsewhere because of a charter provision banning laws protecting gay people from discrimination, according to the Associated Press.

Cincinnatians voted to repeal the 11-year-old Article XII in November

after city and business leaders warned that it was harming the city's economy, said the AP. Earlier, the Greater Cincinnati Convention and Visitors Bureau sent letters to 200 groups that cited gay rights issues as a reason for not hosting meetings in Cincinnati. Bureau representatives also are considering meeting with eight groups that canceled scheduled

events in Cincinnati after voters approved the amendment in 1993.

Those conventions had been expected to bring \$25 million to the area. "We'll follow up with every group that canceled," said Alan Welch, interim bureau president. Some groups say repealing the amendment could be the first step toward bringing their business back.

Only state to allow gay marriage has lowest divorce rate

BOSTON – In an irony on the radar of both conservatives and liberals, researchers have noted that the areas of the country where divorce rates are highest also are the same areas where many conservative Christians live, according to the New York Times.

Voters in states like Kentucky, Mississippi and Arkansas, for example, overwhelmingly approved state constitutional amendments to ban gay marriage. But those three states also had the highest divorce rates in 2003, according to figures from the Census Bureau and the National Center for Health Statistics, the Times reported.

The state with the lowest divorce rate – Massachusetts – is the only state that currently allows same-sex marriage.

"Some people are saying, 'The Bible Belt is so pro-marriage, but gee, they have the highest divorce rates in the country,'" Barbara Dafoe Whitehead, co-director of the National Marriage Project at Rutgers University, told the Times.

Remembering



photo by Christopher Lawrence

A mother and her daughter joined upwards of 100 people at the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture to commemorate World AIDS Day Dec. 1. The somber, yet inspirational program was presented by Spokane AIDS Network, Unity Church of Truth, Spokane Regional Health District and the museum (MAC).

Saskatchewan 7th in Canada to legalize marriage for gays

SASKATOON, Saskatchewan – A Saskatchewan court ruling Nov. 5 made this Canadian prairie province the country's seventh jurisdiction to allow gay couples to wed.

According to the Associated Press, Justice Donna Wilson agreed with courts in five other provinces and one territory, saying existing marriage laws discriminate against gay couples and were unconstitutional. The Saskatchewan ruling came after five gay couples went to court seeking the right to marry.

High courts in Quebec, British Columbia, Ontario, the Yukon, Manitoba

and Nova Scotia have already ruled in the same way. Elsewhere in the country, gay couples are challenging the law in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Supreme Court of Canada currently is evaluating a draft federal law from Prime Minister Paul Martin's government that could make gay weddings legal from coast to coast.

The high court is expected to rule next year.

The decision in Saskatchewan came three days after American voters in 11 states indicated their disapproval of legalizing marriage benefits for gay couples.

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Voices

Hey, big spender!

Act on your 'consumer smarts' before spending your money

by Paul Varnell

Every year with the regularity of a metronome – and the foresight of a parsnip – I forget to write a Thanksgiving column. But this year I am at least writing a Christmas column. And it is about, as you might guess, “the true meaning of Christmas.” Which is, of course: Gifts.

The Christmas (aka “holiday”) shopping season is huge. Many retailers count on the Christmas shopping season to put them, at the last minute, in the black rather than the red. Some make 25 percent of their annual sales in the four weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The National Retail Federation projects total sales of \$220 billion – almost \$750 for every man, woman and born child. Clothing, luxuries and high-end electronics – digital televisions, digital photography and downloadable music items – are expected to show the biggest increases. Online shopping is likely to show a 20- to 30-percent increase,

and prepaid gift cards will be more popular than ever.

Amid this frenzy of spending, the question to be asked is whether and how we can effectively use the money we are going to be spending anyway to bolster our standing and legitimacy in the country.

It seems likely that, for the next four years, gays will make few gains in the political sphere, at least at the national level. That means we would be wise to look to other areas where we can influence social change. The most obvious is the business sector.

Capitalism, after all, is a system where the consumer gets the final say: If a consumer does not like a product (or the producer), he doesn't have to buy; there are always alternative products and producers. “Consumerism,” rightly understood, is simply the evaluation and purchasing side of the economy. Our task is to make our consumerism work for us.

Some ways to do that are already familiar. The most obvious is to patronize manufacturers and retailers that are “gay friendly,” as proven by their nondiscrimination policies, their offering of partner benefits for gay employees, and/or their outreach to gays by advertising in gay publications – at the local level, publica-

tions like Stonewall News Northwest – and Web sites. There are books and Web sites that provide that information.

A second way would include preferentially patronizing companies targeted for boycotts by our opponents like Focus on the Family (FOTF) or the American Family Association (AFA) to counter any possible impact of their boycotts.

For instance, one conservative group called a boycott of Procter and Gamble because the company supported repeal of an anti-gay provision in Cincinnati's city charter. (*Related story on page 21.*) Procter and Gamble, alas, probably doesn't make many products that qualify as Christmas gifts, but a check of the FOTF and AFA Web sites would turn up a full list of boycott targets.

A cautionary note: No one should feel obligated to buy an inferior product no matter how gay-friendly the manufacturer, nor patronize a rude retailer no matter how gay or officially gay friendly. After all, “smart consumerism” is also a way of rewarding product quality and retail courtesy. Those count in our quality of life, too.

But in addition to selective purchasing, there is a whole addi-

Continued on page 26

Do You Remember?

Stonewall News Northwest in December

Last Year – The big news, of course, comes from the other side of the country. The highest court in Massachusetts tells the Legislature it has six months to enact laws legalizing marriage for same-sex couples. Locally, the Human Rights Commission announces yet another stab to draft an ordinance to place before the City Council that would provide domestic partnership benefits for city employees.

To commemorate World AIDS Day on Dec. 1, Gonzaga University's Kaleidoscope Activities displays panels from The Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt that concludes with a candlelight vigil. An open house precedes a candlelight vigil on the lawn at Spokane AIDS Network.

The University of Idaho sponsors a weeklong program that includes panels from the national AIDS Quilt

along with panel and roundtable discussions, an art project and film presentations. In Coeur d'Alene, some 80 clients of North Idaho AIDS Coalition are honored at a special candle ceremony.

Five Years Ago – At the polls, by a margin of 52.2 percent to 47.7 percent, Spokane residents vote to retain the city's nine-month-old Human Rights Ordinance that affords gay men and lesbians equal rights protections in employment, housing and public accommodations.

Emmanuel Metropolitan Community Church (\$3,100), North Idaho AIDS Coalition (\$4,400), the Rainbow Regional Community Center (\$7,000), and SAN's Friend-to-Friend project (\$2,500) receive grants from the Pride Foundation and its local Statewide affiliate.

Bijou Matinee's annual Diva Show attracts a crowd of 385 and, although admission is free, raises \$1,900 to benefit Inland Northwest Pride's sponsorship of Pride Day in June. Dempseys throws a New Years Eve party to welcome the new millennium.

10 Years Ago – Buddies will morph into Hour Place, but new owner Roma Sinn assures the community that Spokane's longest-running gay bar at 415 W. Sprague will remain gay, with few other changes.

The Advent season begins at Emmanuel MCC with the election of the Reverend Linda J. Laster as senior pastor. More than 130 guests attend a ceremony at West Central Community Center to unite Tony J. Politelli and Mark in a spiritual union.

This paper proudly dedicates itself to the spirit of the
Stonewall Patriots
who, on May 5, 1997,
courageously committed themselves to the achievement of Freedom and Liberty and Justice for all people of the City of Spokane
“Equal Rights for All”

Dean Lynch ❖ Bill Nourse ❖ Ella Hartson
Dennis Davis ❖ Jay Castro ❖ Janice Marx
the Reverend Linda J. Laster
Marianne Hurmence-Dawson

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

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Spokane

January trial set for two men who started bar brawl

Two Spokane-area men who started a fight in Dempseys recently are in jail and scheduled for trial on Jan. 24, according to authorities. The trial date was set at an arraignment on Nov. 30.

Ronald L. Trammell, 24, was arrested Oct. 24, within hours after starting a fight around 10 p.m. with patrons in Dempseys. Police charged him with second-degree assault for a hate bias crime. Trammell has five charges of malicious harassment and two other charges for second-degree assault, police said.

The Spokane County Prosecutor's Office said a warrant was issued on the other assailant, Todd E. Bridges, 22, but Bridges is in jail in another county pending charges there. The prosecutor's office said he will be arrested and charged in Spokane when he is released. Mark Cipolla is the acting prosecutor for the case.

As many as four bar patrons were said to have been injured in the fracas. One man was treated at a hospital and released.

Police officers at the time praised Dempseys patrons for "the presence of mind to get the description of the (assailants') car and the license plate number." The also said witnesses at the scene gave excellent descriptions of the perpetrators.

Workshop crowd offers numerous ideas for gay area

by Christopher Lawrence

Interested representatives from the Greater Seattle Business Association, Lambda Alliance of Seattle and various factions of the Spokane gay community were among the 90 people congregated for a Vision Workshop held Nov. 20.

Marvin Reguindin and Bonnie Aspen, co-chairs of the Inland Northwest Business Alliance Vision Committee and workshop moderators, led an interactive dialogue about the creation of a gay neighborhood or district.

According to surveys conducted at Pride Day in June and, later, at city gay bars:

- 57 percent of Spokane's gay population go to Seattle or Portland for a "gay getaway" weekend,

- 84 percent feel "somewhat inspired" to "very inspired" to help create a gay neighborhood, and

- 81 percent go out of their way to support gay businesses and services.

The consensus was that the gay community becomes invisible after Pride Week and there is no catalyst to create tolerance and acceptance in the general community.

Solutions presented were to become more visible every day and to establish a physical presence.

Research, it was said, suggests that the three Ts, technology, talent and tolerance, are interdependent and necessary to create a stronger economy. In order to attract talent and technology to Spokane, gay men and women must be perceived as being tolerant.

When asked what ways the gay community is an asset to Spokane, audience members offered that gay people:

- are trendsetters,
- raise diversity,
- provide services (teachers, doctors, nurses),

- are part of the professional work force,

- volunteer in greater numbers,

- are a huge cultural influence,

- renovate and revitalize neighborhoods,

- are creative,
- attract the arts,

and

- are enduring and courageous.

Attendees also contributed what they would like to see included in the project to create a gay district in Spokane. Among the suggestions were:

- gay and allied businesses,
- a more successful community center or facility,

- a family-friendly newspaper,

- a bookstore,

- parks,

- a daycare center,

- housing,

- a C.O.P.S. station,

- youth support from adults,

- a history-museum-education project to highlight gay history,
- rainbow flags, and
- racial, social and cultural diversity.

The few people present who indicated opposition to a gay district were civil, but clearly misunderstood the nature of the workshop and the promise that greater gay visibility would be a positive contribution to Spokane's community at large. Said Reguindin, "As long as we are a grassroots movement and not involving the government, we have nothing to fear from dissenters."

Straight allies of the gay community showed interest and voiced their opinions, as well. Kathy Ferguson of Cheney, who attended with her teenage daughter, told the crowd: "We moved here from Seattle, and it wasn't very long before I realized how deprived of diversity and culture my daughter would be. I look forward to these positive changes that embrace a more diverse community."

As Tom Bellinger, another straight ally, stated in a letter to the The Spokesman-Review, "All they (gay people) want is the chance to be known, tolerated, accepted and allowed to pursue the 'American Dream.' Let us, let them."

Comment cards collected from the participants will be compiled for the next workshop, to be scheduled in March.

"Let's Get Visible" cards were handed out and will be distributed and used at businesses to signal their gay-friendly businesses, and for gay customers to notify businesses when they are spending "gay dollars."

Comment cards collected from the participants will be compiled for the next workshop, to be scheduled in March.



"GLBTQ Customer" business card

Two-bit auction raises two grand for SAN

The volunteer members of Friends of SAN held their annual Quarter Auction in November and raised just more than \$2,000 for Spokane AIDS Network, according to President Matthew Vela. Raffle ticket sales for a basket of chocolates also contributed to the total.

Vela said he considered the receipts more than the value of the prizes won at the auction.

"Folks had a fantastic time helping raise money for SAN," he said. The wild and woolly affair at Dempseys attracted about 150 people interested in helping the AIDS agency financially and having a good time while doing it.

Fairie Awards show nets \$250 for Pride

Last month's Fairie Awards show, which featured a variety of entertainers and prizes valued at more than \$3,000 by the organizer, netted somewhere between \$222 and \$251 for Inland Northwest Pride. Security said 230 people attended.

Organizer Seymore Fairies said INPride was given tips entertainers received and proceeds from a raffle of 30 baskets containing the donated products and services.

Receipts for the night, he said, "were close to \$500, about half of which went to the caterer and for rental of The Dancing Place. The owner of the now-closed The Detour received the proceeds from liquor sales.

Happy Ho-Ho-Ho Holidays

**TOP NOTCH
CAFÉ**

Your host, Cliff

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New monarchs of the realm



photo courtesy of ISCS

The jurisdiction of the Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane this year will be governed by Empress 33 Courtney Cox, center, and two emperors, LaDonna, and Robert Surreal. The monarchs were installed at investitures in November following Coronation.

Big name is key for Pride Day

Brainstorming ideas to boost attendance at Pride Day, a chilled, but otherwise determined cluster of people decided that Inland Northwest Pride needed to go after big name entertainment.

Between shivers caused by the furnace being out of service at the Rainbow Regional Community Center for last month's meeting of Inland Northwest Pride, Denise Thomas volunteered to contact Margaret Cho's manager. Christopher Lawrence said he would attempt a linkup with those

handling bookings for Ellen DeGeneres. Both are comics.

While the pointer on the room thermostat seemed frozen on 56, the seven people exchanging ideas were warmed by the treasurer's report: \$1,700 in the bank and \$222 from the Fairie Awards awaiting deposit.

The colleagues for Pride reaffirmed their favoring a silent march – perhaps even supplying black arm bands for participants – and that it would culminate at the customary festival grounds in Riverfront Park. They also liked the idea of retaining a mass wedding ceremony as feature of Pride Day.

Bridget Potter was reelected co-chair of the committee, with Thomas the second half of the duo. Bonnie Aspen was elected secretary and John Brindle treasurer. Next meeting, before a planning retreat in January, is Dec. 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the center.

Wake-up call: Individuals key to flu prevention

The season's first case of influenza in Spokane County was confirmed in mid-November and, although the case appeared several weeks after the start of the typical flu season, the head of the Spokane Regional Health District urges everyone to protect themselves against the spread of germs.

Simply put: wash hands frequently with soap and water, stay at home when ill and cover a cough with a tissue.

"This is the time of year that we typically see our first case of the flu," said SRHD chief Dr. Kim Marie Thorburn. The typical flu season, she said, generally runs October through March, often peaking in late December and through January.

"All indicators point to minimal flu activity so far," Thorburn said, "but the first confirmed case means that the virus is in our community. It is a wake-up call to practice those measures that will minimize its spread."

Those familiar with the misery the respiratory infection causes – fever, headache, achy muscles, weakness, runny nose, sore throat and dry cough – will appreciate Thorburn's recommended measures to avoid transmitting flu germs:

- Use good personal hygiene. Cover the nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing and follow up by hand washing.
- Isolate children and adults who have an illness with sneezing, coughing, aches and fever. They should re-

main at home rather than attending school, daycare or work, where others would be exposed.

- Wash hand frequently. This will reduce the likelihood of transmitting the flu bug – as well as many other diseases.

Hospice invites personal notes on community tree

Hospice of Spokane will sponsor a community memorial tree at the STA Plaza this month and the hosts invite families and friends who have lost loved ones to place a memorial dove among the branches.

Hospice will provide white paper dove ornaments for visitors to write names, messages or short poems, said Hospice Communications Coordinator Alyssa Biolchini. The tree will be on display at the downtown bus center between Dec. 8 and Christmas Day.

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 A Christmas Service featuring the Youth Choir & Pageant titled *A Christmas Candle* – 5:00 pm
 A Christmas Service featuring the Adult Choir – 8:00 pm
 A Contemplative Experience – 10:00 pm

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Area bars set hours for holiday festivities

As an expression, "Home for the holidays" is a hologram. It presents an appealing image, but its meaning de-

pends upon how it's approached. For many employed in the hospitality industry, home is where they work, holiday or not.

For those who participate in the traditional definition of home for the holidays, lights at a favorite restaurant or lounge can be an inviting opportunity to join the camaraderie and exchange greetings with nontraditional family members.

Holiday hours at "family" businesses were influenced this year by Christmas and New Year's falling on

Saturday. The following guide to what's open and what's not can be folded into a wallet or taped to the refrigerator door for handy reference.

■ **Dempseys** will maintain regular hours on Christmas Eve and open on Christmas Day at 6 p.m. Hours of operation will extend to 4 a.m. both days. The New Year's holiday will not alter the club's normal schedule, 3 p.m. to 4 a.m., although reservations are encouraged for Dempseys' special prime rib dinner beginning at 6 p.m. on New Year's Eve. Phone 747-5362.

■ **The Loft** will open at its customary times, 2 p.m. on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve and at noon on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. For a potluck from 4-7 p.m. on Christmas Day, The Loft invites patrons who cook to bring a favorite dish to accompany a ham and turkey to be supplied by the bar. On New Year's Day, Bloody Marys and margaritas will be specially-priced from open to close. Phone 455-7260.

■ **The Merq** will celebrate its first holiday season with a Christmas Ap-

Continued on next page

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES (STDs)

CHLAMYDIA

GENITAL WARTS

GONORRHEA

GNU

HEPATITIS B

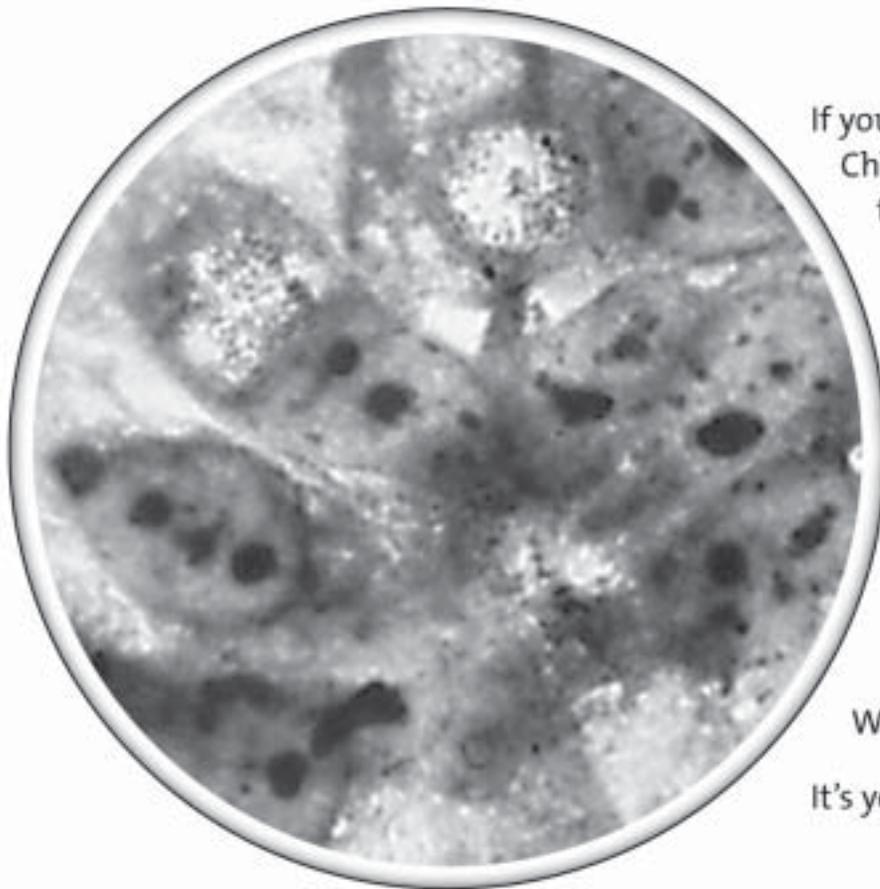
HERPES

HIV/AIDS

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chlamydia bacteria

If you think that sexually transmitted diseases like Chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis are no big deal, think again.

Some of them have developed resistance to antibiotics, making them extremely difficult to treat. Already, men in Seattle and Portland have been infected, and it's only a matter of time till these super STDs show up in Spokane. They can be treated but, if you don't want your immune system compromised, always use protection. They're nothing to mess around with.

If your sex life puts you at risk, get tested for STDs. While you're at it, ask for an HIV test.

It's your life. Live it smart



1101 W. College Avenue | srhd.org | STD/HIV Testing: 509-324-1600

The Spokane Regional Health District Clinic offers testing for these sexually transmitted diseases: chlamydia, gonorrhea, herpes, HIV, HPV (genital warts), syphilis. Hepatitis A and B vaccines are also available. Costs vary depending on the type of testing and your income. Clients are invited to ask if they qualify for no-cost, anonymous HIV testing, which is offered in conjunction with the HIV/AIDS program.

Type of STD tests available at the Spokane Regional Health District Clinic:

Chlamydia – Urine sample or urethral, rectal or oral swab.

Gonorrhea – Urine sample or urethral, rectal or oral swab.

HIV – Blooddraw or oral fluid. Limited Rapid Testing available only up.

Herpes – Direct swab test to lesions within the first 2 or 3 days of onset.

HPV (Genital Warts) – Men: Visual identification of warts-no other testing is available.

HPV (Genital Warts) – Women: Visual identification or PAP smear if no warts are seen.

Syphilis – Blooddraw.

New program at SAN to focus more on group events, functions

Friend-to-Friend gives way to MPOWERMENT

Spokane AIDS Network is phasing out its highly-acclaimed Friend-to-Friend program, utilizing peer opinion leaders to talk frankly with other men about safe sex, in favor of a new, community-level project that will rely more on small groups and group functions.

Launched with a picnic in High Bridge Park in August 1995, Friend-to-Friend for nearly a decade fulfilled an urgent need that served a targeted and vulnerable population in the state. In those days, 80 percent of the new HIV transmission cases occurred in gay, bisexual and two-spirited (Native American) men.

Although there have been changes in the distribution of the epidemic, the HIV/AIDS impact in the state remains most heavily concentrated among men who have sex with men, said Russ Hemphill, Friend-to-Friend coordinator and community health educator for SAN.

By reducing the occurrences of unprotected sex among these men,

Friend-To-Friend helped decrease new cases of HIV, he said.

Hemphill said the new program – MPOWERMENT – incorporates some aspects of the Friend-to-Friend program that are still effective in the new century.

“Through building a core group of gay and bisexual men, MPOWERMENT will create activities that will bring people together,” Hemphill said, for better providing people with up-to date information about HIV and AIDS. Small, group functions, he said, “will allow participants opportunities to have dialogue about safer-sex practices along with other issues that are often cofactors in the transmission of HIV. Since multiple factors contribute to HIV risk-taking among young gay and bisexual men, MPOWERMENT’s multilevel prevention programming will address this wide range of factors.”

According to the MPOWERMENT Web site, “there is a grave public misperception that the gay community has been saturated with AIDS prevention services. This myth ignores the

fact that, each year, new young men ‘come out’ as gay or bisexual who have not been exposed to the prevention campaigns of previous years. Thus, HIV prevention for young gay and bisexual men must be ongoing and dynamic.

“We know that men who report having unprotected sex in the past are more likely to have unprotected sex again in the future. Therefore, to have the greatest impact, HIV prevention programs must intervene at an early point in men’s sexual initiation and continue to reinforce safer sex norms.

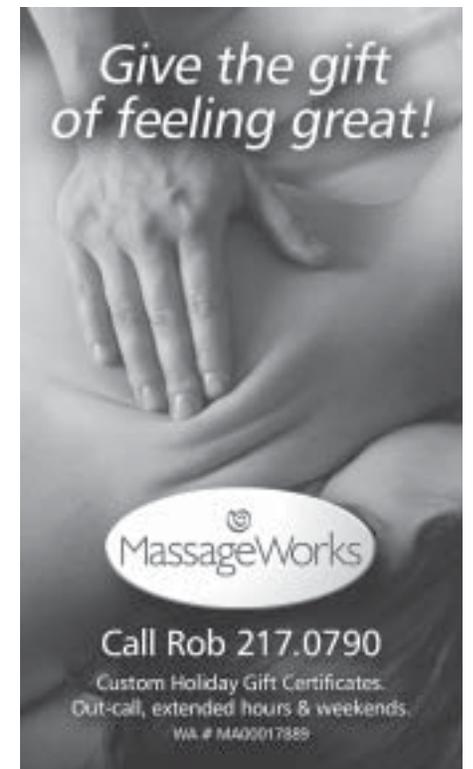
“HIV-prevention planning councils across the country consistently identify young gay and bisexual men as one of the highest priority groups for HIV prevention efforts.”

Spokane AIDS Network, Hemphill said, not only will coordinate the core group of men who will form the MPOWERMENT, but also will help initiate a community advisory group of health educators and mentors from the larger gay community.

To that end, SAN will continue to partner with agencies, social groups and businesses to elevate and support the new program. Through this effort, Hemphill hopes to create a community that understands, supports and diffuses HIV education and prevention information that will impact the future. “MPOWERMENT will be a community effort and will become the next

source of HIV prevention for the Inland Northwest,” he said.

The first Friend-to-Friend coordinators were Joe Tomlinson at SAN and Craig Peterson at Spokane Regional Health District. Following their pioneering efforts to stem the infection of HIV and AIDS, were Kevan Gardner, Rob Crumley, Tracy Mikesell, Jeffrey Weldon, Christopher Zilar. Joe Sullivan and, since June 2003, Hemphill.



Continued from previous page

preciation Party on Dec. 22 beginning at 7 p.m. On Christmas Day it will open at 6 p.m., but maintain its regular schedule – 3 p.m. to 2 a.m. – on Christmas Eve, New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day. Reservations are advised for the special dinner menu the Merq is planning for New Year’s Eve, with seating at 5, 7 or 9 p.m. Phone 325-3871.

■ **The Top Notch Cafe** will serve breakfast and lunch during regular hours on Christmas Eve and New

Year’s Eve, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., but will be closed on both Christmas Day and New Year’s Day. Phone 327-7988.

Elsewhere:

■ **The Y Tavern** in Prichard – a short and scenic drive north on a well-maintained road from I-90 Exit 43 – will maintain regular hours during the holidays but will serve a free dinner on Christmas Day until about 10 p.m. or until the food is gone. Champagne and caviar will be served for the New Year’s Eve party. Phone (208) 682-4036.

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Our prayer for each of you in the GLBT community is this: For many of us, this time of year can be a time of loneliness, depression and heartache because of past experiences. May you find this year the courage to break those barriers and find the HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE you deserve because each of you are one of God’s children. The gift of God’s unconditional love is FREE – accept it with the grace in which it was given.

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Regional

Burien affirms civil rights with law against discrimination

BURIEN – City Council members here took the occasion of the eve of the national elections to adopt an anti-discrimination ordinance.

The action, according to Councilman Stephen Lamphear, boosts Burien as the first suburban King County city to adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination ordinance.

Lamphear, who campaigned and won election to his post as an openly-gay man in 1997 and 2001, said Burien's bill was patterned after an ordinance currently under review by the King County Council.

"Burien again chose to be a leader in the area of civil rights," Lamphear said. "I'm proud to live in and represent the citizens of this progressive, pioneering community."

In 2001, this community wedged between Puget Sound and Sea-Tac International Airport became the first suburban city in the state to adopt domestic partner benefits.

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I-90 Exit 43 to Prichard, Idaho

Keith Wolter steps down as director at NIAC

Shared the successes of health, grief of loss

Keith Wolter is serving his last days this month as the executive director of North Idaho AIDS Coalition. Starting in January, he will become program development manager for CHAS, the Community Health Association of Spokane.

Following Wolter announcing his resignation on Nov. 15, the board of directors named Dani Mahoney interim director until a plan for selecting a permanent replacement is approved. Mahoney is a case manager at NIAC.

Wolter described his six years as NIAC's chief executive officer as "both satisfying and rewarding."

"Finding resources and ensuring that people can have access to quality healthcare has been a priority for me," he said in announcing his resignation. "Providing HIV testing and prevention outreach, organizing prevention and

support groups and retreats, sitting with folk individually – the work we have done together gives me comfort as I grieve my departure of NIAC and look forward to my new duties at CHAS."

Wolter also directed grant writing and fundraising for the agency, including NIAC's signature wine tasting fundraiser each fall. Not surprisingly, for a man with his personality and humor, Wolter allowed that "working with the good people of North Idaho has brought me the greatest joy."

Under Wolter's guidance, NIAC's role in HIV and AIDS prevention developed from its base in Coeur d'Alene to now include all the panhandle of Idaho.

Pondering the impact of the epidemic, he revealed: "Sharing in the struggles of HIV and AIDS – both the successes of health and the grief of loss, finding meds and docs in the early days, finding cool office space on the hot summer days, hearing clients speak of their joys and sorrows – I have been humbled and honored to serve such wonderful folk in times of adversity."

In Spokane, where Wolter has maintained his home through the years, one of his first assignments at CHAS, he said, will be to provide oversight for the HIV clinic as it goes through staffing changes. The job will keep him in touch with old colleagues as well as new administrators and technicians.

Women invited for free health checkup

SEATTLE – Middle-aged and older lesbians, bisexual women and transgendered individuals who will be in the Seattle area Dec. 7 are invited to stop by The Wild Rose on Capitol Hill for a free health examination.

"Homo Health on Wheels" is a cooperative outreach project offered by Verbena and Positive Women's Network. It is provided expressly for women in the sexual-minority community, regardless of their insurance status, said Dalya Perez, Verbena health access coordinator. Perez said the mobile testing program will include PAPs, CBEs and mammograms.

Exams are being scheduled for Dec. 7 between 2 and 7 p.m. The Wild Rose, an immensely popular lesbian bar at 1021 E. Pike St., will be smoke-free for the Tuesday event. For appointments, telephone Positive Women's Network at (888) 651-8931.



file photo

Keith Wolter

Top court to rule on marriage in March

SEATTLE – Same-sex couples must be allowed to marry in Washington State, according to a brief filed Nov. 24 at the state Supreme Court by Lambda Legal and the Northwest Women's Law Center. The brief asks the state's high court to uphold a ruling earlier this year that said the state's prohibition on gay couples marrying is a violation of the Washington Constitution.

"Our clients pay all the same taxes as their neighbors and coworkers, and they deserve all the same legal protections. As long as gay couples cannot marry, they are not being treated equally under the law," said Jennifer C. Pizer, senior counsel in Lambda Legal's Western Regional Office and one of the lead attorneys in the case. "We believe that the Washington Supreme Court will look closely at the important issues this case raises and come to the same conclusion the lower court reached."

In an historic ruling Aug. 4, King County Superior Court Judge William Downing said the state Constitution guarantees basic rights to lesbian and gay people, and that those rights are violated by a state law prohibiting same-sex couples from marrying.

Downing's ruling said the state Constitution requires same-sex couples to have equal access to marriage, and that the couples represented by Lambda and the Law Center must be given marriage licenses. One month after Downing's ruling in King County, Judge Richard D. Hicks in Thurston County Superior Court ruled similarly.

The decisions were expedited to the Washington State Supreme Court, which will hear arguments in both cases on March 8.

The Thurston County case was presented by the American Civil Liberties Union of Washington on behalf of 11 gay couples, including Marge Ballack and Diane Lantz of Spokane, the only plaintiffs from Eastern Washington.

Ballack and Lantz were married in July 2003 in Nelson, British Columbia, where gay marriage is legal. They have been a couple for 25 years and have two children and six grandchildren.

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Regional Calendar

December events:

▼ Dec. 5-20 – Seven performances of Seattle Men's Chorus holiday concert *Underneath the Mistletoe*, Benaroya Hall, **Seattle**, \$18-\$57, (206) 323-2992.

▼ Dec. 9, 10 and 11 – Concluding weekend for the Amy and David Sedaris dramedy *The Book of Liz*, Off-Broadway Theater, **Boise**, 8 p.m., \$10, (208) 363-7053

■ Dec. 10 – Tim Behrens in Patrick McManus' *Pot Luck: A Salad of Seldom-Seen Stories Served a la Carte*, Panida Theater, **Sandpoint**, 8 p.m., \$12-\$15, Eve's Leaves, Pack River Potions, Monarch Mountain Coffee and (509) 747-8243.

▼ Dec. 11 and 12 – Seattle Women's Chorus holiday concert *Jingle Jangle Joy!*, Meany Theater, **Seattle**, \$20-\$52, (206) 323-2992.

▼ Dec. 12 – PFLAG-**Sandpoint** meets, United Methodist Church, 711 Main St., 2 p.m., (208) 263-6699.

■ Dec. 25 – *Christmas*.

▼ Dec. 31 – *New Year's Eve*. New Year's Eve *Pink Party*, Red Lion Hotel, **Butte**, 6 p.m. dinner, 9 p.m. dancing, \$10 (incl. first 2 drinks), (406) 494-7800 info, (800) 443-1806 reservations.

Plan ahead for January:

■ Jan. 1 – *New Year's Day*.

▼ Jan. 9 – PFLAG-**Sandpoint** meets, United Methodist Church, 2 p.m., (208) 263-6699.

▼ Jan. 15 – Holly Near and Cris Williamson, Benaroya Hall, **Seattle**, \$17-\$52, (206) 323-2992.

■ Jan. 17 – *Martin Luther King Jr. Day*.

▼ special interest ■ general interest

Equal Rights Washington

Gears up for quick action, future civic engagement

SEATTLE – Gay individuals and organizations committed to ending discrimination in the state that is targeted to sexual orientation and gender identity are encouraged to sign on with Equal Rights Washington.

Membership in ERW is available through the organization as a political action committee or through its non-profit education fund, according to

Campaigns to target gays who smoke

SEATTLE – Two gay organizations are teaming up to encourage short-term activities that will lead to long-term health improvements for people in the gay community.

Verbena, a Seattle health organization for lesbians, bisexual women and transgendered individuals, and the LGBT Tobacco Coalition are anteing upwards of \$92,000 to encourage individuals and organizations to create activities or programs in the first half of 2005 that will influence people in the gay community to give up smoking.

The number of contracts and contract amounts will depend on the funding availability for what the groups are calling Community Action Projects. Three CAPs target the transgendered, gay people of color and gay youth. A fourth will finance a public awareness media campaign on tobacco prevalence aimed at the gay community in general.

Applications are due by Dec. 17. Notification of funding is set for Dec. 27. For information and applications, call Erik Janson of Verbena at (206) 323-6540.

Mala Nagarajan of the group's statewide summit planning committee.

Nagarajan said the group is seeking volunteers to help create a statewide network that can quickly respond to legislative, policy or political matters that affect the gay community.

Special areas of involvement, she said, could include advocacy, communication, community mobilization, education, fundraising, political action or research.

"Those opposed to equal rights for our community are well organized and positioned to mislead and mobilize their community to action," Nagarajan said. "We need to be an equal force ... with a strong network of civic engagement and community mobilization."

The first step, she said, is learning about each other. Nagarajan invites prospective participants to take a few minutes to complete an online survey. The online link to the survey may be found at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?A=55337555E64252>.

For questions about the survey or the organization, e-mail Nagarajan at: mala@equalrightswashington.org.

Oregon gays claim marriage ban does not cancel earlier, legal weddings

PORTLAND – Proponents of gay marriage are conceding that a voter-approved ban on same-sex marriage in November's elections shuts the door to state-sanctioned nuptials between gay and lesbian couples – at least for now.

According to the Associated Press, activists claim the ban does not invalidate the marriages of the 2,961 gay men and lesbian couples who tied the knot in Oregon earlier this year, when Multnomah County briefly permitted gay marriage, before a judge stopped the practice.

Nor does it shut the door to civil unions, said the AP, according to legal briefs filed with the Oregon Supreme Court by the American Civil Liberties Union on Nov. 18. That contention is a scaled-back argument for gay rights advocates in Oregon, who had previously argued that marriage was the only avenue that could ensure full protection for gay and lesbian couples.



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National

Transsexual did not lie on marriage application

LEAVENWORTH, Kan. — A judge has ruled that a transsexual who signed a marriage license application as a woman did not lie, even though she is legally considered a man. In his opinion issued in November, district Judge Frank Stewart said it was impossible to determine whether Sandy Clarissa Gast had intended to lie on the application or whether she truly believed herself to be female.

Gast was on trial on a misdemeanor charge of false swearing, which carries a \$500 fine. Prosecutors said she should have been listed as a man on the marriage license application filed in February.

Gast, 48, was born Edward Gast and underwent sex change surgery in October after living for several years as a woman. She had planned to marry George "Georgi" Somers, who is a man but lives as a woman. Gast said she was not sure if she would apply for another license, which would require a court challenge. She and Somers went through what they called a "holy union" ceremony in Topeka on March 20.

Former NJ governor seen as 'powerful voice' for upcoming gay issues

TRENTON, N.J. — New Jersey Gov. James E. McGreevey took the opportunity of his farewell address at the State Museum here last month to vigorously defend his decision to come out as a gay man.

"To be clear, I am not apologizing for being a gay American," he told some 400 assembled supporters and members of the press, "but rather for having let personal feelings impact my decision-making and for not having had the courage to be open about whom I was."

The governor was referring to his affair with a man, later identified as Golan Cipel, which led to his resignation in August.

McGreevey said he was standing before them as "a man who has experienced the freedom that comes with the truth," adding that he has "been doing some mending in my soul. I so want the words of my mouth and the actions of my hands and thoughts of my heart to be one and the same thing," he said.

The popular, 47-year-old governor stunned the country on Aug. 12 when he revealed he is gay and resigned, effective Nov. 15. McGreevey admitted having an extramarital affair.

McGreevey did not indicate what his future plans might include, but Alan Van Capelle, executive director of the

gay rights group Empire State Pride Agenda, told the Associated Press that McGreevey would be a welcome spokesperson for gay issues.



AP photo by Mike Derer

Former Gov. James McGreevey

McGreevey appeared at an Empire State Pride fundraiser after coming out.

"I've spoken to the governor and told the governor in the next several months when he settles down, I think his is going to be a powerful voice for (gay) issues," Van Capelle told the AP.

McGreevey's family, including his wife, Dina, and his parents, were noticeably absent as he delivered his speech. Dina McGreevey has bought her own house but has not announced any plans to separate legally from her husband. Regardless, McGreevey again apologized to his family and the people of New Jersey for the affair and for his sudden resignation.

"I am sorry to those that I love in my personal and political lives," he said. "I am sorry to those who vested their careers with me that this abrupt transition has caused them upheaval. And I am sorry that I have disappointed the citizens of the state of New Jersey who gave me this enormous trust."

During his 15-minute speech, McGreevey made no mention of the corruption scandals that rocked his short-lived administration. Instead, he touted his achievements as governor, citing New Jersey's Domestic Partnership Act, which grants gay couples some of the same rights as married people, as one of his administration's greatest accomplishments.

"We helped to bring more decency and equality to our state," he said, "flying in the face of national trends." But

McGreevey opposed efforts by some to push New Jersey to full marriage equality.

McGreevey also noted his executive order to legalize needle exchanges. Such programs had been held up by the legislature, despite the state having one of the highest rates of HIV from intravenous drug use.

McGreevey's preparations to transfer the state's executive leadership to Senate President Richard Cody (D-West Orange), next in line to assume the office, was overshadowed by a long investigative report in the Nov. 7 edition of the Newark Star-Ledger that provided the most detailed account thus far of McGreevey's personal life.

The article in the state's largest daily newspaper said McGreevey's aides and political allies tried to hide his homosexuality as he rose through the ranks of New Jersey politics. McGreevey himself seemed to want to paint himself as a heterosexual, according to the Star-Ledger.

The story also regaled readers with a narrative from various sources about McGreevey's relationship with Cipel, who served as the head of the state's task force on terrorism and other paid state positions. In a letter dated Aug. 27, McGreevey acknowledged that his actions had "significant public consequences."

Anthony Caldwell, a former executive with the state Commerce and Economic Growth Commission and a close confidante to McGreevey, told the paper that Cipel had "special access" to the governor. Caldwell worked with Cipel to plan a trade mission to Israel in early 2003 and said that Cipel often called McGreevey to seek his advice.

"They were very close," Caldwell told the Star-Ledger. "He'd call and he'd get right through. When that number popped up on the governor's cell phone, he picked up."

Former McGreevey administration officials also told the paper that Cipel was a frequent guest at Drumthwacket, the governor's official residence outside Princeton. One official said he saw Cipel inside the mansion on two separate occasions when he arrived there for early morning meetings.

Cipel, according to the official, was dressed in a sweat suit and his hair was unkempt. "It was very obvious that he spent the night," the official said. "You don't go to the governor's mansion with a sweat suit on."

Drumthwacket employees also said they saw Cipel leave the mansion early in the morning on two separate occasions. One employee told the Star-Ledger that Cipel was "dressed and ready for work."

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Advice to men: Clip, don't shave**'Manscaping' body shaves tied to staph infection****Body contact, sharing towels also ill-advised**

ATLANTA – Commonly mistaken by patients and doctors as a spider bite, a strain of staph continues to puzzle health experts who aren't sure how prevalent the drug-resistant bacterial skin disease is, or exactly what contributes to its spread.

"There's still no clear reason why this particular strain of staph is spreading," said Dennis Melton, a physician with the Infectious Disease Group of Atlanta. "But the incidence seems to continue to increase."

The infection, known medically as methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, or MRSA, surfaced more than two decades ago, but was commonly found only in the elderly or individuals who had been hospitalized.

Medical experts now are observing the emergence of a relatively new strain, known as community-acquired MRSA, among gay and bisexual men, athletes, prisoners and Native Americans.

Since a staph outbreak among gay men in Los Angeles in early 2003, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta has identified five major factors that facilitate the transmission of the infection:

- close contact,
- crowding,
- cleanliness,
- contaminated items and surfaces,
- and
- compromised skin integrity.

Sexual orientation at crux of student violence

APPLE VALLEY, Minn. – Three high school students, one allegedly armed with a bat, were charged with attacking a pro-President Bush classmate after he reportedly said only gays would support Sen. John Kerry. "It's a good thing to see young people interested and excited about politics," Dakota County attorney James Backstrom told the Associated Press. "It's obviously very disturbing to see this kind of violence over it."

According to the AP, authorities said the 17-year-old was assaulted in the high school parking lot following a class discussion about the election. He was treated for cuts and bruises and released. All three alleged assailants were charged, one with felony assault because he allegedly went to his car to get a bat during the assault, one with misdemeanor assault and one with disorderly conduct.

The compromised skin integrity category includes tiny abrasions that may occur during "manscaping," the cosmetic shaving of body parts popular with some gay men.

A recent study of a college football team in Connecticut found that 10 of the team's 100 players acquired MRSA during an eight-week period, and those who shaved body parts other than the face were six times more likely to be infected.

"Body shaving is likely to produce microabrasions," wrote study author Elizabeth Begier, a researcher with the Connecticut Department of Public Health. "This emerging cosmetic behavior among young men may contribute to the risk of infection in populations of athletes, especially in areas covered by clothing."

Both body shaving and the whirlpools found at bathhouses are suspected of helping fuel the spread of staph among gay men, Melton said.

"It's been known for some time that shaving could promote skin infection," said Melton, who noted many doctors now clip, instead of shave, a patient before surgery.

Towels and linens recycled among men at bathhouses and in locker rooms at gyms also may facilitate the spread of staph, Melton said.

People with HIV may be more at risk for acquiring staph because of their "increased exposure to antibiotics and the healthcare setting," according to the CDC. They also may be more susceptible to severe illness if infected with MRSA, Melton said.

Gay men who use anabolic steroids for bodybuilding also may increase

their chances of contracting staph if they develop acne or other skin infections, Melton said.

Skin-to-skin contact is the most common mode of transmission for community-acquired MRSA, which usually appears in the form of a swollen, puss-filled skin boil. But the infection also may progress into a life-threatening blood stream infection if antibiotics fail to control it, said the CDC.

Staph is the most common cause of skin or soft tissue infection in the United States, and 90 percent of infections continue to occur in a hospital setting, according to the CDC. But no national reporting system to track the prevalence of staph exists, mainly because of how varied its severity is.

The CDC said four states – Connecticut, Minnesota, Georgia and Maryland – are collecting data on MRSA to help the center better understand the illness.

Conn. officials support benefits for gay couples

DANBURY, Conn. – Connecticut legislators may buck the national trend in which 11 states in November approved constitutional bans on gay marriage. According to the Danbury News Times, Democratic leaders favor some type of civil unions to grant same-sex couples many of the rights given to married heterosexual couples. Democrats hold strong majorities in both houses of the legislature.

Republican Gov. M. Jodi Rell and House Minority Leader Robert Ward both have said they may be willing to extend some rights to gay couples, although both said they oppose same-sex marriage, according to the News Times.

"Connecticut may be the first state in the nation where the legislature cobbles something together," said Rep. Robert Godfrey, the Democrat chair of the screening committee that decides which bills go to the House floor.

Birds of a feather to flock to South Beach

MIAMI – Tickets for the 12th annual Winter Party Festival here March 2-7 go on sale this month. More than 10,000 people from all over the world are expected to attend the festivities for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered (GLBT) community. Events are scheduled at several of the hottest nightclubs, hotels, restaurants, museums and venues in South Beach.

Tickets may be purchased online at www.winterparty.com beginning Dec. 10. Organizers suggest the most economical way to attend is to purchase one of the six event passes, which are priced to save up to \$295. Two-thirds of the proceeds will be distributed to the South Florida gay community through a granting program administered by the Dade Community Foundation, with the balance going to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

More national news on page 21.

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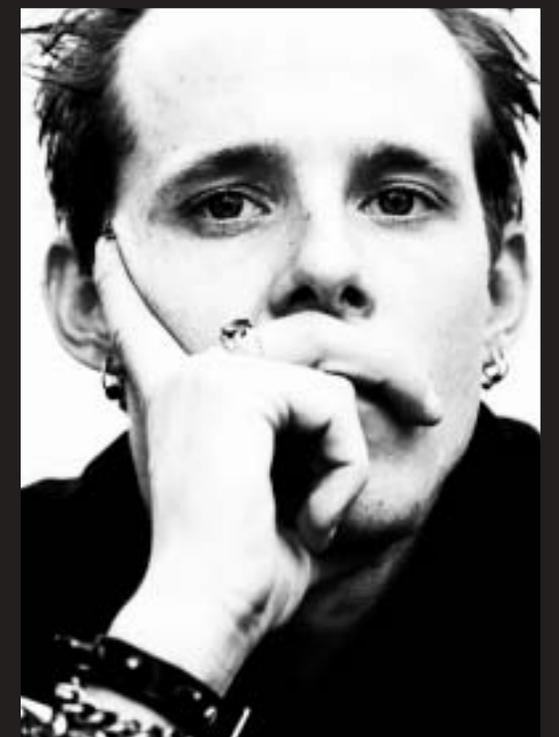
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International

Israel honors 40-year relationship of gay men

NAZARETH, Israel — A Nazareth District Court has ruled that same-sex partners are eligible to be considered common-law spouses under inheritance law, setting a new precedent in Israel, the news agency Ha'aretz reported.

Voting 2-1, the three-judge panel in November decided that a 77-year-old man who maintained a joint household for some 40 years with his partner, who died in 2000, may inherit the deceased man's apartment even though the decedent did not have a will, according to Ha'aretz. Without formally leaving the apartment to his partner and without any close family members as heirs, his property was to be transferred to the state according to Israeli law.

Civil unions prevail as Norway nixes marriage

OSLO, Norway — A measure that would have allowed same-sex couples in Norway to marry and to adopt children was defeated in the country's Parliament last month, according to news reports. Norway already allows civil unions, through which gay couples can obtain most of the benefits and responsibilities that are included with heterosexual marriage, but gay Norwegians are not allowed to adopt.

Gay rights advocates pushed for full marriage rights and adoption that

would have rendered current marriage law gender-neutral. Christian Democrats, linked to the Lutheran Church in Norway and led by Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik, opposed the Labor party-sponsored bill, according to press reports.

UK says OK to domestic partner rights, benefits

LONDON — The United Kingdom's House of Lords has passed a law giving gay couples the right to legal recognition and the same rights and responsibilities that married couples in England, Wales and Northern Ireland have long received. When the legislation approved Nov. 18 takes effect, the United Kingdom will join 12 other countries in legally recognizing same-sex couples.

Nine countries, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland, grant rights and protections to gay couples that are more limited than marriage but more extensive than those provided in the United States. Three countries, Belgium, the Netherlands and Canada, extend gay couples the right to marry.

Lesbians wed in Canada seek equality in Ireland

DUBLIN — A lesbian couple is seeking judicial review in the Ireland High Court to have their marriage recognized by the government. Dubliners Catherine Zapaonne and Louise Gilligan applied to the Irish Revenue Commissioners to be recognized as a married couple following their September 2003 wedding in Vancouver, British Columbia. When their request

was refused, the couple sought the higher judicial review, according to media reports.

Gilligan and Zappone are the first gay couple in Ireland to go to court to seek state recognition of a foreign marriage. The case is also a legal first for Europe, where Belgium and the Netherlands already allow same-sex marriages and several other nations grant gay couples similar tax, inheritance and child-rearing rights as husbands and wives have. Britain and Spain plan to follow suit soon.

Under current Irish law, a married couple, in which one partner does not work outside the home, has tax advantages in comparison to other couples who live together. If the couple's case is successful, it could have a wide range of implications for all unmarried couples in Ireland who live together, estimated to be more than 77,000 couples, newspapers reported.

Slovakia says it will not recognize gay marriage

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia — Despite widespread approval for gay couples' rights in the European Union, officials here have declared that Slovakia will not recognize gay marriages conducted in other EU member countries.

At a meeting of EU foreign affairs ministers in Brussels in early November, Slovakian leaders announced their opposition. "Slovakia has taken this measure unilaterally, which means that we will have different laws in this area than the rest of the EU," said Foreign Affairs Minister Eduard Kukan, according to the Spectator. Kukan told the newspaper that the decision will help Slovakia guarantee against recognition of gay marriages.

Two violent deaths alarm gay Londoners

LONDON — A candlelight vigil for a gay man beaten to death by a gang drew more than 1,000 mourners to central London on Nov. 5, according to the Guardian newspaper. Barman David Morley, 37, of Chiswick in west London, was attacked by a gang as he walked home along the South Bank of the Thames on Halloween weekend, the Guardian said.

As the gang attacked Morley, a survivor of a Soho pub bombing in 1999 in which three people died, two people took photographs using their mobile phones, the Guardian reported. Morley died in a hospital later the same day from injuries that included a ruptured spleen, broken ribs and dozens of bruises. Detectives were

said to be investigating whether he was killed because he was gay.

The vigil came amid more violence against gays in the city, as a second gay man was nearly stabbed to death while riding a London night bus. The victim, whose name was not given, was listed in "serious but stable condition" after being taken to a hospital. According to the Guardian, the 25-year-old victim and his partner were going home about 4 a.m. after a night out in early November when another passenger, a stranger, stabbed him four times with a knife, in what police called a homophobic attack.

Six people were arrested and charged with Morley's murder. They also face charges for attempted assaults on two other men in the same area that night, the Guardian said.

Homophobia hinders HIV/AIDS education

KINGSTON, Jamaica — New research by Human Rights Watch details an increase in anti-gay violence in Jamaica amid growth of the nation's HIV/AIDS epidemic. An HRW report, "Hated to Death: Homophobia, Violence & Jamaica's HIV/AIDS Epidemic," was released as Caribbean leaders met to discuss HIV/AIDS, stigma and discrimination in St. Kitts/Nevis, officials said.

Violence and discrimination against people living with and at high risk for HIV/AIDS — particularly men who have sex with men — is on the rise, according to the report. Many Jamaicans believe that the disease is specific to gays and sex workers whose "moral impurity" makes them vulnerable to it, the Human Rights Watch study found. Widespread homophobia, in turn, hinders access to HIV prevention information, condoms and health care for Jamaicans who need it, the report shows.

Openly-gay politician sees benefit of goodwill

VARNA, Bulgaria — The nation's first openly-gay politician — not surprisingly — is a member of the Socialist Party, described by its leader, Sergey Stanishev, as a left-wing party in Europe that champions equality and protection of gays and other minorities.

Ivelin Yordanov, 26, who recently acknowledged his sexual orientation, is employed in a nongovernmental organization and works to fight discrimination against gays, according to news outlets in Bulgaria. Yordanov is a graduate of Economy University and a native of Dobrich. He said that a party that defends different sexual orientations can only benefit in goodwill from voters.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Holiday treat at Interplayers:

It's great fun laughing at other people's problems

by Christopher Lawrence

This may be the best treat of the holiday season! Get your tickets to see Interplayers' rowdy and hilarious send-up of a struggling, second-rate, amateur theatre company presenting the Charles Dicken's classic. Do not delay.

The convoluted premise of a play within a play, which goes dreadfully wrong, is fraught with delicious characters who suffer the slings and arrows of being small actors in a small-town production, with large egos and enough comical idiosyncrasies to fill ... well, a theatre full of actors.

The hilarity begins with the discovery of a possible foreclosure of the company and its rather long-in-the-tooth annual Christmas production. An amateur budding actor, mistaken for the inspector who might decide their financial fate, is given a part in the production and allowed to rewrite the annual play only three days before opening night.

The results are sidesplitting, top-notch entertainment, filled with scenes that leave the audience rolling with laughter. A few people howled and hooted so loudly I want to see it all over again, in case I missed any of the lines.



photos by Christopher Lawrence

In the photo above, Troy Nickerson, left, as financial manager of the struggling Soap Box Theater Company, argues turkey props with Scrooge, in the person of Wes Deitrick.

At right, Kathie Doyle-Lipe's emotional portrayal of small-town actress Dorothy Tree-Hapgood convulsed audiences.



Niké Imoru's exceptional direction obviously inspired her ensemble of players to be an outstanding example of what teamwork is about. Their polished, physical and verbal timing are worthy of any of the best situation comedies I have seen. Nearly every character has flashes of brilliance onstage. They obviously relish each second and each other.

Of particular note is the delightful, British-tongued Kathie Doyle-Lipe, a well-known local character actor whom I feel compelled to dub: Her Royal Highness, the Essence of Subtlety. It was difficult to tear my eyes away from her in many scenes because her energy and commitment to her craft are so solid.

Gorgeous, crisp and self-absorbed, Stephanie Brush is delightful as the high-maintenance director, beleaguered with a cast whose lives are every bit as comical, zany and melodramatic as the parts they play.

Damon Mentzer's debut as the sadly underdeveloped aspiring wannabe actor mistaken for the inspector is charming and winning. He has just enough gee-whiz in his characterization to convince us of his sincere, but misguided attempts to gain his grasp on fame. Like a young Jim Carrey, his handsome good looks are readily distorted to a rubbery advantage.

Alycia Delmore joins us from Seattle and gives her part as the stage manager enough weight to remember that the director is seldom the only boss in the theatre. Her portrayal of frustration over the lack of professionalism by the Soap Box Theater Company of actors and her character's focus on making the show work rang true.

Wes Deitrick, as the frustrated, egocentric, self-tortured and self-aggrandizing leading man, is a knot of emotions and desperate in his need for recognition as the genius he knows he is. Is it the devil that makes him do it? Possibly.

Roger Welch, though more low key, is another standout, with excellent timing and lines delivered with acerbic wit and an acid tongue.

Troy Nickerson is a joy to watch as the slightly cloying and effete portrayal of the company's financial manager. His body language and line delivery are always unique and winning despite his character's lack of spinal column.

Bryan Jackson and Barrie MacConnell – as well as Dan Heggem for his Marcel Marceau interpretation of a thankless role – deserve special mention for countless humorous moments filled with angst and confusion. Truthfully, all the actors are working with a great director, a first-rate script – and they rise to the occasion masterfully. See it!

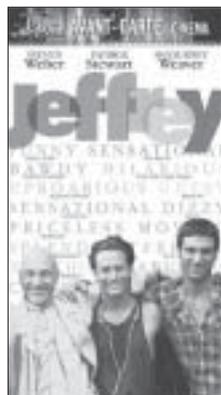
Inspecting Carol runs to Dec. 18 on a Tuesday through Saturday schedule. For tickets and times, call the Interplayers box office at 455-PLAY.

Gay Movie Night:

Jeffrey next screening at CenterStage

by Christopher Lawrence

Kudos to CenterStage for a memorable evening filled with camaraderie, moving entertainment and excellent cuisine.



for his support of the arts in Spokane. People from a number of agencies and

More than 70 people showed up for dinner and a movie in November to enjoy a five-course meal, watch *Beautiful Thing* and honor John Deen for his nine years devoted to the publication of Stonewall News Northwest and

groups in Spokane's gay community participated in applauding the publisher, joined by gay allies, including the marketing staff at the MAC, the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture.

This month's Tuesday treat is *Jeffrey*, announced Jerry Davis, the board member at CenterStage who initiated Gay Move Night and orchestrated the surprise dinner salute to Deen. Unlike the kickoff event, which included popcorn, and last month's feature following dinner, *Jeffrey's* showing at 8:15 will be preceded by a social hour with desserts and coffee served at 7. The date is Dec.

14 and tickets, \$10, may be purchased at the door. A full bar will be available.

Jeffrey is set in the mid-1990s, with Steven Weber as the title character, a single, sex-obsessed gay man who realizes that the threat of AIDS has taken the fun out of his sex life. When he vows to make changes and stop his sexual escapades, he immediately meets the man of his dreams. Enter the very hunky Steve (Michael T. Weiss). But for Jeffrey, there's a problem. Steve is HIV-positive. The fun comes in working out that problem. *Jeffrey* comes with a "warning" of nudity and sexual scenes ... thankfully.

Dream men want more than peace in the world

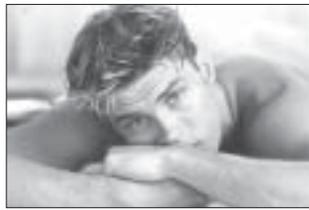
SAN FRANCISCO – What do you get when you take five hot hunks from around the world, fly them to New York and offer them the chance to compete against each other for \$25,000?

That question will be answered Dec. 12 at the Mr. Gay.com Universe Contest with television personality Graham Norton emceeing the event at Club Crobar. Even better, admission is free, said Gay.com's Trea Robinson. Doors open at 9:30 p.m. and the winner will be crowned at 11 p.m. or midnight.

The contestants "don't need an extreme make-over," Robinson said, "they are already smokin' hot." Judge for yourself:

Michael Lunde, 25, Mr. Gay.com

USA and North America, is a model from Honolulu, who said, "I believe



Michael Lunde

in the right to love who you want, marry whoever you want. The saying on a popular T-shirt, 'Marriage is a human right, not a heterosexual privilege,' is what I believe."



Brett Humble

Lunde's a Neil Diamond-loving, sun-drenched surfer with a passion for fashion



Julius Udem

who has modeled for Nike and other firms and can be seen in this year's Men of Hawaii calendar. Michael is sporty, a family man and loves to tip a few back and sing karaoke.

Julius Udem, 23, Mr. Gay.com Germany, works in the media in Cologne. Said the athletically-gifted contestant, "It's up to each one of us to make a difference. Let's start with more tolerance and the same rights for everybody!"

Udem is outgoing and funny, and claims he can cross his eyes and touch his nose with his tongue. He enjoys kickin' it with friends, cooking, traveling, reading and shopping, as well as pop art, kitch and "plastic trash from Japan."

Brett Humble, 32, Mr. Gay.com Australia, is a gym manager, model

and actor from Perth, with a positive outlook: "Life is such a beautiful journey, I embrace its challenges and understand that every moment moulds me into the person I am."

Humble says he loves traveling, dancing, cooking, gardening, sports and he just "adores" the beach. This masculine jock has bulging muscles and a big heart and spends his free time entertaining friends and volunteering with kids.



Angel Alonso Gonzalez



Philip Hewson

Hewson likes to inline-skate, read, mess around with computers, eat out, shop, travel, entertain friends, watch live music and films and work out at the gym.

Angel Alonso Gonzalez, 22, Mr. Gay.com Spain, lives in Madrid. He feels strongly about education: "I think that the education each new generation receives is the basis for everything, so I would improve the basic education, starting with early childhood."

Alonso Gonzalez is an outdoorsman who loves to shop and decorate. Extroverted, yet serious, he enjoys reading, movies, music and TV, and considers his personality as his best attribute.

Now, one last question. Which one would you want to hang with?

CenterStage to help teens gain special skills

CenterStage is on the lookout for teenagers who would like to try their hand at acting, stage combat, martial arts, juggling, writing and a choice of many other theatre-related crafts. Every Wednesday afternoon from 3 to 5 p.m., free classes will be offered in theatre, drama and comedy in the first floor ballroom.

Those who would like to learn these special skills or work with the Internet and computers, telephone CenterStage at 747-8243.

Philip Hewson, 26, Mr. Gay.com UK, is a software consultant in London, who admits to not being

not very domestic. He says he is spiritual (he's into leather) and that his best attribute is his intelligence.

Hewson

SJO offers musical salute to Russia

The Spokane String Quartet will salute *Russia in the Dark of Winter* at CenterStage on Dec. 8. Highlights of the Wednesday evening program include *String Quartet No. 13* by Dmitri Shostakovich and Beethoven's *Op. 9, No. 1*, first of his quartets to use a Russian theme.

Dinner, reflecting the evening's theme, is at 6:30 p.m. The concert is at 7:30. Tickets are \$43 per person. Show-only tickets, including dessert and beverage, are \$22 per person and \$17 for children 17 and under. Phone the CenterStage box office at 747-8243 for reservations and information.

The Artisans is open for business in Colville

Colville Arts Foundation is open this winter for scheduled workshops and other small group meetings only and will return to its regular schedule March 16 with an exhibit by local painters Rachael Hill and Violet Collen, according to Gloria de los Santos, the foundation's acting director.

The Artisans, a co-op business that shares space with CAF, will continue to maintain regular business hours.



MAC to show century of America in photography

One hundred years of photography catalogued by the National Archives will arrive this month for a brief exhibit at the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture (MAC).

The exhibition celebrates 100 years of American life and chronicles events ranging from the Wright Brothers' first flight to footprints on the moon. The National Archives and Records Administration created the exhibit from its extensive photography collection and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service organized it for travel.

This significant exhibit at the MAC, which hosted Spokane's recent commemoration of World AIDS Day, is slated to open Dec. 10 and continue through Jan. 23. Regular admission prices apply.

"A Dickens of a giggle."
- Seattle Weekly

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Walk into an old-fashioned Christmas at the Campbell

For rekindling nostalgic memories of “Over the river and through the woods” – whether real or imagined – a visit to the historic Campbell House should be on your must-do list this holiday season.

Festive holiday decorations, the scent of hot cookies baking in the oven, entertaining children’s activities and storytelling will conjure visions of Christmases past.

The brick residence on the campus of the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture in Browne’s Addition will be open between Dec. 18 and Jan. 2, except Mondays and Christmas Day. Visiting hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Each afternoon at 3 before Christmas Eve, guests will be invited to cozy-

up to the library fireplace while a local celebrity reads *Twas the Night Before Christmas*. “Historic cooking” demonstrations will be conducted in the kitchen while local music students perform at the piano. Days-of-yore coats, cloaks and wintertime clothing and artifacts from the MAC collections will be on display. Scavenger hunts also are planned.

A visit to the Campbell House is included with admission to the museum, \$7 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors, with children 5 and under and MAC members admitted free.



Tip for Santa:

Stuff some stockings with music

by Graham Ames

Buying music for someone else can be tricky. Many choices are available, and personal taste plays such an enormous role in whether an album is beloved or forgotten. To simplify the task, here are a few “quickie” suggestions.

Country fans will appreciate the debut album from Sugarland, *Twice the Speed of Life* (Mercury), 11 upbeat, show-stopping songs from Kristen Hall, a lesbian; Jennifer Nettles and Kristian Bush.

An alternative might be Shania Twain’s *Greatest Hits* (Mercury), which features an astounding 21 tracks, most of which have been Top Ten favorites, and the addition of four new tracks, recorded just for this release.

If you are looking for big beats and dance grooves, search out Virgin Records’ *Dance Hits* (mix by Jason Nevins). You will find 16 great floor-fillers. Not a bomb in the lot and mixed for nonstop energy and joyous fun.

More great energy can be found on Groove Armada’s *The*

Best of (Jive Electro), a career-spanning collection of 14 tracks, which includes the previously unreleased *Take Me Home*.

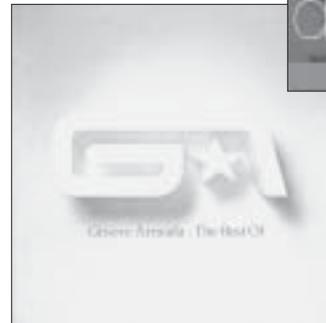
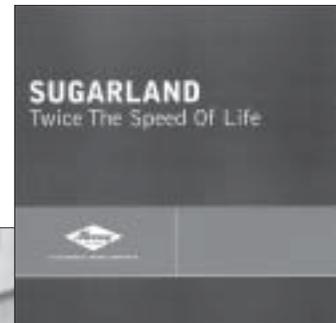
Linda Ronstadt’s new *Hummin’ to Myself* (Verve) is a great collection of 11 pop standards from the likes of Cole Porter, Duke Ellington and Frank Loesser. More intimate than her recordings with Nelson Riddle, Ronstadt sings these timeless classics in top form and impeccable style.

The more contemporary offering from Julia Fordham, *That’s Life* (Vanguard), resonates with Julia’s rich alto contemplating life’s quirky mysteries across 10 delightful, introspective tracks.

The Broadway musical fan (everybody knows one) might appreciate the original cast recording of *Caroline, or Change*. This Tony-nominated sung-through musical has soaring gospel and Motown melodies throughout its Sondheim-influenced score.

But you don’t just have to listen to show tunes: *You Oughtta be on Broadway* (SSF Records) contains 12 favorite Broadway tunes, each recorded once with vocals and once without. Finally, you can be the star, in your own car or living room.

There’s a little something for everyone. They are all great albums and any of them would make a great holiday gift, stocking-stuffer or even a nice escape for oneself. Happy music shopping!



Have a great holiday season this

December in Spokane

“Spokane. Near nature. Near perfect.”

Saturday the 4th – The Spokane Jazz Orchestra, joined by Seattle jazz artist Charlotte Carruthers, presents its *Holiday in Jazz* at the Met at 8 pm.

Friday the 10th – The Rainbow Regional Community Center debuts its weekly *Friday Movie Night* at 6 pm.

Saturday the 11th – The Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane presents its *Monarch Christmas Show* at Dempseys at 9 pm.

Tuesday the 14th – CenterStage continues its *Gay Movie Night* with *Jeffrey*. Social hour at 7 pm; film at 8:15 pm.

Thursday the 16th – Dempseys hosts Men magazine’s *20th Anniversary* with a special party starting at 9 pm.

Wednesday the 22nd – The Merq hosts a *Christmas Appreciation Party* starting at 7 pm.

Saturday the 25th – **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

Friday the 31st – **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

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Midnight in Mongolia:

Watch what you step in, pilgrim, it's the wurst of Wayne

CenterStage continues its Saturday series of "The Worst Midnight Movie Series Ever" on Dec. 4 with 1956's highly radioactive, big-budget fiasco, *The Conqueror*.

The Conqueror was hot, hot, hot – literally. Dubbed "an RKO radioactive picture," it was filmed near an A-bomb test site, and more than 60 tons of fertile fallout soil was shipped back to Hollywood for retakes. Wannabe film mogul Howard Hughes put up the bucks for this cellu-loser, including the



John Wayne as Genghis Kahn

finally gained the rights to show it for the first time on television in 1974.

Truly, the only way to watch *The Conqueror* is with friends. Gag in unison as The Duke (Genghis Khan) comments on the beautiful and amply-endowed Susan Hayward (a Tartar princess) as he sidles his way through Mongolia: "I feel this Tartar wuh-man is fer me."

It's no wun-der that this may well be the most horrible case of miscasting in all of movie-dumb.

Upcoming horror-ible movies include: Ed Wood Jr.'s *Plan 9 from Outer Space* on Dec. 11 and *Reefer Madness*, with more tragedies here than Shakespeare could shake a roach at, on Dec. 18. An episode from a Flash Gordon serial precedes each movie. "Worst Midnight" takes a holiday intermission on Dec. 25 or Jan. 1.

Since battles can't be fought on an empty stomach, cocktails, beer, popcorn and snacks will be available. Tickets are \$3 per person and can be purchased at the door the night of the show.



Tell Trinity

Forgiveness, relationships and when to GRIP

Dearest Trinity,

I haven't talked to my ex in years. And I just found out he's very ill. I'd like to forgive him and call but why should I when he was so awful to me during our breakup?

Why Forgive Indianapolis, Ind.

Dearest Why,

"Forgive but never forget" is a common Holocaust survivor's sentiment. Also, "If you let your enemies have the best of you, then your enemies have truly won!"

Pumpkin, forgiveness doesn't mean giving up, giving in or righting someone's wrong, it means looking someone in the eye – or in your mind's eye – and saying, "I start to release you!" Once you do this, whether it feels true for you or not, you will suddenly begin an incredible journey.

Forgiving is about you, pumpkin, your emotional happiness and your mental freedom, not about some other fool! It's also a journey which may take an entire lifetime.

Good luck, Trinity

Dear Trinity,

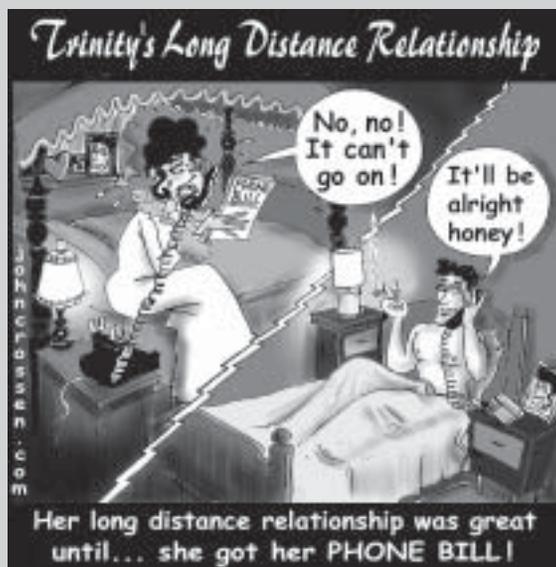
I have just started a long distance relationship (LDR). Help!

Yours truly, LDR Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Dear LDR,

I'd like to say something comforting about LDRs, but there's nothing. LDRs are, at best, complicated, troublesome and often depressing, except to say that with the Internet and cheap airline tickets, LDRs are not as bad as they used to be. So, if you must have an LDR, get a laptop, an

Internet connection and a cell phone with free "nights and weekends!"



Dating Dilemma No. 95

Hey Trinity,

How do you know when "dating someone" turns into "having a relationship with someone"?

Thanks, Relationship Twist New Orleans

Hey Relationship Twist,

You'll really know you're in a relationship – and not just dating someone – when you both have a fight and you still talk the next day. And you'll really *really* know, when one day you get asked to have the "Big Talk," which consists of, "Are we exclusive?"

Other signs and signals include when your date gives you lots of jewelry, gives you more headaches than heartbreaks and is living in the same house as you!

Happiness, Trinity

Dearest Trinity,

You talk a lot about psychotherapy. What is so great about it? And how do you know you need it?

Sincerely, Therapeutic Doubts Dallas

Dear Doubts,

If you have to ask what is so great about self-exploration, self-acceptance and self-actualization, then here are:

Trinity's Rational Tips for Knowing When It's Time to GRIP (Get Right Into Psychotherapy)

1. If you hate your job, your spouse, your body and your parents, then it's GRIP time!

2. If you swear all money is evil, all air is dirty, all food is toxic and all people are unkind, then you may be paranoid and need to GRIP!

3. If you won't clean your house, your body or your clothes, and you won't talk to anyone who does, then GRIP!

4. If you always talk about what troubles you now, what troubled you in your past and what troubles you about the future, then it's time to GRIP.

5. If your lover abuses you physically, emotionally and verbally – and you think you deserve it – then GRIP!

6. If you're a rageaholic, alcoholic, sexaholic and/or shopaholic, but complain, "At least I go to work each day!" you still need to GRIP!

7. If you haven't dated in years, traveled in years, seen your family in years or left your house in years, then it's time to GRIP!

8. If you have a deep need to kill your boss, your mother, your spouse and/or your dog, well then ... GRIP!

9. If you're about to turn 50 and you still live with your parents, except for that time you ran away for five months to Amarillo, then it's time to GRIP!

10. Lastly, if you dislike my writing, have a distaste for my cartoons and won't visit my Web site, well then honey, I may need to GRIP!

Reverend Trinity has a masters of divinity and hosts the weekly radio drama Spiritually Speaking. She also performs globally. To "Tell Trinity," send e-mail to Trinity@telltrinity.com or a letter to Tell Trinity, P.O. Box 1362, Provincetown, MA 02657-5362.

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REVIEWS & PREVIEWS

BOOKS

A Face in the Crowd:

Expressions of Gay Life in America

edited by John Peterson and Martin Bedogne

Prospect Publishing, 132 pages, paperback, \$24.95 (\$29.95 with CD)

Want a wonderful holiday gift idea? This striking book, perched invitingly on coffee tables everywhere, might help break down barriers rooted in prejudice and hate. From deeply moving and often humorous accounts of coming out to alliances forged between gay and straight communities, these are arresting images that portray our youth, our families and our elders with astounding valor.

True stories and positive imagery illuminate the truth ... gay life in America does not fit a single stereotype. Seeing so many examples of gay champions overcoming the pain of not being accepted and learning to thrive, how can we not be filled with pride when our amazing abilities to survive are so beautifully demonstrated?

The Matthew Shepard Foundation sponsors this 132-page powerful tribute to our strength. In the introduction by Judy and Dennis Shepard, Judy Shepard writes: This book "is a reflection of Matthew's dreams. He knew that judging people before knowing them was the loss of an opportunity."

The foreword by Betty DeGeneres, "poster parent" for PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), relates her own personal journey and caring acceptance of her daughter, Ellen, when she came out.

PFLAG members will receive a 25 percent discount off the cover price. Interested in having a reading and discussion group? Contact Tiina Buckaloo at 927-9152 or Tim Bartley at 891-3662.

Evolution's Rainbow:

Diversity, Gender, and Sexuality in Nature and People

Joan Roughgarden

University of California Press, 474 pages, hard cover, \$27.50

The question to ask is, do we have to see it to believe it or do we have to believe it to see it? Anytime a distinguished evolutionary biologist takes on



the paradigms and belief systems handed to us from the medical establishment, the Bible, social scientists and even Darwin's work regarding gender expression, sexual orientation, and sexual selection, it's time for us to sit up and take notice.

We are presented here with astounding information that belies contemporary and historic convictions based on misinterpretations and, in some cases, lack of rigorous scientific methodology. Roughgarden's challenge to the evolutionary theory of sexual selection is supported by hundreds of peer-reviewed examples of sexual ambiguity throughout the animal and plant kingdoms.

Suppose, instead, we now learn that sex is not only meant for purposes of creating new life or breeding, but is actually useful for social selection, which is a form of managing social relationships. This is not only possible, but also probable when studying relatively recent and highly rigorous scientific investigation.

In the second part of her book she examines and demonstrates how this can apply to the human species. She finds support from history as well as indications in the Bible that much of what humankind has believed to be the foundation of our social structure is severely flawed and can more easily be explained in a way that is inclusive of ALL gender and orientation.

Consider reading this book. I found it very affirming to the human condition and its rainbow of possibilities. A great mix of fascinating information and introspective spirituality. – C.L.

Lust Unearthed

Thomas Waugh

Arsenal Pulp Press, 316 pages, paperback, \$23.95

Waugh's colorful professional credits include being CBS's head designer and decorator in New York, as well as a designer for Paramount and Columbia Pictures in Hollywood. Some may think this to be merely a sequel to the author's last, highly touted work, *Out/Lines: Underground Gay Graphics Before Stonewall*, and, in some respects, that is true.

Just before he was finished, the San Francisco Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society, a major contributor to his last work, informed him that a "humungous new collection" had just been acquired from Ambrose Dubek. Dubek was an inveterate advocate and patron of the arts over the years and had many close personal friendships with such prominent homoerotic artists as Jean Cocteau, Paul Cadmus, Touko Laaksonen (Tom of Finland), Dom Orejudos (Etienne), and Kneeland Bate (Blade).

Too late to include more than a few frames, this new book became Waugh's next working goal. Fortunately, by the time he was finished with that project, most of the research and categorizing had already been lovingly done by Willie Walker.

The reproductions are a chronicle of the underground homoerotic works and are captioned with rich narration to help the reader understand the significance of each of the illustrations in regard to the historical placement and societal acceptance of homosexuality. A journey of discovery and more than just another collection of homoerotic, we become privy to the underground

world that preceded Stonewall and the beginning of our freedom to express the truth of who we are. – C.L.

The Phoenix

Ruth Sims

The Writers' Collective, 353 pages, paperback, \$16.95

This enthralling historic gay novel that spans the last two decades of the 19th century focuses first on Kit St. Denys, a young man who is savagely abused by and, finally, murders his father in order to escape his tragic surroundings.

Kit is spirited away by an actress and benefactress who finds a place for him in the theater and assures that he is groomed into a fine actor who, ultimately, attains fame and widespread acclaim. Haunted by terrifying memories, he eventually crosses paths with Nick Stuart, a young physician from a religious fundamental background, and both men are drawn into an emotional and forbidden relationship.

Each wrestles with his own treacherous demons in a series of tragedies and triumphs throughout this saga written in the finest tradition of a Victorian romance. The morays and politics of the era bear directly on the decisions and choices made by these riveting characters as they struggle to overcome their hostile culture and all that keeps them apart.

Interestingly, this grandmotherly and first-time author's elegant work has been banned in many bookstores across the country for its "questionable" content.

The only question I have: How soon can we treat ourselves to another of Ruth Sims' richly drawn novels? She seems to understand the soul and its torment well enough to fill her characters with life and purpose. This superior example of literature is worth reading more than once. – C.L.

GLBT Book Group

Spokane's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Book Group meets monthly in the second floor conference room of Auntie's Bookstore. Facilitator Julie Smith says review sessions begin at 7 p.m. and visitors are welcome.

Upcoming reviews include:

Dec. 1: *Dead Beat* by V.L. McDermid.

Jan. 5: Jeffrey Eugenides' *Middlesex*.

REVIEWS & PREVIEWS

MUSIC & VIDEO

An Intimate Christmas

Danny Wright

Atco/Atlantic Records CD

Requested Steinway artist Danny Wright's first Christmas album in seven years is a quiet gem, perfect for the long Inland Northwest winter nights. Gentle solo piano arrangements of familiar carols and original works are occasionally underscored by subtle string arrangements to create a late-night-by-the-fireplace mood full of holiday peace and magic. Quiet and contemplative, these 12 tracks echo the mellow moods of George Winston.

Danny has gained popularity over 20 years of hard-fought, grassroots perseverance. Although he has never been on television or radio, he is known across North America for his relaxing style and inventive arrangements. His next release, *Real Romance*, will be issued shortly before Valentine's Day. Until then, pour yourself a brandy, curl up with a good book and share the mystery of Christmas with this beautiful holiday album. – G.A.

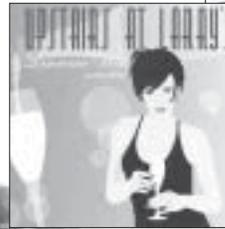
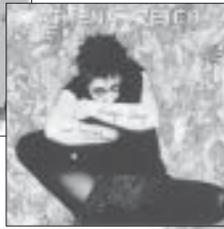
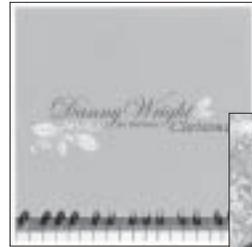
Stranger Things Have Happened

Athena Reich

www.AthenaReich.com CD

Truly an independent artist, Athena defies easy categorization and description. Her newest album is an intense, eccentric journey across musical genres as far apart as classical, folk, punk, rock and jazz. She calls to mind, at various moments, artists such as Nina Hagen, Tori Amos, Kate Bush, Alanis Morissette and Gwen Stefani, but her unique approach transcends drawing any clear parallels.

Jesse is a sweet, up-tempo pop single. *Limbs* swings strongly from jazz to caba-



ret and back again. *Contra*dick*tions* makes the parental advisory label necessary. Through it all, Athena writes about relationships as viewed through the eyes of a punk lesbian goddess. Men, women and even Canada provide a focus for her passion, and she plays and sings with such involving energy that the listener shares her emotional ride. This is an album not easily ignored or forgotten, by an artist whose fierce devotion to her art keeps her completely independent, in all the best ways. – G.A.

Marry Me

various artists

Figjam Records 2-disc CD

Marry Me is an outstanding double-CD compilation from a collection of gay and allied artists celebrating love and produced to benefit the fight for same-sex marriage. Focusing on the universal nature of love, the 21 tracks run through a wide range of genres (folk, rock, gospel, even a dance number from RuPaul) and offer up heartfelt emotion and excellent music. There is something guaranteed for every taste on this album and plenty to broaden horizons, as well.

The *Ceremony* disc is quiet, focusing on sincere, deep statements of love by artists like Yolanda, Marcella Detroit and Freddy Freeman. The second disc,

Reception, begins quietly but ramps up the energy, featuring such artists as Chixie Dix, the bootLICKERS and Bill Budd. Fifty percent of the proceeds from CD sales will go to the ACLU Foundation's Lesbian and Gay Rights and AIDS projects, which is fighting nationally for equal marriage rights. If not found at any local record stores, it can be ordered online. *Marry Me's* release is scheduled Dec. 7.

This is a win/win/win purchase – excellent music, an excellent cause and a great introduction to queer artists from across the country. – G.A.

Remember Who I Am

Girlyman

Daemon Records CD

The buzz on the Internet about Girlyman's sets opening for Indigo Girls had been intense. After reading such praise as "harmonic perfection ... divine ... one of the best openers," I rushed this album into my player when it arrived. The trio of Tammy Greenstein, Doris Muramatsu and Nate Borofsky trade off song writing, lead vocal singing and various instruments many times during the 12 tracks, always with the focus on tight harmonies and insightful, witty lyrics. There is more folk than rock in these tracks, and the harmonies shine above the

acoustic tracks with power and emotion I seldom hear these days.

The vocals bring to mind Uncle Bonzai, but the comparison ends there. These songs recall Shaun Mullins or even Peter, Paul and Mary: personal insights into relationships with people, society and the universe. Their queer sensibility and sense of humor are evident throughout the album, even in their band name. This is a gender-bending, delightful first album, and once they are finished thrilling crowds as an opening act, I can't wait to hear what they do next. – G.A.

Upstairs At Larry's Lawrence Welk Uncorked

various artists, Lawrence Welk Orchestra

Vanguard Records CD

Creating dance mixes out of big band music really should not work, but here it does. This is the most surprising, joyful album I have heard for quite some time. Using samples from Welk's vast catalog of recordings and television appearances, the DJs on this CD have created 15 tracks filled with infectious energy and spirit, without ever falling into the trap of the novelty album. They all took this task seriously and their respect for the source material is evident throughout as they weave something completely original for the new millennium.

There is the slightly funky *Baby Elephant Safari*, the sample-happy *Bubbles in the Wine*, and *You Are My Sunshine* comes out as a dance hall anthem. It's difficult to explain exactly how well this all works because the idea sounds so silly without actually hearing the tracks. Welk's trademark champagne music filled dance floors when it was first played and, here, it stands reborn, ready to do it all over again. "Vonderful, vonderful!" – G.A.

10 attitudes

Michael Gallant, Jason Stuart

Ariztical Entertainment (1:33)

Jason Stuart clearly had a vision when he co-wrote and co-produced this send-up of an average (wink, wink) gay man who breaks off his long time relationship and begins husband shopping in L.A. The premise is a good one and leaves plenty of room for a series of 10 stereotypical dates in hopes of finding Mr. Right. Of course, each one proves to be Mr. Wrong.



delivering lines convincingly. A few had brief moments of clarity in their focus but, mostly, the viewer is mired

In any romantic comedy the storyline must be interesting, and we can only hope the dialogue to be equally strong. Unfortunately, not all the actors were up to the task of

in the obvious mugging of stand-up comedians. They seem to be improvising rather than emoting from a well-rehearsed script, which already bordered on shallow.

Jason stayed close to his comic persona of the humble, slightly apologetic Jewish gay man, which, I admit, has a certain charm and serves him well. Judy Tenutta, as the aging diva, group therapist, was a refreshing change from the brassy, out-there comedic character she usually belts us with, and newcomer Christopher Cowen was charmingly sweet and

more convincing than most of the other men. I expect we will see more of him.

The sound quality and cinematography could be likened to that of a documentary shot with a home video camera. Perhaps this was intended as a cinema verite. If it was intentional, the experience was not enhanced by this technique. Plenty of eye candy throughout, so it may be worth a rental for a few of you, but I doubt anyone associated with this film will hold it up as a golden moment from their past in the not-so-distant future. – C.L.

Political

Looking for love in all the wrong places

by Su Docekal

“Don’t blame gays!” was the refrain from queer organizations after Bush’s Nov. 2 victory. But that is exactly what Democratic National Committee attack dogs began to do before the ink even dried on Kerry’s “let the healing begin” concession speech.

California Sen. Diane Feinstein lamented that “the issue of gay marriage has been too much, too fast, too soon.” Mayor Gavin Newsom was castigated for having outraged middle America by issuing marriage licenses to one and all in San Francisco in summer 2004.

It’s as though the Democrat Party is suffering from a collective case of sudden-onset Alzheimer’s.

Hello-o-o! It wasn’t queers but far-right Christian crusaders who put same-sex marriage on the ballot in 13 states. They unveiled this strategy at a meeting in July of 2003 – four months before the Massachusetts Supreme Court ruled in favor of equal rights to marriage benefits. And seven months before hundreds of jubilant gay couples lined the streets in San Francisco, in Multnomah County, Ore., and in New Paltz, N.Y., awaiting their turn to get hitched.

Rightwing Catholics and evangelicals called their 2003 national summit in response to the U.S. Supreme Court decision that struck down anti-gay sodomy laws. They declared their intention to block any further advances by queers, including domestic partnership rights, civil unions and gay adoptions. They chose same-sex marriage for their opening salvo.

So these religious bigots took a page from the history of the Southern white racists who are their core support. In 1956, two years after the Supreme Court outlawed school segregation, Alabama voters passed an amendment to their state constitution outlawing classroom integration. Fast forward 47 years, and many of these same preacher-politician types – some of them the very same people – announced that they would “defend Western civilization” against “activist judges” by passing amendments to

state constitutions that defined marriage as being between a man and woman only.

The Christian Coalition still hasn’t given up on race segregation, either. During the fall elections, it successfully mobilized to defeat an Alabama ballot measure that would have repealed the 1956 segregation amendment. Civil rights activists are pushing for a recount.

Obviously, most U.S. voters are not yet won over to the idea of same-sex marriage. Nevertheless, public acceptance of gay rights has increased dramatically in the last two years, with 25 percent now reported to support marriage equality and another 35 percent endorsing civil unions.

African American lesbians and gays in the National Black Justice Coalition mounted an exemplary education project around same-sex marriage, pressuring black leaders to take a stand, reaching out to civil rights organizations and the church, and building alliances that will outlast Bush’s term in office.

The Human Rights Campaign Fund and other mainstream gay groups, on the other hand, chose to raise millions to get out the vote for a Democratic Party candidate who doesn’t support gay marriage and who backed a bill to rescind it in the only place where it is currently legal – his home state of Massachusetts. Talk about ignoring the elephant in the room – or, in this case, the ass!

Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, told a gathering of 2,500 queer activists 10 days after the election: “I’m furious that some of my own in-laws refused to take a stand for me ... And they want me to come down to visit for the holidays. Hell no.”

Why doesn’t Foreman hold the Democratic Party – which was never once mentioned in his speech

– to this same standard? Instead, Foreman helpfully said that the answer to what gay activists should do now “will not and cannot come from me or any other national organization – it has to come from you, from the people who will lead the charge and bear the brunt.”

Thanks heaps, Matt.

Well, let’s take him up on his challenge. With the “anybody but Bush” approach such a proven disaster, I think the queer community is ready for a more radical, inspiring and winning vision. Let’s remember this is a long haul fight for liberation. Winning marriage rights alone will prove an unsatisfying victory – just ask straight people. Only a fight for fundamental economic and social change, alongside our allies around the globe, can win a world based on the moral values of cooperation and sharing, respect for differences and, yes, free love.

Su Docekal is a journalist for the Freedom Socialist in Seattle. She receives e-mail at SuDocekal@earthlink.net.

Scores of gay candidates sweep to wins in 27 states

WASHINGTON, D.C. – “Despite vicious attacks and well-funded opposition,” at least 40 candidates supported by the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund prevailed in November’s elections at all levels of government in 27 states and the District of Columbia in 2004.

Following are some of the year’s significant wins announced by the Victory Fund, including notable victories in Northwest states:

- Julia Boseman, North Carolina State Senate (first-ever gay legislator in the state).
- Nicole LeFavour, Idaho state House (first-ever gay official in state).
- Jeanette Mott Oxford, Missouri state House (will be the only gay person in the state Legislature).
- Rives Kistler, Oregon State Supreme Court (first openly-gay person elected statewide).
- Christine Kehoe, California state Senate (state representative who won higher office).
- Ed Flanagan, Vermont state Senate (first-ever openly-gay state senator in Vermont).
- Sam Adams, Portland, Ore., City Council (first-ever openly-gay City Council member).
- Lupe Valdez, Dallas County Sheriff (first-ever Latina lesbian sheriff).

Thoughtful dialogue better than sound bytes

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In the wake of the November elections in which voters in 11 states approved constitutional amendments to deny marriage to gay couples – as well as civil unions and domestic partnership rights in some states – Human Rights Campaign President Cheryl Jacques said, “These amendments protect no one, but instead discriminate against millions of American families. These amendments were put on the ballot to divide people during the heat of the campaign.”

Jacques’ solution? “We need a thoughtful conversation about ensuring that every family has the same rights and responsibilities. Fair-minded Americans know that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people are their friends, their families, their coworkers and we deserve equal protection under law,” she said.



Su Docekal

Harbinger



AP photo by Josh Reynolds

Congressman Barney Frank (D-Mass.) warned gay couples last spring that the marriages being celebrated in San Francisco, New Mexico, Oregon and New York might do long-term damage to the overall gay marriage movement.

Gov. Bush would not support amendment

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – In an article published in the Nov. 6, post-election issue of the Florida Times-Union, Florida Gov. Jeb Bush indicated he would not support an amendment to the state constitution to ban marriage rights for same-sex couples and their families.

Despite Florida laws already banning gay marriage, a constitutional amendment to that effect is being suggested by Southern Baptists.

Tide and Crest now even more appealing

CINCINNATI – Procter & Gamble, the food and home products giant headquartered here, came under attack by Christian conservatives just before last month's election for its perceived role in being "actively involved in efforts to overturn a city ordinance ... in effect since 1993, that forbids the granting of 'special rights' to homosexuals," said Focus on the Family founder and chairman Dr. James C. Dobson.

Dobson also charged, "In addition to giving \$10,000 to the campaign to repeal the law, (P&G) has said that it 'will not tolerate discrimination in any form, against anyone, for any reason.'"

While P&G does not explicitly endorse same-sex marriage, Dobson said the company's statements and policies "clearly indicate support for the gay-activist notion that restricting marriage to one man and one woman is discriminatory."

In response to the company's tacit endorsement of gay marriage, Dobson urged listeners to his syndicated radio show to boycott two of the best-known products in the P&G line, Tide laundry detergent and Crest toothpaste.

Gay bar, abortion clinic in Olympics bombing trial

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – The first trial of alleged serial bomber Eric Rudolph will focus on a trail of clues between Birmingham and North Carolina, but evidence from three Atlanta-area bombings is at the center of a dispute in the Alabama case.

In what the Associated Press sees as a reversal of roles, prosecutors say they don't plan to tell Birmingham jurors about the Atlanta blasts in which Rudolph is charged, including the deadly 1996 Olympics bombing and a bombing at a gay bar, but defense lawyers are seeking the Atlanta evidence for possible use in the trial.

The defense says the Atlanta evidence might show that Rudolph has been falsely depicted as the Atlanta bomber and could "bolster an argument of lingering doubt on the Birmingham offenses." The Birmingham blast followed a series of five explosions at three sites in Atlanta in 1996 and 1997: Olympic park, a lesbian bar and a building that housed an abortion clinic.

Ex prison guards cited for attacking gay inmate

MOBILE, Ala. – Two former county corrections officers here have been charged with assaulting a gay inmate earlier this year at the jail, according to the Associated Press.

Jamie Godsey and Sean Etheredge have been charged with third-degree

assault, a misdemeanor, according to Mobile County Metro Jail spokesperson Christina Bowersox. Following an internal investigation, Godsey was fired and Etheredge resigned, she said. Etheredge faces trial and a new arrest warrant has been issued for Godsey, who failed to appear at a court hearing.

Inmate Jayson Payne said that after he was booked into the jail in March and told jailers he was gay, he was verbally harassed by the two former corrections officers and physically assaulted in his cell, said AP. Assistant District Attorney Nicki Patterson said evidence supports Payne's allegations. Payne is now serving a burglary sentence at Fountain Correctional Facility near Atmore.

Resort chain relents, accepts gay couples

SAN FRANCISCO – The resort chain Sandals has reversed its policy banning gay and lesbian couples from its facilities, a move that ends the last high-profile discriminatory policy imposed by a major hospitality company.

Sandals' reversal follows years of consumer pressure generated by organizations like Out&About, a travel subsidiary of PlanetOut, which gave Sandals its "Rock Bottom" designation for the 11th consecutive year in its annual Editor's Choice Awards for 2004. Web editor-in-chief Ed Salvato commended Sandals for its "better-late-than-never policy change."

Until this fall's policy change, however, O&A criticized Sandals as "one of the most blatantly homophobic travel organizations in the world by expressly prohibiting gay couples from their resorts." It had recommended that "friends and family members of gay and lesbian people need to be aware of Sandals' policies before they choose to spend their vacation dollars at a resort that discriminates against their loved ones."

Conviction holds in sex, bondage, torture case

LINCOLN, Neb. – A former flower shop owner who sexually assaulted, tortured and held a Texas man captive in the basement of his store has lost his appeal. Roger Van had asked the Nebraska Supreme Court to vacate his conviction because his victim agreed to such treatment.

Van was sentenced to up to 30 years in prison last month on several counts, including sexual assault and false imprisonment, related to the 2001 incident at his flower shop in Wayne, in the northeast part of the state.

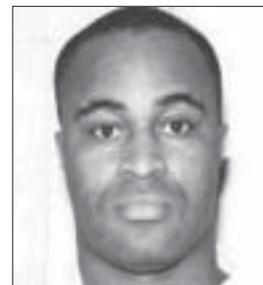
The defense alleged that Van's conviction was unconstitutional because the "Nebraska Legislature did not intend these statutes to apply to conduct that occurs during a private, consensual relationship" involving bondage and torture. Van's lawyers argued that the 36-year-old Houston man, identified in court papers as J.G.C., consented to being beaten, bound and branded.

Before meeting in Wayne, the men exchanged scores of messages and negotiated a no-limits relationship involving torture and bondage, defense lawyers said. In one e-mail message, J.G.C. indicated he might try to escape and that Van should prevent that from happening.

Before meeting in Wayne, the men exchanged scores of messages and negotiated a no-limits relationship involving torture and bondage, defense lawyers said. In one e-mail message, J.G.C. indicated he might try to escape and that Van should prevent that from happening.

Texas executes star QB for 1994 gay slaying

HUNTSVILLE, Texas – A former high school football star was executed Nov. 9 for the abduction, robbery and fatal shooting of a 29-year-old gay Houston man 10 years ago. In a final statement, Demarco McCullum expressed appreciation and love "to all those who supported me over the years. And I want to let my mom know I love her and will see her in heaven."



AP photo

Demarco McCullum

McCullum, 30, was pronounced dead seven minutes after the injection of chemicals. The victim's mother was among the witnesses.

"Demarco McCullum viciously murdered our son," said Kay Burzinski. Of the execution, she said, "I'm sure he was nervous, I'm sure he was afraid and, possibly, it gave him a slight taste of what our Michael went through 10 years ago."

Authorities linked McCullum and companions to a series of robberies and assaults. Prosecutors said McCullum and three friends approached Burzinski outside a club. He was beaten and taken in his own car to withdraw \$400 from a bank machine, then shot in the back of the head.

Hold a tight rein on 'dear' shopping

ROCKVILLE, Md. – When shopping for Christmas presents, do what Santa does: make a list and check it twice. And carry only two credit cards when you go, adds Myvesta.

The Maryland nonprofit consumer education organization says the average American plans to spend \$716 on holiday purchases this year, down from \$835 last year. People in the West will spend the most, \$794 per person. The group's survey also pointed to 48 percent of Americans planning to spend \$500 or less.

The survey in November of 1,000 men and women did not include an

indication of respondents' sexual orientation, but tips for prudent holiday buying may apply universally.

To help shoppers save money, Myvesta recommends shopping early to find the best buys, avoiding "skip payment" and "buy now, pay later" offers, and recording all purchases in the checkbook to assure that money will be available when credit card bills arrive.

About those two credit cards, Myvesta urges using one with a zero balance for purchases that will be paid in full. Use the other – preferably a low-interest card – for purchases to be paid off in three to six months.

Gay, journalism pioneer Leroy Aarons dead at 70

SANTA ROSA, Calif. – Leroy F. Aarons, the former Oakland Tribune executive editor who founded the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association (NLGJA) in his living room and grew it into a force in American journalism, is dead after a 10-month battle with cancer. Aarons, 70, died of heart failure Nov. 28 at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center here.

The highly respected journalist and his partner of 24 years, Joshua Boneh, made their home in nearby Sebastopol, a community about 50 miles north of San Francisco. He is also survived by a brother, Ronald Aarons of Boulder, Colo.

An accomplished news writer who spent 14 years as a reporter and editor at the Washington Post, Aarons sent shockwaves through the news industry in 1990 when he emotionally acknowledged that he was gay at a conference of the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

That announcement, which came at the end of a speech in which he also unveiled results of a landmark survey of gay and lesbian journalists that showed most were unhappy with their professional treatment and coverage of gay issues, served as the catalyst for Aarons' formation of the NLGJA. Never before had a top editor of a major newspaper come out so publicly.

High court nixes review of Mass. gay marriage

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Supreme Court on Nov. 29 declined to hear challenges to same-sex couples marrying in Massachusetts.

Officials at Lambda Legal said they were "not at all surprised" the court declined to weigh in on the state marriage law. "This was a weak and misguided legal effort from right-wing, anti-gay groups that never really stood much chance of being heard at the Supreme Court. Bottom line is that nobody is being harmed by the Massachusetts law treating all couples equally," said Lambda's David Buckel.

Foamin' Fred, Christians cauterized by council

TOPEKA, Kan. – Kansas is as reliably Republican as any state, but its capital city has taken a small step toward protecting gay men and lesbians from discrimination, said the Associated Press following the Topeka City Council's approval of an ordinance prohibiting bias based on sexual orientation in city hiring or employment.

The wire service said activists had hoped for a broader ordinance against discrimination in housing, lending and private employment and were disappointed, but took a bit of comfort in the small progress they did perceive. Part of it was timing.

Action by the nine-member City Council on Nov. 16 came two weeks after President Bush carried the Sunflower State with 62 percent of the vote, his reelection and GOP fortunes bolstered by support from conservative Christians. In Shawnee County, home to Topeka, Bush carried 54 percent of the vote.

"We've just come out of an election that was very bruising to the gay community," said Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "This small step by the Topeka City Council just shows that we are going to keep making progress."

About 20 clergy held a news conference outside City Hall to protest the proposed ordinance. They were members of two groups, the Topeka African-American Pastors Coalition and the Evangelical Association of Greater Topeka, which together represent more than 100 churches, they told the AP.

Topeka also is home to Fred "God Hates Fags" Phelps.



Garden Clippings

See the nakedness and look for beauty

Plus: tips for plants as gifts

C O L U M N

by Michael Loundagin

Today is November 20th and, up until this morning, I had geraniums blooming and roses in cuttable condition. You know, good enough to bring indoors. What an amazing fall we've had. Plus, the stupid sycamore trees on our street were able to shed their leaves without them freezing on the tree, like they did the previous two years. They came down veerrry slooowwly, a few at a time, then the city's leaf-cleaning crews came through around the 15th. Two days later we had wind and rain, and the remaining half came down.

I'm still potting bulbs. I have finished with the hyacinths; they went into hanging baskets, with ivy cascading over the edges. Still to go: 110 tulips. Where did I get so many? I thought I had just 50, then I discovered a couple bags I'd bought earlier. Sometimes my rememberly slips a bit. While looking around for spots to tuck in snowdrops and things, I saw the ones I already have are up about an inch. Daffodils and spring crocuses are sticking points up, too. Don't worry about this, kids. These shoots are like periscopes, monitoring conditions at the surface. They're looking for changes in day length, average number of hours with temperatures above freezing, things like that. If they still make you

nervous, scatter some leaves or pine needles over them.

This is a good time, before things get crazy with holiday stuff, to sit down and write up a summary of how things turned out for you in the garden this year. You can still remember and, later this winter, as you start plotting for the coming season, your notes may come in handy. Also, use this naked time (the garden's) to look at its structure. Perhaps you see things now that you would rather not, like a neighbor's junk pile. Make a note to plant some sort of evergreen screen there. Or, while driving around, maybe you'll notice a tree or shrub that really stands out in the landscape. Find out what it is, and consider finding a place in your garden for one. Too many of our gardens are boring now. That's not good for us, because beauty should be everywhere, 24/7. Come next month (January), as the holidays fade into memory and the bills become the reality, a beautiful view out the window would be welcome.

But let's not think about that bills thing just yet. How about the idea of giving someone the gift of a plant? Personally, I love it. But, when making a selection, don't forget to consider the situation, especially from the recipient's point of view.

Can the plant be cared for properly? What's the house like? Good light? Or dark as a tomb, like mine? Animals or kids around? Some plants, like poinsettia and kalanchoe, aren't meant to be kept long term. But orchids, anthuriums (more on that anon), azaleas or foliage plants can live for years. Think about it.

We have the coolest plants at work right now. You know what anthuriums are? Flamingo Flower? The flowers look like plastic hearts with a curved spadix coming from the dent at the top of the heart ... any bells ringing? Anyway, these things are growing on porous rock. You set the rock in a saucer holding about a third of an inch of water, and the rock wicks up the water. The anthurium absorbs what it needs. Too cool. And sooo easy to grow. I'm going to set one next to an orchid, and maybe the orchid will get a clue.

The next time I sit down to write this column, it'll be for 2005. Time's passing too quickly. Here's a suggestion for a New Year's resolution: See something, or do something, that's beautiful, every day. Happy holidays!

SNN garden guru Michael Loundagin makes his home in Spokane and receives e-mail at Mlaau1034@aol.com.

Gay man used drug to set up sexual assaults

TAMPA, Fla. – An indictment unsealed in last month accuses a well-known Tampa man of drugging and sexually assaulting several area men, according to media reports. Steven Lorenzo, 45, allegedly bragged on the Internet that he drugged six men with GHB before sexually assaulting them, the news outlets said. The drug can cause victims to pass out and lose their memory.

The mother of one missing local man was notified by police of Lorenzo's arrest, but police declined to comment on ties to the disappearance of three other men, Michael Wachholtz, Jason Galehouse and Bradley Williams. Detectives believe more victims may be involved.

Police said the alleged incidents occurred in Tampa over the last four years. Williams has been missing since 2001 and Wachholtz was found murdered last year. Lorenzo remains in jail without bond, according to news sources.

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STONEWALL
News Northwest



In another four years

Heaven help Loretta and the PTA

C O L U M N

essay by Ken Lovering

As had become my habit over the past several weeks, I turned on the local television news when I rose at five to see the results of the previous night's contest. I had been living on the periphery of Red Sox Nation, in a remote province you might say, tuning in for an occasional nail-biting inning. I am not a baseball fan, not even close, but this year it was the Red Sox out there vying for the title in a way we had never seen them vie before.

My interest was nostalgic, and my husband Paul, who reluctantly watched with me, shot me quizzical looks as I enlightened him on ground rule doubles and base stealing. At one point, one of the Sox bunted with a man on first, and I cajoled his choice. "That's not a very strategic time to bunt," I said. Then the announcer said, "What an odd choice to bunt," and Paul looked at me and said, "Who are you and what have you done with my husband?"

The morning of Nov. 3 was wet and cold here in Massachusetts. The World Series and the city parade were behind us by less than a week, and the state was riding a wave of triumph that I had never seen. If you believe the folklore that had dogged Fenway Park for 86 years, a curse had been lifted.

I was hoping for a curse of quite another sort to be lifted on this morning, infused with the hope that the underdog would come out ahead yet again. Though I never considered myself a full citizen of Red Sox Nation, I knew that this nation needed lifting from a four-year slump that had seen big-brother policies shaped by the tyranny of the majority, that had alienated global allies with its "bring it on" cowboy machismo, that was calling my marriage illegitimate, sanctioned by a group of rogue, irresponsible judges.

Even so, I never believed Kerry would win, and I talked about it openly, regrettably, in the days leading up to the election.

For one thing, the climate is too heated for the majority of Americans to embrace change. Of course, it's Bush who has been sure to turn up that heat with his personal vendetta — er, I mean war. And he's spoken to

Americans in simple terms that the majority understand — good versus evil, right versus wrong. Face it: the man does not encourage people to think for themselves; he's even made sure that less people will become critical thinkers by cutting funds to schools and increasing unemployment. These dubious trends discourage both elementary and higher education, the cornerstones of independent thinking. I'll get back to this later.

Second, Dems really never had a chance with a wily campaigner. When Bush was governor of Texas, he relentlessly attacked the incumbent Ann Richards on many fronts, but it was a covert action that very well might have won him the seat: without explanation, flyers with photos of bare-chested men kissing appeared throughout the state, emblazoned with some message suggesting moral apocalypse. All the while, Bush spoke of family values and the sin of homosexuality. He never took responsibility for the flyers, the moral majority elected him, and the soon-to-be-president heathen saw the power of morality politics that he still plays today.

Case in point: Ohio, where a similar strategy (state referendums banning gay marriage took the place of the soft-porn flyers from his Texas antics) saw the far right mobilize for their higher morality with tactics that were specifically aimed to hurt and discredit gays and lesbians.

On Election Night, I stopped at the local elementary school to vote. My neighbor Loretta welcomed me, said she'd been waiting for me all day (since 5:30 a.m.). She and her PTA members had a huge spread before them of apple and banana breads, muffins, pastries, and I came prepared to purchase some. Of course it seemed out of place to hold a bake sale at the voting booths, but Loretta thought it was more "out of place" for her children's school to lack funds for textbooks, supplies and a full-time school nurse. Yes, you read that right: the school can only employ a nurse two or three days a week. So parents of children who require daily medication have to figure out some way to give it to them, because teachers aren't allowed. And I

don't even want to think about what happens to children who get sick on the nurse's off-day.

So the PTA was raising funds for its school, illicitly sending the message that this bake sale was made possible by your incumbent president. Not that Massachusetts needed the swaying; Democrats always take the state (yet we typically have a Republican governor!). Perhaps Loretta should have sold her cakes in Ohio.

And so the good news: Bush is now essentially a lame duck president. He'll no doubt do more harm than good between now and 2008. But he'll be gone. I don't know about you, but I'm buckling up for a rough ride, one that might annul my marriage, one that will strain my parents' fixed retirement income, one that will preach morality over policy.

Pentagon to halt sponsorship of Boy Scout troops

CHICAGO — The Defense Department has agreed to warn military bases worldwide that they may not directly sponsor Boy Scout troops, resolving, in part, claims that the government has improperly supported a group that requires members to believe in God, the Associated Press reported in November.

A settlement resulted from a lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois, which says American military units have sponsored hundreds of Boy Scout troops. The Pentagon said it has long had a rule against sponsorship of nonfederal organizations and denied the rule had been violated, but it agreed to send a message to posts warning them not to sponsor Boy Scout troops or other such groups.

The agreement bars military units from chartering Scout troops as long as members are required to recite an oath avowing belief in God. The Boy Scouts also ban gays from serving as leaders or becoming members, a ban that was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

In Petaluma, Calif., Scott Cozza, president of Scouting for All, charged

That evening of Nov. 3, I happened to be in downtown Boston. I drove by Copley Square, where bleachers, scaffolding, huge TV monitors and spotlights had been erected for Kerry's victory. An eerie quiet had settled over the plaza after last night's performances by Sheryl Crow, James Taylor, Carole King, and after John Edwards' "it ain't over til it's over" address.

Now, the underdog who stole the Democratic primaries last winter will not celebrate here, as his baseball team had just four days before. There won't be another JFK from Massachusetts in the White House. And the party that was to happen here will simply be postponed another four years.

Ken Lovering makes his home in central Massachusetts and receives e-mail at kenlovering@hotmail.com.

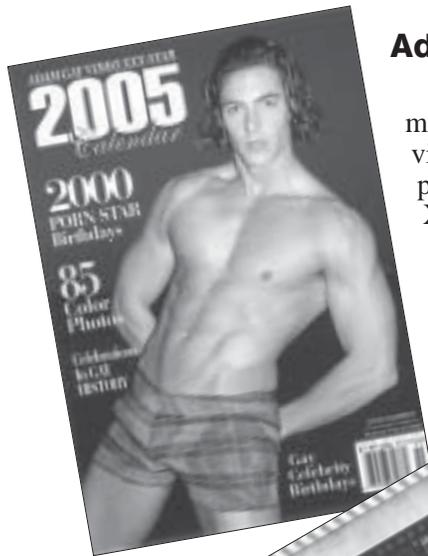
that the Boy Scouts of America "violates its own Scout law and remains the largest and most dishonest and discriminatory outdoor youth program in America. The recent out-of-court settlement ... is another inevitable result of the Boy Scouts' insistence on practicing discrimination."

While a ruling by the Supreme Court four years ago granted the Boy Scouts the right to discriminate against gay men, Cozza said federal and state governments are still bound by nondiscrimination laws and the U.S. Constitution and cannot legally "own and operate" troops or cub packs and continue to practice such discrimination.

Cozza said the BSA "continues to issue unit charters to government agencies that cannot legally practice such discrimination, for example, public schools and, until now, military bases and military units.

On Nov. 20, the House of Representatives voted 391-3 to commend the Boy Scouts and condemn legal efforts to limit government ties to the group because of its requirement that members believe in God.

Gift Ideas



Adam beef

These eye-popping pages feature a dozen men in full color, in full bloom, 8x11, with 73 vignettes and birthday listings of some 2,000 porn stars. Pin up The Adam Gay Video XXX-Star 2005 Calendar.

\$7.99

Fire Island men

Proceeds from sales will help protect and preserve the forests, dunes and beaches of the Fire Island National Seashore. Filmed on a clothing-optional beach, not all models chose to bare it all, allowing you, instead, to focus on the scenic beauty of the historic area.

\$18.95

<http://www.fireislandmen.com/calendar>



Dame Edna, possums

The BBC just released a pair of *Dame Edna Experience* DVDs (*My Christmas Special* is shown) that will make your chestnuts sizzle, possum. Charlton Heston as her houseboy, alone is well worth the price tag, but you also get her Christmas address to the Commonwealth, among many more sketches with celebs.

List: \$19.98



Broadway: The American Musical

Name one gay man who doesn't enjoy Broadway musicals. This 5-disc box set from Decca chronicles 85 years of Broadway's greatest, from *The Ziegfeld Follies* to *The Producers*.

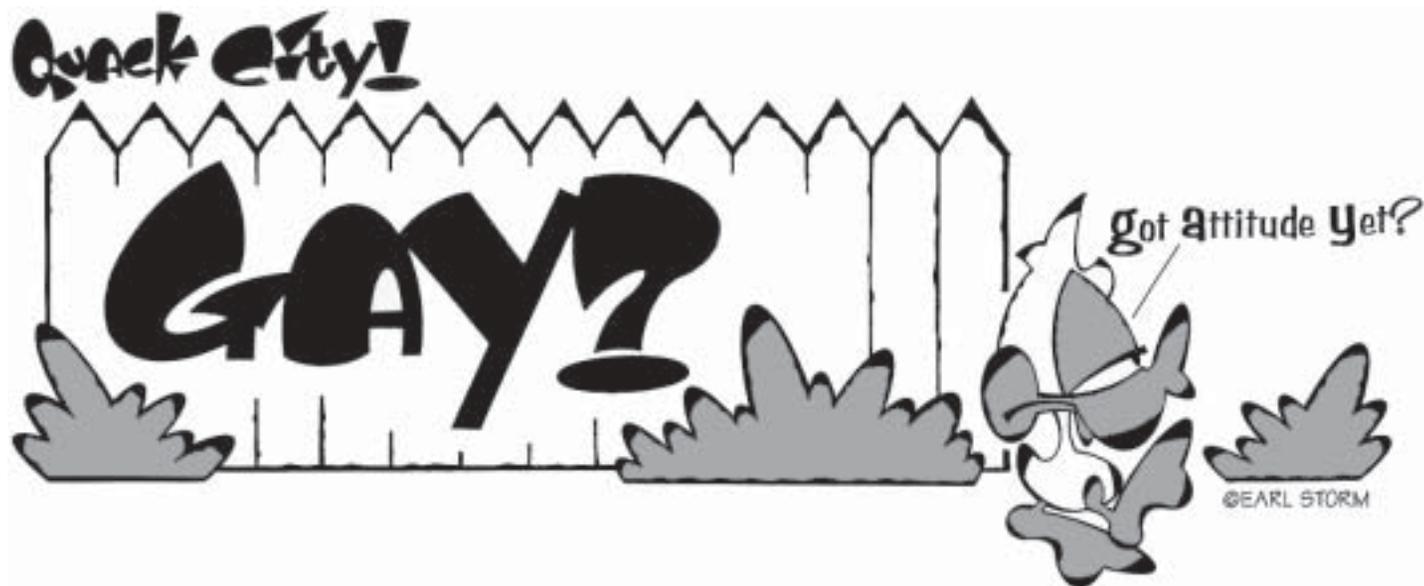
List: \$59.98

Chocolate body paints

A delicious and decadent mix of fine chocolate and gourmet flavors melt at room temperature for spreading with the fingertips.

1.7 fl oz jar, choice of Chocolate Raspberry, Chocolate Mint or Orange Blossom, \$12.95

www.redambrosia.com



MURPHY'S MANOR

by Kurt Erichsen



Female torso

This hand-carved Shona stone sculpture of Zimbabwe honors the universal beauty of the female form. Solid, not hollow, 11.5x5, 10 lbs.

\$145.00

www.redambrosia.com

New reggae stars spurn anti-gay lyrics

LONDON – Artists banned from this year's Urban Music Awards are under fire for their anti-gay lyrics from a new generation of reggae stars.

Savannah, a dance-hall act that won best reggae artist, told the Evening Standard that "We're keeping it clean. We don't want to hate anybody. We're the younger generation and we're trying to bring love where others did not. Reggae music is about love. We think everybody has the right to live their lives."

Artists Beenie Man and Vybz Kartel were taken off the list of nominees for best reggae act as police honed in

on Jamaican proponents of so-called "murder music," which incites hatred of gays, the Standard said. Gay activists say the popularity of dance-hall music is linked to the rising numbers of gay bashing incidents in Britain, according to the Standard.

Best British book set in 'ghastly' Thatcher era

LONDON – A tale of a young, gay man dazzled by drugs, power and money in Margaret Thatcher's London has won Britain's most prestigious literary award.

Author Alan Hollinghurst bested five other finalists to win the \$90,000

Man Booker Prize for his *The Line of Beauty*. Set in the 1980s, the book tells the story of a gay, 20-year-old Oxford grad who takes a room in the home of an ambitious conservative politician and his wealthy family. The story explores a world of cocaine, gay cruising and the self-confidence of wealth, set against a background of social problems, including AIDS.

The Line of Beauty is Hollinghurst's fourth book and explores an era shaped by Thatcher's hard-driving, free-market ethos, "a ghastly period to live through," the 50-year-old author told BBC, which carried the recent awards ceremony. "We're very much living with the consequences of what happened in the Thatcher years now."

Porn's Johnny Rahm dead from suicide

ATLANTA – Barry "J.T." Rogers – known as Johnny Rahm in dozens of adult films for gay men, committed suicide here Nov. 7. He was 39.

Rogers hung himself with a wire on the fence line of the Atlanta Botanical Garden, according to the Atlanta Police Department. A native of Georgia, Rogers was reared as a fundamental Baptist, attended a Christian high school, then Bob Jones University in Greenville, S.C., before moving to California in the late 1980s and working for about a decade in the gay sex film industry. He received best supporting actor awards in 1993 and 1995.

Classifieds

PEOPLE and EVENTS

11-Special Person:

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
TO ALL our friends and associates, and Very Best Wishes for the New Year. The staff at Stonewall News.

12-Special Events:

FREE CHRISTMAS DINNER
at the Y Tavern on Christmas Day, noon to 10 p.m. or 'til food is gone or closed. Call for more information: (208) 682-4036.

HAVE A HAPPY NEW YEAR AT THE Y
New Year's Eve Party, Y Tavern, Prichard, Idaho. Champagne and caviar. Call for more information: (208) 682-4036.

JOB MARKET

31-Help Wanted:

MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTIONIST. Work from home, part-time, full time. Work delivered. Great pay. Training available. TNI's Jobline: (425) 334-5978.

PERSONALS

76-Body Work:

SENSUOUS, AROUND-the-world massage by 6-ft., 175-lb., 48, handsome, clean, muscular, willing to please, blue-eyed bottom masseur using latest technique and essential oils. Call Gary: (509) 889-9294.

PERSONALS

76-Body Work:

MALE MASSAGE by Rich. Enjoy total relaxation. Let yourself go, you won't be disappointed. Clean, dependable, good looking, sensuous hands. In or out. Call Rich: (509) 994-9321.

77-Gay Men:

WHITE MALE, slight build, good looking, clean, discreet, sincere, 40s. Want to meet black male for friendship and more. Reply to: V.B., P.O. Box 40353, Spokane, WA 99220.

PERSONALS

78-Pen Pals:

PLEASE NOTE: Ads in this classification are free to people incarcerated in prisons and detention centers. SNN may edit copy submitted but does not screen ads. Readers are advised to use common sense in replying to any ads from prisoners. Contact the institution where prisoner is incarcerated to obtain information about a prisoner's conviction charge, sentence, county of commitment and release date.

Additional information may be obtained from public records where the prisoner's trial and conviction took place.

For general reader information, SNN sends inmates a complimentary copy of the issue in which their Pen Pal ad appears, except for prisons in the seven states that do not permit publications with "homosexual content."

PERSONALS

78-Pen Pals:

SENSUAL AND spontaneous, young-looking 28-yr GM, 5-8, 145, blk, hzl, 145 slim (but there's a muscle-boy yearning to break out). Looking for pen pals willing to share in the goofy exploration and discovery of a relationship despite the degree and distance. If ready to receive, reply to: Tony Garcia #63613, IMSI B2-64, PO Box 51, Boise, ID 83707.

SWGM, 25, 5-11, brn, blu, seeking older GM who would enjoy building a friendship and possibly an LTR. I like movies, books, games. Write: Kris Jenks #61856, ISCI Unit 14-A70, PO Box 14, Boise, ID 83707.

PERSONALS

78-Pen Pals:

HONEST GWM, 30s, 6-2, 220 muscular lbs, hzl, brn. ISO intelligent correspondence. No games, no lies. Possible LTR and relocation. Take a chance, you won't regret it. Write: Bill Neuberger #25804, IMSI, PO Box 51, Boise, ID 83707.

SW TRANSGENDERED, 24, 6-3, 195, very hones individual who made a mistake, looking for a friend, someone who cares, maybe an LTR. Lost my family year ago and have nobody to write and share info with. I parole 3/06 and am willing to relocate. Please write: Tavee Klundt #58919, ISCI Unit 8-C66, PO Box 14, Boise, ID 83707.

Deadline for the January Classifieds is Tuesday, Dec. 21. Call 456-8011.

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COMMUNICATIONS

SNN Phone: (509) 456-8011
SNN Fax: (509) 455-7013

Classified Advertising Information

Rates: Ads for individuals are \$10.00 for up to 25 words. Each additional word is 25 cents. For a bold face headline, add an additional \$1.50. For super bold face, add an additional \$2.50.

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; also include your signature. Mail your completed ad along with your payment (check or money order) to SNN, P.O. Box 2704, Spokane, WA 99220.

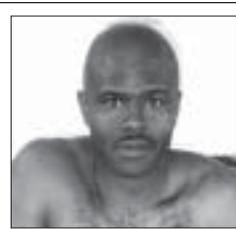
Phone-In Ads: Write out your classified ad as you would like it to appear. Have your VISA or MasterCard handy and call us at (509) 456-8011.

Personals: Personal ads require a Post Office Box or a Personal Blind Box. For a Personal Blind Box, add \$4.00 per insertion to the cost of the ad. SNN will assign a code for your Personal Blind Box and will forward replies weekly for up to 3 months after your ad runs.

Business Classified Display: Cost is based on a sliding rate scale with discounts for size and frequency. Call (509) 456-8011 for a copy of our Classified Advertising Rates.

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

Deadline: Classified ads for the January issue must be received by SNN no later than Tuesday, December 21.



ERSKIN THOMAS, 38, 6-1 1/2, 192 lbs. muscle, 10.5 in. top looking for a bottom, all races. I have limited correspondence with the world, a great personality and a lot about myself I would like to give someone. Reply to: Erskin Thomas #132751, EKCC, 200 Road to Justice, West Liberty, KY 41472.

BEST BUY
Adult Entertainment
2425 E. Springfield • Spokane • (509) 624-7522
1-888-624-7522

"BEST PRICES IN TOWN"

All-Natural Sexual Stimulants for Male and Female

Adult Videos
Magazines
Adult Toys
Adult Games
Cards & Gifts
Body Products • Oils
Lubricants • Lotions

SALES • RENTALS • NEW • USED

Videos • Lingerie • Insense • Candles • Magazines • Leather • Toys • Rainbow Products & More!

Rapid HIV Testing!
Results in 20 minutes • Free & Anonymous

THE VICTORIAN
In Billings Montana!

2019 Minnesota Av. @ 21st St. • (406) 245-4293 • SVETJOHN@aol.com

FREE SERVICES PROVIDED BY MONTANA TARGETED PREVENTION
HIV SWAB TEST - WED. THRU SAT. 5 - 9pm • CONDOMS • HIV/AIDS INFORMATION

VICTORIAN MERCHANDISE
RECEIVE A 20% OFF COUPON WHEN YOU GET TESTED FOR HIV!

EDITORIAL: HEY, BIG SPENDER!

Continued from page 2

tional mode of making your economic vote in the market economy count. And that is to let the manufacturer or retailer know that you chose their product or their store because you approve of their gay-friendly policies and/or support for the gay community. (*Related local story on page 4.*)

Some company Web sites have contact e-mail addresses, although those are often just "spam-catchers." Better is to call the company's public information office and find out who the right person would be to send a comment to and what their e-mail address is. For that matter, many big ticket

items include a "consumer response" card you can make a notation on.

Writing a letter is probably most effective. Writing a letter takes longer and, again, you have to figure out whom to send it to (Human Resources? Marketing? The President? All of them?), but a letter doesn't have to compete with hundreds of spam messages and it is hard to delete a letter. And letters are more likely to get a response, which lets you know someone actually read what you wrote.

Most people, no doubt, will say that this is too much trouble for too little payoff. Yet many of these same people will spend endless hours read-

ing about politics and candidates' policy positions to decide who to vote for, even though their one vote has negligible effect on the outcome, and no impact at all if their candidate loses.

So, keep in mind that business and corporate decisions affect our lives just as much. And unlike politics, which is strictly "win or lose," the marketplace registers each individual sales increment no matter what other people do. That can be a winning proposition for any minority.

Paul Varnell makes his home in Chicago. Previous columns of his are posted at the Independent Gay Forum (www.indegayforum.org), and he receives e-mail at Pvarnell@aol.com.

Lambda campaigns for organ transplants

NEW YORK – On the eve of World AIDS Day, Lambda Legal announced it will push the nation's largest health insurance providers to release any policies they have on covering lifesaving organ transplants for patients with HIV.

Lambda said many people are denied coverage for transplants because they have HIV, even though more than a decade of scientific and medical research shows that organ transplants for infected people are effective and safe. HIV clients are often in greater need of transplants because of higher rates of hepatitis-C.

Resource Directory

SPOKANE AREA**BiNet Spokane**

A social support group for bisexual men and women.

Call: (509) 217-1271

Eastern Washington University SAFE Students' Alliance for Equality

Weekly meetings for students, faculty and staff.

Call: Kat Olson: (509) 359-4253
http://iceberg.ewu.edu/safe/safe.htm

EMCC –**Emmanuel Metropolitan Community Church**

Christian church with an outreach to the GLBT community.

Call: (509) 838-0085
Website: www.emmanuelmcc.com

Friends of SAN

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

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

Gay/Lesbian Info Line

Call: (509) 489-2266
Immediate Crisis: (509) 838-4428

GLBT Book Group

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

Call: Julie Smith: (509) 838-0206

Gonzaga University GLBT Resource Center

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

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

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

Direct line: Bryce: 323-5847

Hospice of Spokane

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

Call: (509) 456-0438

ISCS –**Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane**

Call: Secretary Clyda: (509) 533-1903.
Website: www.iscspokane.com

INBA –**Inland Northwest Business Alliance**

Supports and promotes gay-owned and gay-friendly businesses and the professional community; publishes annual directory.

Call: (509) 455-3699

Inland Northwest Pride

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

Integrity

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

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

Landlord Tenant Information Hotline

Volunteers provide information and referrals to landlords and tenants. Free resource materials. Does not provide legal advice, but may refer.

Call: (509) 325-3037

Northwest Fair Housing Alliance

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

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

Odyssey Youth Center

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

Call: Elizabeth: (509) 325-3637

Outreach Center

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

Call: (509) 838-6859

Papillon

A social support group for the transgendered community.

Call: (509) 292-8852

PFLAG - Spokane – Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays

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

Call: (509) 624-6671

PJALS – Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane

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

Call: (509) 838-7870

Planned Parenthood of Spokane & Whitman Counties

HIV antibody testing and counseling.
Call: Clinic for Appt.: (509) 326-2142
Administration: (509) 326-6292

Quest Youth Group

To "inspire, encourage and support" gay and bisexual guys, 18-25, in the Inland Northwest through free monthly recreational activities, discussions, service projects and movie nights.

Call: Ryan: (509) 290-3519
Website: www.QuestYouthGroup.org

Spokane-Kootenai Pride

A program of the Pride Foundation to involve Washingtonians outside of King County in activities beneficial to the GLBT community.

Call: Spokane office: (509) 327-8377

Rainbow Regional Community Center

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

Call: (509) 489-1914

SAN – Spokane AIDS Network

Call: (509) 455-8993 or
1-888-353-2130

Website: www.spokaneAIDSnetwork.org

Spokane County Domestic Violence Consortium

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

Call: (509) 487-6783

Spokane Falls Community College - The Alliance

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

Call: (509) 533-4507

Spokane Human Rights Commission

Call: Equity Office: (509) 625-6263

Spokane Regional Health District

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

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

Website: www.spokanecounty.org.health

Stonewall News Northwest

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

Call: (509) 456-8011
Fax: (509) 455-7013

Spokane Gender Center

Resources and support for transgendered people.

Website: www.gendercenter.com

Unitarian Universalist Church

Gay, lesbian resource committee.

Call: (509) 325-6383
Website: uuspokane.org

Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery

Call: 535-3155

Website: www.vanessabehan.org

Women and Friends

Women-only activities and events in the Spokane area.

Call: (509) 458-4709

Women's Cultural Exchange

Promoting arts and entertainment events by women, for women.

Write: P.O. Box 4795,
Spokane, WA 99202

IDAHO**Idaho for Basic Rights**

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

Call: (208) 343-7402

NIAC – North Idaho AIDS Coalition

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

Call: (208) 665-1448
Website: www.nicon.org/niac

North Idaho College

Gay-Straight Alliance

Email: BCHARDISON@icehouse.net

Panhandle Health District

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

• Kootenai County

Call: (208) 667-3481

• Boundary County

Call: (208) 267-5558

• Shoshone County

Call: (208) 786-7474

• Bonner County

Call: (208) 263-5159

• Benewah County

Call: (208) 245-4556

Website: www2.stateid.us/phd1

PFLAG - Sandpoint – Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays

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

Call: (208) 263-6699

LEWISTON/CLARKSTON**PFLAG - Lewis-Clark – Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays**

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

Call: (509) 758-6437

Stonewall Health Project

Great times and group discussions relating to men's issues.

Call: (800) 493-8367

MOSES LAKE**AACW – Alternative Alliance of Central Washington**

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

Write: P.O. Box 1282,
Moses Lake, WA 98837

PULLMAN / MOSCOW**Washington State University GLBA Program**

Fun, fellowship and socializing.

Call: (509) 335-6428
Website: http://cubwsu.edu/GLBAP

Out There

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

Call: Melinda: (509) 335-6428

Stonewall Health Project

Great times and group discussions relating to men's issues.

Call: (800) 493-8367

University of Idaho Gay-Straight Alliance

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

Call: (208) 885-2691

TRI-CITIES**Benton-Franklin District Health Department**

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

Call: (Pasco) (509) 547-9737, ext. 234
Confidential voice mail also.

River of Life Metropolitan Community Church

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

Call: (509) 542-8860

Tri-Cities Chaplaincy / Tri-Cities CARES

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

Call: (509) 783-7416

WALLA WALLA**Blue Mountain Heart to Heart**

AIDS prevention education, support and services.

Call: (509) 529-4744

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

Spanish: (509) 529-2174

Seventh-day Adventist Kinship

Call: (509) 525-0202

YAKIMA**PFLAG - Yakima/Yakima Valley Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays**

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

Call: (509) 576-9625

Rainbow Cathedral Metropolitan Community Church

An MCC Seattle parish extension.

Call: (509) 457-6454

MONTANA**Flathead Valley Alliance**

Northwest Montana information and referral services.

Call: (406) 758-6707

Gay Helena

Web site features gay social life in Montana: www.gayinhelena.com.

Lesbian Avengers

A direct action group focused on issues vital to lesbian survival and visibility.

Call: (406) 523-6608

Our Montana Family

Supporting Montana's GLBT parents and their children.

Email Barbara: barbatpride@aol.com

PRIDE!

Statewide lesbian/gay/trans civil rights advocacy group.

Call: (406) 442-9322

or, in Montana: (800) 610-9322

PRIDE Celebration

Group in charge of annual Montana June PRIDE celebrations.

Call: (406) 442-9322

The Rainbow Connection

Gay group for Billings and Eastern Montana meets monthly.

Website: www.rainbowconnection-montana.com.

WASHINGTON**Bi MEN Group**

Bi and bi-curious men and gay men who enjoy and support bisexual men.

Website: www.egroups.com/group/bi-men-west

Legal Marriage Alliance

Working to achieve the right of same-sex couples to marry legally in Washington.

Website: www.lmaw.org

Lesbian Resource Center

Resources and referrals, groups and events. Monthly newspaper.

Call: (206) 322-3953

Lifelong AIDS Alliance

Providing support, prevention and advocacy for people with HIV/AIDS.

Call: (206) 329-6923

PositiveVoice Washington

Advocates for programs and services needed by people with HIV. Offers self-advocacy training.

Call: (888) 704-0099

Pride Foundation

Grants to organizations that benefit the GLBT community. Awards educational scholarships.

Call: (800) 735-7287

Website: www.pridefoundation.org

BRITISH COLUMBIA**ANKORS – AIDS Network, Outreach and Support Society**

West Kootenay and Boundary support, outreach and networking for people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, with outreach to Creston.

• West Kootenay Call: (250) 505-5506

• East Kootenay Call: (250) 426-3383

Website: www.ankors.bc.ca

Weekly Calendar of Events

SUNDAYS

9 and 11 am: Worship services at **UNITY CHURCH** at 29th and Bernard.

5 pm: **EMMANUEL METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH** worship service in sanctuary of Bethany Presbyterian Church, 301 S. Freya.

WEDNESDAYS

7 pm: **GLBT AA** meets at **Emmanuel MCC/Bethany Presbyterian Church**, 301 S. Freya.

THURSDAYS

5:30-8 pm: **RAINBOW REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER**.

FRIDAYS

2-6 pm: **RAINBOW REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER**.

(When known, the price of admission for one adult is shown. S/s indicates discounted ticket prices are available for Seniors and for students with ID.)

3

Friday

In the lounge at **Dempseys**, tonight and every Friday and Saturday this month at 10 pm and midnight, **BlowMe Bubbles** entertains on stage.

Alberta Ballet and **Ballet British Columbia** join **Spokane Symphony** in four performances of the **Nutcracker** at the **Opera House** this weekend. \$17-\$30, s

First Friday, a self-guided tour of art spaces between 5 and 9 pm, includes the **Rainbow Regional Community Center**, **The Merq** and **Interplayers**. The Rainbow Center will host a reception for Cheney artist **Megan Schmall** beginning at 6 pm.

The hilarious **Inspecting Carol** continues its Tuesday through Saturday romp at **Interplayers**, running through Dec. 18. \$20, S/s

4

Saturday

Seattle jazz artist Charlotte Carruthers joins the **Spokane Jazz Orchestra** for its popular holiday concert, **Holiday in Jazz**, at the **Met** at 8 pm. \$24.50, S/s

Alberta Ballet, **Ballet British Columbia** and **Spokane Symphony** will present the **Nutcracker** tonight and at two performances tomorrow at the **Opera House**. \$17-\$30, s

The Worst Midnight Movie Series Ever resumes at **CenterStage** with a **Flash Gordon** serial preceding **The Conqueror**. \$3

5

Sunday

Greece is featured in tonight's world-music concert at the **CenterStage** dinner-theatre. Dinner at 5:30 pm and a performance by **Pangéo** at 7. \$43. Show-only, with dessert and beverage, \$22, s

Members of the **Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane** (ISCS) will gather at **Dempseys** for a **board meeting** at 6 pm, followed by a **court meeting** at 7:30.

6

Monday

An **art exhibition** featuring mixed media and neon sculpture by Wade Eldean of Michigan and Spokane's Ken Yuhasz concludes this week at the **Eastern Washington University Gallery of Art**. Free

8

Wednesday

Hanukkah.

The holiday luncheon meeting of the **Inland Northwest Business Alliance** – at **Europa**

Spokane's entertainment and meeting calendar for December

December 2004

Birthstone: Turquoise

Flower: Poinsettia

Astrological Guide: Sagittarius to the 20th; Capricorn begins Dec. 21st

Pizzeria and Bakery beginning at 11:30 – will also serve as a fundraiser for the **Rainbow Regional Community Center**. \$15-\$18

Speak Out and Act Up, a new group for teen youth to develop special skills, gathers at **CenterStage** today and every Wednesday from 3 to 5 pm. Free

The **Spokane String Quartet** moves to **CenterStage** for a dinner concert at 7:30 pm saluting **Russia in the Dark of Winter**. \$43. Show-only, \$22

9

Thursday

The musical **Seussical** continues tonight through Dec. 18 at **Spokane Civic Theatre**. \$19, S/s



photo by Christopher Lawrence

Alycia Delmore and Damon Mentzer in **Interplayers' side-splitting production of Inspecting Carol** which continues through Dec. 18.

10

Friday

An inspiring **photography exhibit** from the **National Archives**, chronicling 100 years in America, opens at the **MAC**, the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture, today through Jan. 23. \$7, S/s

Friday Movie Night debuts at the **Rainbow Regional Community Center** tonight with the showing of **The Pillow Book** from 6-8 pm. Free

11

Saturday

The **OWLS** (Older and Wiser Lesbian Sensations) will meet for **dinner** at **Old Country Buffet**, in the Franklin Park Mall on Division, at 5:30 pm.

At **Dempseys** at 9 pm, the **Monarch Christmas Show**, featuring ISCS emperors and empresses from the past, will raise money to fill food baskets the court will distribute to needy families and individuals just before Christmas.

At **CenterStage**, **The Worst Midnight Movie Series Ever** continues with **Plan 9 From Outer Space**, preceded by an episode from **Flash Gordon**. \$3

12

Sunday

The **Kosher Red Hots**, a Klezmer band, will celebrate Hanukkah in music at the **CenterStage** dinner-theatre. Dinner at 5:30 pm, show at 7. \$43, show-only \$22, s

13

Monday

Inland Northwest Pride will meet at the **Rainbow Regional Community Center** at 6:30 pm to plan next June's **Pride Day**.

14

Tuesday

Gay Movie Night continues at **CenterStage**, but with a new twist. A social hour at 7 pm –

Jan. 2, except for Mondays and Christmas Day. \$7 includes museum, S/s.

ISCS Emperors Robert and LaDonna and **Empress Courtney** will present a **Foodbasket Fundraiser** show at **Dempseys** at 8 pm.

Eckart Preu will conduct the **Spokane Symphony world premiere of Polar Express Suite** in the **Opera House** tonight at 8 and tomorrow at 2 pm. \$16-\$38, s

With nothing but Saturday holidays ahead, it's curtains (for 2004) for **The Worst Midnight Movie Series Ever** at **CenterStage**. Tonight you can relive those glory days from high school with **Reefer Madness**. An episode from the **Flash Gordon** serial precedes the movie. \$3

21

Tuesday

Winter Solstice.

22

Wednesday

The owners and staff of **The Merq** will throw a **Christmas Appreciation Party**, with free hors d'oeuvres, drink specials and live music, beginning at 7 pm. Free

24

Friday

Special **Candlelighting Services** at **Unity Church of Truth** will feature the **Youth Choir** and pageant, **A Christmas Candle**, at 5 pm; the **Adult Choir** at 8 pm, and a **Contemplative Experience** at 10 pm.

Emmanuel Metropolitan Community Church will hold a special **Candles and Carols** Christmas Eve program in its home chapel at **Bethany Church** at 11 pm.

25

Saturday

Christmas.

Take a dish, if you're able, to the **Pot Luck Christmas Dinner** at **The Loft** from 4-7 pm. The bar will provide the ham and turkey. Free

26

Sunday

Full Moon.

Kwanzaa begins.

31

Friday

New Year's Eve.

For early risers, **Unity Church of Truth** will open at 3:45 am for **World Peace Meditation**.

Friday Movie Night at the **Rainbow Regional Community Center** features **Claire of the Moon** from 6-8 pm. Free

A **New Year's Eve Party** at **The Merq** begins with dinner service at 5, 7 and 9 pm. \$19.95. Champagne toast at midnight.

A **New Year's Eve Party** at **Dempseys** begins with a special prime rib dinner from 6 to 8:30 pm. \$18.95. New Year's Eve show at 10:30 pm, with dancing continuing until 4 in the morning of 2005.

Guests are invited to join members of the congregation of **EMCC** in ringing in the new year. **Now is the Hour** will be presented at 11 pm.

January 1

Saturday

New Year's Day.

At **The Loft**, tootin' in 2005 includes special prices on Bloody Marys and margaritas from noon to closing.

16

Thursday

Men magazine will celebrate its **20th anniversary** with a special party at **Dempseys** starting at 9 pm. Gobs of prizes, gifts, giveaways and drink specials. Free

17

Friday

Friday Movie Night continues at the **Rainbow Regional Community Center** with the feature **Girls Will be Girls** from 6-8 pm. Free

The star search for **Dempseys Drag Idol** wraps up this weekend with finals slated tonight and tomorrow at 10 and midnight.

18

Saturday

Step into **Christmas Past** with a visit to the historic **Campbell House** on the grounds of the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture (**MAC**) in Browne's Addition, today through

Who's Going To Win Dempseys Drag Idol?



**The Choice Is
Up To You!**



**Finals on December 17th & 18th
10 pm & Midnight**

**First Prize: \$80 Dempseys gift certificate, Tiara, Flowers and a 3-month Paid Contract.
Second Prize: \$60 Dempseys gift certificate. Third Prize: \$40 Dempseys gift certificate**

All entries must call to register for performance. Contact phone 218-3508.



Men Magazine's 20th Anniversary Party

**December 16th starting at 9 pm
Prizes, gifts, drink specials, giveaways**

New Year's Eve • Prime Rib Dinner

6 - 8:30 pm • \$18.95

**Limited Seating • Reservations Recommended
New Year's Eve Show starts at 10:30 pm — Ends in 2005**

**Christmas Eve: 3 pm to 4 am — Christmas Day: 6 pm to 4 am
New Year's Eve and New Year's Day: 3 pm to 4 am**

Party with Spokane's Finest!

Sunday - Thursday 3 pm - 2 am • Friday & Saturday 3 pm - 4 am

909 West First Avenue • Downtown Spokane • 509.747.5362 • www.dempseysbrassrail.com