

Pride Day planning muddled by SPD

The second Saturday in June was etched in stone as the date for Pride Day 2005 in Spokane. On closer look, however, it appears instead to be sketched in sand.

Pride Day planners now are hedging their confirmation on when the annual event will take place, laying the burden at the feet of the Spokane Police Department. SPD, they say, must approve the parade permit and has had the application on its desk for more than a month.

OutSpokane, as the Pride committee bills itself (formerly Inland Northwest Pride), has proposed a parade

Lincoln Center Salutes Gay Pride 2005

NEW YORK – For the first time in its history, Lincoln Center will present an array of events saluting Gay Pride June 21-23 as part of *Heritage of Pride's Pride Week* celebrations in New York City.

The famed Lincoln Center will showcase acclaimed literary figures and leading entertainers, both gay and nongay, in special events and performances “to celebrate the gay community’s rich history in, and contributions to, American performing arts,” according to the Center’s press release. A special night on the Lincoln Center Plaza, *Midsummer Night Swing*, is designed to confirm Lincoln Center as a place where diversity flourishes.

route they say “will permit greater visibility and exposure” for the gay community.

For the Police Department to reject Pride’s proposal, observers feel it would be akin to telling the Lilac Festival to move its parade to Five Mile, or rescheduling First Night to Jan. 3. Whatever the case, the police echelon handling the permit process seems bogged in processing the application with any due expediency; a case of law enforcement blue becoming bureaucratic red tape.

After years of near obscurity from marching the few blocks on North Washington from Spokane Civic Theatre, OutSpokane has designed an innovative route that would marshal participants at the Rainbow Regional Community Center on Second Avenue. The parade would follow Howard Street to Main, turn west past River Park Square, take Lincoln to Spokane Falls Boulevard and proceed past City

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North Monroe, Garland, the University District, East Sprague, South Perry and Browne’s Addition:

Gay district visionaries eye areas convenient to town

by John Deen

While most people in Spokane went about their business as usual, an Associated Press story in mid-January focused national attention on this “staid Eastern Washington city” as an enclave buffered by wheat fields, fruit orchards and an attitude mired in an earlier time by religious conservatives opposing a neighborhood of homes, businesses and amenities that would hold special appeal for gay residents.

“A gay Mecca is not what we’d like to see Spokane marketed as,” said Penny Lancaster, director of Community Impact Spokane, identified as a network of evangelical Christians, according to the AP.

“We are a family-friendly, traditional values community,” added John Talbott who, when serving as mayor in 1999, voted with the minority to op-

pose Spokane’s Human Rights Ordinance that extended equal rights protection to gay men and lesbians in housing, employment and public accommodation.



Bonnie Aspen

W a l t o n Mize, bishop of the Christ Holy Sanctified Church and considered by some as a spokesman for the black community, feared a gay district would “attract sexual predators who prey on gays, lead to increased crime, drug use and other social ills.”

“They must be sad little souls to feel so compelled to regulate the lives of other people who don’t conform to

their beliefs,” observed one participant to a cluster of friends gathered for a *Freedom to Marry Day* rally in February.

Media interest in Spokane didn’t die on the East Coast. The idea of Christian conservatives attempting to suppress equality in America – sweet land of liberty – lured European journalists to Spokane in late February.

Fleminina Lubin of Italian Network LA-7 was curious about the influence of religious beliefs on government in the United States. In Italy, she told Stonewall News Northwest, even with a predominantly Roman Catholic population, every effort is made to maintain a separation between church and state.

London’s Guardian reporter Paul Harris extended his visit by a day to allow him to cover a Spokane Public

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NY state court extends marriage equality to gays

NEW YORK – New York this month must decide whether to appeal a court ruling in February that determined that same-sex couples must be allowed to marry.

New York State Supreme Court Justice Doris Ling-Cohan ruled that New York’s Domestic Relations Law, which has been used to deny same-sex couples the right to marry, violates those couples’ rights under the state constitution to due process and equal protection of the law.

Ling-Cohan also ruled that the New York city clerk was prohibited from “denying a marriage license to any couple, solely on the ground that the two persons in that couple are of the same sex.”

The lawsuit was filed in 2004 by Lambda Legal on behalf of five same-sex couples who sought marriage li-

censes in New York City. Lambda praised the decision as “historic, well reasoned and, above all, fair.”

“This is a historic ruling that delivers the state Constitution’s promise of



Nevin Cohen, left, and Daniel Hernandez

equality to all New Yorkers,” said Susan Sommer, supervising attorney at Lambda Legal and lead attorney on the case. “The court recognized that unless gay people can marry, they are not being treated equally under the law. Same-sex couples need the protections and security marriage provides, and

this ruling says they’re entitled to get them the same way straight couples do.”

Stated Justice Ling-Cohan in her 62-page ruling: “As a society, we recognize that the decision of whether and whom to marry is life-transforming. It is a unique expression of a private bond and profound love between a couple, and a life dream shared by many in our culture. It is also society’s most significant public proclamation of com-

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Voices

Sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll

How to be part of the scene without being swallowed up by it

by Michael Alvear

People learn different things when they take drugs. Some learn they can be more loving; others that they can keep vomiting long after they think they've finished.

No matter what you think about drugs you won't be very far from them in this day and age. Especially when it comes to sex. In less than a generation, we've gone from Sex, Lies and Videotape to Sex, Drugs and Rock 'n' Roll.

Okay, Sex Drugs and Musical Theatre. But still.

Sex and drugs have a lot in common. Both can be bought, sold and taken; both can make you snort, swallow or spit; and both can make you feel alive, injured or dead.

Booty calls now come with booty bump options. You know, sticking party favors up where only proctologists can reach them. One unexpected bowel movement and, oh dear, you just paid \$30 for a sewer rat to take off its shirt and dance in a huddle all night.

But I digress. The Party 'n' Play (PNP) brigade are marching through urban center bedrooms and they're taking no prisoners. Well, unless you know the safe word. Sounds like fun except for one teeny-weeny, what's-in-your-bikini worry: PNP is often TNT for HIV.

There's a thin line between getting blown and getting blown up; between bottoming and bottoming out. The biggest drawback to mixing drugs with sex is that they make you think "safe sex" is a padded headboard, that a condom is something you put on the market when you're ready to move.

Gay men, attracted to three-ways as many are, seem to be of three minds about mixing sex with drugs.

First, there's the "Just Say No" crowd. They say drug him with charm, not pills. They say seduce him

with smiles, not powders.

Yawn.

Still, they've got a point. Some of us don't need anything to sex up the sex. Drugs just get in the way. Just try having sex with "Crystal dick." It's like shooting pool with a rope.

The second group is the "Just Say Know" crowd. They're the ones who know what they're taking, how much they're taking, when to start and how to stop.

The third group is the "Just Say Now" crowd. They're the ones who'd snort Sweet 'N Low if it weren't glue-gunned to the packet. These are the people who know the meaning of "balance" because they swing by it every 10 minutes. They're the ones who tell cops, "Well, how can I hand you my driver's license if you won't hold my bong?"

They're not very bright but they're a lot of fun.

Take them home and your bedroom will sound like half-price day at the liposuction center. Unfortunately, you'll probably have to drop them off at the health clinic on your way to work. You know, the place you'll have to stop by to get tested.

No matter which group you belong to, the questions are endless: How do you party drug-free in a drug-riddled scene? How do you keep yourself safe? How do you make wise choices for yourself without judging others? How do you score premium cocaine instead of that glorified talcum powder your friends keep pawning off on you?

But the biggest question reflects the dilemma all good-thinking men find themselves in: Is mind-blowing sex worth a life-shattering night?

I can't imagine anyone saying "Yes." But then, I couldn't imagine anyone voting for George Bush, either.

So our three basic choices in the "Just Say" categories are: No, Know or Now. There's no point in judging people (it never works), but there's great

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PRIDE DAY

Continued from front page

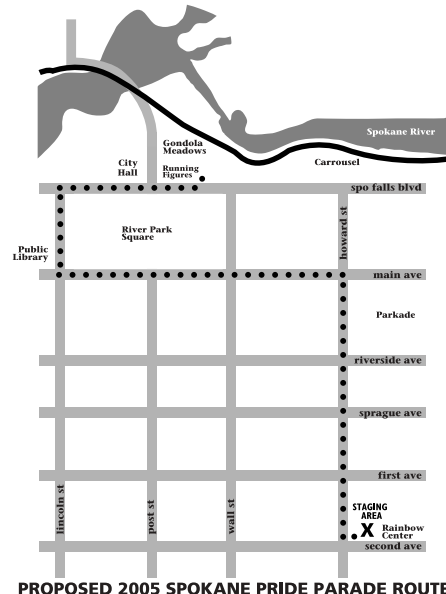
Hall to the festival site in Gondola Meadows of Riverfront Park. (See map at right.)

The Rainbow Festival and Business Fair is scheduled from 1 to 4 p.m. While Pride Day planners have confirmed a wedding and commitment ceremony as an event, they say they are still "engaged in negotiations with several high-profile entertainers" to attract more people to the festival. They also plan to include family-oriented activities, including games, balloons, face painting and prizes "for children of all ages."

At the end of the rainbow, a number of entertainment options that evening

will vie for attention. Emmanuel MCC's traditional Pride Cruise on Lake Coeur d'Alene has been scheduled for about a year. Seattle Men's Chorus confirmed a concert for Spokane, although a media representative did not return a request for more information, and a nearby casino plans to engage a nationally-known entertainer.

OutSpokane is seeking individuals and organizations to help with sponsorship, participation, fundraising and donations. Interested parties may telephone OutSpokane Secretary Bonnie Aspen at 838-3866 or Chair Bridget Potter at 893-1667. The organization's Web site is expected to go online around the middle of March.



This paper proudly dedicates itself to the spirit of the
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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
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Dennis Davis ❖ Jay Castro ❖ Janice Marx
the Reverend Linda J. Laster
Marianne Hurmence-Dawson

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EMCC, Unity schedule Easter worship events

People who would like to commemorate the religious aspects of Easter are invited to join with the congregations of Emmanuel MCC and Unity Church at special programs planned for the last weekend this month.

On Good Friday, March 25, Emmanuel Metropolitan Community Church will join with Bethany Presbyterian Church for a service at 7 p.m. The church is located on the corner of 3rd and Freya. Unity Church of Truth will affirm the deeper meaning of Easter with a service and prayer vigil at 7 p.m. The church is at 29th and Bernard.

For Easter Sunday, Unity will hold an Easter Awakening Celebration at 6:30 a.m., followed by Easter services at 9 and 11 a.m. Emmanuel will conduct an Easter Sunrise Service in Manito Park, by the duck pond, beginning at 7:30 a.m. An Easter service at the church follows at 5 p.m.

Scores rally for marriage equality at Courthouse

Rev. Paul Rodkey, minister of Bethany Presbyterian Church, provided the keynote address for last month's *Freedom to Marry* rally outside the Spokane County Courthouse on a frigid Valentine's Day afternoon.

Brooke Powers, rally coordinator for the sponsoring Inland Northwest Equality, introduced the program and Brad Read, former chairman of the Spokane Human Rights Commission, moderated.

Speakers included Marge Ballack, who, with her partner Diane Lantz, is a plaintiff in the landmark Washington state Supreme Court case on marriage equality for same-sex couples scheduled to be heard March 8. Breean Beggs, chief catalyst for the Center for Justice, also addressed the rally.

The crowd of about 60 people of all ages – mostly gay but with a liberal intermingling of heterosexuals – con-

cluded the event with a march on Broadway to Monroe Street, turning north to the Top Notch Cafe, then west to the Public Safety Building and back



staff photo

Signs supporting Freedom to Marry were abundant at a rally at the Courthouse on Valentine's Day.

to the Courthouse. The event also was covered by KXLY-TV Channel 4.

Spokane's rally mirrored *Freedom to Marry Day* events across the country, including a noon rally at the Capitol in Olympia.

Inland Northwest Equality is a coalition of individuals and organizations recently organized to increase awareness in the larger community of the need for gay equality and justice.

Lampert seeks election to conservation district post

In a not well publicized election this month, Barbara Lampert is running for a seat on the Spokane County Conservation District Board of Supervisors.

The election is scheduled March 8 at the County Extension Service office at 210 N. Havana St. between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. All registered voters who own or occupy land in Spokane County are eligible to vote, except for residents of Deer Park, which formed its own jurisdiction.

Lampert, who has campaigned as an out-lesbian for various city and county posts in the past, said conservation district supervisors serve without pay for a three-year term that requires 10 to 20 hours of service per month.

To gain a spot on the ballot, Lampert was required to obtain 33 valid voter signatures on a petition. "I didn't do a campaign (for the office)," she quipped. "It's a volunteer job. I mean, why bother?"

Still, votes count, and the political and gay activist who volunteers at the Rainbow Regional Community Center would welcome support from gay voters.

With a firm commitment to principles, Megan Cuilla is on her way to Europe

Odyssey Youth Center's Megan Cuilla will be among a United States delegation of 50 to participate in the first Euro-American Youth Advocacy Summit for two days this month in Brussels, Belgium.

Cuilla, an Odyssey member for three years, was selected from nearly 150 applicants to help work on sex and reproductive issues concerning young people.

"I fully believe that educating even one person can make a huge impact in the battle for accurate sex education and reproductive rights," said Cuilla, 23, a junior in English studies at Eastern Washington University who has been working in the field of comprehensive sex education the past few years.

Cuilla said her interest in sex education and reproductive rights developed from the frustration she felt from being just a sideline observer. "I've definitely taken the education I've re-

ceived and moved to the forefront, from quietly handing out pamphlets to speaking at a statewide conference. Proper knowledge can change our world," she said.

Cuilla joined Odyssey while serving as president of the Gay-Straight Alliance at Spokane Falls Community College and remained an integral part of the group until graduation in 2004.

She is among 11 young people selected for sponsorship by SIECUS, the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States.

"We are thrilled to have Megan as part of the U.S. delegation," said Bill Smith, vice president for public policy at SIECUS. "As public debate intensifies on both sides of the Atlantic regarding young people's rights to medically-accurate sexuality education and access to contraceptive methods including condoms, the voices of youth too often remain absent from the conversation."

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staff photo

Jerry Allen, who spearheaded interior remodeling at the new Best Buy Adult Entertainment retail store at 123 E. Sprague Ave., recently turned his attention to landscaping during a surge in warm-weather days in late February. Owner Jack Allen, Jerry's uncle, said exterior trim painting, including the canopy above the store's parking lot entrance, would follow. The newly-opened store offers customers well-illuminated shopping with cushioned burgundy carpeting throughout. Mammoth credenzas adjoin spacious seating areas that don't crowd merchandise displays.

The Merq sets its version of American Idol

People with a bent on becoming a star – plus those who enjoy the rapture and excitement of *American Idol* – will find a program planned for launch this month by The Merq especially engaging.

The North Monroe Street bar will introduce its version of the popular Fox television series beginning March 16: *The Merq Idol*. At the end of the eight-week contest, three winners will share in a \$700 pot.

With no preregistration necessary, participants are asked to show up for opening night at 9:30 p.m. and be pre-

pared to entertain on successive Wednesday nights through the awards show finale the first week in May.

Star hopefuls will be asked to sing a selection of their choice from a music category to be selected by the The Merq, owner David Lewis explained. He suggested that categories may include western, rock, pop, classic and, possibly rap, among others. A \$10 entry fee is required and performers will be judged on presentation and costuming, Lewis said.

Karaoke maven Yasmine Courtier will emcee the shows and three judges will appraise contestants to determine who will be eliminated. The grand prize winner will be determined by secret balloting by members of the audience at the awards show on May 4. A grand prize of \$500 will be awarded. The two runners-up will receive \$150 and \$50.

Brunch will benefit SAN

Friends of SAN will lay out an all-you-can-eat buffet for its traditional Palm Sunday Brunch to benefit Spokane AIDS Network.

The buffet-brunch is scheduled at Dempseys on March 20 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tickets are \$12 per person and include complimentary Mimosas. Raffle tickets for an Easter basket will be offered, "but extra donations are always welcome," Friends of SAN said.

Friends of SAN is an all-volunteer organization. Members are not reimbursed for their contributions to their various fundraising events and all receipts are turned over to SAN.

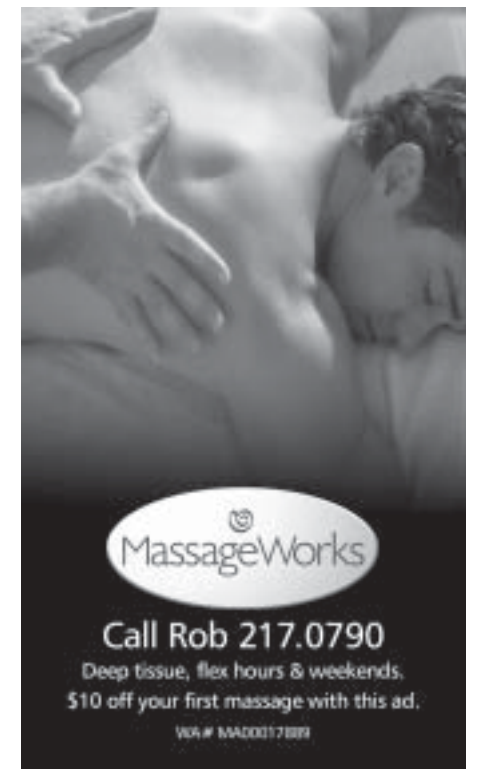
Quest men make dates to change perceptions

Calendars featuring photos and quotes from gay men affiliated with Quest Youth Group are being mailed to local school principals, public officials and area leaders, including Gov. Christine Gregoire, Ryan Oelrich, Quest executive director, announced recently.

Oelrich said the calendars were created by the organization's leadership

team headed by Bryan Lonn "to challenge negative stereotypes frequently associated with homosexuals." Lonn, 22, is a marketing student at Eastern Washington University.

The calendars open to February 2005 and run through January 2006. They are available to the public for \$18.95 and may be ordered by calling Quest at 290-3519.



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GAY NEIGHBORHOOD

Continued from front page

Schools board meeting, which heard a protest of District 81's last-minute change of heart for allowing a gay dance at Ferris High School and lying about the reasons for the reversal.

The idea for a gay neighborhood developed from a committee energized by a positive public reaction to a gay art exhibit it helped Odyssey Youth Center sponsor at River Park Square during Pride Week in 2003. To harness the group's enthusiasm, rather than allowing it to dissipate, members voted to explore community interest in a gay district.

From results of a Pride Day survey last year, the Vision Committee of the Inland Northwest Business Alliance continued with its objective and sponsored a public workshop in November, where up to 100 attend-

ees expressed their concepts of what a gay neighborhood should offer.

"We took those ideas and sifted and condensed them, then evaluated various areas and presented our findings to a group of developers (in February)," said committee cochair Bonnie Aspen. "We're not going to decide a gay district," she said. "It's not our money. Developers will decide if there's enough interest and whether it's economically viable." Because of the speculative nature of the venture, she declined to name the developers.

Aspen would like to see a gay neighborhood begin to take shape within the next year or two. Her counterpart on the committee, Marvin Reguindin, she says, is more comfortable with development occurring in 5 to 7 years. "Visibility equals freedom," she added.



The Top Notch Cafe and The Merq, in the distance, are customer destinations on North Monroe.

While the committee hasn't developed a business plan as a part of its vision, or a time line or critical path schedule for development, Aspen said a time line for events and actions will be pursued.

The criteria the Vision Committee applied to its evaluation of districts, she said, were weighted by:

- the viability of the area's business core,
- the availability of affordable housing,
- the quality of its transit service,
- that it lie within the city limits, and
- that it be conveniently located to downtown Spokane.

What's not on the committee's agenda may be equally as revealing.

"We're not going to lobby for all gay people to come out of the closet," As-

"We'd like to see the Rainbow Regional Community Center or Odyssey Youth Center as an anchor tenant, so we don't want sex in the streets. If it's already there, we'll help clean it up."

A gay-only district, to the exclusion of others? Absolutely not, says Aspen. "We have too many allies who would like to operate their businesses next to ours or live in a gay neighborhood." Besides, gay people, in general, appreciate the diversity offered by other cultures and ethnic groups, she said.

About schools, Aspen dismissed the notion that a gay district would inflate the number of gay students. "What it



The Milk Bottle Cafe and Garland Theater are frequent photo subjects.

will do," she said, "is increase the number of gay parents participating in the PTA, gay parents campaigning for the school board and gay parents volunteering as school-crossing guards."

"Drugs? Oh, come on. They're not the exclusive property of gays. They're all

over the city. Drug use doesn't recognize sexual orientation and Spokane has an incredible amount of drug use."

Pausing, she recalled one more attack on gays. "Oh, yes, and social ills. Who gets to define what a social ill is? It seems to depend on the individual and what moral agenda is being pushed."

The following Spokane areas evaluated by the committee are included by



The U-District's Schade Brewery now features retail shopping.

pen assured. "We're not going to push for all gay businesses to relocate, and we're not going to suggest that all gay people sell their house and relocate."

In evaluating the various areas considered for a gay neighborhood, Aspen took the opportunity to refute objections: "Sex in the streets? There's already sex in the streets. Take a look at West Second (Avenue).

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spring *noun* The season of the year during which the weather becomes warmer and plants revive : seedtime, springtide, springtime. See TIME in Index. - See also birth, bounce, cause, flexibility, jump, origin, skip, youth. - Roget's II, Third Edition

compass direction, starting with north. Aspen's comments are highlights only and not intended as an in-depth review. Photographs included with this story are staff photos and selected by the staff for their graphic appeal.



A working windmill is a curiosity along South Perry.

North Monroe Street

Landmarks – Spokane County Courthouse and the Public Safety Building, Spokane Regional Health District, Spokane Arena, Spokane Civic Theatre and the Flour Mill. Also the Top Notch Cafe and The Merq Cafe & Liquid Lounge.

Comments – It definitely has some pluses. It has vacant buildings but not a lot of vacant land. Housing, mainly, is limited to the west of Monroe, including an area known as ‘Felony Flats.’ The strip of land known as the Summit is still in question. When the bridge opens, it will be within strolling distance of downtown.

The Garland District

Landmarks – The Garland Theater and the Milk Bottle Cafe. Also Sun Flower Cottage.

Comments – Garland is a perfect name and it has a generally active business district, but it's more than two miles from downtown. Housing is not as affordable as it is in other areas.

The University District

Landmarks – Gonzaga University, the Spokane campuses of Washington State and Eastern Washington universities and Schade Brewery. Also Best Buy Adult Books.

Comments – It adjoins downtown, but because development is too closely



Many East Sprague businesses abut empty buildings.

linked to (government) funding, we've really shied away from this area. Also, not much housing is available.

East Sprague

Landmarks – From small-business operations clustered along East Sprague Avenue east of Hamilton, it includes retail and commercial businesses to the north past Trent.

Comments – Easy driving access to downtown, including multiple bus



The Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture merges pleasantly with historic mansions in Browne's Addition.

small, single-street business area was recently remodeled with turn-of-the-century amenities.

Comments – Limited business opportunities with mostly-affordable housing.

stops. Affordable housing and vacant lots with a depressed business district already zoned for commercial use. It also has schools and parks.

Circuitous route to town.

South Perry

Landmarks – The

Browne's Addition

Landmarks – The Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture (MAC) and one of the most popular neighborhood parks in the city.

Comments – Considered the city's ‘gay ghetto’ two decades ago (a label acceptable among gay people only), gays spearheaded revitalization of the historic turn-of-the-century residential area. Within walking distance to town, business areas are small and separated by Sunset Blvd. Little vacant land, limited housing and no schools.

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OUTSPOKANE

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the group that brings you the spokane pride parade, festival and business fair is hard at work putting together the 2005 event.

this year's event is shaping up to be an exciting one, with many new and proposed changes, like:

- a proposed parade route that would take us through the major downtown shopping areas
- a proposal changing the date of the actual parade and festival itself, from sunday to
- a space for family oriented activities: **SATURDAY JUNE 11TH** balloons, games, face painting and prizes
- the 2nd annual wedding and commitment ceremony

so, mark your calendars and plan to come down to the gondola meadows for some great fun and to celebrate being out, proud and visible in spokane.

We invite individuals and organizations to become involved with sponsorship, participation, fundraising and donations. Please contact Bonnie Aspen, 509.838.3866 or Bridget Potter 509.893.1667. check out outspokane.com and [stonewall news](http://stonewallnews.com) for update information as it becomes available.

OutSpokane is a volunteer based, non-profit organization existing to fund, host and coordinate spokane's yearly pride parade, festival and business fair. we are committed to creating a fun, entertaining and multicultural event for all.

Regional Calendar

March events:

▼ March 5 – Captain Smarty pants of the Seattle Men's Chorus, Riverside Playhouse, **Wenatchee**, 8 pm, (509) 682-6410; and Afgan Music, **Ensemble Kaboul**, Meany Theater, **Seattle**, 8 pm, \$28, (206) 543-4880.

■ March 7 – **Florestan Piano Trio**, Meany Theater, **Seattle**, 8 pm, \$30, (206) 543-4880.

▼ March 11-April 2 – **Spontaneous Productions** presents Terrence McNally's *The Lisbon Traviata*, Off-Broadway Theater, **Boise**, 8 pm, \$10, (208) 363-7053.

▼ March 12 – **Pacific Northwest Gay Rodeo Association** fundraiser, Full Circle Bar, 1413 14th Ave, **Seattle**, 7 pm.

▼ March 12 and 13 – **Portland Gay Men's Chorus'** 25th season-opener *Brothers, Sing On!* concert, **Portland**, \$12-\$25, (503) 226-2588; and **Seattle Men's Chorus Ensemble's** *Aedonis*, All Pilgrim's Church, **Seattle**, \$20, (206) 323-2992.

▼ March 13 – **PFLAG-Sandpoint** meets, United Methodist Church, 2 pm, (208) 263-6699.

■ March 17-27 – **Pacific Northwest Ballet's** *The Merry Widow*, McCaw Hall, **Seattle Center**, \$20-\$137, (206) 441-2424.

▼ March 19 – **Pacific Northwest Gay Rodeo Association** *Meet-and-Greet Social*, **Coeur d'Alene**, 1-5 pm, for event location, to be determined, telephone (509) 362-1845.

▼ March 22 – **13th annual Gay and Lesbian World Travel Expo** (first time in Pacific Northwest), Sheraton Hotel, **Seattle**, \$5.

Plan ahead for April:

▼ April 2 – University of Idaho Gay-Straight Alliance's 5th annual *Prom You Never Went To*, **Masquerade**, The Beach, **Moscow**, 9 pm, \$7, \$10 couples.

▼ April 8-30 – **Spontaneous Productions** presents *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail*, Off-Broadway Theater, **Boise**, 8 pm, \$10, (208) 363-7053.

▼ special interest ■ general interest

Regional

Roundup to spur interest in gay rodeo

COEUR d'ALENE – They could be considered mavericks, in that most members of the Pacific Northwest Gay Rodeo Association – somewhat surprisingly – tie their hosses to hitching posts on the wet side of the Cascades. But, by dogie, the pair of local cowpokes is taking the lead to bring gay rodeo events back to the area.

To get plans rolling, cowboys John Tomes and Jeff Taylor, also life partners, are planning a meet-and-greet social in Coeur d'Alene on March 19 from 1 to 5 p.m.

Montana Senate OKs nondiscrimination bill

HELENA – After debate on the Senate floor in mid-February, an antidiscrimination bill made it through a third reading and was sent to the House of Representatives for action.

The measure, SB 199, would amend Montana's Human Rights Act to include sexual orientation in the state's civil rights classes and prohibit discrimination in employment, education, finance, housing and public accommodation. Proponents say the Senate action marked the first time a gay equality measure has been passed by one side of the Legislature.

Equality advocates at PRIDE of Montana cautioned that "the House is precariously split between Democrats and Republicans."

Tomes said they want to get acquainted with other gay cowboys and cowgirls in the Inland Northwest with similar interests. Explained Taylor,



photo supplied by Tomes and Taylor

Cowboys Jeff Taylor, with the bull by the horns, and John Tomes competed in a number of events at the Phoenix Gay Rodeo earlier this year, including steer deco, above.

the Saturday afternoon get-together will be held at a local residence, "to provide a casual and relaxing environment for everyone to feel comfortable while they socialize, swap tales, ask

questions, get answers and have a good time with fellow cowboys and cowgirls." He said there also will be calf roping demonstrations "for those who want to learn to throw a rope."

Tomes and Taylor returned earlier this year from the Phoenix Gay Rodeo, where they competed in chute dogging, calf roping, steer riding and steer deco, an event that requires one cowhand to remove a rope from the steer's horns and another to tie a colored ribbon on the critter's tail.

Gay rodeos, Taylor said, also include horse events and a variety of other non-traditional competitions, including goat dressing (with underwear).

PNWGRA is a nonprofit organization for those with a common interest in rodeo and equestrian events, also providing entertainment

activities for civil, education or charitable purposes.

To attend the meet-and-greet roundup, telephone (208) 467-2033 in Idaho or, in Spokane, 362-1845.

Students deluge Pride, GSBA for scholarship aid

SEATTLE – Scholarship applications for 2005 have more than doubled the number received last year, according to the two groups that administer the largest gay scholarship program in the Northwest.

Student applications seeking financial aid this year total 314, compared to 134 requests in 2004, said the Pride

Foundation. Last year, the foundation, in conjunction with the Greater Seattle Business Association, awarded \$167,570 in scholarship grants to 64 students. That translates to 70 applicants being turned away.

The groups attribute the dramatic rise in applicants to increased outreach, especially to students of color and non-urban communities. Pride and GSBA said they hope to attract additional funding through a mail campaign. Students in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Montana and Washington are eligible for the scholarships.

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Helena mayor joins PRIDE response to counter hate

HELENA – Helena Mayor Jim Smith joined city religious leaders and members of Montana's PRIDE and their allies at a special prayer breakfast last month in response to demonstrations organized in the city by Rev. Fred "God Hates Fags" Phelps of Topeka, Kan.

Phelps' ugly representation of Christianity attracted national attention in October 1998 when he and congregation members demonstrated at graveside funeral services for Matthew Shepard, a gay college student who had been tortured and left to die after being lashed to a split-rail fence outside Laramie, Wyo.

Organizers of the Saturday sunrise event for PRIDE commended "the various responses that the city of Helena put together when (the Phelps gang) picketed sites" during a weekend in mid-February. A spokesperson said, "We have also been critical of those responses that have avoided affirming gay and lesbian equality, and we will continue to look for ways to dialogue with those groups that are 'against hate' but which also engage in political work that supports anti-gay discrimination."

Three local ministers who support equal rights for all joined Mayor Smith for the breakfast discussion program entitled *Who Would Jesus Hate?* They included Rev. Vern Wright of UCC, Rev. Brenda McLelland for Episcopalians, and Rev. John Lewis for Methodists.

Police officer alleges sexual harassment

BELLEVUE – A police officer here has filed a lawsuit claiming she was fondled by a lieutenant and was subjected to sexual harassment, then faced retaliation when she complained, according to the Associated Press.

Heidi Moon, hired in 1998 following work as a Defense Department police officer and as a guard at the state women's prison near Gig Harbor, filed the case last month in King County Superior Court. She seeks unspecified lost wages and punitive damages on claims of post-traumatic stress, emotional distress and humiliation that forced her to take a leave of absence.

According to the court filing, Moon's field training officer asked whether she was a lesbian shortly after she went to work in Bellevue. City officials said they had not seen a copy of the lawsuit and would not comment.

National

Military's rejection of 'gay panic' plea seen as slight step forward

RALEIGH, N.C. – A North Carolina National Guard soldier claims he shot an Iraqi soldier 11 times and killed him last spring after the two men had consensual sex while on duty near Tikrit, Iraq, according to court martial records released by the military that attracted national attention only recently.

Pvt. Federico Daniel Merida, 21, pled guilty to second-degree murder in the death of Falah Zaggam, a 17-year-old Iraqi national guardsman, military records claim. After officials began an investigation into the death, Merida, who is married and has a two-year-old son, used a "gay panic" defense as one of his three excuses for the crime.

Merida was sentenced to 25 years in prison in September, according to

Connecticut moves to endorse civil unions

HARTFORD, Conn. – A committee of the state's General Assembly rejected the idea of full marriage rights for gay men and lesbians on Feb. 23, but voted 25-13 approval for a bill that would allow civil unions. State Sen. Andrew McDonald, who is openly gay, said the measure would "give those of us in the gay community those rights (that heterosexual couples now enjoy) if we wish to have them."

If approved by the Legislature and Gov. M. Jodi Rell, Connecticut would join Vermont as the only other state to extend nearly all of the rights and responsibilities of marriage to gay couples. Surprisingly, the influential gay rights coalition that spearheaded the call for same-sex marriage lobbied against the civil union bill.

Newspaper names gay police chief to honor roll

MANCHESTER, N.H. – The 25-year-old chief of police of South Hampton, N.H., was honored in February as a young leader in the state by the New Hampshire Union Leader, published here. The newspaper selected Robert Aldrich as among the state's most prominent and promising young leaders for its "40 Under Forty" awards.

Aldrich also serves as vice president of the New England chapter of the Gay Officers Action League, a gay law enforcement group.

the Los Angeles Times. The only other newspaper to do a major story on the case was by the Raleigh News & Observer, in Merida's home state, last month.

When Merida claimed he killed Zaggam in a fit of rage after the two had consensual sex, he received a cool reception from military investigators.

"That's what is fascinating about this case," said Aaron Belkin, director of the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military.

"About 20 years ago, when America was much more homophobic than it is today, the 'gay panic' defense would have had a much higher chance of working. But it appears, in this case, that the officers or judges didn't let him use that. That could indicate one small step forward for the military."

Zaggam's friends and family told the Times they believe Merida tried to rape Zaggam, and then killed him to cover up what he had done.

According to the News & Observer, the court martial report said Merida and Zaggam were alone on guard duty

in a tower at a military base in Ad Dawr, near Tikrit. Before their shift was over, Merida shot Zaggam 11 times and threw his body off the tower. Witnesses reported hearing shots fired at 10:30 p.m. and then watched as a body fell from the tower.

"From the news accounts I read, it appeared to be premeditated," said Jim Klimaski, a member of the Military Law Task Force. "It looks like he waived his rights and there was no lawyer present."

"I don't know, but just from reading those news accounts it appears the military just wanted this case to go away. They had him in premeditation, but let him off with second-degree murder in exchange for a guilty plea."

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Two men met online before motel tryst death

CLIVE, Iowa – Two men met through a gay Web site prior to their rendezvous at a motel here the day before one of them was found stabbed to death, according to media reports. The body of Terry Graham, 53, was found at a Fairfield Inn here after he and Matt McGee agreed to meet at the motel following an Internet conversation, it was learned.

Graham, a former minister from South Sioux City, Neb., and a board member for a Christian ministry college, was on a business trip in Des Moines, according to news reports. Police arrested McGee in the motel room and charged him with first-degree murder. Computer experts will examine both the men's computers, law enforcement officials said, and detectives will view online chat records to prepare their case against McGee.

Lesbian fires fries in murder attempt

SAN DIEGO – Using a potato as a silencer for a gun, Astrid Tepatti missed her target, shredded the potato and woke her husband in the process.

Appearing in federal court here earlier this year, a lesbian couple confessed that they made several failed attempts to murder one of the women's

husband because they were intent on obtaining his life insurance payout, the San Diego Union-Tribune reported. Astrid Tepatti, 21, admitted that she shot her husband, Sgt. Stephen Tepatti, while he was asleep, using a potato as an ill-fated silencer for the gun.

She and her girlfriend, Ebony Woods, 21, were arrested after being found with a .30-caliber Ruger revolver, 48 rounds of ammunition and several baggies of homemade ricin, a poison that police allege the women intended to use to try to kill Stephen Tepatti.

Astrid Tepatti could receive nearly six years and Woods could be sentenced to up to nine years in prison for her role in the murder attempt.

Mayor faces charges for same-sex marriages

NEW YORK – A New York judge has brought back criminal charges against New Paltz Mayor Jason West for his part in marrying several same-sex couples last February. West had originally faced 24 misdemeanor charges, which were waived by a town court judge.

The charges were reinstated last month by Ulster County Court Judge J. Michael Bruhn, who said public officials were not authorized to choose which laws they wanted to obey.

Corporate benefits for gay parents on increase

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Census data shows the number of same sex couples raising children grew fourfold among male couples from 1990 to 2000, and rose to about 33 percent of lesbian couples during the same period. And corporate America appears to be adjusting benefits policies to address the trend, with many offering domestic partners of employees the same benefits they offer to married employees with children, according to USA Today.

As the number of same-sex couples with children reaches records, more are confronting challenges about how to balance work and family, the newspaper said. Gay dads are quitting work

Lesbian council member sparks opposing views

ATLANTA – Anne Fauver, a lesbian member of the Atlanta City Council, is gearing up to run for a second term and local gay advocates give her mixed reviews on her performance where gay issues are concerned. Unphased, Fauver said the city's gays and lesbians are just as concerned about quality of life issues, such as crime and potholes.

State Rep. Karla Drenner, Georgia's only openly gay state legislator, said of Fauver's term on the council, "Even if you (as a gay candidate) do not take the lead, just your presence speaks volumes. There are different ways to support the issues. And she's always been a staunch supporter of our community."

to stay home with kids, lesbian mothers are going part time – and employers are responding by offering work-life programs and benefits to gay employees. Many gay parents say employers' greater acceptance of nontraditional families makes it easier to request such programs, or even to leave the workforce and someday return, USA Today reported.

Nearly half of the Fortune 500 companies offer domestic partner benefits, according to the Human Rights Campaign. But many are going beyond the basics.

Of companies that provide such benefits, 90 percent cover a domestic partner's dependant children; 60 percent extend adoption assistance to the domestic partner, and 72 percent also allow employees to take extended family leave to care for a domestic partner or their dependents.

There is scant data on such benefits at small businesses, but gay advocates say such programs become harder to find at smaller companies. That's in part because smaller firms may not be covered by federal laws requiring federal leave, so such benefits may also be scarcer for all employees. It can also be harder for a smaller operation, which doesn't have extra employees to pick up the slack, to handle extended absences.

Air Force says it canned 'Agent Purple' gay spray

WASHINGTON, D.C. – A spokesperson for the Department of Defense has confirmed a report that Air Force officials proposed developing a gay-conversion chemical weapon in 1994. The proposal, part of a plan from Wright Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, was to develop "chemicals that effect (sic) human behavior so that discipline and morale in enemy units is adversely effected (sic). One distasteful but completely nonlethal example would be strong aphrodisiacs, especially if the chemical also caused homosexual behavior."

Reacted C. Dixon Osburn, executive director of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, "The Air Force's proposal is delusional, homophobic and offensive.

"Gays and lesbians serve in the United States armed forces and in the militaries of our closest allies. They do so as part of a formidable fighting force. The assertion that a gay opponent would be somehow less effective in combat is outrageous. No one questioned the battle prowess of Alexander the Great because of his sexual orientation."

Details of the classified proposal were revealed by Project Sunshine, a watchdog group which monitors chemical and biological warfare agent development. The Pentagon has said the proposal was never implemented.

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National & International

Love will lead gay church ministry

LOS ANGELES – One of Inc. Magazines “Top 50 Entrepreneurs” in North America of the past decade is the new executive director for the international movement of Metropolitan Community Churches.

Dr. Cindi Love, former executive dean of Brookhaven College in Dallas and a onetime senior executive of The Toro Company, was cited for her wide range of leadership, management and organizational experience. She also served on two advisory commissions for the Texas Legislature.

Founded in 1968, MCC is the world’s largest and oldest faith community with a primary, affirming ministry to gay men, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered persons, with more than 43,000 members in 23 countries.

Big 3 automakers fund gay community center

DETROIT – Affirmations Lesbian and Gay Community Center here announced that it is the recipient of substantial financial gifts from Ford Motor Co., DaimlerChrysler and General Motors. The Big 3 automotive firms contributed \$750,000 to the community center.

The gay community center in Ferndale, on Detroit’s North Side, is set to begin construction on the largest gay and lesbian community center in the Midwest.

SF Mayor Newsom pans fellow Democrats

BOSTON – San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom is torqued by his fellow Democrats for supporting gay rights privately while attacking it publicly.

“I can’t stand my party right now. They offend me,” he told a Harvard University audience last month.

Man faces prison term for not telling HIV status

TOLEDO, Ohio – A judge here has found a man guilty on five counts that alleged he had sex with four teenage males and failed to tell them he was HIV-positive. Charged with rape and felonious assault, Jerry Gonzales, 46, pleaded no contest to the charges and was found guilty of having sex with minors by Judge William Skow, according to media reports.

Prosecutors said Gonzales videotaped himself performing sex acts with the teens over the course of a year. A young girl found the videotape in an alley and alerted police. The plea to which Gonzales agreed could result in a 20-year prison sentence.

Anti-gay evangelist without brotherly love

PHILADELPHIA – A judge has dismissed one charge against the leader of a conservative Christian group who was arrested for rioting, criminal conspiracy and “ethnic intimidation” after protesting an gay event in Philadelphia.

Judge Pamela Dembe said the intimidation charge treads on free speech rights. Michael Marcavage, the 25-year-old leader of Repent America, said, “we’re not the first people to try open-air evangelism.”

Gay weddings boost Massachusetts economy

BOSTON – Businesses in Massachusetts are reaping benefits from the state’s legalization of gay marriage. Wedding tourism is boosting coffers all around the state.

Researchers at the University of Massachusetts estimate tourism resulting from the legalization of gay marriage could result in a \$150 million economic shot in the arm for the state, according to the Boston Herald.

Religious agencies pay for anti-gay messages

OTTAWA – Powerful religious groups in the United States are sending money and support to allies in Canada to fight same-sex marriage.

According to CanWest News Service in February, Patrick Korten, vice-president of communications for the Knights of Columbus head office in New Haven, Conn., said no limit has been set on the help his organization is prepared to offer. “Whatever it takes,” he said.

Korten said the U.S. headquarters of the Catholic men’s group paid \$80,782 to print two million postcards being distributed in Catholic churches across Canada.

Czech gay civil unions rejected by single vote

PRAGUE, Czech Republic – The lower chamber of the Czech parliament narrowly rejected a proposal in February that would grant certain legal rights to same-sex couples, an official said. The vote for the measure was 82-65, with 18 abstentions, one vote short of the majority needed to approve.

The legislation would have allowed registered same-sex couples to enjoy rights such as inheritance and health care, similar to benefits now available only to heterosexual married couples. A number of other European countries already have recognized same-sex unions.

Sapphic weekend caters to lesbians

MONTREAL – Mark your calendars girls, if you’re not to miss *Le Boudoir*, a sizzling, sapphic soiree of retro glam and cabaret chic in Montreal July 1-3. *Le Boudoir* has been a cultural institution in this city and a highlight of Montreal’s lesbian social calendar for 13 years now, resonating with artistry, innovation and subversion in an historic, glamorous environment. Advance tickets, passes and info are available online at www.leboudoir.org.

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CS elevates *Glen, Glenda* to 'worst' list

It's "bombs away" as CenterStage continues *The Worst Midnight Movie Series Ever* in March. Duds slated for a midnight mission include:

March 5: *Cannibal Women in the Avocado Jungle of Death*, starring Bill Maher (yes, Mr. *Politically Incorrect* himself!); Shannon Tweed, *Playboy's* Playmate of the Year, and Adrienne Barbeau. The war between the sexes heats up in the treacherous Avocado Belt, where the Piranha Women always get their man – and then eat him.

March 12: *The Terror*, another Roger Corman period piece, meaning: it shouldn't have been made, period. With Boris Karloff, Jack Nicholson and a bunch of dead people, gloomy castles and scenes shot on sets left over from the director's previous film, Nicholson plays an officer under Napoleon who gets himself lost along a stretch of the Big Sur – really a stretch.

March 19: *Wrestling Women vs. the Aztec Ape* grapples with two gorgeous women fighting a mad doctor and his monster to a medley of unforgettable (for the writers, anyway) rock 'n' roll tunes. This one should go down for the count as soon as it begins.

March 26: *Glen or Glenda*, Ed Wood's ode to cross-dressing. With Glen engaged to Barbara, who is unaware of his secret life, it begs the question: will Barbara be able to face a little competition from the "other woman" – and will she let him wear her angora sweater?

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

Artist group invites *First Friday* visitors

The Rainbow Regional Community Center will showcase the works of five local college student artists for *First Friday* on March 4 from 5-8 p.m. Exhibit contributors include Linda M. Lawrie, Franki Alysian, Jayme Aumann, Cliff Hall and Angela Notti.

Also on the fourth, members of the Spokane Rainbow Artist Coalition invite visitors to join them for a group tour of *First Friday* venues. They will meet at the Rainbow Center at 4:30 p.m. and go from there, said Timothy Phillips, coalition member and gallery director for the center.

Frisky Business to play for laughs at The Merq

by John Deen

For those who laugh comfortably on a full stomach, The Merq plans to serve up a platter full of chortles and guffaws early this month as it ventures into the cosmic realm of dinner-theatre. The entrees will include a choice between chicken and fish, but dessert is strictly prime beef comedy.



Don Parkins

CenterStage is credited with marrying dinner and theatre in Spokane – officiating over a tempting array of musicals and plays to complement an evening of dining and socializing – and it's proven a successful union. Now, Merq owner David Lewis is capitalizing on the concept in the name of comedy.

Frisky Business will showcase a trio of comedians at The Merq on March 12. The 8 p.m. show will follow dinner at 6:30. Tickets for the double fea-

30th anniversary tribute

SJO will play celebrity Name That Tune at Met

Spokane Jazz Orchestra's March 19 concert at the Met will feature the favorite big band tunes of several Spokane celebrities. "We thought that one of the best ways to celebrate the 30th season of Spokane's No. 1 jazz band would be to invite several of Spokane's most well-known personalities to choose and then introduce their favorite big band hits," said Music Director Dan Keberle.

Counting more than 1,500 jazz band pieces in its library, the local luminaries are not likely to stump SJO.

"We have many of the most popular originals, dating from as far back as the 1930s and all the way up to the present day," Keberle said. SJO's repertoire embraces favorite music made famous by the legendary bands of Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Benny

Goodman, Glenn Miller, Artie Shaw, Dizzy Gillespie, Stan Kenton, Buddy Rich, Woody Herman, Thad Jones and Rob McConnell. And it extends to recent compositions by modern jazz arrangers by the likes of Matt Harris, Mark Taylor, Frank Foster, Bob Mintzer and Frank Mantooth.

Headlining the night of comedy will be Spokane native Don Parkins, who has entertained crowds in Canada, Las Vegas, Reno, Atlantic City and elsewhere in the country.

John Bernstein will serve as emcee and host. Subtitled *Come Laugh Your Ass Off at the Melting Pot of America*, the show also will feature Yasmine Cortier, who hosts karaoke upstairs at The Merq three nights weekly.

A graduate of Rogers High School, Parkins is touted as "the only Hillyardite comedian ever." The *Spokane-Review* said he "has a stage presence second to none," with a "special ability to adapt to audiences and deliver what they want in a manner that excites and fills the imagination."

"Great humor done tastefully, with just a bit of pink showing," said fellow comedian Geoff Young.

Speaking of pink, lemon-pepper salmon steak is available as a dinner choice, along with chicken cordon-bleu, accompanied by salad, vegetables and potatoes. For reservations, telephone the box office bar at 325-3871.



Dan Keberle

ties will "select their favorite four or five pieces from (our) list," which he then "will pare down to a dozen or so

Chatty, catty *Coupla Chicks* is tailor-made for Troy's touch

Artistic Director Niké Imoru scored a win-win for InterPlayers theatre-goers this month. First, she landed a comedy blockbuster, then hooked Troy Nickerson to direct.

Nickerson, who's as much at home on both sides of the curtain as he is with comedy and drama, should take *A Coupla White Chicks Sitting Around Talking* to new heights. He's a master of nuance as well as tongue-in-cheek sight gags.

John Ford Noonan's zany comedy takes place in the kitchen of the archetypal suburban New York housewife. Maude is having a tough day: her husband is off on a weekend spree with his secretary and she can't get rid of her pesky neighbor who just moved up from Texas. The dear heart pesters Maude until they become fast friends and join forces to conspire against their errant and erring husbands.

Erica Curnutte and Karen Nelsen are featured in the title roles.

Coupla Chicks is booked at InterPlayers March 3-26. Show times are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 7:30 p.m., and Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., with a Saturday matinee at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$18 and \$20, with discounts for seniors and students.

For reservations, telephone the theatre box office at 455-PLAY (7529).

that make an exciting and well-balanced program."

The celebrities include Mayor Jim West; Whitworth College President Bill Robinson; Eckart Preu, music director of the Spokane Symphony; and television and radio personalities Debra Wilde, Brian Flick, Charles Schlesinger, Bruce Davis and Elizabeth Farris.

"This will be a very fun evening as we listen to each Spokane celebrity tell what their favorite jazz pieces mean to them, why they chose them, the stories behind the music, etc.," Keberle said.

A second featured element of the anniversary program will be a performance by the winner of SJO's high school jazz competition which, this year, focuses on trumpet soloists and their interpretation of the classic *I Remember Clifford*.

SJO concert tickets are \$26.50 at Ticket West outlets (325-SEAT) and will be available at the door.

Famed dance company now in resurgence

NEW YORK – Following a four-year absence from the marquee, the Martha Graham Dance Co. is back in business with scheduled performances at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. A bitter legal struggle over the rights to Graham's dances, involving the choreographer's heir, Ron Protas, forced the company to suspend operations in 2000.

A judge ruled in 2001 that the bulk of Graham's dances belonged to the Martha Graham Dance Center, School and Company. The decision was upheld the following year.

Graham died in 1991 at the age of 96, one of the pioneers of the modern dance movement. She founded her dance company in 1926, and her technique and choreography eschewed the formality of ballet in favor of an earthier, more emotional style of dance. Although plagued by ill health and depression later in life, she choreographed 181 ballets and danced until the age of 76.

In her authoritative biography on Graham, *Martha: The Life and Work of Martha Graham*, Agnes de Mille said the choreographer continually fell in love with gay men. "I believe Martha gave virility to many men. She minded not at all if they were homosexual," de Mille wrote. "To her, they were men, and as far as she was concerned they were men who held a tremendous zest for her and who were accommodating and not demanding."

David Zurak, a gay dancer with the company since 2002, said he was drawn to Graham's perspective on maleness. "With Graham, whether



AP photo by Mary Altaffer

Kenneth Topping during a dress rehearsal of the Martha Graham Dance Co. production of Cave of the Heart.

gay or straight, you're still male. Male energy is different," he said. "The challenge for me in Graham is not about gay or straight, but my unique male energy – male characteristics like power and domination. It's quite beautiful, allowing me to be more powerful in my own skin."

Social hour will intro this month's Pride and Joy Movie Night

CenterStage is eschewing dinner in favor of a social hour as its introduction to *Pride and Joy Movie Night* this month, announced producer and board member Jerry Davis. But, not only will dinner will be available to those who would enjoy it, he said the menu price will be discounted 25 percent to those with a ticket stub for the show.

Mango Kiss is the feature presentation for March 22 and tickets are \$5 at the door. Davis said doors will open at 6 p.m. for the social hour, with drink and appetizer specials offered. Food from Ella's will be available either before or after the movie, he added, with the discount applied.

Photo contest features gay Asian, Pacific men

SAN FRANCISCO – The Gay Asian Pacific Alliance group announces competition for its first nationwide photo competition. Winning entries will be presented in a multimedia arts exhibition at Gay Pride Month here and featured in a calendar slated for national distribution in 2006.

The 17-year-old alliance, headquartered here, said the calendar is to increase visibility for gay Asian and Pacific Islander males. Its theme is "Coming of Age: GAM in America." Grand prize for the contest is round-trip airfare and lodging in San Francisco for the opening of the exhibition.

Participants must be at least 18 years old and be self-identified as gay, bisexual or transgendered male of Asian/Pacific Islander heritage. Entry guidelines, submission forms and model releases are available on the Internet at www.gapa.org. Deadline for entries is April 15.

A POPE FOR GAY MARRIAGE

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A&E

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Rainbow Center slates trio of flicks for March

Gallery Director Timothy Phillips reminds film fans that Friday *Movie and Dinner* nights at the Rainbow Center start at 6 p.m. and are free:

- March 11 – *Mambo Italiano*,
- March 18 – *If These Walls Could Talk 2*, and
- March 25 – *Slam*.

Police squad rebuffed for jumping on *Naked Boys*

ATLANTA – Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin has asked the city's police department not to pursue a citation against the gay bar where *Naked Boys Singing* – a play featuring six nude male performers – has been staged since August.

Undercover officers from the Atlanta Police Department raided the production during the holidays, forcing it to be stopped in mid-performance. The bar, the Armory, was cited for showcasing adult entertainment without a license.

Doug Youngblood, Armory manager, said police told him the play was "pornographic," although it features no sexual acts or simulated sexual activity. *Naked Boys* has been a hit in New York City, where it is in its sixth year

Off-Broadway. The play was produced locally as a benefit for Actors Express,



"We aren't just singing showtunes naked," said a cast member of *Naked Boys Singing*.

an Atlanta theater company, and has received positive reviews.

The police shutdown drew national media attention, including from CNN and USA Today.

In a statement following the raid, Mayor Franklin said she asked the police not to file charges against the Armory after the police department and the city's law department reviewed the citation.

"This request is due to the fact that the investigation has revealed the citation issued was based upon the misreading of a section of the Atlanta City Code. At this time, the city is not requiring that the Armory discontinue the performances of the play," the statement said.

According to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, police shut down the local production citing the bar for putting

on adult entertainment without a license.

"This is not adult entertainment. It's legitimate theater," said Youngblood, who was slapped with a citation.

Naked Boys Singing is a Broadway-style musical review. It contains no sex or simulated sex, but the six male actors are nude much of the time.

The Journal-Constitution gave the show a favorable review shortly after it opened.

Naked Boys Singing debuted in March 1998 at the Celebration Theatre in Los Angeles and ran for a year, according to the Southern Voice. It has played throughout the country and in various spots around the world and is still a hot ticket in New York.

Naked Boys Singing is an acclaimed musical revue with songs like *Gratuitous Nudity* and a circumcision number, *Bliss of a Bris*, with

some serious ballads in the mix as well. "We aren't just singing showtunes naked," said cast member Joey Wills.

Apparently, Atlanta's finest didn't agree. The AJC said three non-uniformed members of the license and permits unit of the Atlanta Police Department went to the bar, observed part of the 8 p.m. show, which is in a room adjacent to the bar, then issued Youngblood the citation.

"They felt it was pornographic," Youngblood said. "They were debating whether they were going to cite the entertainers as well."

"You have to investigate, and if what you're seeing may be considered adult entertainment, I suppose they feel it needs to be shut down," said Atlanta police spokesman Sgt. John Quigley.

The review has resumed its local show schedule of three days a week.

Spring into

March in Spokane

"Spokane. Near nature. Near perfect."

All this month – Master 19th-century impressionists are featured in the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture's exhibit *An Impressionist Eye*. Tuesdays through Sundays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thursday the 3rd – Interplayers stages the comedy *A Coupla White Chicks Sitting Around Talking*. Tuesday through Saturday through the 26th.

Friday the 4th – The Spokane Rainbow Artist Coalition invites visitors to join them at the Rainbow Center for *First Friday*, a walk-around gallery tour starting at 4:30 p.m.

Saturday the 12th – The Merq presents three comics in *Frisky Business*, a comedy show with headliner Don Parkins, at 8 p.m.

Saturday the 19th – The Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane holds its annual *White Knight/Debutante Stepdown Pageant* at Dempseys at 5 p.m.

Tuesday the 22nd – Pride and Joy Movie Night at CenterStage features *Mango Kiss*. Social hour at 6 p.m.; movie at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday the 27th – Easter

This message is presented as a Community Service by

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COURT EXTENDS EQUALITY

Continued from front page

mitment to another person for life. With marriage comes not only legal and financial benefits, but also the supportive community of family and friends who witness and celebrate a couple's devotion to one another, at the time of their wedding, and through the anniversaries that follow. Simply put, marriage is viewed by society as the utmost expression of a couple's commitment and love."

The justice added: "There has been a steady evolution of the institution of marriage throughout history which belies the concept of a static traditional definition. Marriage, as it is understood today, is both a partnership of two loving equals who choose to commit themselves to each other and a State institution designed to promote stability for the couple and their children. The relationships of the plaintiffs fit within this definition of marriage."

The background section of the opinion devotes several pages to discussing the lives, relationships and families of the plaintiff couples: Daniel Hernandez and Nevin Cohen, Donna Freeman-Tweed and Lauren Abrams, Douglas Robinson and Michael Elsasser, Mary Jo Kennedy and Jo-Ann Shain, and Curtis Woolbright and Daniel Reyes.

"The portraits of these five families make the strongest case imaginable for why marriage equality is so important," said Joan M. Garry, the executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD). "When you look at these couples, when you read their stories in their own words, you connect with the overwhelming love and commitment they have for each other and for their families. How could any fair-minded person say that these families don't deserve every bit of protection, happiness and celebration imaginable?"

SEX, DRUGS, ROCK 'N' ROLL

Continued from page 2

benefit to nudging them (it often does). And we should all be nudging each other to somewhere between No and Know. Meaning, it's wise to Know what and how much you should take and what the consequences are if you don't. But it's wiser if you say No and don't touch the stuff to start with.

So there you go – Wise and Wiser. But what's Wisest? I'd say heeding Sister Kitty Catalyst's warning. As the head of a group promoting drug safety, she once said:

"There's nothing fabulous about a trip to the emergency room. The lighting is bad, the outfits are horrid and they have no idea what a VIP line is."

Michael Alvear is the author of Alexander The Fabulous: The Man Who Brought The World To Its Knees. He receives e-mail at mikealvear@mac.com.



Tell Trinity

Open a bank account, not your relationship

Dearest Trinity,

My lover wants to try an open relationship. What does that exactly mean?

**Yours, Not Open
Boston**

Dearest Not Open,

When one or both persons in a relationship want permission to be pigs – I mean, sleep with other people – that's an open relationship. It does not mean you no longer have sex together, it means one or both of you is too old or too selfish to control your hormones. It may also mean bringing a third person home for a three-way. It is not cheating or an extramarital affair because it's not a secret. If it were, it wouldn't be "open." It is also more common amongst gay couples. Sometimes it works well and sometimes ... it just turns a dry martini, sour.

Love, Trinity

Hey Trinity,

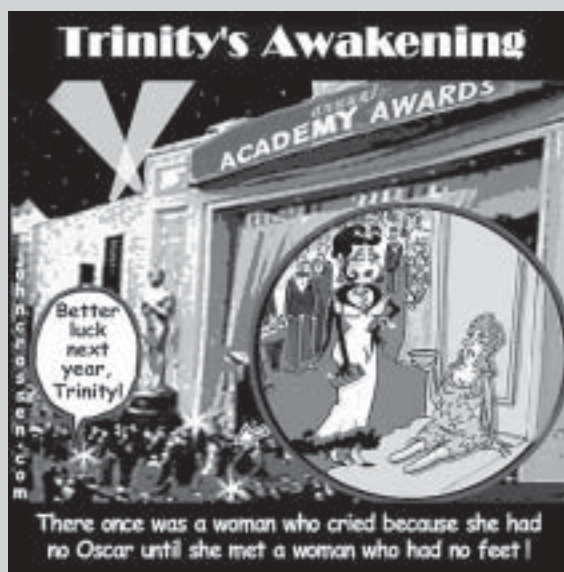
I lost my job, the rent went up and I'm getting older. Yes, I should have bought a home years ago, stayed with my last lover and saved more money, but life just stinks right now!

**Sincerely, Fed Up
Washington, D.C.**

Hey Fed Up,

When something bad is happening it's nearly impossible to remember those less fortunate or your own less fortunate times. But, Honey, there will always be bad times and good times, as well as people with much less and much more. Remember, there once was a man who cried because he had no shoes ... until he met a man who had no feet.

Hugs, Trinity



Dating Dilemma No. 129

Dear Trinity,

My girlfriend always wants to talk about our problems. I'm not used to talking about everything. She has had therapy and I have not. How do I get her to appreciate me – more silently?

**Less Is More
Baton Rouge, La.**

Dear Less Is More,

Yes, listening to someone constantly express themselves can be hell, at least that's what my last boyfriend said. However, your girlfriend's trying and that's to be applauded. So, Pumpkin, instead of trying to shut her trap, let's try opening yours by telling her what bothers you. Express yourself so much so that she'll see what she's like. Then, once you've both talked each other to near death, hopefully what will be left is a happy couple.

XOXO, Trinity

Dear Trinity,

I didn't want to believe it but recently I caught my roommate/ex-lover stealing money from me. He denies it. Now what should I do?

**Thanks, Robbed
Montreal**

Dear Robbed,

Living with someone who is stealing from you is the worst, even worse when it's your ex. But remember, people who steal are not dangerous criminals, they are petty criminals who can't ask for money. So don't start fearing for your life, rather start reading:

Trinity's Smart Tips When Someone You Live With Is Stealing From You

If You're Not Sure:

- 1. COUNT YOUR MONEY** twice daily and write it down so you're sure you didn't miscount it (again) and you're not going crazy.
- 2. COUNT IT AGAIN** every time someone comes near it and then write an account of the situation to rule out suspects.
- 3. KEEP THAT INFORMATION** away from your money.
- 4. TELL SOMEONE YOU TRUST** so you have a witness.
- 5. DO ACTIVITIES** that ease your mind about it so you don't get depressed.

Once You're Sure:

- 6. GET A NEW LOCK** on the door where your money is.
- 7. CONFRONT THE THIEF;** tell the story of how you've been counting your money and know who it is. End with, "I'm not asking if you did it. I know you did. I want to talk about paying it back."
- 8. "YOU COULD HAVE BORROWED IT?"** is another approach.
- 9. "IT WASN'T ME!"** is a song by the singer Shaggy and has been sung by criminals throughout time. Get ready to hear it again.
- 10. Lastly, MINIMIZE YOUR LOSSES** if they don't confess. Life's lessons often cost a little, so accept it and MOVE OUT pronto.

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

New books tease your imagination

Trio of authors slated for book signing at Auntie's

by staff

Authors Ann Rule (*Kiss Me, Kill Me*, following), Donna Anders (*Afraid of the Dark*) and Leslie Rule (*Ghosts Among Us*) will speak and sign copies of their new novels at Auntie's Bookstore on March 23 from 7:30 to 10 p.m. The hump-day event, sponsored by Pocket Books, will conclude the trio's two-month swing through Oregon and Washington.

Count them among the scores of writers who don't take holidays. As witness, here's a quick summary of new books recently received by Stonewall News Northwest:

Tantric Sex for Women A Guide for Lesbian, Bi, Hetero and Solo Lovers

Hunter House Publ, 253 pgs, \$15.95

The history of tantra is ancient, as is women's practice of it. In 3,000 years, this may be the first English language book on the subject. Despite their differences – whether lesbian, bi or heterosexual – women share a common characteristic, the yoni: Sanskrit for the female genitalia with all its various erogenous parts. But the author explains that yoni is much more than an anatomical term, and she speaks to the unity of the female experience and celebrating multiplicity. Heck, all women need to embrace tantra is time alone with this book, a childlike curiosity, an adolescent joy in experimenting and adult longings. – P.S.

Jesus and the Shamanic Tradition of Same-Sex Love

Suspect Thoughts, 209 pgs, \$16.95

Jesus and the Shamanic Tradition of Same-Sex Love is a passionate exploration of the history of Western religion as seen through the queer eye of one of the most widely acclaimed authors in gay spirituality. Drawing on recently discovered ancient sources, Will Roscoe offers a striking new view of Jesus: as a charismatic mystic, whose teachings on love and the kingdom of heaven were complemented by a secret rite that served to impart the experience of entering heaven. After meticulously reconstructing this rite, Roscoe seeks its ultimate origins, an odyssey that eventually leads him to



the margins of the inhabited world, where the ancient practices of shamanism survive to today. The book is a Lambda Literary Award finalist for this year's presentations in June. – P.S.

Cat's Eyewitness

Bantam Books, 287 pgs, \$25

The national best-seller of Rita Mae Brown and her feline best friend Sneaky Pie proves that their unique writing partnership is one of the most successful in the mystery genre today. *Cat's Eyewitness* being their 13th novel attests to their popularity, and this exciting caper in the continuing Mrs. Murphy series will be enjoyed by animal lovers and mystery fans alike. – P.S.

The Underminer The Best Friend Who Casually Destroys Your Life

Bloomsbury, 164 pgs, \$19.95

Get to know the Underminer. This polite, seemingly harmless, passive-aggressive "friend" knows everything about you – and he'll never let you forget it. You'll laugh right along as you read this book, maybe between fits of tears. As Margaret Cho said, "Hilarious and sick, *The Underminer* is one of those books that makes you insane with rage and laughter. I love it more than I hate people like this." – P.S.

Kiss Me, Kill Me

Pocket Books, 396 pgs, \$7.99

Since this book will be reviewed by the author, herself, at Auntie's on March 23, we'll just say that each of the 10 sections in *Kiss Me, Kill Me* will keep you riveted to the violence and

obsession behind ultimately lethal love affairs and lust-filled encounters. Author Ann Rule, a full-time true crime writer since 1969 and a former Seattle police officer, makes her home on Puget Sound. This is her 23rd national best seller. – P.S.

Light Before Day A Guide for Lesbian, Bi, Hetero and Solo Lovers

Miramax Books, 322 pgs, \$23.95

Christopher Rice's third novel, *Light Before Day*, likely will earn him his third appearance on the New York Times best-seller list. A large part of the action takes place in West Hollywood, where the locals party hard, drink to excess and abuse the deadly crystal meth. Random murders and kidnappings lead to a maniacal serial killer, a path with plenty of twists and turns that should keep even the most savvy mystery reader guessing until the very end. – P.S.

Same-Sex Marriage The Personal and the Political

Insomniac Press, 374 pgs, \$16.95

The first of this two-part book deals mainly with history of marriage, same-sex marriage, breakthroughs in both Canada and Europe, and the changing of social realities. The struggles of 16 featured couples date from 1970.

Part two delves into the couples' personal stories, rendering an intimacy that is touching and stark. At the very beginning of the section, the personal reality of the underlying reason for writing this book came like cold water splashed into the face of one of the authors, the application of unequal rights for gay people. Admittedly, the

author's incident does not rival being blocked from visiting a partner in the hospital, yet his example of discrimination indicates how fragile our political freedom remains.

Thoughtfully written – with moments that move the reader emotionally to identify with all of the characters and appreciate the profundity of being human – yet still valued as slightly damaged by the community at large. – C.L.

The Body Sculpting Bible Men's Edition

Hatherleigh Press, 172 pgs, \$15.95

Too much time at the office, too little time for a long fitness routine. This book conquers that dilemma, providing a revolutionary new workout for a busy lifestyle, designed to tone and chisel the body in just 21 minutes a day. Seven essential workouts give postponed New Year's resolutions astonishing results in record time. Generously illustrated, *The Body Sculpting Bible* also includes muscle-building nutritional tips and meal schedules, detailed workout plans and more, to help you get the body you've always wanted: yours. – P.S.

Tweakers How Crystal Meth is Ravaging Gay America

Alyson Books, 248 pgs, \$15.95

Author Frank Sanello, who's already addressed the *Opium Wars*, now turns his attention to crystal meth. In *Tweakers*, he draws on conversations with addicts as well as experts in the gay community and at drug treatment centers. While paint-

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page
 ing a terrifying portrait of a deadly drug and a population at risk, he imparts valuable information and resources designed to offer hope and help to those who suffer. – P.S.

I Am a Red Dress
Arsenal Pulp, 181 pgs, \$16.95

Consider this to be a gift from a performer and word artist whose past work earned her a Lambda Literary

Award. Poetic and touching prose of remembrances of her upbringing by a loving mother and grandmother, this venture into purple prose might breathe fresh insights on family relationships to anyone who takes the

short time to read it. An offering of manna to corporeal feminine energy, it could easily appeal to either sex; definitely a deeply sensuous pleasure. After all, fine silk feels good on everyone's skin. – C.L.

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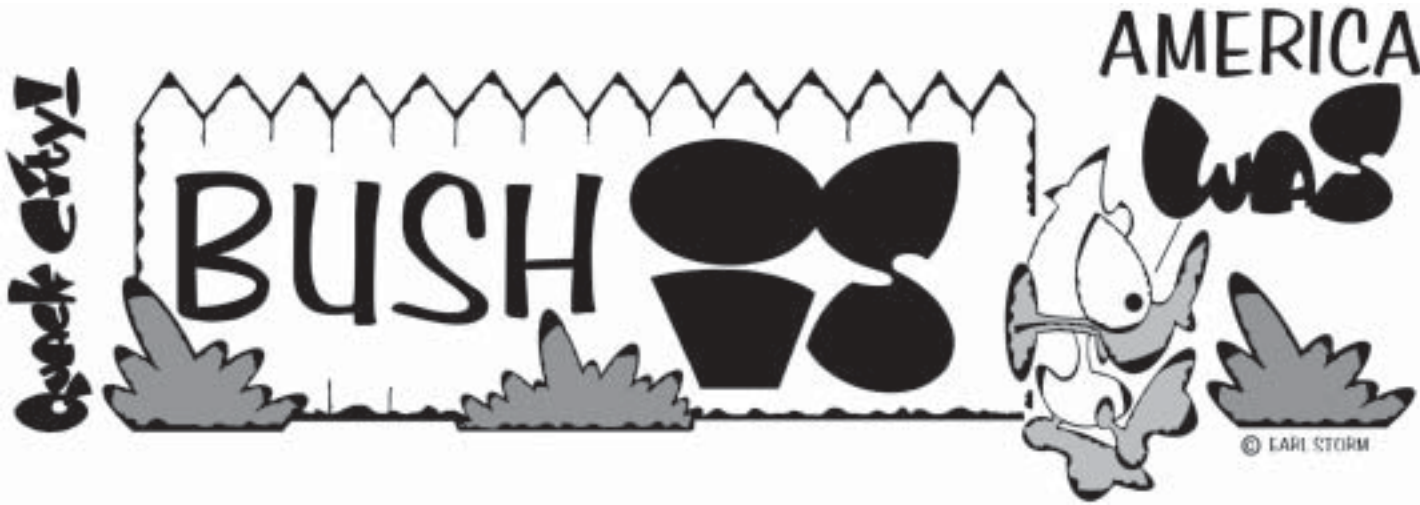
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Topeka race pits lesbian vs. Fred Phelps progeny

TOPEKA, Kan. – The race to fill a city council seat in this city some 50 miles east of Kansas City is moving into the national spotlight.

Incumbent Tiffany Muller, a lesbian activist who was appointed to the post by the council, is running to retain her seat against a 20-year-old granddaughter of Rev. Fred “God Hates Fags” Phelps, the Christian minister who demonstrated at graveside services for Matthew Shepard, a gay college student brutally murdered in 1998.

Classifieds

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Deadline for the April Classifieds is Tuesday, Mar. 22. Call 456-8011.

PEOPLE and EVENTS

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

JOB MARKET

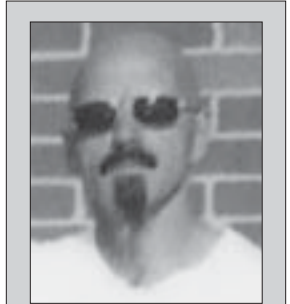
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PERSONALS

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."
GWM, 35, 5-9, 210, blnd, blu, seeking pen pal/friend. Anyone interested in a real friend, please write: Tim Fox #58925, ISCI, PO Box 14, Boise, ID 83707.

PERSONALS

78-Pen Pals:
LONELY, SEXY GWM. Masculine, brn, grn, athletic build and in great health. Seeking caring, stable soulmate for lasting relationship. Give this romantic guy a chance at a new life with a lifetime mate. Reply to: Donnie Duke #106874, KSP, PO Box 5128, Eddyville, KY 42038.



NO-HUSTLE BiWM, 46, 5-9, 165, athletic, intelligent, free-spirited, who's turning his life around and wants to meet someone to be comfortable with and share life's journey. Originally from Winlock, Wash. Want to meet intelligent, challenging, open-minded guy not hesitant to express himself. Reply to: Fred E. Falor #133924, GRCC, PO Box 9300, Central City, KY 41330.

HOT, YOUNG, lonely GWM, 5-10, 165, brn hair, seeks loyal, caring, emotionally mature and secure individual for friendship or LTR. Will answer all serious responses, photo or not. Reply to: Erick R. Daniels #57241, IMSI Unit J-3 #68, PO Box 51, Boise, ID 83707.

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PERSONALS

78-Pen Pals:
GWM, 27, 5-4, 160, blu, brn, looking for pen pal or possible lover. G, Bi, TV, TG welcome to write; am looking for friendship or that special someone. Reply to: Richard Doten #51210, IMSI Unit J-3, PO Box 51, Boise, ID 83707.

UPFOR parole in July. Would like to find someone to share my outgoing, fun personality upon release. I am 22, 5-9, 160, brn, grn. Could send a pic to anyone who responds to: Jeff Ridley #64973, SICI Unit ND-DL3, PO Box 8509, Boise, ID 83707.

SWM, 5-6, 175, brn, brn, athletic and outgoing, would love to meet loving, outgoing, fun person. Up for parole in 2006, top out in 2008. Reply to: William Kyle Stoor #23878, SICI North Dorm, PO Box 8509, Boise, ID 83707.

PERSONALS

78-Pen Pals:
DOMINATE BiWM, 19, brn, blu, nice body, 5-11, 185. Looking for GM, 19+. Will respond to all who write: Zachary Allen #66961, IMSI J-Bik, PO Box 51, Boise, ID 83707.

SW BI-CURIOUS male, h2l-grn, brn, 6-1, 200, adventurous, looking to try something new. Open to all experiences from all walks of life. Washington native, possible parole in 6-12 months. Reply to: Brandon Estes #73551, IMSI B3 66A, PO Box 51, Boise, ID 83707.

LOST-N-LONELY? I'm all alone; I need a friend. M, 40, 5-8, 200, brn, brn, looking for pen pals. Am open for relationships. Write and we will explore all avenues: Gary Hutchinson #907593, AHCC T-B-46, PO Box 2139, Airway Heights, WA 99001.

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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.

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

WEDNESDAYS

6-8:30 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

2-8 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.)

Spokane's entertainment and meeting calendar for March

March 2005

Birthstone: Bloodstone

Flower: Violet

Astrological Guide: Pisces to the 19th; Aries from the 20th

Saturday

Older and Wiser Lesbian Sensations (OWLS) and their friends will get together for dinner at 5:30 pm at the **Golden Corral Buffet**.

The **Gay Washington Eastside Show** will be at **Dempseys** beginning at 8 pm. Free

Cannibal Women in the Avocado Jungle of Death, starring *Politically Incorrect's* Bill Maher, is tonight's celluloid **The Worst Midnight Movie Series Ever** at **CenterStage**. \$3

Sunday

The **Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane (ISCS)** will hold a board meeting at 6 pm and

Friday

The scheduled feature for **Movie and Dinner Night** at the **Rainbow Center** is **Mambo Italiano**, beginning at 6 pm. Free

Saturday

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

Three comics will entertain in the **Frisky Business** comedy show at **The Merq** at 8 pm. Reservations necessary for dinner (6:30 pm) and show, \$20; general admission for show-only, \$10



staff photo

Volunteer chaperone Willow Williams, center, discusses the agenda for Student Lobby Day with coordinators Kirk Duval of Odyssey Youth Center and Hanna Penberthy of Planned Parenthood before joining delegates aboard a charter bus to Olympia. Participants will share their experiences from the trip at a forum at the downtown Public Library Conference Room 1A on March 2 at 6 p.m.

accept letters of intent for **White Knight** and **Debutante** titles during the court meeting following at 7:30, both at **Dempseys**.

Wednesday

Laurel Kelly, executive director of **Odyssey Youth Group**, will be the featured speaker at today's luncheon meeting of the **Inland Northwest Business Alliance (INBA)** at **Europa Pizzeria and Bakery**. \$15-\$18

ISCS candidates for **White Knight** and **Debutante** will be interviewed at an **Open Forum** at **Dempseys** beginning at 7 pm.

Thursday

Dr Laura Asbell will address **Strategies for Handling Bullies at Work** at a 7:30 breakfast program in the **Champions Room** of the **Spokane Arena**, sponsored by the **Leadership Connection of Gonzaga University**. \$25, \$9 for students.

Pride Day planning heads the agenda for the **OutSpokane** meeting at the **Rainbow Center** at 6:30 pm.

Performer lineups are called for 7 pm for the annual **Marty V Children With AIDS Fundraiser** show at **Dempseys** at 8 pm. Free

Jack Nicholson and Boris Karloff team up in **The Terror**, tonight's low-budget flick fare for **The Worst Midnight Movie Series Ever** at **CenterStage**. \$3

Sunday

Pride Day participant **Unity Church of Truth** will hold a **Sweet Deal Cake Auction** at the church following the morning worship services.

The **Celtic Nots** salute the Irish in a dinner-theatre **World Music Concert** at **CenterStage** beginning at 5:30 pm. \$43, S/s

The **ISCS College of Monarchs** will meet at 6 pm at a private residence. Location: 533-1903

Wednesday

The Merq launches its star search in **The Merq Idol** talent contest tonight and every Wednesday leading up to an **Awards Show** on May 4, all beginning at 9:30 pm. Free admission (\$10 contestant fee)

Tuesday

Master art works from 19th century France are featured in **An Impressionist Eye** at the **Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture (MAC)** Tuesday thru Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm. The exhibit was organized by the **American Federation of Arts** and continues thru May 15. \$7, S/s

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

Wednesday

Public tours of the retro-elegant **Fox Theater** are offered Wednesdays at noon. Free: 326-3136

A **Comprehensive Sexuality Education** forum presented for the public by youth members of **Odyssey Youth Center** and **Planned Parenthood of the Inland Northwest** is scheduled at 6 pm in **Conference Room 1A** of the downtown **Public Library**.

The **GLBT Book Group** will meet at **Auntie's Bookstore** at 7 pm to review Erica Jong's **Sappho's Leap**.

Karaoke With Diana is scheduled at **Dempseys** every Wednesday, Sunday and Monday from 8 pm. Free

At **The Merq**, it's **Karaoke With Yasmine** every Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday beginning at 9:30 pm. Free

Thursday

Today, and continuing through the 31st, **Hina Matsuri (Girl's Day)** dolls will be exhibited at the **Japanese Cultural Center** at Mukogawa Fort Wright, weekdays from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Free

Suburban housewives fuel the laughs for **A Coupla White Chicks Sitting Around Talking** at **interPLAYERS** tonight and this weekend thru the 26th, with **Troy Nickerson** directing. \$16-\$20, S/s

The comedy **Rocket Man** continues as the dinner-theatre presentation at **CenterStage** Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays thru the 12th. \$39-\$45, S/s

Friday

Visitors are invited to join members of the **Spokane Rainbow Artist Coalition** at the **Rainbow Center** at 4:30 pm for a walk-around tour of galleries participating in **First Friday**. In the **Center Gallery**, beginning at 5 pm, works of local college students will be featured. Free

Thursday

St. Patrick's Day.

Leprechauns and others celebrating this day when everybody is Irish will find special corned beef and cabbage dinners on the evening menu at **Dempseys** and **The Merq**.

Friday

If These Walls Could Talk 2 is the cinema selection for **Movie and Dinner Night** at the **Rainbow Center** at 6 pm. Free

Grammy Award winner John Reischman and The Jaybirds play **Bluegrass** at the **Met** at 8 pm. \$16-\$18

Saturday

ISCS presents its annual **White Knight/Debutante Steardown Pageant** at **Dempseys** at 5 pm. Free

Spokane Jazz Orchestra celebrates its 30th season at the **Met** tonight at 8, with local celebrities on hand to introduce big band favorites. \$26.50

CenterStage pits **Wrestling Women vs. the Aztec Ape** as tonight's main event at **The Worst Midnight Movie Series Ever**. \$3

Sunday

Friends of SAN presents a sumptuous, all-you-can-eat buffet at **Dempseys** from 11 am to 2 pm. The **Palm Sunday Brunch** – to benefit **Spokane AIDS Network** – also features complimentary Mimosas and an Easter basket raffle. \$12

Tuesday

Pride and Joy Movie Night at **CenterStage** begins with a social hour, 6 to 7:30 pm, followed by the feature presentation, **Mango Kiss**. \$5 (25% off dinner menu offered)

Wednesday

Authors **Ann Rule (Kiss Me, Kill Me)** and **Donna Anders (Afraid of the Dark)** will speak and sign copies of their newest books at **Auntie's Bookstore** from 7:30-10 pm.

Friday

Unity Church of Truth will present its **Good Friday Service and Easter Prayer Vigil** at the church at 7 pm.

Congregations for **Emmanuel Metropolitan Community Church (EMCC)** and **Bethany Presbyterian Church** will join in fellowship for a **Good Friday Service** at their shared center at 7 pm.

Slam is the flick pick for tonight's **Movie and Dinner Night** at the **Rainbow Center** at 6. Free

Saturday

Ed Wood's **Glen or Glenda (I Changed My Sex)** is tonight's feature in **The Worst Midnight Movie Series Ever** at **CenterStage**. \$3

Sunday

Easter.

Unity Church of Truth services begin with an **Easter Awakening Celebration** at 6:30 am, and Easter services at 9 and 11 am.

EMCC will conduct at **Easter Sunrise Service** by the **Duck Pond** in **Manito Park** at 7:30 am, and an **Easter Service** at the church at 5 pm.

DEMPPSEYS

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Karaoke Sundays, Mondays & Wednesdays start at 8 pm.

St. Patty's Day

Thursday • March 17th

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Palm Sunday Brunch

to benefit Friends of SAN

Sunday • March 20th

All You Can Eat Buffet • \$12

11 am to 2 pm

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Easter Basket Raffle

Extra donations welcome!



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