

Community encouraged to mass for Freedom to Marry rally

Set for Valentine's Day at County Courthouse

Gay people and friends, who met as a group for the first time in January, have taken the name of Inland Northwest Equality and already announced their first event: a rally in support of same-sex marriage. The Freedom to Marry Rally is scheduled on the lawn of the Spokane County Courthouse Feb. 14 at 4:30 p.m., announced Brooke Powers, the group coordinator.

Valentine's Day has been designated nationally as Freedom to Marry Day and Spokane's rally will coincide with similar events elsewhere in Washington and all across the country.

Powers encourages everyone in the gay community to participate. "Bring friends," she urged. "While our 'brothers and sisters' rally in Olympia, we need to make our voices heard on this side of the mountains."

Members of Odyssey Youth Group will make signs, Powers said, but she encourages rally participants to design their own slogans. Banners may be mounted to poles, but signs must be hand-held. For security reasons, signs on sticks are not allowed, she said.

Inland Northwest Equality is a coalition of individuals and organizations that desires to increase awareness in the larger community of the need for gay equality and justice, through public education, outreach and advocacy.

Meetings are scheduled monthly on the first and third Tuesdays. The group will next meet Feb. 15 in the lobby of the Community Building, 35 W. Main Ave., at 5:30 p.m.

Powers said the group is "in the process of affiliating" with the statewide group Equal Rights Washington.

Inland Northwest Equality members, she said, also are considering the possibility of counteracting any federal legislation that may be proposed to amend the Constitution to ban same-sex marriage by defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

She said the group also plans to contact state legislators to urge them to support the Cal Anderson Civil Rights Bill, HB 1515, which would add sexual orientation to the state law against discrimination.

Anyone interested in joining IN Equality is asked to e-mail their name, e-mail address, phone number and any organizational affiliation to Brooke.PJALS@gmail.com.

22 sign accord for Civil Rights, Community and Movement:

Gay State of the Union

A statement of unity on key priorities and goals for the gay community has been hailed by some as "unprecedented," given the history of competition among the groups.

Among the principal points, the groups pledged to work together to:

- achieve hate crimes legislation,
- secure immigration rights for partners of gay Americans,
- end the ban on gay men and women openly serving in the military,
- pass employment nondiscrimination laws, and
- fight state and federal constitutional amendments that would ban same-sex marriage.

The accord was issued in mid-January in a conference call representing 22 gay rights organizations. The announcement was seen as an effort to quell pessimism over what some say was a disappointing 2004 election and to show unity within the gay community.

But all was not unity.

Some national organizations expressed disappointment at being excluded from drafting the paper. Others were critical that the pledge listed gay marriage as its last goal.

Joan Garry, executive director of GLAAD (the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) who moderated the call, said there was a desire to move quickly with the official document in an effort to allow gays to hear from leaders at the beginning of 2005. Although the statement is labeled "Civil Rights, Community, Movement," Garry



Joan Garry

photo courtesy of GLAAD

dubbed it a "state of the union" for the gay community.

"There are hundreds of (gay) organizations around the country and we fully expect that many of these groups will use this statement as their own, as

a launching pad to talk with their constituents in the coming year," Garry said.

She stressed that it is important for people to realize the organizations speak with one another and the purpose of the document was to send a message on behalf of a diverse group of organizations.

Garry later in the month announced she will step down as the GLAAD's chief executive when her contract expires on June 15.

All of the leaders in the accord agreed that there would be no retreat from

the issue of gay marriage, even though it was the last item featured on the list.

Winnie Stachelberg, political director of the Human Rights Campaign, urged that not too much be read into the order of priorities, noting that marriage will continue to be a top priority.

"I think this is a list that we put together and the drafter said that the or-

Continued on page 2

Pride Foundation tunes in on Emerson shareholders

The Seattle-based Pride Foundation, which has been instrumental in persuading General Electric, McDonald's and, most recently, Wal-Mart to include sexual orientation in their company Equal Employment Opportunity policies, has now turned its attention on a large, international conglomerate with interests in telecommunications, energy, engineering and tools.

On Feb. 1 – for the fourth time since 2001 – the foundation co-filed a resolu-

tion at the annual shareholders meeting of Emerson to include sexual orientation in the company's nondiscrimination policies. Headquartered in St. Louis, Emerson employs 107,000 people. It's ranked as the nation's 93rd largest public company employer and reported sales of \$15.6 billion in 2004.

Pride Foundation estimates its Shareholder Activism Program has affected some 1.2 million workers nationwide since its inception in 1997.

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Voices

Letters

Mutual support will accent the positives

In recent months, Gay issues have dominated the headlines. I applaud the Inland Northwest Business Alliance proposing the development of a Spokane Gay District. As a filmmaker, I have documented their events and other organizations filling a void of marketing to many Gay citizens. I have called this community home for over 30 years. I am a proud lesbian African-American professional woman who works at the local paper. I graduated from North Central and went on to obtain an MBA. I am also delighted to serve on the board as Co-chairman of the Inland Northwest Pride Parade (now officially known as OutSpokane). As

small as the Gay community may seem to some, we are here.

Our economic power gives the City or County an alternative for their business structures. Yes, Spokane is conservative, but that perception is changing. We pay taxes like everyone else and work a hard day everyday. Every citizen is entitled to equal rights under the United States Constitution. Martin Luther King wanted "all of God children" to be able to see beyond skin color and live in a world of acceptance.

The GLBTQ community can do a greater good by supporting each other, ignoring the negatives and clinging to the positives. I support open discussions that shoot down misconceptions and pave the way to

understanding. It certainly helps kick the door down to the closet. What are our intentions? It is simple. To have loving relationships and live in a society that allows us to prosper like anyone else. Now what is so wrong with that?

Denise Thomas
Spokane

Newspaper helps in quest for equality

Stonewall, you make the world a better place in the most dignified way. Thank you for doing what it takes to prove God created *all*. Thank you.

Terrance Winn
Angola, La.

GAY STATE OF THE UNION

Continued from page 1

der in no way suggests the priority," Stachelberg said. "Marriage and securing marriage equality will continue to be a top priority not only for the Human Rights Campaign but for all of us together. We are absolutely committed to that goal."

Patrick Guerriero, executive director of the Log Cabin Republicans, said no group refused to sign the statement.

Also discussed during the hour-long phone conversation was the future of legal challenges to the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA).

Kevin Cathcart, executive director of Lambda Legal, said that if DOMA were to be challenged, lawyers would solely focus on the part that denies gay citizens federal benefits.

Left unchallenged would be the portion of DOMA that grants states the right to refuse to recognize a same-sex marriage performed in another state, sensing that the legal claim would be rejected and, even if successful, might encourage passage of a federal amendment banning gay marriage.

Cathcart admitted that legal groups would be in a stronger position to challenge DOMA if Massachusetts was not the only state to have legal gay marriage.

During the call to discuss the statement, "Civil Rights, Community, Movement," Garry said it also was a good opportunity to discuss where the gay movement is and where it is going. She said that all the groups worked to shape the message.

"We felt it was very important to send a strong message of unity and shared purpose to remind the (gay)

community and the straight community that there is an orchestra of organizations working on their behalf and to motivate more people to play a role in this movement," Garry said.

While the numerous gay organizations vary in their focus and strategies, they share a number of common priorities that will help shape and unite the community in the months and years to come. Among them, states the "Civil Rights, Community, Movement" document:

■ We must fight for equal employment opportunity, benefits and protections – and the federal and state laws that safeguard them.

■ We must fight against anti-LGBT violence and for the inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity in federal hate crimes law that already protects Americans based on race, religion and national origin.

■ We must fight – in both the private and public sectors – for better access to health care and insurance. We must advocate for HIV/AIDS policies – including age-appropriate, LGBT-inclusive comprehensive sexuality education – that effectively address this epidemic at home and abroad.

■ We must insist on safe schools, where youth can learn – free from bullying, harassment and discrimination.

■ We must fight for family laws that give our children strong legal ties to their parents.

■ We must work to overturn the military's discriminatory anti-LGBT ban, which dishonors service mem-

bers who serve their country with valor and distinction.

■ We must continue to expose the radical right's efforts to advance a culture of prejudice and intolerance, and we must fight their attempts to enshrine anti-gay bigotry in our state and federal laws and constitutions.

■ And we must continue our vigorous fight for the freedom to marry and the equal protections, rights and responsibilities that safeguard our families, strengthen our commitments, and continue to transform understanding of our lives and our relationships.

Signatories included: the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Lesbian and Gay Rights Project, Equality Federation, Freedom to Marry, Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, GLAAD, the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund and Leadership Institute, and GLSEN (the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network).

Also, HRC, Lambda Legal, Log Cabin Republicans, the Mautner Project, the National Association of LGBT Community Centers, the National Black Justice Coalition, and the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

Additionally, the National Center for Transgender Equality, the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the National Youth Advocacy Coalition, PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, Sigamos Adelante: National Latino/Hispanic LGBT Leadership, and the Stonewall Democrats.

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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Letters Policy

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

Gonzaga publishes third *Journal of Hate Studies*

Combating hate through a variety of academic lenses is the focus of Gonzaga University's just-published third annual *Journal of Hate Studies*.

The edition includes papers presented at the International Conference to Establish a Field of Hate Studies held in Spokane last spring.

The *Journal* is a project of the university's Institute for Action Against Hate and may be purchased for \$25 by telephoning 323-3665.

GU founded the institute in 1998 to counter hate through education, research and advocacy.

Pride Day slated for Saturday, June 11th

The recipe for Spokane's Pride Day this summer is beginning to look downright yummy. The staples from past Pride days are being remeasured, reconstituted and blended with a juicy concoction of new ingredients. While some spices and sweeteners are to be added during cooking time over the next four months, the brew already is beginning to bubble deliciously.

"It's new and different," exclaimed Bridget Potter, chair of the Pride Day planning group that now bills itself as OutSpokane.

Most significantly, Potter said, Pride Day 2005 will be celebrated on a Saturday – June 11 – a departure from the traditional Sunday schedule. The site will remain at the Gondola Meadows in Riverfront Park, at the corner of Post and Spokane Falls Blvd.

"We're still looking for acts," Potter said, "and we hope we can land a big name in entertainment." She said committee members have initiated contacts with Margaret Cho, Ellen DeGeneres and the Indigo Girls, among others.

One rumor suggests that a gay chorus from Seattle will perform in Spokane during the weekend. Another mentions a national entertainer from Florida as a possible participant.

Pride Day will start with a march and include a "wedding ceremony." This year's nuptials will be coordinated by Unitarian Universalist Church, with the assistance of Unity Church of Truth and Bethany Presbyterian Church.

Hospice initiates new bereavement support group

Hospice of Spokane announces a new bereavement program for adults on Spokane's north side. The Northside Grief Support Group offers support at no charge to any adult grieving a loss through death.

The group is facilitated by a licensed Hospice of Spokane bereavement counselor and meets Tuesdays from 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Covenant United Methodist Church, 15515 N. Gleneden Dr.

Hospice is a community-based, nonprofit organization which provides direct care and support to terminally ill persons and their families. Care is provided through interdisciplinary teams of physicians, nurses, social workers, counselors, nurse aides, spiritual counselors and volunteers. For more information, call 456-0438.

In deference to the excitement generated for Pride Day, Emperor LaDonna told Potter that the Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane would reschedule its Gay Spokane pageant so the two events don't butt heads this year.

For the first time in Spokane, sponsorships are being offered for Pride Day, Potter confirmed. She asked that businesses, organizations and even individuals who might want to be featured as a sponsor telephone her at 893-1667.

She also requested that all organizations considering a tie-in event for Pride Week to contact her at the same number.

The next meeting for OutSpokane is set for the Rainbow Center on Feb. 10 at 6 p.m.

Oscar in Spokane stands tall for SAN

As surely as Hollywood rolls out the red carpet for its Academy Awards program, it's also time for *Oscar Night Gala*, the black-tie affair at the Davenport Hotel to benefit Spokane AIDS Network.

What sets SAN's 7th annual film soiree apart from those in the past is that the need at the agency is greater. On Feb. 1, the Spokane City Council deleted human services grants to SAN and 18 other selected social service programs when it reviewed the city's budget cuts for 2005.


SAN had received \$12,000 from the fund in 2004 and council members said they would ask city officials to try to find additional savings that

could be directed to the agencies denied funding.

Oscar Night Gala, SAN's major fundraiser for the year, is scheduled Feb. 27 beginning at 5 p.m. An elegant dinner and a silent auction are in addition to a live telecast of the Oscar ceremonies. Tickets are \$125 and may be ordered by telephoning SAN at 455-8993.

The 76th Academy Awards also will be screened at AMC River Park Square. Tickets are \$25 per person, \$40 for a couple, and proceeds will benefit SAN.

Following the telecast, Dempseys will host a live auction that also will benefit the important programs and services provided by SAN.



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Valentine dance is for lovers

The two dozen-plus women of the Giant Ass Drum Corps have turned in their plastic pails for Cupid's bow and they're aiming love arrows at the gay community.

The focus of their attention is a Valentine Ball they're sponsoring on the Saturday before the red letter day. The affair is set for the Unitarian Universalist Church on Feb. 12.

Tickets are \$10 and semiformal or formal attire is suggested.

Because attendees are asked to bring their own beer, wine and snacks, it will be a 21-and-over party.

And it's more than a dance.

The function gets under way with a social hour at 7 p.m. Entertainment is scheduled at 8 and dancing will be from 9:30 until 1 a.m., interspersed with giveaways, sale items and a 50-50 drawing. Proceeds will help offset traveling expenses for three or four scheduled out-of-town engagements the corps wants to fulfill.

Assisting with the fundraising, Kevan Gardner, Abbey Crawford, Carla Louise, Michael Gray and Kathy Colton and the Reluctants will entertain.

A photographer also will be on hand to capture the happy couples.

For more information, telephone 466-1853.

Rainbow Center extends hours, bills more movies

The Rainbow Regional Community Center announced expanded hours of operation beginning this month. The new hours include Sundays from 2 to 6 p.m., and Wednesdays from 6 to 8:30 p.m. These are in addition to the current schedule, Thursdays from 5:30 to 8 p.m. and Fridays from 2 to 8 p.m.

Gallery Director Timothy Phillips said this month's *Dinner and a Movie Night* schedule at the center is:

- Feb. 11, *Object of My Affection* and spaghetti.

- Feb. 18, *Hedwig and the Angry Itch* and chicken noodles.

- Feb 25, *But I'm a Cheerleader* and veggie bean soup.

The Friday dinners and movies are still free to the public and start at 6 p.m.

Alliance, Pride to host teen conference

Steve Wiecking, associate editor of Seattle Weekly, will be the keynote speaker at a conference this month for area gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered high school students.

The conference, entitled OUT (for Out, United, Together), is scheduled for Feb. 23 in the SUB at Spokane Falls Community College from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The event is cosponsored by the Gay/Straight Alliance Club at SFCC and Spokane-Kootenai Pride, and is free.

ETA for Best Buy hooked to magic carpet

A delay in the shipment of carpeting prevented the opening of Jack Allen's new Best Buy Adult Entertainment store in January. Allen said he has selected a new supplier and expects the new floor covering to be installed in mid-February.

The new store is located at 123 E. Sprague Ave. The main entrance will be through the door at the center of the building that faces the parking lot. Allen said Best Buy's present operation, at 2425 E. Springfield Ave., will remain open for the foreseeable future.

The deadline for registrations, which includes lunch and all conference materials, is Feb. 17.

In addition to Wiecking's presentation, the conference will offer breakout sessions on topics designed "to give teens the tools they need to fight homophobia, prevent hate crimes, understand gender identity and ease coming out, along with other topics related to personal health, safety and spirituality," said Alliance Club co-adviser Barbara Williamson.

Wiecking is a widely read theater critic, contributing film writer and author of the pop culture column *Small World*. He also presents theater reviews twice a week on KING-FM radio.

For more information or to register, telephone Alliance Club co-adviser Heather Keast at 533-4507.

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Oscar Illustration: Molly Quinn

Oregon governor plans call for gay rights law

SALEM, Ore. – Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski told the state legislature he would push this year to ban discrimination against gays in employment, housing and public accommodations.

Oregon must “defend social justice, tolerance and diversity,” Kulongoski, a Democrat, said during his State of the State address at the opening of the 2005 legislative session. Wayne Scott, leader of the Republican-controlled House, said he would oppose such a bill.

Montanans ask, ‘Who Would Jesus Hate?’

HELENA – In anticipation of Fred (God Hates Fags) Phelps’ announced visit to Montana, Karl Olson announced that PRIDE will sponsor a special faith and equality prayer breakfast at the state Capitol on Feb. 12.

The question of *Who Would Jesus Hate?* will be addressed by three religious leaders who support the full equality and humanity of gays and lesbians. *Who Would Jesus Hate?* is open to the public, said Olson, executive director of PRIDE.

Leather fans alerted to gather in Portland

PORTLAND – Affiliates of the leather community may want to plan a weekend in Portland on April 1 for *Leather Sash Bash Weekend*.

A variety of events at a number of locations are planned, organizers said, including a fantastic erotica show, two play parties, club nights, meals, a special city tour and an Oregon leather history forum, plus “a few surprises.”

International and national Leather titleholders are expected to attend. Admission to events are priced individually; weekend packages are not available.

Civil unions bill stalls in Montana legislature

HELENA – Members of the state’s House Judiciary Committee voted Jan. 26 to table a bill that would grant some rights to gay couples, according to the *Billings Gazette*.

The newspaper cited some lawmakers for saying the bill was badly crafted and others expressing their opposition to any marriage-like rights for gays and lesbians.

Regional

Rally set to lobby legislators on AIDS

OLYMPIA – AIDS activists and advocates from around the state will gather in Olympia on Feb. 23 to lobby legislators for more substantial HIV and AIDS programs. The rallying cry will be: “Can you hear me now?”

“We plan to bring at least five people from each of the 49 legislative districts this year,” said Nicki Salisbury of Life-long AIDS Alliance in Seattle. “Given the new faces at all levels of government, this year, more than ever, participation is imperative.”

Salisbury said she expects the special event to attract not only people living with HIV and AIDS, but their

friends, family members and care providers from all parts of the state. “We’re joining forces to help legislators recognize and respond to this health crisis,” she said.

“Too often lawmakers believe the AIDS crisis is over. They don’t think AIDS affects anyone in their district. They don’t hear us like they used to hear us,” Salisbury said.

The lobby day program includes briefings on key issues along with advocacy training sessions – pairing experienced lobbyists with novice participants – in the morning. The groups will meet with state representatives and senators following lunch.

The AIDS Lobby Day headquarters will be the First Baptist Church in Olympia, located at Washington S.E. and 9th. Registration begins at 9 a.m. Salisbury is available for information and questions by telephoning (206) 957-1611.

Officers to discuss gay concerns for law issues

MISSOULA – The Western Montana Gay Lesbian Community Center here will host law enforcement officers for the first of the year’s planned Saturday Salons.

Representatives from the Missoula Crime Victim Advocate office and the Police and Sheriff’s departments will provide information on police accountability, confidentiality, hate crimes and domestic violence in a two-hour program entitled *Community Conversation With Law Enforcement* on Feb. 5 beginning at 11 a.m.

The community center is located at 615 Oak St.

Idaho Senate nixes bill to ban gay marriage

BOISE – A measure to amend the state constitution to ban same-sex marriage and reject any recognition of civil unions or domestic partnerships died Feb. 2 when the Senate voted 21-14 in favor of the bill. It needed 24 votes to pass, the required two-thirds margin. Legislators agreed that writing discrimination into Idaho’s constitution was dead for the year.

Last month, the gay advocacy group Your Family, Friends and Neighbors launched a statewide newspaper campaign designed to encourage people to examine the way people feel about same-sex marriage.

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Regional Calendar

February events:

▼ Feb. 2-6 – Gay standup comic and actor Jason Stuart, Funny Bone, **Boise**, (208) 331-2663.

■ Feb. 3 weekend – *Grand Opening*, Coeur d'Alene Tea House and Gateway Gardens, 401 N. 2nd St., **Coeur d'Alene**, \$5, (208) 664-3083.

▼ Feb. 4-26 – Spontaneous Productions' *Experiment II*, Off-Broadway Theater, **Boise**, 8 p.m., \$10, (208) 363-7053.

▼ Feb. 5 – *Community Conversation With Law Enforcement*, Western Montana Gay Lesbian Community Center, 615 Oak St., **Missoula**, 11 a.m.

■ Feb. 11 – Spokane's CenterStage production of *Romance, Romance*, Panida Theatre, **Sandpoint**, 8 p.m., \$15, (509) 747-8243.

■ Feb. 11-13 – *SweetheART* art sale and fundraiser, **Colville** Arts Foundation, (509) 685-0575.

▼ Feb. 12 – Montana PRIDE's *Who Would Jesus Hate?* breakfast discussion, Room 303 Old Supreme Court Bldg., **Helena**, 7 a.m., (406) 442-9322.

▼ Feb. 13 – PFLAG-**Sandpoint** meets, United Methodist Church, 2 p.m., (208) 263-6699.

▼ Feb. 20 – Portland Gay Men's Chorus' *Made in Oregon* concert, Old Church, **Portland**, (503) 226-2588.

▼ Feb. 23 – *AIDS Awareness, Action and Lobby Day*, **Olympia**, (206) 957-1611.

▼ special interest ■ general interest

Full-ride scholarships offered to GLBT students

CHICAGO – The Point Foundation in January awarded an academic honorarium to an 18-year-old honor student who was recently expelled from Trinity Christian Academy in Addison, Texas, when school administrators discovered he was gay. The amount of the award will be announced this spring, as the foundation based here does with its other scholars, said the foundation's executive director, Vance Lancaster.

Considered the nation's first foundation to support academic achievement in higher education among gay youth, Lancaster announced 10 new scholarships for the opening of the foundation's 2005 application season. Three additional scholarships for undergraduate study at American University in Washington, D.C. also will be offered. In partnership with MTV network's college-based channel, mtvU, the foundation will offer two scholarships for students attending colleges or universities that broadcast the mtvU network.

Point Scholars are chosen for their demonstrated leadership, scholastic achievement, extracurricular activities, involvement in the gay community and financial or emotional need. Scholarships cover tuition, books, supplies, room and board, transportation and living expenses to allowing students to excel in the classroom, on campus and in their communities, Lancaster said.

Information is available online at www.thepointfoundation.org. The application deadline is March 1.

National

Freedom to Marry Week seen for rallying support

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Freedom to Marry Week, Feb. 12-19, will begin with Freedom to Marry Day on Saturday, Feb 12, announced PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays). The special week, organizers said, provides chapters, members and supporters with "a chance to reaffirm our commitment to justice and equality for gay families."

Added PFLAG Executive Director Ron Schlittler, "We need to hear your voice in this historic moment. Join with your friends and family in your home-

town (during the week) to reaffirm our advances, celebrate our relationships and move our cause forward. With anti-gay activists and policy makers at all levels of government working against us, you and your family are the marriage movement's strongest allies. Your determination to protect and expand our freedoms will tip the scales in our favor and send a message that rights cannot be taken away, only broadened."

Town axes domestic partner benefits plan

NEW YORK – The Town Board of Eastchester, a bedroom community near Mount Vernon and Yonkers, voted 3-2 in January to approve a union contract covering municipal workers that ends the town's extension of benefits to the domestic partners of its employees.

Gay rights groups condemned the move as a step backward, but union and town officials said the benefits were under utilized and too expensive to continue, according to The New York Times.

Arizona ministers march for gay marriage

PHOENIX – A group of 120 ministers in January marched to the Arizona state Capitol to protest a planned amendment to the state constitution that would ban same-sex marriage.

"We want Arizonans to know that not everyone in the religious community agrees with what is going on," Rev. David Ragan, a participant, told The Arizona Republic.

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'Ex-gay' billboard sparks controversy

BALTIMORE – A billboard proclaiming that gays can change their sexual orientation has shocked and offended gay residents in central Maryland. The message, sponsored by a group known as Parents & Friends of Ex-Gays & Gays, features a picture of a young man with the tagline, "Ex-Gays Prove That Change is Possible," accompanied by the group's Web address.

Taryn Goodman of Rockville, northwest of Washington, D.C., a heterosexual, told the Washington Blade that she has many gay friends and that she was "shocked" by the sign. "The ad supports this stigma in society that you

should change," Goodman said. "I am of the mindset you should be who you are and want to be."

Dan Furmansky, executive director of Equality Maryland, the state's largest gay rights organization, also condemned the ad. "Ex-gay advocacy groups like PFOX are 'universally rejected' by all major psychological and health organizations," Furmansky said. "They're free to disseminate their information no matter how far out of the mainstream it is. But God forbid these people spend their time and money focusing on the genocide occurring in Sudan, the tsunami victims or homelessness and joblessness. No, to them, homosexuals are the No. 1 threat to society, and that would be ludicrous if it weren't so sad."

PFOX did not return a Blade telephone call.

Survivor star Hatch cuts deal in tax case

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Richard Hatch, a gay man who became a millionaire when he won television's first-ever *Survivor* series, has agreed to plead guilty to two counts of tax evasion for failing to report income, including the \$1 million he won on the show.

Federal prosecutors charged that Hatch, 43, filed false tax returns in 2000 and 2001, omitting his income from the CBS show and another \$321,000 he was paid by a Boston radio station. The penalty could be up to five years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine for each charge. However, as part of a plea agreement filed in federal court on Jan. 18, the U.S. Attorney's office said it would recommend a lesser sentence.

Gymnast with HIV back in the swing

NEW YORK – Gay gymnast Matthew Cusick, who made headlines last year when he was fired by Montreal-based Cirque du Soleil because he is HIV-positive, is now affiliated with AntiGravity, a New York-based troupe of athletes who perform daredevil stunts on stage, in operas and for private parties. While less well known than Cirque, AntiGravity is a regular source of ballet and acrobatic dancers and tumblers, subcontracting its performers for opera and theater and stage productions here and throughout the United States, occasionally mounting its own shows.



Matthew Cusick

Cusick performed at the Fire Island Dance Festival in July and was to make his Metropolitan Opera debut in

Franco Zefferelli's production of *Turandot* at the end of January.

"It's a happy ending," he said. "While I would not wish what happened to me on anybody else, I'm glad I have a chance to perform again. I don't regret standing up for my rights. It was the right thing to do. AntiGravity has a much more human face and is more flexible than Cirque du Soleil, which is kind of cookie-cutter," Cusick added. "You do one thing for Cirque, and no matter how good you are at anything else, you can never be considered for anything else."

AntiGravity performed in the closing ceremonies for the Salt Lake City Olympics and appeared on the New York stage in *Frogs*, the Stephen Sondheim update of *Aristophanes* that starred Nathan Lane at Lincoln Center last year.

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund filed a lawsuit on Cusick's behalf against Cirque du Soleil for wrongful termination, eventually winning a \$600,000 settlement. Cirque had claimed that Cusick, because of his HIV status, was a danger to other performers and even to the audience.

'Help wanted' sign back in window at HRC

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay rights lobbying organization, announced Jan. 4 that it has begun a search for an executive director to replace Cheryl Jacques, who was forced to resign after 11 months on the job. Jacques' abrupt departure was laid to unspecified "philosophical differences" with the group's board of directors.

Staff complaints about Jacques' abrasive management style were said to have been among the factors that led to her departure. HRC has denied that November election results or HRC's aggressive "George W. Bush: You're Fired!" campaign were factors in

Jacques and the board parting ways. HRC officials said they hope to fill the position by this spring.



Cheryl Jacques

"We're not backing down one inch from our goal of full marriage equality," said J. Smith, senior communications manager for HRC. "If anything, as we tackle the year ahead, we will be more aggressive in getting the stories of real families facing real discrimination out to the American people. Our tactics have changed – to going beyond the political message to the personal – but our goal remains the same."

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Flag football tourney is more than punts, passes

KEY WEST, Florida Keys – Forty teams of women and girls from around the world are expected in Key West this month for the 14th annual International Women's Flag Football Association championships. The Kelly McGillis Classic, named for and endorsed by the actress and former Key West resident who starred in *Top Gun* and *Witness*, is scheduled Feb. 6-14.

According to association president and founder Diane Beruldsen, the tournament is the largest women's and girls' flag football tourney in the world. Teams from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, Nigeria, Canada and the United States are slated to participate in more than 100 games.

Following three days of island activities and a day for officiating clinics, the tournament officially opens the afternoon of Feb. 10. Competing teams will present their country's flags and sing their national anthems before a parade of national and state flags. More information is available online at www.iwffa.com.

Mr. Leather contest moves to Navy Pier

CHICAGO – Leathermen from around the world are expected here for the 27th annual International Mr. Leather meet and competition May 26-30. Organizers said the wildly popular IML contest this year will be held at a new venue, the Navy Pier. The 13th annual International Mr. Bootblack competition and Leather Market will be held at the Hyatt Regency host hotel.

Weekend packages are \$140 and may be purchased on the Internet at www.boxofficetickets.com or by telephoning (800) 494-TIXS. Room reservations at the host hotel may be made with a call to (800) 233-1234. Details of the event are available on the Web at www.imrl.com.

Gay marriage emerges from jungle of bias, fear

YAOUNDE, Cameroon – Speculation is high that a musician's gay marriage may signal some new breakthroughs for gay men and women in this South African nation although first reports indicate that many in the country are shocked by musician Sammy Diko's recent marriage to a gay white man.

Homosexual activity is a crime in Cameroon and the country has a poor record on human rights, according to Post Watch magazine, which reported the nuptials. The publication also noted that the National Fraternity of Gays and Lesbians in Cameroon remains in the closet.

Recent asylum cases filed in Belgium and France or other European nations by gay and lesbian Cameroonians have been rejected, Post Watch said, adding: As in most African countries, homosexuality in Cameroon is considered foreign and deviant and an import from decadent Western nations.

Most Canadians favor same-sex marriage

OTTAWA – A majority of Canadians favor a new federal law to allow same-sex couples to marry, according to a recent survey conducted by the Environics Research Group. The survey, completed in early January, asked whether Parliament should approve new legislation this spring to change the definition of marriage to include same-sex couples.

The research survey revealed that 54 percent of Canadians polled agree that such legislation should be approved,

while 43 percent said it should not, according to the organization's press release. Most support for same-sex marriage was registered in Quebec and British Columbia, with the least backing expressed by those surveyed in the Prairie provinces, including Alberta.

Spain moves on bill to legalize gay marriage

MADRID, Spain – Spain's socialist government has approved a bill to legalize same-sex marriages, putting this predominantly Roman Catholic country on course to become the third European country to recognize gay matrimony, according to the Associated Press. Under the bill, gays would be allowed to adopt children and same-sex couples will be able to inherit from one another, as well as receive retirement benefits from their working spouses, just as heterosexual married couples do.

The bill was approved at a Cabinet meeting in January and is expected to be presented to Parliament for debate this month, said the AP. "The right to marry is a right for everyone, without distinction. It cannot be understood as a privilege," Deputy Prime Minister

Maria Teresa Fernandez de la Vega told reporters. "The recognition of homosexuals' rights eradicates an unjustified discrimination."

The Catholic Church adamantly opposes the measure.

Meanwhile, Spanish Defense Minister Jose Bono, a practicing Catholic, in late January said his government would not impose religion on the people of Spain, rejecting calls by Pope John Paul II to turn away from secularism. Spain is preparing to legalize gay marriage, and its socialist government has ended mandatory religious education and seeks to change the country's divorce and abortion laws.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Superior acting carries *True West*

by Christopher Lawrence

Through Feb. 12 at Interplayers, you can see Sam Shepard's saga of two brothers meeting after 10 years apart, having taken extremely opposite paths in life. *True West* may leave you a bit stunned, but the fun is in the ride. The lead roles in this piece of Americana "teatro" never let up during their self-destructive, competitive race toward dysfunction that makes most families seem mighty tame.

Shepard's dialogue reminds me of a western and much gruffer version of Tennessee Williams, at times with a rhythm and pace that punch the wistfulness out of each idea but barely stops for a breath. Although not an easy cadence to perform, and after a slight rushing of that rhythm, probably due to opening night energy, during the very beginning of the first act, both actors found the pace that made their words come to life.

Because the actors who play the very different brothers change roles on different nights, I viewed this play twice. It was amazing to see how different the interactions became.

In this case, the older brother is bullying and abusive from a life of petty crime and a sense of never belonging. This worked well when the larger of the two actors, Nathan Smith, played the part of the prodigal drifter.

Surprisingly, it also worked very well when the smaller and wirier Sean Cook played the same part. Speed, energy and knowledge of the granted power of being the older brother seem to forever hold their power.

Both actors turned in superior performances as the younger brother/screenwriter as well.

Interplayers was blessed to have both these actors with a long-shared experience of acting together in Seattle. Thrice blessed to have such a



Interplayers photo by Kate Vander Wende

Nathan Smith, left, and Sean Cook switch roles on different nights in Interplayers' production of *True West*.

gifted and insightful director as Braden Abraham, also from Seattle Repertory Theater, to oversee and guide these characters through their somewhat dizzying paces.

Kathy Doyle-Lipe played the stunned and out-of-touch mom, with a surreal take on returning home to the warring brothers who are fighting and embroiled in writing a screenplay together after stealing household appliances from her neighbors.

Jamie Flanery was smooth and a bit slippery as the producer who betrays the younger brother and sends him spinning into an uncertain future when he loses a bet during a game of golf.

I recommend seeing this play twice to enjoy the dynamic difference of having each actor in both roles. Save your ticket stub and your second show will only be \$10. My only warning is that Sam Shepard is a bit twisted. Hang onto yer saddle when ya' mo-

sey in and plop yerself down for the show.

Show times are Tues.-Thurs. at 7:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m.; Saturday matinee at 2 p.m. Call 455-7529 for tickets.

New group paints appeal to gay artists

Artists Timothy Phillips and Paul Flanery are collaborating to launch a new organization for gay artists and their allies in the area.

Flanery, who volunteers at the Jundt Gallery at Gonzaga University, proposed such a group in January. Phillips, the volunteer gallery director at the Rainbow Center, said the new Spokane Rainbow Artist Coalition will help build art appreciation and visibility in the community. The coalition will meet at the Rainbow Center on Feb. 10 at 6 p.m., and again on Feb. 24.

CENTERSTAGE PRESENTS

Pride & Joy Movie Night

BROKEN HEARTS CLUB

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FEBRUARY 22nd

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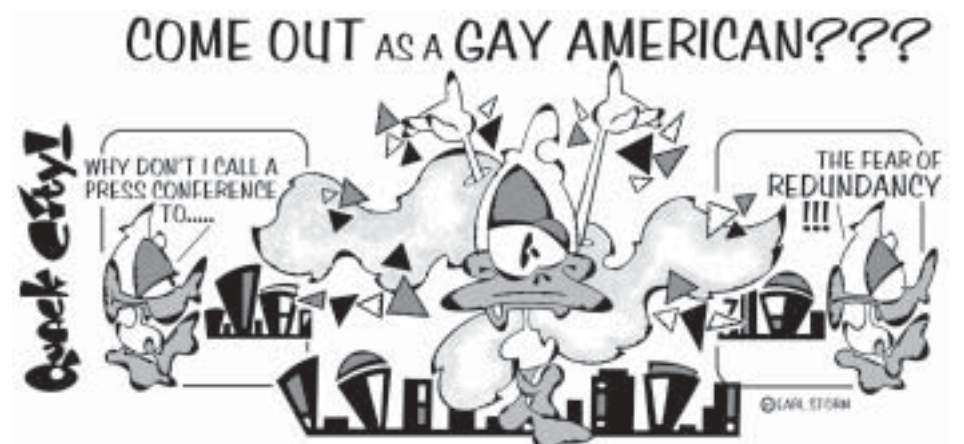
Tickets: \$15 with reservations by Feb. 18, or \$20 at door

Dinner at 6pm Movie starts 7:30pm

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Steel band will chase winter blahs

The sights and sounds of a Caribbean carnival await you on Feb. 13, when Bakra Bata performs at CenterStage as part of the theatre's World Music Concert series. Dinner is at 5:30 p.m. The entertainment, starting at 7, will surely set you dreaming of a vacation in the tropics.

The steel band's original style of music features a fascinating variety of percussion instruments. Their unusual instrumentation is a visual and aural delight for audiences, and their repertoire – emphasizing rhythmic modes and dance beats – creates a buoyant, joyous ambience. The festive sounds of the steel pan (drum) will ring out the samba and reggae rhythms of Brazil, Trinidad, Jamaica and Haiti. The warm music and hot rhythm are a perfect remedy for cabin fever on a cold winter's night.

Bakra Bata has performed at festivals and fairs throughout the western hemisphere, playing to crowds of 10,000 to one million. "They are able to arouse an audience with spontaneous street performance or with a formal music set," said the Brooklyn Center for the Arts. "A celebration of culture in sight, sound and movement," said *The Rocket* music magazine.

Food service is in dinner theatre format and the menu includes a sampling

of Caribbean dishes. Tickets for dinner and the show are \$43. Show-only tickets (with dessert and beverage) are \$22; \$15 for students.

Tickets may be purchased by phone (with credit card) by calling 747-8243, or in person at the CenterStage box office between Tuesday and Saturday from noon to 6 p.m. Tickets also are available, with applicable fees, at all TicketsWest locations.

CenterStage to host *Broken Hearts Club*

CenterStage has concluded its prototype testing for gay movie night and proclaimed the event is ready to fly on its own. Managing Director Tim Behrens officially dubbed the third Tuesday of each month as *Pride and Joy Movie Night* at the popular dinner theatre on First Avenue.

Board member Jerry Davis announced *Broken Hearts Club* as the film selection for Feb. 22. Dinner (chicken, beef or vegetarian) will be served shortly after 6 p.m., he said, with the movie slated for around 7:30 or so. Tickets are \$15 with reservations by Feb. 18, or \$20 at door.

SNN book and film reviewer Christopher Lawrence said, "With a cast largely composed of nongay men, it is surprising how convincing Timothy Olyphant and Dean Cain are at playing queer. *Broken Hearts Club* is better than average ... a treat for the eyes."

The three-story CenterStage entertainment complex is one block west of Dempseys. The box office reservations line is 747-8243.



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February in Spokane

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Friday the 11th – The Rainbow Regional Community Center continues its Dinner & Movie night with *The Object of My Affection*. Tonight and every Friday night this month at 6 pm.

Saturday the 12th – The Giant Ass Drum Corps hosts *The Valentine Ball* featuring live entertainment and dancing at Unitarian Universalist Church starting at 7 pm.

Monday the 14th – Join others this Valentine's Day at the *Freedom to Marry Rally* at the Spokane County Courthouse at 4:30 pm.
... and later, treat your valentine to a special dinner at Dempseys or The Merq.

Tuesday the 22nd – Pride and Joy Movie Night (formerly Gay Movie Night) at CenterStage features *Broken Hearts Club*. Dinner at 6 pm; movie at 7:30 pm.

Sunday the 27th – Spokane AIDS Network presents its 7th annual *Oscar Night Gala* at the historic Davenport Hotel starting at 5pm.
... or if something less formal is to your taste, enjoy *Oscar Goes to the Movies* at AMC River Park Square at 5 pm. Proceeds will benefit SAN.

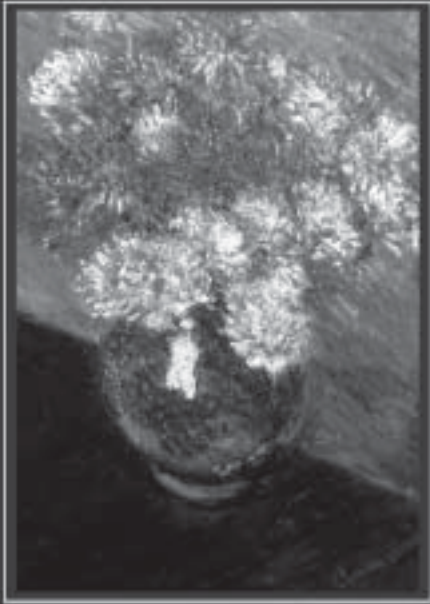
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Image: Claude Monet, Chrysanthemums, 1882-85
Oil on canvas, 20 x 15 inches, The Philip and Janice Levin Foundation. Photography Courtesy of Sotheby's, Inc. ©2003

REVIEWS & PREVIEWS

VIDEO

New videos to warm your cockles

by Christopher Lawrence

With a smaller Stonewall, we decided to offer you condensed reviews of some fairly recent DVDs so you will have new choices during these cold winter nights. Brrrrr ...

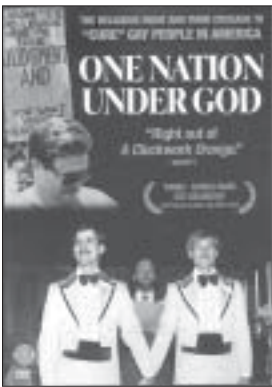
To Die For (aka *Heaven's a Drag*) First Run Features (1:36)

Billed as "the hit British gay comedy about cruising in the afterlife," one might worry that it would be too tasteless a story when a young, good-looking man dies of AIDS and comes back to haunt his former lover. Although parts hit home for those of us who have lost loved ones to this terrible disease, I admit that this film tickled me. Directing, lighting and sound are a bit uneven, but this is worth the rental if you have a penchant for dark humor. It takes a bit of suspension of one's disbelief, but it's worth the effort.



One Nation, Under God First Run Features (1:22)

Don't miss this presentation by two ex-leaders of an "ex-gay" ministry, which exposes the lies and the close-minded rhetoric spewed by religious extremists, who believe gay people should and can be "cured." If you don't laugh at some of the horribly naive ideas to straighten us out, you will surely cringe in disgust. Witnessing beauty make-overs for butch lesbians, football lessons for effeminate men, electroshock and aversion therapy really did nothing to make me want to change. The film is worth seeing for its exposure of those dogooders who fail to see the truly fabulous in each of us.



Allegedly Anchor Bay Entertainment (1:26)

As I popped Kathy Griffin's full length, totally uncensored live concert into the player, visions of her rather unpleasant, but often funny, character in *Suddenly Susan* had jaded my expectations, but: This former D-List Diva is hot enough and funny enough to bring goodness and mercy to its knees forevermore. She deserves to be on the A-List because her take on almost anything she tackles, and by tackle I mean shreds, is hilarious. Let's face it ... some of us love to hear the dish, and this broad uses some large earthenware to serve it up. The trash she talks had me rolling in the aisles. Extremely gay friendly.



Venus Boyz First Run Features (1:42)

This film about drag kings won Best Film at the Locarno, Switzerland, International Film Festival. I have to say I agree with their conclusions, that this is more than simply a documentary about women who cross dress as men. It's a study of the lives and psyches of some of the stars of the film and a fascinating, three-dimensional look at individuals who battled through an uneasy journey to find themselves. Many were heroic and displayed a wisdom that belied assumptions that some people have about those who do not fit the usual roles in society. I found the film uneven in production, sound, lighting and focus of subject matter, but that did not diminish its impact. Worth renting to expand your understanding of another very important color in our rainbow.



Parting Glances First Run Features (1:30)

Director Bill Sherwood has been compared to Terence Malick and Steven Spielberg, which may be a stretch, but as far as gay films go, this one is definitely above-average quality in most aspects. The ring of authenticity may be a bit thin, but it still managed to tug at my heartstrings and keep me involved in the plot and characterizations. I hope we see more like this, with increasingly good production values. A movie to watch while curled up on the couch with your special other.



The Best of So Graham Norton BBC Video (1:31)

Graham's mischievous smile and sparkling eyes really give no warning that you are about to have your tasteful boundaries demolished. Not everything I saw in this compilation of scenes from his best shows was incredibly good, but there is enough great fun to make this a rental for sure.

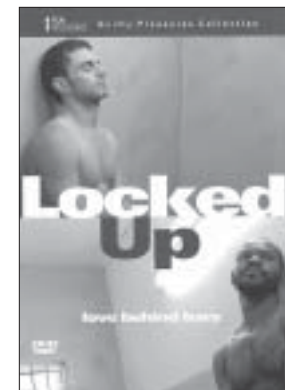


Greatest Hits: My Prerogative Britney Spears

Jive Records/Zomba Recording CD

Of the 17 tracks on this collection, 14 have been on the charts, beginning with 1998's *Baby One More Time*. The remaining three are all previously unreleased, which explains the discrepancy. Opening with a decent cover of Bobby Brown's *My*

Locked Up: Love Behind Bars TLA Releasing (1:36)



Hot, steamy, explosive sexuality, violence and illicit love in a prison with quite explicit sexual scenes, this movie seems like it should be a winner. It would be if those were the only qualities that make a movie worth watching. The guys are hot and the action is real, according to the interviews on the DVD extras, but I suspect it may be worth seeing only for the prurient thrills. And there are plenty of those. I admit the film is intense and highly arousing on some levels, and the plot isn't bad; it's just drawn that way.

Bedrooms & Hallways First Run Features (1:45)



Sexy, witty and interesting, if not a bit campy, with a plot that pleases both the senses and the sensibilities: This film offers more than a touch of the comedy you might see in a feature film or a good TV sitcom, and the writing is geared for laughs as well as a teeny-tiny bit of introspection. More of a bedroom comedy and well worth renting or adding to your library.

Prerogative, this CD then dives into the expected hits, including *I'm A Slave 4 U*, *Oops! I Did It Again*, *Lucky* and many, many others.

For those not familiar with Britney, she reminds me of Debbie Gibson and Madonna's love child, born in a production-heavy studio and reared on an ever-increasing diet of sexual innuendo and media provocation. This isn't a put-down; she is an amazing force in today's pop culture, driving everything from fashion to music video to body piercing. — G.A.

They come equipped with fully-charged batteries

Like the Energizer bunny, new gay porn actors keep coming and coming. To verify that observation, check out the 600 full-color, provocative photos in the 2005 edition of the *Adam Gay Video Directory*.

In addition to profiling some 260 rising stars, the latest guide is chock full of reviews, ratings and a raft of movie clips. Spokane's Sam Tyson is pictured with Adam Wolfe in a scene from Chi Chi LaRue's [2]: *The Movie*.

Five-star winners are headed by *Greek Holiday I*, with a cast of 15. For fun, you might want to see All Worlds' *There Goes the Neighborhood*. It won Best Comedy. A *Directory* order form is included on the following page.

Inland Northwest Business Directory



Lady Luck **Tattoo & Piercing**

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angel garza • chris lyon
kristi kilbourne

N.T.A. Member
8611 E. Sprague Ave.
Spokane, WA
Telephone
509-922-8120

BBB Member
VISA

DIRECT SERVICES & PREVENTION PROGRAMS

- Client Advocacy
- Case Management
- Women & Family Case Management
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- Food Program
- Community Level Prevention Intervention
- Prevention Case Management
- HIV + Support Groups
- Education Programs
- World AIDS Day

SAN
Spokane AIDS Network
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Join us for our annual Oscar Night Gala and Silent Auction!

Serving the Inland Northwest by reducing the impact of HIV/AIDS in our community.
905 S. Monroe, Spokane, WA 99204 • SpokaneAIDSNetwork.org

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Helen Bonser, MA/ABS, LMHP
Margie Aylsworth, MSW, LMHP

12 E. Rowan Ave., Ste. L-4
Spokane, WA 99207

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Minority Sensitive
Individual, Couples
Family & Group Therapy

509.487.7064

PFLAG
Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

SPOKANE

Support • Education • Activism
Help Line: 489.2266

Lesbian and Gay Christians

INTEGRITY meets the
second Saturday of the month

NEXT MEETING:
Sat., Feb. 12th at Noon

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

Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane

H.M.I.S.M. Courtney Cocks
Empress XXXIII

T.M.I.S.M. Robert Surreal and LaDonna
Emperors XXIX

Phone: 251-1242 Email: iscs@icehouse.net

all are welcome here!

OUTREACH CENTER

Open 3-5pm, Mon-Fri
1103 West 1st ~ 838-6859

HEALTH DISTRICT

needle exchange • condoms • lube
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ODYSSEY YOUTH CENTER

509-325-3637 • Tuesday, Thursday, Friday • 4:30-9:30 pm
E-Mail: odysseyland@qwest.net

Peer support group and health education/referral services for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth ages 16-24.

integrity!

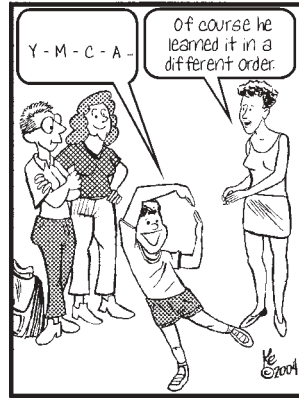
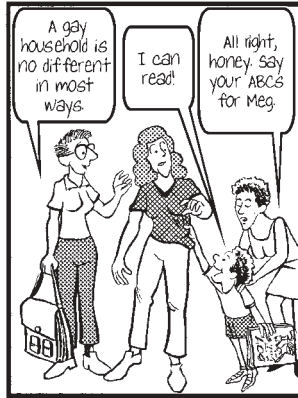
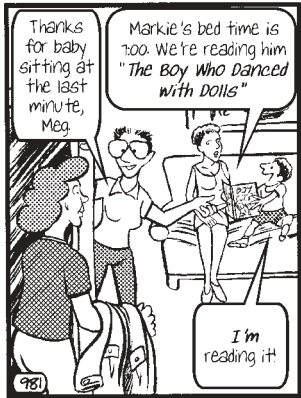
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MURPHY'S MANOR

by Kurt Erichsen



Advertising Manager Wanted

Stonewall News Northwest is seeking an experienced, qualified person to fill the position of Advertising Manager. The job entails selling retail and classified display advertising space in this monthly publication as well as other duties.

The Advertising Manager should be personable, professional, reliable, motivated, articulate and intelligent. Honesty and integrity in all professional conduct and behavior is expected.

If interested, please e-mail your resume to Mark Southwick at mwsouthwick@msn.com.

Classifieds

PEOPLE and EVENTS

11-Special Person:

J.D!
WILL YOU exchange candy hearts with me? Keep your head up and me, too, this Valentine's Day. Love from your 7-1 shot, E.S.

JASON S.

DELIGHTED WITH pending arrival in Spokane and getting together with you. Expect a call the minute you arrive! F.L.

12-Special Events:

ALL-U-CAN-EAT

FISH & CHIPS -n- Chowder \$7.25 every Friday, 5-9 p.m. Y-Tavern & Restaurant, Prichard, ID. Nostalgic, friendly, smoking permitted. "Y-? Because we like you!" (208) 682-4036.

PEOPLE and EVENTS

12-Special Events:

VALENTINE'S WKND
Y-TAVERN & Restaurant, Prichard, ID, Feb. 12-14: Steak and Lobster \$11.75 or 2 for \$21.50! Banana split \$2.75. Nostalgic, friendly, smoking permitted. "Y-? Because we like you!" (208) 682-4036.

13-Volunteers:

ODYSSEY YOUTH Center desperately needs volunteers to help man our local GLBTQ youth drop-in center. Make a difference in a young person's life today! Call Julie at 325-3637 for more info.

Miscellaneous

BODY, MIND, SPIRIT

62-Well Being:

SLIDING SCALE LOW FEE COUNSELING
SPECIALIZING IN GLTBQ issues: Coming Out Process, Family Adjustment to GLTB Revelations, Spiritual Exploration & Personal Growth, Straight-Spouse Healing, Children of GLBT Parent(s). T Keiser, MA 921-1188 and K Keller, MSW 325-7175.

Deadline for the March Classifieds is Tuesday, Feb. 22. Call 456-8011.

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.

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.

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.

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."

Miscellaneous

PERSONALS

78-Pen Pals:

BiWM, 5-5, 160, dk brn, grn, likes dancing, the outdoors, dealing w/ cars. Looking for man or woman to write to as pen pal. Reply to: Jeremiah Anderson #70294, ISCI Unit 11-B-28, PO Box 14, Boise, ID 83707.

CUPID, DRAW thy bow. SGWM, 39, 6-0, 230, brn, grn, gemini bottom by choice but can be switchable, looking for LTR. I have no STDs, don't play games and am nonviolent, very loving person, not a sexual offender. Will answer all. Non-nude photos appreciated. True hedonist. Reply to: James Richardson #48830, ICC H-107B, PO Box 70010, Boise, ID 83707.

YOUNG WM, brn, hzl, very open-minded about his sexuality, looking for pen pal, friend. Will send photo to right someone. Reply to: Jason Burnside #50201, ISCI Unit 11-68, PO Box 14, Boise, ID 83707.

PERSONALS

78-Pen Pals:

GWM, 34, 220, brn, hzl, looking for male pen pal around 20-40 yo to write and become friends. Reply to: Thomas L. Baccus Jr. #42.392, ISCI Unit 14, PO Box 14, Boise, ID 83707.

GWM, 43, looking for pen pal/friend for correspondence, maybe more. Average build, 5-6 1/2, hzl, blu. Will exchange photo for photo. Reply to: Ron Koranda #75039, CCA/ICC 1-110A, PO Box 70010, Boise, ID 83707.

GWM, 51, seeks pen pals with other GM for fun and friendship. No LTR wanted. Older GM preferred. Take a chance on me, you won't be sorry. Reply to: Thomas E. Clark #52.392, ISCI 14-D-56, PO Box 14, Boise, ID 83707.

Miscellaneous

HOTTEST HIP HARD GAY FOR 2005

GIANT XXX DIRECTORY OF ADULT GAY DVD & VIDEO

Adam Gay Video
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2100 XXX REVIEWS RATINGS CASTS PLOTS
The Best GUIDE TO GAY Movies & Performers
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GAY PORN STAR PROFILES

The wonderful world of GAY PORN featured in 228 pages of 'not to believe' action photos, hundreds of reviews, casts, plots of Amateur, Military, Leather, Fetish, Romance, 'First-Timers' Guaranteed To Please!

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Add 5 cents to your remittance and receive at 'full mast' Poster of Michael Lucas - uncovered. (Regular Price \$6.99)

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Send me ___ copies, \$12.95 ea. plus \$4.05 shipping and handling in private sealed container. USA only. (Foreign \$6.05 for delivery.) CA residents add \$1.07 sales tax. Allow 7 days for delivery.
Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____
Signature: _____
I certify I am 21 years of age or over. Please sign above.

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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.

6-8:30 pm: **RAINBOW REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER.**

WEDNESDAYS

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

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.)

1

Tuesday

True West continues its Tue-Sat run at **Interplayers** through Feb. 12. \$20, S/s

2

Wednesday

The **Rainbow Center** is now open Wednesdays from 6 to 8:30 pm.

The **GLBT Book Group** meets at **Auntie's Bookstore** at 7 pm to review Roger Streitmatter's *Empty Without You*.

Tonight and every Wednesday, **The Merq** will award **\$100** for the best in-costume, in-performance at **Karaoke With Yasmine**, which begins at 9:30.

3

Thursday

The musical comedy **Romance, Romance** concludes its run at **CenterStage** tonight, tomorrow and Saturday. \$39 and \$45, \$22 show-only

4

Friday

The **Spokane Visual Arts** (self-guided) **Tour** of art spaces is tonight from 5-9 pm and Saturday from 11 am to 6 pm. The works of local high school and college art students will be featured at the **Rainbow Center**.

Women's Hearth, formerly the Women's Drop-in Center, will celebrate women in **Transitions** with a program of readings, music and home-baked desserts at the center from 7-9 pm. Free

5

Saturday

The Wasp Woman, a queen bee of low-budget flicks, is the buzz for **The Worst Midnight Movie Series Ever** at **CenterStage**. \$3

6

Sunday

Older and Wiser Lesbian Sensations (**OWLS**) will gather for a **Super Bowl** house party. 535-0462 for info and directions.

A **Super Bowl Sunday Party** will be held at **Dempseys** beginning at 3 pm.

The **Rainbow Center** is now open Sundays from 6 to 8:30 pm.

The **Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane** will hold a **board meeting** at 6 pm at **Dempseys**, followed by a full **Court meeting** at 7:30.

Spokane's entertainment and meeting calendar for February

February 2005

Birthstone: Amethyst

Flower: Primrose

Astrological Guide: Aquarius to the 20th; Pisces from Feb. 21

Black History Month & Freedom to Marry Month

9

Wednesday

The Inland Northwest Business Alliance has scheduled its monthly *business meeting* at **Europa Pizzeria and Bakery** starting at 11:30 am. \$18 at the door

10

Thursday

Gay community artists in the area are invited to attend the first meeting of the **Spokane Rainbow Artist Coalition** at the **Rainbow Center** at 6 pm. Free

Also, same time, same place, **OutSpokane** (formerly Inland Northwest Pride) will meet to further firm-up plans for **Pride Day**.

11

Friday

Dinner and a Movie Night at the **Rainbow Center** features *The Object of My Affection* and spaghetti beginning at 6 pm. Free

14

Monday

Valentine's Day.

A **Freedom to Marry Rally** will be held at the **Spokane County Courthouse** on Broadway (where marriage licenses are issued) at 4:30 pm. Signs, without sticks, will be permitted.

Special **Valentine's Day Dinners** will be presented at **Dempseys** (747-5362) and **The Merq** (325-3871).

15

Tuesday

Members of **Odyssey** and **Quest** youth groups will be special guests at the **PFLAG** (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) **Valentine Potluck** at **Unitarian Universalist Church** beginning at 6:30 pm.

Inland Northwest Equality will meet in the lobby of the **Community Building**, 35 W Main, at 5:30 pm.



photo courtesy Eastern Washington University

Empty is one of the featured works at **Two by Two, an exhibit at EWU's Gallery of Art**. The exhibit opens with a reception on **Thursday, Feb. 17, and runs through March**.

12

Saturday

OWLS, Older and Wiser Lesbian Sensations, will meet for **lunch** at the **Golden Corral Buffet** beginning at 11:30 am.

Integrity, a fellowship of gay and lesbian Christians, meets in the **All Saints Chapel of St. John's Cathedral** at noon.

Live entertainment and dancing are featured at **The Valentine's Ball**, sponsored by the **Giant Ass Drum Corps** at **Unitarian Universalist Church** beginning at 7 pm. It's a 21-and-over and BYOB affair. \$10, \$8 with two cans of food

The **Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane** will present a fundraiser for its **Gay Spokane general fund** at **Dempseys** at 8 pm. Lineup for performers begins at 7 pm. Free

Dancers, musicians and **Spokane Symphony** spice the night with **Latin Fever: Salsa, Samba, Tango and More!** at the **Opera House** at 8 pm. \$15-\$30

Be still my heart, if it isn't *Cat-Women of the Moon* as the flick pick for **The Worst Midnight Movie Series Ever** at **CenterStage**. \$3

16

Wednesday

Frank Gorshin stars in **Say Goodnight Gracie** at the **Opera House** at 7:30 pm. \$20-\$47

17

Thursday

Two by Two, a small-scale ceramic art exhibit at the **Eastern Washington University Gallery of Art** opens with a reception at noon today and runs through March. Free

18

Friday

The Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture (**MAC**) will hold its 20th annual **Works From the Heart** contemporary art auction and dinner at the **Davenport Gallery** from 5-9 pm. \$60 nonmembers

Starting at 6 pm, chicken noodle soup will be served with *Hedwig and the Angry Itch* for **Dinner and a Movie Night** at the **Rainbow Center**. Free

19

Saturday

MANOS: The Hands of Fate is the premo pic for tonight's **Worst Midnight Movie Series Ever** at **CenterStage**. \$3

20

Sunday

The **American Federation of Arts** national tour of a collection of the most well-known painters and sculptors of the French tradition opens at the **MAC** and continues to May 15. \$7, S/s

21

Monday

President's Day holiday.

22

Tuesday

Gay movie night at **CenterStage** – recently christened as **Pride and Joy Movie Night** – begins with dinner at 6 pm, followed by the *Broken Hearts Club* feature around 7:30. \$15 in advance, \$20 at door

23

Wednesday

The **Gay/Straight Alliance** at **Spokane Falls Community College** and **Spokane-Kootenai Pride** present **OUT** (Out, United, Together), a conference for area teens, at the college SUB from 9 am to 2:30 pm.

24

Thursday

The new **Spokane Rainbow Artist Coalition** will hold its second meeting of the month at the **Rainbow Center** at 6 pm. Free

25

Friday

Dinner and a Movie Night at the **Rainbow Center** begins at 6 pm with *But I'm a Cheerleader* and veggie bean soup. Free

26

Saturday

Plaster repair and researching your house's history are among the topics scheduled at the annual **Old House Workshop** at **MAC** from 10 am to 3 pm. \$35 for nonmembers.

Incongruous? Certainly not *Jesse James Meets Frankenstein's Daughter*, tonight's selection at **CenterStage** for **The Worst Midnight Movie Series Ever**, you silly. \$3

27

Sunday

ISCS members will gather for an **Oscar Night party** at a private residence beginning at 4 pm. \$5 door fee. 251-1242 for address

Doors open at 5 pm for **Spokane AIDS Network's** 7th annual **Oscar Night Gala** formal dinner and auction fundraiser at the **Davenport Hotel**. \$125

Proceeds from **Oscar Goes to the Movies** at **AMC River Park Square** will benefit **Spokane AIDS Network**. \$25 each, \$40 per couple

Following **Oscar Night Gala** events at the **Davenport** and **AMC**, **Dempseys** will hold a **Post-Oscar Party** with a live auction to further benefit **Spokane AIDS Network**.

DEMPSEYS

Join us for

A Special Valentine's Dinner

Monday, Feb. 14th

6 - 8 pm

Prime Rib Dinner

**Mushroom Soup • Caesar Salad
Broccoli • Roasted Red Potatoes**

Chocolate Mousse Cake with Raspberry Sauce

\$ 19.95 • Reservations Suggested

Super Bowl Sunday • Feb. 6th

Free Pool 3 - 7 pm • \$1⁵⁰ Chili Dogs

Free Tacos 5 - 8 pm • Karaoke from 8 pm on

\$3⁰⁰ P.B.R. Pitchers • All Day • All Night

Sunday, February 27th

Continue the party after ...

**Spokane AIDS Network's
Oscar Night Gala at the Davenport**

Live auction to benefit Spokane AIDS Network

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