

Activists learn how to win

by Catherine D. Willis

A fluid crowd of 50 to 65 GLBTQ community members and activists and a small army of committed allies from far-flung parts of Washington attended the “United We Win”: Organizing for Equality Power Summit on the Itron corporate campus in Spokane Valley October 8-9.

Co-sponsored by Equal Rights Washington, Inland Northwest Equality and the Pride Foundation, with substantial funding from the Gill Foundation, the conference featured two general sessions, two panel discussions, four workshops, two documentary showings, meals and abundant networking opportunities.

State Rep. Ed Murray, D-Seattle, opened the summit with words of optimism and restraint. He spoke of the Evergreen State’s progressive history and legacy of moderation. Even after the turn to the right that accompanied the 1994 Republican

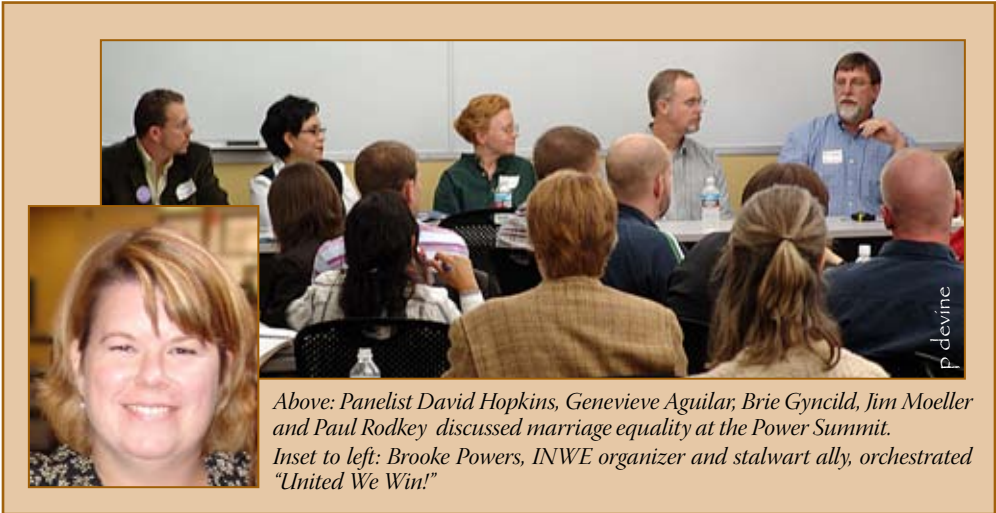
takeover of the Legislature, patient and willing advocates forged coalitions that have advanced GLBTQ interests, he said. He pointed to Washington’s safe schools legislation, the hate crimes bill and domestic partner benefits for state employees and employees of the University of Washington.

While conceding that the defeat of HB 1515, the anti-discrimination bill, in this year’s legislative session was a disappointment, he praised the alliances that brought the measure to within a single vote of passage.

Among Democrats, he noted, “all but two got there – it’s unheard of.”

“The most radical thing any of you can do is to be out.”
– Rep. Ed Murray

Murray expressed confidence that the bill, or one like it, will someday be law. He strongly cautioned against the



Above: Panelist David Hopkins, Genevieve Aguilar, Brie Gyncild, Jim Moeller and Paul Rodkey discussed marriage equality at the Power Summit. Inset to left: Brooke Powers, INWE organizer and stalwart ally, orchestrated “United We Win!”

push for marriage rights ahead of this legislation. The basic issue is economic justice, he said, which is a coalition-friendly concept, whereas marriage enters the tenuous sphere of religion.

“The African-American community is with us on civil rights, not marriage,” he stated. “If we go to war with the African-American churches, we will lose.” He addressed the same problem relative to the Hispanic community and the Catholic Church.

Lawmaking, Murray said, is akin to sausage-making. Sometimes stopping bad legislation is as important as enacting good. He concluded, “I’ve never voted for a pure bill.”

State Rep. Jim Moeller, D-Vancouver, continued this theme in an afternoon panel discussion on marriage equality and messaging. “We may find ourselves unprepared for whatever we are offered.”

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Corker offers experience and empathy

Editor’s note: Last month Stonewall News Northwest endorsed the two incumbents, Al French and Mary Verner, and former City Councilman Steve Corker in races to be decided Nov. 8. Our lackluster selection of Corker for the 3rd District seat was as much a repudiation of the candidacy of Nancy McLaughlin as it was a plug for Corker. We decided our readers deserved a another look at the candidate we asked you to support.

“I didn’t wake up one morning and decide to run for City Council. My commitment to the community began in 1970 when I was a part of one of the first community development task forces,” said Steve Corker, who has served terms on the airport board, the regional health district board and the parks board, as well as his 2000-2003 term on the Spokane City Council.

He emphasized his résumé, especially his many years in the Spokane business sector. Fiscal management experience is crucial, he noted, as the city comes to grips with a projected \$6 million budget shortfall.

Time-limited tax increases can forestall draconian cuts in city services, he acknowledged, but the city’s long-term economic health hinges on a more robust tax base. Growing this

will require the acquisition, by creative planning, annexation or merger, of more commercial properties within the city.

Spokane’s general fund takes in 33 percent less per capita than the state average. Some of this is a reflection of high poverty numbers, a problem that is exacerbated,

“We’ve got to take the politics out of economic development”
–Steve Corker

Corker stated, by the premise used to sell the area to prospective businesses: “Come to Spokane. Labor’s not a factor. People work cheap.” What needs to happen, he said, is that “Incomes should rise. Period.”

As a business owner, he paid good wages and offered full medical benefits. The strategy served everyone well. There was little turnover in his workforce.

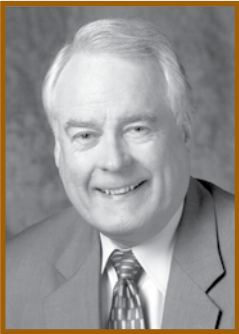
A commitment to infrastructure will draw businesses to Spokane, he

suggested, but “Even something like the domestic partners issue is significant,” he added, “not only to government but to major corporations. They don’t want to come into communities that are not going to be accepting of diversity.”

He made a case for consolidation and responsible planning. Developers “need to be part of the solution,” he argued. He favors regional impact fees.

“I came from a poor family,” he said of his youth. “I was raised by a village that empowered me.” To those who claim that childrearing is best left to parents and family, he conceded, “Yes, the family plays a role. My folks did. ... but they also knew their limitations, and they made sure that I connected, not only to the church but with Scouts, school and sports.”

Corker applauded the kindness and generosity that characterize most of Spokane’s citizenry.



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Voices

Letter from the Publisher

It is our privilege to receive Letters to the Editor that convey your sincere opinions, thoughts and feelings – even your criticisms. Your engagement with us makes us better at what we do.

With a broad mission of serving the GLBTQA Community of the Inland Northwest, yet with very finite resources, Stonewall relies on its paying advertisers, subscribers, dedicated staff and involved contributors to bring you content that is relevant, informative and journalistically responsible. But as some have noticed, Jim West has not been an overt subject of printed journalistic content at Stonewall in recent months. Why is this?

Very simply: Stonewall exercises responsible journalism. And the ability to deliver responsible journalism hinges on thoughtful allocation of finite resources.

As Publisher, however, I will weigh-in with my opinion.

The Jim West backlash erupts not only from perceived hypocrisy in his voting record and position on GLBT issues spanning decades, his alleged recent e-chatting with young guys on a city-owned computer, and alleged inappropriate job offers; I would assert this backlash extends beyond perceived absence of integrity. There is also absence of leadership.

We look to our elected officials to be more than followers of the majority and popular opinion. Instead, our elected officials are leaders representing their entire

constituency with thoughtful and engaging inclusiveness. Leadership takes courage. The courage to not succumb to the tyranny of the majority – especially when to do so undermines equality and civil rights of a minority. Leadership employs a sense of inner peace to hear, represent and protect even those whose voices can barely be heard. And leadership takes the courage to exercise decisions consistent with a broader understanding of compassion and dignity, especially when those decisions may be unpopular.

The greatest strides in human rights our nation has enjoyed occurred only through the courage to make decisions that placed human dignity above politics and popular opinion of the time.

Regarding Jim West, however, Stonewall's position is more to facilitate dialogue and engagement – not dictate a position. So we ask you – what are your thoughts and feelings on this matter? Stonewall represents all of the GLBTQA community, not just a vocal few.

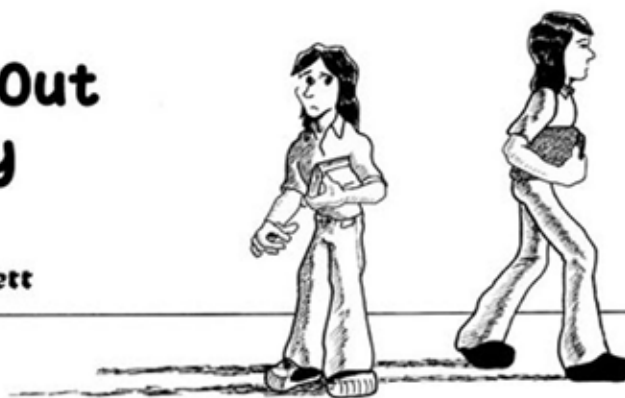
To that end, I am proud to announce that Stonewall will be facilitating a public forum on the matter during the month of November. Please see our website www.stonewallnews.net for date, time, place, and other details.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Mike Schultz
Publisher

A Coming Out Story

by
Bruce Garrett



The First Person You Come Out To, Is Yourself.

Letters

Now is not the time to be silent. To do so is not only irresponsible, but it denies our community the one thing we need most: dialogue. I am an openly gay attorney who is representing Shannon Sullivan in her effort to hold Mayor West accountable for his actions. I do not feel badly for the decisions Mr. West has made. I do, however, feel that society can take its rightful responsibility for shaping the man the mayor is today. I have scrutinized his behavior now for the past seven months.

There are some in the community who buy into his allegations of being "brutally outed." My answer to that is, "You live by the sword you, die by the sword." Mr. West's personal history has been filled with hatred toward our community. If he had it his way, we would not be teachers or childcare providers or parents. We would not be insured by our partners. For those of you who are

sympathetic to him, remember these things.

One of the first things the mayor tried to do to me was to out me. West was not outed; his life of lies finally caught up with him.

The Stonewall should be the leader in calling for all perspectives to be heard, and then taking a stand. That you have not done so is analogous to what the mayor has been doing his entire life – hiding and sitting on the sidelines. The Stonewall can be a serious journalistic force or an advertising forum. Let's have a meeting of the minds. Let's ensure that we are treating all equally so we do not foster future Jim Wests. But let's hold this Jim West accountable.

Jerry J. Davis
Spokane

Editorial

See the change, be the change

Stonewall readers will see some changes in this issue, some obvious, some not. Staff responsibilities have shifted. Mark Southwick, longtime production editor, has assumed consultant status. Christopher Lawrence, arts and entertainment editor, has added production editing to his repertoire and Catherine Willis has taken on the role of editor.

Our pages are under construction. We are acquainting ourselves with new production software. Please treat us as you would your favorite grocery store when the aisles are uncharacteristically cluttered because new shelving is being installed. Consider this the equivalent of a “pardon our mess” sign. We know there will be glitches.

Some of the changes we have undertaken to freshen our look and improve readability may not succeed on first, second, or any, try. We expect you to tell us what you think – good, bad or otherwise.

Columns are in flux. Some are gone for now, others are on permanent hiatus. “Be Our Guest” is a new offering. We invite individuals and organizations representing GLBTQA-friendly interests to contribute to what we hope will be a rotating column addressing many topics from many perspectives.

“Family” profiles the young, the old and the in-between, because the GLBTQ community embodies all. Does your family have a story to tell? Share it! We want everyone in the Inland Northwest to see that we are all more alike than different.

The Stonewall is your community paper. Contribute. Let us know about events that should be covered. If we miss something, tell us. Better yet, give

us a review. You don’t have to write Pulitzer-worthy prose. Just be accurate and timely. We’ll work with you.

A hallmark of community is mutual support. Join your friends and neighbors at one or more of the many social, educational or service-oriented programs described monthly in these pages, and updated frequently on our interactive calendar (www.stonewallnews.net). October’s Rainbow Regional Community Center benefit performance of *My Fair Lady* at the Civic Theatre thrilled all who attended; sadly, we missed a lot of you.

November presents new opportunities for involvement: Check out the **7th Annual Gay/Lesbian Film Festival** Nov. 4-5; there’s **Pride & Joy Movie Night** on Nov. 22 and **Friday Night Out**, both at CenterStage; you can change the world by showing up at an INWE meeting, the INBA luncheon, an OutSpokane planning session ...

Finally, and most important, you can exercise your right to choose. Please study the issues. Get to know the candidates. Vote Nov. 8.

The 2005 Spokane City Council races deserve your careful consideration. The Stonewall has endorsed incumbents Al French and Mary Verner. Both stood with us in April and passed the domestic partner benefits ordinance. They did not cave in to vitriolic dissent when the measure was subsequently challenged. Let’s stand by them.

Nancy McLaughlin is running on a morality platform that would push us all back into the closet if it were possible to do that. Steve Corker embraces diversity. We endorse his candidacy.

Letter from the Editor

Coming out, for most of us, is a process, a gradual series of self-revealing moments. What I’ve discovered about our GLBTQ community is that many of us are out quite selectively. Friends and family know who we are; co-workers may know too, even some neighbors, but a lot of us are out but still hiding. It’s actually rather easy to hide in the open. I’ve done it for most of my life – and I am what our society calls “a woman of a certain age.”

My point? Something changed. For me it started with the election of 2004.

That George W. Bush won a second term in the nation’s highest office was disappointing but not surprising. What set my head spinning and my stomach churning was the vote by a wide margin of my fellow Americans in 11 states to legally – constitutionally – restrict the rights of those like me who want nothing more than to live and love as free and equal citizens of this great country.

On November 3, 2004, the morning after ... I had a psychic hangover. I felt battered. I could not make peace with the notion that so many otherwise fine, upstanding human beings fear gay folks so much that they’d exercise their precious franchise rights to put us down.

Naïve? Absolutely. But my trauma led to action.

As 2005 dawned, an e-mail from the INBA arrived inviting me to get involved in GLBTQ politics, and I responded, writing to Dean Lynch, who directed me to a planning meeting at the Community Building, home of the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane.

Brooke Powers made an impression from the get-go. Soft-spoken yet authoritative, she welcomed everyone, disarming all skeptics with her ready smile and accommodating demeanor. Representatives from

many groups attended that January meeting, some with agendas, some simply curious, all seeking focus for energies ripe for action.

Inland Northwest Equality took form within a month. Under Brooke’s gentle guidance, the coalition grew slowly but steadily. INWE members marched in June’s Pride Parade and staffed a booth at Unity in the Community Aug. 6.

“United We Win,” the October organizing summit discussed on Stonewall’s front page and elsewhere in this issue, was a joint venture that would not have happened when it did, or run as smoothly as it did, without the hard work and can-do spirit of Brooke Powers.

She is the consummate ally, someone who puts shine on the ‘A’ in GLBTQA. Acknowledging Brooke in her opening remarks at the summit, Fran Dunaway, executive director of Equal Rights Washington, said, “She kind of personifies what this weekend is all about.”

Indeed. And we are going to miss her. Brooke left the Inland Northwest at the end of October to be with, and care for, her ailing mother in Colorado.

My hat is off to the 2004 graduate of Eastern Washington University. No doubt her joint master’s degrees in social work and public administration will serve her well when she next embarks upon a paying assignment in community service. But it is her warmth and accepting manner I honor here.

Her willingness to battle for us as a straight person gave me courage enough to not only march with her and work beside her but to stand a little more out in the open. A brand new rainbow flag adorned my front walk on National Coming Out Day. Did you fly yours?

Thanks, Brooke. Best of luck to you!

Youth center sets proactive course

by Ramon Alvarez

Executive Director, Odyssey Youth Center

In September’s Stonewall, Laurel Kelly wrote of the exciting growth and change that Odyssey Youth Center is undertaking. Since then, we have seen and received very positive feedback about the changes. Let me take a moment to expand on our work.

Odyssey’s strategic plan is to focus on four primary goals that emphasize overall youth development. First, Odyssey Youth Center will embrace a philosophy that promotes a holistic approach to improving LGBTQA youth’s physical, emotional and spiritual health care needs. Second, we will promote inclusiveness and tolerance of LGBTQA youth issues in the greater Spokane Community. Third, we will strengthen our youth through leadership and social justice advocacy programs. Fourth, we will improve our organizational capacity in order to create a self-sustaining center that will enable us to provide consistent services to LGBTQA youth.

Our work in social justice and activism has been recognized by multiple media outlets. We are proud of our work with – and the youth that have participated in – rallies, marches, Olympia lobby days and local lobbying efforts. We will continue this empowering work. There is, however, much work to be done as it relates to the physical, emotional and spiritual well-being of our youth.

Our youth struggle with issues such as lack of health care, entering into and sustaining healthy relationships, minimizing or eliminating higher risk behavior, making wise and healthy decisions, substance abuse, coming out, homelessness, and physical and sexual abuse.

Too many of our youth encounter messages that tell them God hates them. Some are very lucky to have an incredible support system, but most are going through some of the above-mentioned challenges.

It makes sense then that we first focus on the self. Concentrating on the internal well-being will enable these GLBTQ & Allied youth to grow into healthy, productive and contributing members of our community, healthy people that can, if they choose to, work to create a better, more inclusive community.

You know we recently changed our service population age range from 14-24 years to 14-21 years. We are pleased that the Rainbow Regional Community Center has stepped up to offer a social club for youth 21 and over. Since we made this change at Odyssey, we’ve noticed a significant increase in participation among youth 15, 16 and 17 years old. Prior to the change, approximately 80% of our participants were aged 19, 20 and 21; now 80% are 15, 16 and 17 years old. On a busy night we can have up to 70 youth in the center. On a recent open night, we met nine youth who were accessing the center for the very first time!

We are growing. We are planning. We are being proactive. We have a board of directors and staff as well as an amazing group of dedicated volunteers strongly behind the vision. We invite you to invest in Odyssey youth and our collective future. For further information or to make a financial contribution, contact us at (509) 325-3637 or visit our Web site at www.odysseyyouth.org.

Spokane

The Campaign to End AIDS caravans through the nation



Charley Fawcett, John Holzendorf and Brianne Hill caravanned to rally against AIDS in Washington, D.C.

Stories by Melissa Derry
and Stonewall staff

Photos by Patrick Devine

Saturday, Oct. 22

More than 50 people gathered at Spokane's Bethany Presbyterian Church on Saturday evening, Oct. 22, to await the arrival of the Campaign to End AIDS caravan from Seattle and rally to increase awareness of HIV/AIDS, an issue that has not been in the forefront of public attention in recent years, despite its ongoing local, national and global impact.

The caravan arrived at approximately 5:10 p.m., carrying six individuals from the Seattle/Tacoma area. Three others, Charley Fawcett, John Holzendorf and Brianne Hill, all HIV-positive, joined the caravan in Spokane, intent on participating in "Four Days of Action" in Washington, D.C., Nov. 5-8.

The Spokane C2EA host committee leader, Adam Cogswell, greeted the assembly and introduced the first of several guest speakers. State Rep. Timm Ormsby, D-3rd District, addressed some of the "skewed priorities on the national level" that are taking attention and funds from the fight against HIV/AIDS.

U.S. Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., who was unable to attend, sent a representative, Shannon Waechter. She communicated the senator's desire to continue the fight to stop the epidemic by extending and fully funding the Ryan White CARE Act. That legislation expired three weeks ago and needs to be updated, she said.

Sheila Collins, a representative from Governor Christine Gregoire's office, wished the riders a safe and productive journey to the nation's capital.

Mark Garrett, community educator at Spokane AIDS Network, stressed the need to raise the "political will" of elected representatives so that this issue will be heard about at both state and national levels. He also said that it

is important to work toward a "one pill once a day" treatment.

After the speakers finished, there was a benefit spaghetti dinner provided by Emmanuel Metropolitan Community Church. Friends of SAN donated a generous selection of desserts. All proceeds from Spokane's C2EA events will support the caravan's cross-country mission.

Local host committee members Cogswell, Jill Gersh and Joe Lockridge raised \$3,000 for C2EA over several weeks leading up to the caravan's departure. Their efforts enabled the three individuals from Spokane to make the trek, which costs \$500 per participant, and they were able to give each a travel stipend as well.

HIV/AIDS will not be eradicated without a long-term commitment of resources, human and monetary, for research and treatment. In Washington state an estimated two people are infected by the HIV virus every day. Globally, someone becomes infected every eight seconds.

C2EA organizers hope to re-energize lagging interest in this life-altering virus, to increase prevention education and enhance treatment options in the United States and abroad.

"I'm no hero, just a simple man. When I'm dead... I'll just be one of those gory statistics."

— *Mountain Man, Charley Fawcett*

Those who support the campaign were urged to take action – to write e-mail or phone their local and national representatives to let them know that they need to make this issue a priority.

Medicaid funding must be maintained because many persons living with HIV/AIDS rely on it. Ninety percent of children with the virus access Medicaid. As Shannon Waechter stated, "We do make a difference."

Sunday, Oct. 23

An interfaith vigil in support of the Campaign to End AIDS was held at Spokane Falls Community College on Sunday, Oct. 23. Hosted by the SFCC Alliance and PFLAG, the vigil was the last event in the weekend's schedule of C2EA programming before the 10 District of Columbia-bound caravanners left Spokane with the thoughts and prayers of about 25 participants.

Adam Cogswell, co-coordinator of the Spokane stop of the caravan, kicked off the event with a reading of the poem, "Who are we?" which highlighted the diverse faces of HIV/AIDS and the vastly different lives it affects.

A moving and powerful video of the May 9, 1988, Vito Russo speech, "Why We Fight," was shown. Although the speech was first given more than 20 years ago, Russo's salient points, including, "if I'm dying from anything, I'm dying from homophobia," were showcased as still relevant

given the current state of HIV/AIDS awareness in the United States.

The goal of the Campaign to End AIDS, to cut infection rates by half, was reiterated; the difficulties in achieving that goal – 50 percent of new infections are in people under 25, for instance

– were presented as opportunities to empower the community.

Cogswell led the group in a moment of silence for those that have passed. Afterward, a multi-faith community prayer was offered for the individuals who were going to D.C.

The caravan went to Coeur d'Alene later that day and the travelers spent the

night in Missoula.



FRIENDS OF SAN 14TH ANNUAL TWO-BIT AUCTION



DATE: Sunday, November 13, 2005

TIME: 4 pm (till last item is sold)

LOCATION: Dempsey's Brass Rail

Hosted by Dame Edwina & Special Guest

Locals bring message to DC



A Spokane couple, Brianne Hill and John Holzendorf, both HIV-positive, joined the Campaign to End AIDS caravan when it passed through Spokane Oct. 22-23. They decided to make the trip to Washington, D.C., an educational experience and a vacation – as well as a celebration of sorts. Holzendorf will mark the 10th anniversary of his diagnosis this month.

The doctors in Idaho Falls, Idaho, where he resided when he learned of his HIV status, told him he would probably only live two years. Holzendorf credits his survival to hardy genes and the nearly \$4,000 worth of taxpayer-subsidized drugs he takes monthly. Public assistance is crucial to people with HIV/AIDS, he noted. Medicaid funding is threatened by budget pressures at all levels at this

time, and HIV/AIDS research and support services face substantial cuts nationwide.

"I was searching for purpose," said Hill, who embraces the C2EA mission as an opportunity to give something back, to help to increase awareness of the continuing AIDS crisis in the United States. She and her fiancé contracted the virus as drug users. Three years clean, she hopes her presence at rallies across the nation and in the District of Columbia will serve as a warning to others.

The caravan's itinerary includes stops in 10 states: Washington, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Five days of "actions" are scheduled in the the nation's capitol Nov. 5-9.

INWE, Odyssey leaders chosen

Two GLBTQA community agencies announced staff changes in October. The Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane hired Krista Benson to succeed Brooke Powers as Inland Northwest Equality organizer.

Benson recently returned to the Spokane area after pursuing her master's degree in women's studies at the University of Manchester in the United Kingdom. During her undergraduate years at Gonzaga University, she was active in the GLBTQA group H.E.R.O. (Helping Educate Regarding Orientation), the GLTBQ support group, the Women's Studies Club and the JUSTICE club. Community groups she has served locally include PEACH Safe Foods, the V-Day campaign, the Sexual Assault and Family Trauma Center and the Pom Squad.

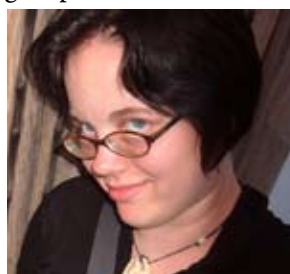
"I really think that this is a vital time for the visibility and vitality of GLTBQ issues," she said. "There is a tremendous amount of work to be done in education, advocacy, and outreach

of justice issues for the GLTBQ communities in the Inland Northwest, but there is also a tremendous amount of desire to do that work. I look forward to the growth of this coalition and the work that we do in the future, which I firmly believe will both energize those involved and will engage new organizations in this campaign."

Ramon Alvarez was named executive director of Odyssey Youth Center following the Oct. 12 departure of Laurel Kelly, who moved to a position at the Spokane Regional Health District that will allow her more time with her children.

Alvarez summarized his hopes and dreams for the center and asked for community support: "Tomorrow is a world filled with promise for the LGBT community. You can see it on the youth faces that come through Odyssey. As executive director, I'm looking forward to working with

all of you to ensure that these young people fulfill that promise for themselves and for our community."



OutSpokane welcomes *The Lion King*

On Saturday, Nov 12, as a part of their commitment to outreach and community building, CenterStage and OutSpokane are inviting the cast and crew of *The Lion King* and Spokane's gay community to meet each other in the gay friendly, smoke-free environment of the CenterStage Theater after the performance from 11 pm to 1 am.

Through all of November and ending on Dec. 4, this troupe of actors, singers, dancers and gymnasts is bringing us one of the hottest shows on Broadway – and we are so happy they are here. This will be one of the longest runs of a Best of Broadway show for Spokane because of its popularity among all age groups.

Something for everyone – from amazing costumes and award-winning sets and a story that has become legend around the world about the trials and tribulations of a lion cub who is destined to be King.

Any musical with lyrics written by Tim Rice and the music composed by Sir Elton John will certainly have an appeal to queer sensibilities.

Come and meet the cast and crew. Donations of \$5 will go toward YOUR 15th annual Pride Parade and Rainbow Festival to be held on Saturday, June 10, 2006.

No simple Disney offering, this. I suggest you keep the windows partly rolled up and your hands inside the vehicle. This should be a great ride! See *The Lion King* at the Opera House and then join us for the Lion King Cast and Crew Party at CenterStage Theater.

Emmanuel
metropolitan community church

301 South Freya
Spokane, WA 99202

Internet: www.emmanuelmcc.com
E-Mail: emmanuelmcc@qwest.net

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Regional

No Rest for the Wicked

Cleaning Out the Attic

by Joan Opyr

My 39th birthday is at the end of November. I have begun to dread it, not because I'm worried about menopause or gray hair, but because I fear the gift my grandmother might send me. Last year, for Christmas, my grandmother gave me: A pair of safety goggles from The Dollar Store. A calendar of art by people who paint with either their feet or their mouths. And a pair of thumb-cuffs.

My grandmother is an 83-year-old Southern Baptist. She lives in Raleigh, North Carolina, in a neighborhood full of other elderly Southern Baptists. She shops at The Dollar Store, the Winn Dixie and the Wal-Mart. So where did she get the thumb-cuffs? And what, pray tell, does she want me to do with them?

I've been trying to think of some connection between these gifts — something that either connects them to me or connects them to one another — but so far I've failed. The best I can come up with is that she expects me to use the thumb-cuffs for some exotic and acrobatic Houdini-style stunt in Moscow, Idaho's Friendship Square — one that will require my wearing cheap safety goggles — but she doesn't have any confidence in my ability to pull this stunt off. She's convinced that I'll hurt myself. In fact, I'll hurt myself so badly that the only thing I'll have going for me is my artistic sensibility and the use of either my feet or my mouth. And then my grandmother will send me a paintbrush. And some toilet paper. And the address of the Foot and Mouth Artists' Guild.

Let me share with you an observation about getting older: There comes a time in every woman's life when she gets sick and tired of gifts. She's tired of giving them and she's especially tired of getting them. Usually, this happens when her closets, her attic, her basement, her spare bedroom, the coat closet, the living room, the dining room, the screen porch and the space beneath her bed have become clogged with the detritus of Christmas and birthdays past. Old issues



of *Life* magazine; clothes she last wore in the summer of 1972; miscellaneous shoes, photographs and cat toys litter her home. She wakes up in the middle of the night to pee and finds that she can't make it from the bedroom to the bathroom without tripping over a stack of *Reader's Digest* condensed

books. When this happens, somewhere, deep in her subconscious, a switch is flipped. It's called the "crap in the attic" switch. And so, the next Christmas or on her next birthday, she dutifully opens her gifts, takes a look inside the box and says something like "I'll never use this," or "I hate chocolate," or "Sweet Jesus, not another vanilla candle!" Then, she takes the offending present and hands it to the person sitting next to her — often, this is the very same person who gave her the gift — and she says, "Do you want this old thing? Because I sure as hell don't."

There's another switch directly related to "crap in the attic." In polite company, it's called re-gifting. In not-so-polite company, it's called, "Hey, why don't I give some of my crap to you?" And so, on Christmas or your birthday, you open up that gift from grandma and discover a vanilla candle, some half-eaten chocolates, some cheap safety goggles, a calendar painted by foot and mouth artists and a pair of thumb-cuffs. You gave her the candle and the chocolates, but where, oh where, did she get those damn thumb-cuffs?

That Grandma — she sure gets around.

www.anti-establishment.com

GLBT caucus established

Stonewall Democrats became the GLBT Caucus of the Washington State Democratic Party at the Washington State Democratic Central Committee Conference in Everett Sept. 16. Interim leaders were chosen. Final election of an executive board will take place Nov. 11 at the Democratic State Conference in Grays Harbor County.

The group helps GLBT activists get involved with local party organizations and is dedicated to increasing the number of GLBT Democrats in elected positions statewide. Stonewall Democrats work at the policy level to encourage the party to adopt GLBT-friendly positions on issues.

The Eastern Washington regional chapter is expected to begin meeting in January of 2006. The state's first regional chapter held its kick-off meeting Sunday, Sept. 25, on the Kitsap Peninsula, and a regional chapter in the Seattle area should get underway before the end of the year.

To learn more about Stonewall Democrats, to donate or join, go to <http://www.stonewalldemswa.org>.

Palouse Pride Primed

The Pride Foundation has awarded a \$1,043 grant to Palouse Pride 2006 to cover basic expenses for next summer's parade and festival, it was announced Oct. 19. Organizers plan to expand the route and parade features, adding everything from bands to floats to animals.

Foundation money will supplement fund-raising efforts already under discussion, said steering committee member Susan Rydeen of Garfield, Wash. Palouse Pride regards the gift as "seed money to grow things exponentially."

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Needs named, input sought

The Spokane County Ryan White CARE Consortium identified and examined strengths and challenges facing HIV/AIDS care providers and clients at a town hall-style public forum Sept. 29.

The meeting at the Empire Health and Education Building was the first of its kind. Surveys and other information-gathering protocols have been used in the past to assess community need. Among those in attendance were representatives of Community Health Association of Spokane (CHAS), Gilead Sciences, Spokane AIDS Network (SAN), the Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD) and other health and social services agencies. There were also a number of clients/consumers of existing HIV service agencies and some concerned citizens.

Dr. David Warren, associate director of medical affairs at Gilead Sciences, a pharmaceutical company, presented "Removing the toxicities from your regime and other success," an overview of HIV medications and how they have improved from many pills many times a day to just a couple of pills once a day.

Susan Sjoberg, program manager at SRHD, HIV/AIDS Program, gave a history of the Ryan White CARE Act passed in 1990. Susan Fabricant,

executive director of SAN, reviewed Title II funds and how they are distributed in Region I (Spokane).

Needs identified as funding priorities in 2003 were treatment adherence, case management, mental health, advocacy, emergency financial assistance, food program/supplements and transportation, all of which are funded by Ryan White CARE Title II funds, and drug reimbursement, substance abuse, outpatient medical care and oral health, which are not funded by Ryan White Title II funds, but are covered by other sources, including Medicaid and private insurance.

Forum participants identified gaps that still need to be addressed, among them housing assistance, volunteer services, changes in Medicare/Medicaid prescription coverage and confidentiality with regard to accessing services outside of the primary HIV service agencies.

To facilitate greater community input on needs and progress, the consortium will hold information-sharing meetings regularly. The next one is set for Thursday, Nov. 17, from 4 p.m.-6 p.m. in Rooms 310-311 at the Spokane Regional Health District, 1101 W. College Ave.

OUT! In the Middle of Nowhere

"Just as Andy Was"

by **Tim Anderson**

His name was Andy.

I'd lost track of him years ago, but to this day he remains one of the most memorable characters I've yet to meet. Sadly, I wasn't aware of Andy's "chronic illness," much less his passing – that is, until I received an unexpected newsletter from Trinity College (formerly Lutheran Bible Institute of Seattle) announcing his death.

Back in the early '80s, when Andy and I attended LBI, the place was the definition of sheltered. LBI attracted many types of students – Midwestern farm girls hoping to land a Lutheran Husband (hence the nickname The Lutheran Bridal Institute), future missionaries-in-training hoping to launch overseas ministries, or those men and more than a few women who felt called to use LBI as a stepping stone toward seminary.

Attending and graduating from this institution, I remember very well the struggle of being gay, Christian, and not exactly fitting into either community presented. LBI excelled at conservative, being very white and very Wonder Bread Norwegian. Yet at the same time, and no big surprise to anyone in the know, the college also attracted scores of closeted GLBTQs.

Our numbers in Christianity have always included the "a little sugar in their tank" church organists, the tough as nails lesbian missionaries and the wholesome worship directors who sing as heavenly in Rodeo Cut Wranglers as they do in breathlessly tight, low-cut, please, Size Six Sequins. But even after centuries of all these closeted Christians running around serving the good Lord, many Bible College students were not quite sure what to think about Andy.

Andy didn't seem to care. And that's the beautiful thing about his legacy. He refused to accept anyone's rejection or take anything said against him personally. As I struggled through a forced regimen of Homosexuals Anonymous, Reparative Therapy and closed-circuit supervision, Andy just turned up the volume on all he was, while never distancing himself from his faith.

I took great courage from him. I can still see his finger-snapping, cheek-pinching, bad-ass African-American self – this giant of a sweetheart who stood six feet tall, gyrating right out of chapel and right onto my lap with a huge flourish of the wrist. Here was a man who was fearless and fabulous as they come, bouncing into our lives whether Christianity was ready for him or not.

Now over 20 years later, as I slowly read through the college's tribute to Andy, written in the most supportive and



loving language, I recognize the totality of his impact.

Aside from reading between the lines about his long battle against that unnamed but familiar "chronic illness," I damn near fell out of my chair when I read further, learning via the alumni news that Andy never lost his most excellent groove!

And thank God that indeed for once a Christian Institution honestly celebrated a whole Christian's life rather than burying parts of it in unrecognizable code. I can only imagine all the surprised gasps as LBI alumni read through a plain-as-day account proclaiming to all of Christianity that Andy stood tallest in heels, could dance fiercer than fierce and had a certain knack and fondness for stunning drag performances. His life was the strongest testament – that he loved his friends and that he embraced his every breath as a whole and fiercely proud individual is unquestionable.

My hat is off to LBI/Trinity College and whoever on the Alumni Relations Staff had the balls to let Andy's family tell the whole uncensored story. Their words recognized exactly who Andy was, AS he was. Others will recognize and find comfort in his story. Reading their testament to Andy, his Christian family didn't just footnote his life in the midst of their grief. But rather they celebrated him – in the most brilliant, Just-As-I-Am style, proclaiming in the process that God never quit on Andy. And Andy never quit on God.

And who can't help but say Amen to that?

A writer, horseman, truck driver, and graduate of Seattle Pacific University and Lutheran Bible Institute of Seattle, Tim has been published in Guide, Frontier, Second Essence and Bend, Don't Shatter. He is also the president of the Gay Truckers Association. For more in-depth information about his bio, visit www.highmountainranch.com which won Website of the Year from www.roadstaronline.com.

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What people say.....

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"Bravo you guys! What a great film festival." Greg

"What a wonderful event. Can't wait until next year." Michele

National & International

News in a nutshell

'Ex-gay' ministry loses in attempt to avoid licensing

Memphis (AP) –A federal judge has refused to allow Love In Action ministry, which counsels gay clients to turn straight, to continue treating people who are mentally ill and require prescription medication.

http://www.washblade.com/thelatest/thelatest.cfm?blog_id=3107

New Hampshire panel rejects gay marriage

Concord (AP) –A state commission on same-sex unions dealt a series of defeats Monday [Oct 24] to proponents of gay marriage.

The panel voted to urge state lawmakers not to allow gays to marry, not to recognize out-of-state same-sex unions, and not to set up a domestic partner registry for couples who cannot legally marry.

<http://www.outinamerica.com/Home/news.asp?articleid=9993>

Walgreens attacked for Gay Games support

Chicago (365gay.com) –Walgreens is the latest company to come under fire by a conservative Christian group for its support of the 2006 Gay Games to be held in Chicago. **-Steph Smith**

<http://www.365gay.com/newscon05/10/101905chicGames.htm>

Phelps says he wishes terrorists would kill a million people

by Peter Moore

London (365Gay.com) Anti-gay preacher Fred Phelps says that gays are responsible for the hurricanes which have hit the South this year and for 9-11 and the terrorist attack in London.

He made the statements in a British television program broadcast Tuesday night [Oct. 25]. "The Sky Report" secretly filmed Phelps for a documentary on hate.

Fifty-two people died in this year's terrorist attacks on the London transit system.

"Oh I am so thankful that happened. My only regret is that they didn't kill about million of them. England deserves that kind of punishment, as does this country (America)," Phelps said in the broadcast.

continued on page 16

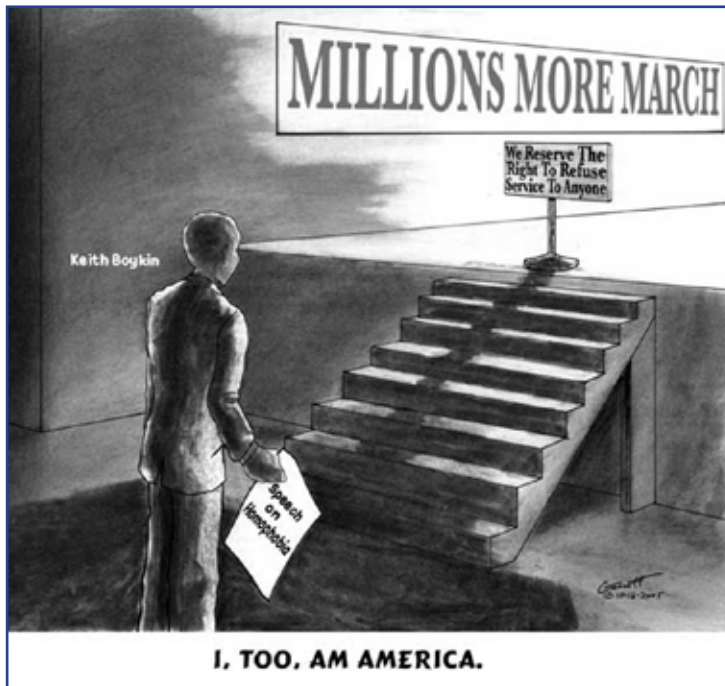
Boykin bounced from march

Just at the moment black gay activist Keith Boykin was walking up to the podium at this weekend's Millions More March in Washington [Oct. 16-17], he was told by the homophobic Reverend Willie Wilson that his invitation to speak had been rescinded. This

after eight months of discussion with march organizers Farrakhan and Wilson. Farrakhan had seemed agreeable to letting Boykin speak to the crowd about homophobia in the black community, but various accounts say Wilson, who had previously blamed black America's problems on lesbianism, simply went nuclear. When the time came to

actually let Boykin speak, Wilson personally turned him away from the stage.

...all of which probably gave Republican Party Southern strategists a little something to smile about over the weekend. **-Bruce Garret**



News in a nutshell

Festivities to celebrate openly gay black mayor

Los Angeles (OIA Newswire) –A gala dinner honoring Palm Springs Mayor Ron Oden, the first openly gay African-American to be elected mayor in America, will highlight a weekend of events hosted by Equality California in Palm Springs November 18-20.

<http://www.outinamerica.com/Home/news.asp?articleid=9982>

Klan to rally in support of Texas anti-gay marriage amendment

Austin (AP) –The Ku Klux Klan plans to rally in Austin to support the gay marriage amendment set for the Nov. 8 ballot.

http://www.expressgaynews.com/thelatest/thelatest.cfm?blog_id=3154

Poland elects homophobic president

Warsaw (365.com) Polish voters have elected Warsaw mayor Lech Kaczynski to be the country's new president. The win seals his ultra-conservative Law and Justice Party's control of both the Parliament and the presidency. **-Malcolm Thornberry**

<http://www.365gay.com/newscon05/10/102405poland.htm>

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“Family”

Youth focus: Three face the future

A hundred young people from all parts of the United States attended an HIV/AIDS conference in Colorado this past June. Three of them were from the Spokane area. They had never met. They had no idea when they arrived in Ft. Collins that they would encounter others from the Inland Northwest. Their connection then and the collaboration that followed led to their forming the Spokane host committee for the Campaign to End AIDS caravan project, which went through Spokane en route to the nation's capital last month.

Adam Cogswell, de facto leader of the C2EA local organizing group, is widely known to our GLBTQA community. Jill Gersh and Joe Lockridge may be less celebrated. The Stonewall salutes their hard work and high-minded efforts. We proudly offer our readership a brief glimpse at *THREE FACES OF THE FUTURE*.

Joe Lockridge, 24, grew up in Colfax, Wash. He came to Spokane to study at Spokane Falls Community College (A.A., liberal arts, 2002), then moved to Cheney, where he earned his bachelor's degree in social work at Eastern Washington University this year. He minored in aging and has worked at several senior care centers in Spokane. He currently serves on the shelter staff at Volunteers of America's Crosswalk in downtown Spokane.

A master's in social work would further his career ambitions, he acknowledges, but Lockridge is considering a different path for the short term. He is tentatively scheduled to begin a two and a half-year stint with the Peace Corps in Africa next May.

Asked about the successes or failures of the present leadership generation, he said, “I think there's a constant need to correct the errors from the previous generation. I'm sure we're [expletive deleted] as we speak, but we're using the best skill set we have to develop the community we live into something better. I think the biggest challenge we have as a generation, and future generations have, is changing the word 'I' to the word 'we.'”

Lockridge has been comfortable with his homosexuality from an early age. “I'm gay,” he says matter-of-factly. “So I automatically serve and support the GLBTQ community whether overtly or covertly and my actions, or lack of, reflect the responsiveness of this role.”

Jill Gersh, 22, a Spokane native, received her bachelor's degree in biology from the University of California, San Diego, in June. Her coursework, including a minor in social issues of health care, immersed her in the subject area of HIV/AIDS, the focus of her passion.

“We are the wealthiest nation in the world and we can't take care of our own citizens, and it's not science's fault anymore because in this country people can live with AIDS for 20 to 30 years!”

— Jill Gersh

The international pandemic so engages her that she is leaving in early January for an eight-month volunteer assignment in Zambia centered around



L to R: Joe Lockridge, Jill Gersh and Adam Cogswell

HIV/AIDS prevention and awareness education. “We have to fight a fight in this country, but we are lucky that we can even fight it,” she said. “In areas most affected like sub-Saharan Africa prevalence numbers are as high as one in four or one in five. That's catastrophic.”

Gersh can recite HIV/AIDS facts with the intense facility of a baseball fan sharing precious game statistics. Her perspective on the achievements or failures of the current leadership generation started again with HIV/AIDS: “I know many HIV researchers at the forefront. It's a very tricky disease, one of, if not the, biggest medical research challenges. They are working on it. ...

“You can't cut health care programs for your own people while financing a billion-dollar war overseas. It's not

just people living with AIDS but it's the entire U.S. health care system that is getting shafted. It's all of society's marginalized populations. I think the major problem is funding; it's the appropriate allocation of money which isn't being done.”

Gersh plans to apply to medical schools for next fall and hopes to someday work for an international medical agency such as Doctors Without Borders, the Elizabeth Glaser Foundation or the World Health Organization.

Adam Cogswell, 22, was born at Fairchild Air Force Base. He lived in Oldtown, Idaho, until the 10th grade, and has been in the Spokane area ever since. He recently transferred to Whitworth College, from which he expects to graduate in 2008.

“When I describe my goals for a double-major in opera and political science, I often get the response, ‘Well, that is an interesting combination. What are you going to be, a singing politician?’” and he replies that singing “keeps me sane, but ... I am passionate about doing my part to make the world a better place for oppressed groups of people, especially the LGBT community.”

Though he commends older people for their strong civil rights advocacy last century, he laments the apathy some have embraced to their detriment. Cogswell is anything but. A board member for Planned Parenthood of the Inland Northwest, GLBT affairs director for the Washington State Democrats and president of Whitworth Young Democrats, he also works in the equity department of Spokane School District 81 and is employed by the downtown Macy's.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

by Christopher Lawrence

In a Family Way

I can barely impart the warm mood I was in after attending First Friday OUT at ella's Supper Club and then going directly to the luxurious, if slightly tattered, Fox Theater, which is still in the process of being restored to its once magnificent stature in the Art Deco history of the 1930s.

When Julia Sweeney, a Spokane native, was young, she worked at the Fox Theater and obviously enjoyed the trip down "memory lane."

Watching Sweeney, who looks like an adorable 35-year-old version of Sandra Dee, in her one-woman show, I still have to ask: How can one woman have so many faces? In a breath or a heartbeat those beautiful features can become elastic, reminiscent of a female Jim Carrey, and suddenly you can see "Pat!" For those of you who don't know Ms. Sweeney's work, you may remember her from the character and ongoing segment she created on **"Saturday Night Live,"** known as "It's Pat!"

The humor was derived from the uncertainty and discomfort all of the surrounding characters experienced when they could determine neither the sexual identity nor the sexual orientation of Sweeney's sniffling, nasal-voiced, inappropriate and slightly icky "Pat." He or she understood little about personal boundaries, and so the fun escalated, leaving everyone else in each sketch frustrated while the audience howled.

The movie, based on this one-joke character was panned and fared poorly at the box office but, undeterred, Sweeney has continued to work successfully in a variety of entertainment arenas.

In a Family Way begins as she turned 41. It seems she suddenly realized that, although she had accomplished many goals in her life and things were going well for her professionally; she had absentmindedly "forgotten to have a family!" ...And the clock was ticking! This is not so uncommon for some of us in the gay community. There was plenty of "family" in the audience who could identify.

The dilemma for Sweeney was that she had never really found the right partner with whom to have a child. So what were her options? They become

vividly clear in the remainder of her performance. Relating the experiences of investigating fertility clinics and the trials as a single woman wanting to adopt, we were treated to a delightful tale of her endeavor to create the family she needs.

She will be making a new movie based on **In a Family Way** and I suspect it will have a superior reception from critics and fans alike. I hesitate to tell you too much for fear of ruining your satisfaction watching her personal story unfold with all its surprises and charming pathos.

The nuance and delightful distinctions she relates about this period of her life set her on par with many great

monologist performers in our rich history of theater.

Julia has many talents and voices. She is not only a comedienne in her own right, but also writes for **"Desperate Housewives"**

and her voice is heard regularly in such shows as **Stuart Little** and other animated features.

The show ended triumphantly with Julia's adorable new daughter, a little girl from China, coming onstage and enchanting us all. The little bundle of energy danced and bounced about the stage with giddy abandon – a warm testament that we each have the power to change the destiny of others in this world for the better.

The Mystery of Irma Vep



At Interplayers Theater, just two actors, Damon C. Mentzer and Christopher Bange, take on all the roles in **The Mystery of Irma**

continued on page 17

The Hand up Madame's Dress

Bawdy and risqué, Madame appeared at Northern Quest Casino on the arm of an outrageous friend. Also along for the trip were Sistah Girl, a transplant to Las Vegas from Brooklyn and Sister Mary Immaculata, who sounds decidedly like Tallulah Bankhead, as the not-so-holy nun and 'excommunicé' from the church, who refuses to leave.

Sistah Girl said she had heard, "Spokane's the town where young men are asked to kneel and face West." Clearly no subject was taboo in this bluer-than-usual show known as "Divas Gone Wild, Starring Jerry Halliday with a Tribute to Madame."

Sistah Girl sang a heartfelt version of Sly and the Family Stone's "Everyday People" to remind us that everyone deserves acceptance; boundaries of separation and prejudice hurt us all.

Halliday's fast and rather loose performers make it clear that they appreciate and support the GLBTQ members of the audience, teasing everyone with plenty of gay-themed humor. One audience member said, "I laughed so hard that my head hurt!"

I had lunch with Jerry the following day to learn a little more about his history. He was friends with Madame's original master, Waylon Flowers, for many years and was delighted to have obtained the rights to carry on with the Madame

legacy. He makes all of his own puppets and also has a harem of outrageous puppet-women that include Bette Davis, Mae West, Carol Channing, Tammy Faye, Kate Hepburn and Joan Rivers.

These are names bandied about at queer events for decades, not that I would EVER question the sexual orientation of any performer, based on their choice of

subject matter. Jerry admitted, however, that he has been happily partnered with his "wonderful husband" for seven years. They now reside in Las Vegas.

His offstage personality belies his Vegas performance style. It was interesting to learn of his

rather organic flower child beginnings, spiritual quests and evolution into one of America's most promising puppeteers.

Madame may be bringing him to the attention of the world, but there is far more lurking inside this self-described "hippy, psychedelic urchin" than meets the eye. I hope we get to see more of Jerry Haliday. Thanks to Northern Quest Casino for featuring him.



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Fair Lady Mops up at Civic

One of the true joys of musical theater is the feeling that I am in on an inside joke. In the middle of every scene the actors suddenly surge into song and leap about the stage with an appreciative earnestness that belies the world as we know it. The audience is privileged to soar along with them for a couple of hours in that alternate reality.

This production of **My Fair Lady** at the Civic Theatre was a fund-raiser for the Rainbow Regional Community Center. Although I was disappointed so few members of our community were there in support, the show was a definite hit for all who attended.

In general, the cast was quite good for community theater.

The ensemble, the chorus and especially the men's quartet (David Williams, Dave Liezen, Gavin Smith, and Nick Wittman) were so polished that, under the experienced direction of Troy Nickerson, they easily created the mood, style and feel that give this luxurious musical its lyrical charm and romance.

As Eliza, Kendra Kimball was the very picture of one of the world's favorite musical heroines. Her wonderful energy, beauty and focus nearly compensated for the slight, but noticeable, flaw of masking her vowels in the upper register. I yearned to hear uniform clarity in her voice, but when she sang an "ah," it always sounded more like a powerful but unleashed "oh."

Thomas Heppler's voice and performance were engaging in the role of Henry Higgins. What a pleasure to hear those famous lyrics being sung instead of spoken. Though clearly professional in his approach, Heppler occasionally lost his command of the stage and the overall scene domination required by his part in a number of scenes. His restless lower body movement and constantly shuffling feet became a distraction from his character's onstage intention.

Philip Atkins, as Freddy, nailed his solo singing with brevity beyond the usual characterization and managed to make the role less fey than usual. His performance was a standout and I look forward to hearing his powerful vocal talents again.

Wes Deitrick presented us with a fine Pickering, although his accent was a bit uneven, often pronouncing the word *your* with the distinctly Western sounding "yer."

David Gigler as Alfred P. Doolittle (Eliza's inebriated rascal father) was solid, bawdy and hilarious.

The Civic always seems to shine in the area of creative sets and authentic costumes. The small orchestra was enjoyable but often lagged in tempo and was a bit heavy on percussion.

If you have not seen the stage production of **My Fair Lady**, this one was energetic and charming. You missed a chance to soar with this cast for a couple of hours. Reality may be overrated.

After all, I find it is possible to be whisked to another world, have a great evening and still awaken the next morning without a hangover.

A & E
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Nun Falls, Gets up Again

Good, nearly clean fun was had by all the night I reviewed *Nunsense II* at CenterStage. The exception was 'Her Royal Highness, the Essence of Subtlety,' Kathie Doyle-Lipe, a favorite actress in Spokane theater. Not one person would have known that Kathie managed to crack a bone near her hip during one of the flips or cartwheels she performed during the Friday, Oct. 14 show. Troopers, every one, the actors managed to complete the evening before carting Kathie off to the hospital to learn the bad news.

"The show must go on" is a phrase that is drummed into the head, heart and soul of every performer and true to the cause, Troy Nickerson, the show's director who stands at least three feet taller, took her place for the remainder of the weekend and in true showbiz style, Kathie returned a few days later to complete the run in a wheelchair.

The series of *Nunsense* shows are not considered excellent musical theater, but these rowdy musical reviews are

a barrel of fun even though some of us non-Catholics miss a few of the jokes. These dames work hard and give the impression that they love to do what they do so well.

The audience participates by default since Mother Superior (Jean Hardie) takes control of them as determinedly as she does her slightly aberrant nuns: Sister



Top, L to R: Jean Hardie, Angela Snyder, Katie Sarah-Phillips, Karla Morrison, and Kathy Doyle-Lipe in the wheelchair

Mary Hubert (Kathie Doyle-Lipe), the spunky short one who covets the Mother Superior position; Sister Amnesia (Katie Sarah Phillips, the country music singer who has lost her memory; Sister Robert Anne (Angela M. Snyder of **SUDS** fame), the bus driver who likes to get a little rough; and Sister Leo (Karla Morrison), who dreams of being a ballerina for Jesus, all commit a comedy of errors that keeps the audience laughing, clapping and singing along while the nuns put on a variety show.

Each character has an individual moment in the spotlight and the ensemble works very well together. It speaks highly of their professional attitudes that they adapt so readily to any situation and even extra hours of re-blocking because... THE SHOW MUST GO ON!

Nunsense II runs each Thursday, Friday, and Saturday through Nov. 18.

Pride & Joy Movie Night

...is offered as an alternative social venue for the GLBTQA community on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Join us on Nov. 22 for the 6 p.m. Social at ella's *Supper Club* and the showing of **Conspiracy of Silence**, a timely film ripped from the headlines about the homophobic abuse and intrigue in the Catholic Church. Stonewall's review of it is available online at <http://www.stonewallnews.net>. Suppressed homoerotic fare with scenes that should put a fire in your belly. Attendees of **Pride & Joy Movie Night** are offered drink specials and a 25 percent discount on all food from ella's. Drawings for theater tickets and more. Join us. Without a doubt, CenterStage is "family"-friendly.

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REVIEWS & PREVIEWS

VIDEOS

Reviews by Christopher Lawrence

Mysterious Skin

Director, Greg Araki
TLA Releasing, 99 minutes

"The summer I was eight years old, five hours disappeared from my life. Five hours, lost, gone without a trace..."

This thoughtful, dark and intimate look at the damage that can be wrought upon a child's mind from sexual abuse shows two different yet intertwined results. Both are jarring and unsettling to watch.

Following the parallel stories of two boys who once played on the same Little League baseball team seems innocent enough, but after going their separate ways, it becomes clear that Brian Lackey (Brady Colbert) must unlock the secrets that haunt his mind, heart and soul. That unknown void lurking just out of reach in his past must be filled to quiet the demons that trouble him.

Years later, Brian searches for extraterrestrial meaning to his physical and emotional symptoms and begins to remember this mysterious boy who may hold the key to that devastating day.

Brian has become non-sexual, without understanding why, and is unconscious of his homoerotic orientation. When a strangely repressed young woman, who is infatuated with him, takes him to see a dead cow they believe it might be part of an extraterrestrial visit. An unforgettable scene is played out between the two of them and the animal that kindles the process of recovering those memories for which Brian has been searching.

Enter Neil McCormack, portrayed by Joseph Gordon Leavitt, whom you may recall as Tommy (the old man alien in a young boy's body) on the television series, **"3rd Planet from the Sun."**

Somehow they were connected to the missing chunk of time from that one dark rainy afternoon at Little League. The charismatic and remote Neil has become immersed in a world of sex for hire with older men, searching for that special feeling of being loved and important. He quietly utters to himself, "Ready?

Here we go" before every moment of importance. These light-hearted words soon turn chilling.

Neil oozes forbidden testosterone as much as Brian eschews any thought of sexuality. Neil is casual, almost callous about his homosexuality, but never finds the relationship he desires. Searching, careless of his safety, he turns to a world of dangerous habits on the streets of New York. There is a painfully beautiful scene in which he is asked to rub the back of one of his lonely customers who has KS lesions. Later Neil is eventually beaten bloody by one thuggish 'trick' he misjudges.

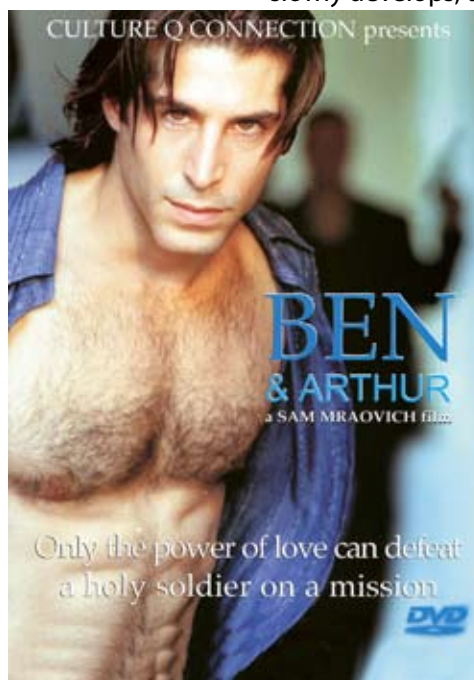
Returning home to his mother during

the holidays, he finally meets Brian, a decade after the incident that tied them together forever.

Leavitt is already an actor of great depth and flexibility. He handles this role as naturally as a hand in a glove. He has been likened to a young Keanu Reeves, but I must disagree. Leavitt has much deeper talent. We can expect more great performances from him and likely from Colbert as well.

The level of acting from all the characters is solid. I found the film to be evocative and disquieting. Some of the scenes are so erotic that they catch you off guard when you suddenly realize this is about abuse of children and the resulting damage it creates.

Director Greg Araki has given us an important film showing the complexity of the abuser and the abused. Well written with excellent direction and astonishing acting from the main characters, this film is a must-see. You can buy it, rent it, or see it at Pride & Joy Movie Night at CenterStage Theatre on Dec. 27 at 7:15.



The Man Who Copied

Director, Jorge Furtado
TLA Releasing, 123 minutes

An excellent film from Brazil in Portuguese with English subtitles that presents a charming portrayal of its culture and its people.

André, played by Lázaro Ramos, who has dropped out of high school because of cruelty from a few of his schoolmates, works at a stationery/bookstore running the photocopy machine and still lives with his mother. It may not sound all that promising, but as this sweet film slowly develops, the



story becomes more compelling.

He spends much of his free time drawing and reads the text and literature that he is paid to copy as he works. Amassing a partial knowledge on a wide variety of subjects, André begins to yearn for more. His talent for drawing is more than fair and most of his time is spent illustrating the world around him as he

sees it.

He buys himself binoculars to study people "up close" and spies a young woman named Silvia (Leandra Leal) about whom he begins to obsess. Too shy to approach her on the bus, he follows her to the clothing store where she works and pretends to want a robe as a gift for his mother so that he has a plausible excuse to talk with her.

Having no money to pay, he finally determines that with the right paper and the copy machine he operates he could make the money he needs and have another chance to see her. His character is amoral rather than immoral. Even though he watches Silvia with binoculars

and is willing to counterfeit cash, he does so out of his unself-conscious love-smitten need to meet and perhaps woo his heart's desire.

A friend and co-worker at the stationer, Marinés, introduces him to her friend who learns of his crime and leads André further down that slippery slope of dishonesty. Soon the police AND criminals are in pursuit of our clever heroes.

I so enjoyed this film in its innocence and good spirit. Most of it is winningly narrated in first person by the André character. Delightfully, the epilogue is a short narration by Silvia. I heartily recommend this film because it is unique, unassuming and memorable.

Ben & Arthur

Director, Sam Mraovich
Connection Q, 85 really long minutes

The actor on the cover is handsome, I will grant you that. The basic plot and premise of this movie is not that bad. It was meant to be an indictment of the Fundamentalist Christian attitude towards same-sex marriage.

However, the directing, acting, sets, dialogue and sound quality are all evenly consistent in that they are so poorly done. Labeling it as unprofessional hardly gives you an idea of what you are in for if you watch this movie.

As it began I thought: "OK, this is going to be bad and campy. It wasn't good enough to enjoy how bad it was.

Stay away from this stinker. Do not buy, rent, borrow or accidentally view this film.

GLBT Book Group

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

Upcoming reviews include:

Nov. 2: *Seahorse Year* by Stacey D'Erasmus

REVIEWS & PREVIEWS

MUSIC

Reviews by Graham Ames

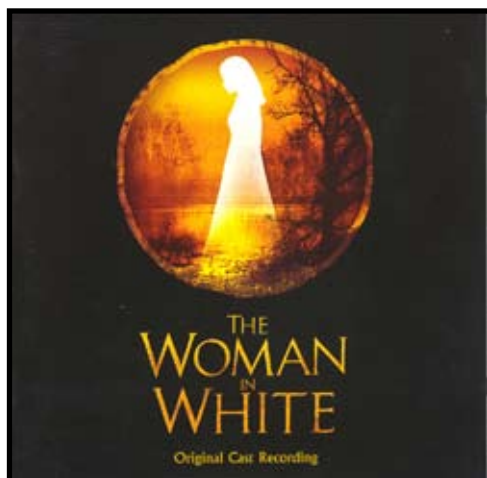
The Woman In White

Original Cast Recording

Really Useful Recordings / EMI Classics

Every Andrew Lloyd Webber musical has at least one amazing moment. In *The Woman In White*, this moment comes about 15 minutes into the second act, with "Evermore Without You," a song of love lost which will undoubtedly be remade by Celine Dion into a huge adult-oriented radio hit. But that's only one track out of the 24 on this two-disc set, which contains the entire show, including dialogue. It was recorded opening night at the live theater performance, with delicate editing and re-recording to remove audience noise. The result is an album which documents this melancholic Victorian story adaptation with remarkable life and energy.

This is not a show one falls into immediately, but after a few listens, it shows surprising depth, despite the usual Webber tricks of repeated melodies and some rather weak lyrics. Resembling a movie score in its scope and structure, with operatic moments of introspective arias, the score's melodies do stick in one's brain. But the story, "freely adapted" from the Wilkie Collins novel, is so bleak that it is not a musical compelling one to return again and again. However, there is that one stunning song, and that may make it all worth your while.



into the energy of "Kadia" and "Outro Mundo," this is an album easily inviting repeated listens. It's perfect in the background, or totally engaging when cranked up to 11. Break out of your typical music habits and pick up *Antigua*. Your ears won't be able to thank you enough.

Street Talk

Show / D.I.T.C artists

Lumberjack Records

Is there any rap or hip-hop music out there that isn't somehow insulting or degrading? Admittedly, I do not gravitate toward the genre, but I do appreciate quality musical efforts which lift up love and life for the listener. This collection of "red label" releases from artists on the DITC label (Fat Joe, Big L, Party Arty and others) has a few interesting loops and samples underscoring the rhymes. Beyond that, I find little of value.

Hip-

hop and rap is, naturally, all about the words. These tracks contain

album because on at least three tracks, homosexuality is mentioned in a pejorative context, usually as an accusation toward a woman who isn't interested in being the next notch on the rapper's bedpost.

If you like this kind of stuff, this might be a worthwhile album for your collection, but I have to pan it for its negative view of women and suggestions that being gay or lesbian is something to charge someone with, in order to manipulate them into (hetero) sexual submission.

the follow-up to their Daemon Records debut, *Rhapsody In T* (reviewed here 8/2004). The 13 tracks here bend gender, culture, politics and anything else into a queer-centric riff on life in today's America. These poetic missiles explode in the mind of the listener, igniting fires and sparking outrage and inspiration to act to make things better. Even here in the Inland Empire, these southern-flavored bits of genius resonate, making this a CD worth tracking down. To be released 11/29.

Rose Cuts The Cake

Athens Boys Choir

www.athensboyschoir.com

My first spoken-word artist was Steven Jesse Bernstein. His CD laid down intense stories reflecting



the drama playing out within his addled brain, recorded shortly before he

The Philosophy Tree

Ellie Lawson

Whatever It Takes Records/
Create Your Own Reality Records

Ellie's debut CD is a remarkable tour de force for someone who has no record contract. "Gotta Get Up From Here" was a huge featured download from iTunes™ and everything was set for her to be unleashed on the planet, and then her label yanked the album at the last minute and ... nothing! Ellie bought back the rights and struck a deal with Barnes & Noble to distribute the album, boosted by an enthusiastic Ellen DeGeneres. Thank goodness, because this genre-busting singer/songwriter has something special to share.

The very first impression is reminiscent of Alanis Morissette, only not quite as angry: the unusual use of melody and strange word emphasis, the layered sounds and exotic rhythms. As the album progresses, the sound becomes more organic, with lots of acoustic guitar and piano hiding among the drum machines and electronic loops. Headphones are

recommended to catch all the subtle production touches lurking in the corners. The most surprising moments out of these 12 tracks are the blending of hip-hop with guitar folk, as Ellie patters rapid-flowing verses with intense internal rhymes and unusual meter that had me sitting stunned at the sheer imagination and originality. I can't wait to hear what she does next.

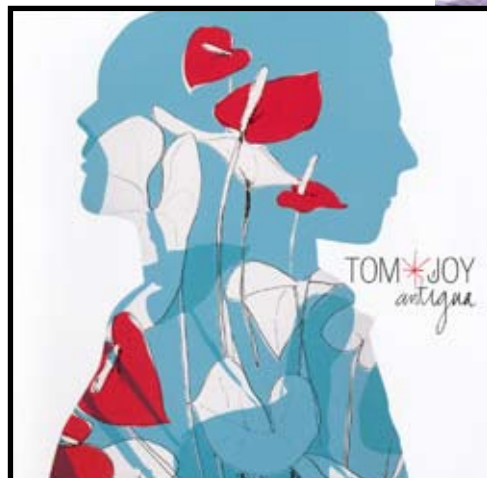
Antigua

Tom & Joy

Yellow Productions / Tommy Boy Records

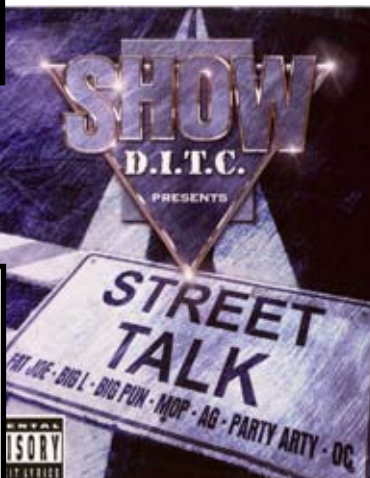
This is the third release from Yellow/Tommy Boy and thus far, is the gem of the lot. Mixing bossa nova, afrobeat and jazz into a tasty musical cocktail, it's the perfect remedy for the lengthening nights of approaching winter. Using the benefit of four languages (French, Portuguese, Spanish and English), this Parisian duo weaves 13 delirious tracks of various moods which evoke languid evenings sipping fruity drinks with paper umbrellas and dancing with friends and lovers.

From the gentle strings of "Meditation" through the driving rhythms of the title track to the retro jazz of "Broadway" and



the same glorification of drug dealing, pimping (the real kind, not making your car fancier), the same bragging about prison time or how many people have been shot, as is typically expected from the genre.

As a gay man, striving to live in harmony not only with the opposite gender but also with the community at large, I can't recommend this



the same negative images of women (referred to as "ho's" or worse),

committed suicide. Later came Spalding Gray, a beloved storyteller who could weave an enthralling tale out of brushing his teeth. Well, Athens Boys Choir is my new spoken-word act to rave about, and I'm hoping everyone will sit up and take notice.

Anyone who is a fan of HBO's Def Poetry Jam will love Athens Boys Choir. This former duo has become a solo act, but the passion and intensity hasn't died down at all. *Rose Cuts The Cake* is



Activists continued from page 1

Regarding marriage, he said bluntly, "We're not going to get it through the Legislature." He invited listeners to be open to the option of civil unions, a suggestion that generated lively discussion.

On civil unions versus marriage, Fran Dunaway of Equal Rights Washington observed, "The difference is that they're different."

Spokane AIDS Network board president Barrie Ryan asked Moeller if he was advising the audience to "accept less than equity," and the legislator said simply, "Yes."

Dunaway warned, "If we settle for civil unions this year, we won't even be at the bargaining table [for marriage] next year."

David Anderson, an activist from Moses Lake, wondered why all unions could not be civil unions, leaving the institution of marriage to the churches.

The Rev. Paul Rodkey, pastor of Spokane's Bethany Presbyterian Church and one of the panelists, questioned the church-state implications of marriage law as currently practiced in Washington and around much of the nation. Earlier he had spoken of marriage vows as "a civil rights, not a religious issue."

Panelist Genevieve Aguilar, the Seattle-based field director for the ACLU of Washington, examined language use in GLBTQ advocacy and community education. She asked conferees to differentiate between the



Above r: Rep. Ed Murray; below l: Jerry Hebert
Center: Reception at the Community Building.

gay rights movement and the long-fought battle for racial equality.

"The issue is access," she stated, referencing the present marriage debate. To win it, supporters must reframe the problem, saying "marriage" instead of "same-sex marriage" or "gay marriage." The latter terms feed the opposition argument that the GLBTQ community seeks "special rights."

"We're going to win. The only thing that will stand in our way is if we start yanking each other around."

—Rep. Ed Murray

Messaging gets confused when assumptions come into play. Word choice is particularly important around marriage, said

Moeller, who paraphrased Ronald Reagan: "Simple words are best. Old words are better." To get through to adversaries, "use the language they know."

What people want and need depends to some degree upon where they live. The morning panel addressed the circumstances of those who make their homes in rural areas. But even this was difficult for participants to view through the same lens. Several Seattle residents in the room admitted that they

consider Eastern Washington, Spokane included, as rural.

"Twenty to 30 years ago, when the issue was 'don't kill us,' it was really easy to be on the same page," said panelist Linda Henderson, OutKitsap board president. Issues have become more complex as populations have become more diverse, she noted.

Survival remains a major concern in small, rural communities, especially for youth. Said Hope Harris, program manager for OutKitsap's OK Youth in Bremerton, "They're afraid."

Helping young people feel safe requires more than a secure meeting place. GLBTQ adults need to model

openness and, whenever possible, portray the face of normalcy. Said Harris, neighbors must learn to see that "Gay people are real. We take out the trash."

Youth concerns were the focus of *The Education of Shelby Knox*, shown during the Saturday evening meal.

"I think we're going to see a huge, huge, huge example being set by this state for the rest of the country. It's going to be mind-boggling."

—Jerry Hebert

Odyssey Youth Center provided the documentary.

PFLAG of Spokane supplied the dinner. A member and Itron employee, Tim Bartley, arranged for the summit site when questions arose over access to facilities at Gonzaga University, the originally chosen site.

Kevan Gardner, Pride Foundation; Amy Herzfeld, Idaho Human Rights Education Center; Lucilene Lira, Western States Center; Vicki Austin and Kim Hoff, ERW; and Neil Beaver, staff assistant to 3rd District state Sen. Lisa Brown, facilitated workshops.

Jerry Hebert of the Washington State Human Rights Commission closed the summit, exhorting attendees to take the skills acquired over the weekend and apply them. "Write down on a little piece of paper a note to yourself, 'From this summit I am going to do just one thing.' ... Please, do that one thing because it'll make the difference."



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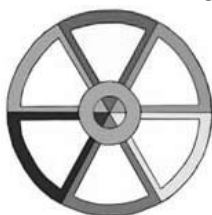
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Be Our Guest

The Path to Marriage Equality

by Brie Gyncild

It's a messy business, fighting for our rights. Our opponents are panicked, watching public opinion shift with the generations, and witnessing the greater acceptance of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals and families.

In their struggle to deny us full equality, the anti-gay crowd has had to get a bit creative. When the Vermont Supreme Court ordered the state's legislature to provide equal rights and responsibilities to same-sex couples, the legislature had two options: rewrite the marriage statutes to include same-sex couples or create a parallel, separate status for same-sex couples. Out of fear and ignorance, they opted to create a new bureaucracy that imitated marriage but that denied same-sex couples the dignity of the term. Civil unions did not placate the right, nor did they satisfy those who sought marriage equality. Legislators who voted for civil unions faced tight races and angry crowds. And couples who entered into civil unions faced legal uncertainties.

Politicians failed to learn from the Vermont experience, and instead latched onto the idea of civil unions. In theory, they could offer some legal protections without compromising the special status of heterosexual couples. But civil unions and domestic partnership are not enough, and they're certainly not the goal.

Here in Washington, we await a decision from our state Supreme Court on the constitutionality of the state's 1998 law barring same-sex couples from marriage. We hope the court will issue an opinion that immediately grants marriage rights to same-sex couples. But the court could find the 1998 law unconstitutional and, as the Vermont court did, direct the legislature to find a remedy.

If the court directs the legislature to provide the rights and responsibilities of marriage to same-sex couples, the legislature should pass a marriage bill.

However, we know that some legislators will propose a separate, lesser status for same-sex couples instead. As a community, we must make it clear to the legislature and to the public that the only way to end discrimination in marriage is to end discrimination in marriage.

Evan Wolfson, the Executive Director of Freedom to Marry (www.freedomtomarry.org), describes four reasons that full marriage is the only appropriate remedy:

1 - The word marriage is itself a protection. Throughout the world, everyone knows what marriage is. The word carries with it an understanding of a legitimate, respected and recognized relationship. No parallel status has such clarity or offers the same security.

2 - Marriage is a system, recognized from state to state and country to country. A marriage doesn't change name or meaning when you move across a border. Civil unions, domestic partnerships and other attempts to provide partial protection leave a patchwork of uncertainty.

3 - Though civil unions and domestic partnership provide some protection for some people on the journey toward fairness and inclusion, these gains have come about only because of the push for legal marriage. Civil unions are an interruption of the journey, potentially delaying full marriage rights for many years to come.

4 - Legislators don't win any friends with civil unions. Those who are opposed to LGBT rights are opposed to marriage and civil unions (and adoption rights and so on). Most of the anti-gay amendments we've seen in the past couple of years have not only sought to bar us from marriage, but to ensure that nothing like marriage is available to us.



We've seen great things in Massachusetts. After the Supreme Judicial Court granted marriage rights, anti-gay forces narrowly passed an amendment that would have banned marriage for same-sex couples in Massachusetts. In the 2004 elections, some of those who supported that amendment lost their seats to pro-equality candidates, but everyone who stood on the side of equality won re-election. When the amendment came up for its second vote this fall, it lost by a dramatic margin. Several legislators had changed their minds after witnessing firsthand that full marriage equality helped real families and hurt no one. Better yet, polls in Massachusetts show clearly that support for marriage equality continues to grow among the public.

Equal Rights Washington is committed to working for full marriage rights for all Washingtonians. Visit www.equalrightswashington.org to join us.

Brie Gyncild chairs the Board of Equal Rights Washington Education Fund. When she isn't advocating for GLBTQ issues, she writes on a wide range of topics from her home in Seattle.

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Phelps *continued from page 10*

"The Sky Report" included pictures, filmed undercover inside what the network said was "the church's fortified compound".

The program showed Phelps during a weekly service in which he denounced the Roman Catholic Church as the "biggest pedophile organization in the history of the world".

Phelps' organization, which calls itself the Westboro Baptist Church, has 150 members most of which are relatives of the outspoken pastor. The 'church' is not part of any organized denomination.

Phelps and his followers, who engage in anti-gay picketing around the country gained nationwide attention when it protested at the funeral of Matthew Shepard. Recently the group has targeted military funerals claiming that gays are responsible for the war in Iraq.

On Monday an Indiana state senator said he would propose legislation to prevent members of the Phelps' clan from demonstrating at military funerals. Members of the 'church' say they will take their anti-gay protests to Sweden later this year. In August, Phelps claimed that Sweden's King Carl Gustaf is gay.

Angry over a Swedish court ruling that a fundamentalist minister broke that country's hate speech law during a fiery speech against homosexuality, Phelps lashed out at the royal family.

Calling Sweden "a land of sodomy, bestiality, and incest", he went on to say: "The King looks like an anal-copulator, & his grinning kids look slutty & gay."

Stonewall has a new offering we call "Be Our Guest." We invite individuals and organizations representing GLBTQA-friendly interests to contribute to what we hope will be a rotating column addressing many topics from many perspectives. Contact Catherine at editor@stonewallnews.net

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Investiture planned

The Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane crowned Emperor 30 Mark Allen Surreal and Empress 34 Selena Surreal Blaque and Imperial Crown Prince 30 Gordon Winters Oct. 7. The investiture of the new reign is set for Saturday, Nov. 5, with lineup at 6 p.m., show at 7 p.m. Imperial Crown Princess 34 will be crowned as well.

The Court honored Emperors 29 Robert Surreal and LaDonna and Empress 33 Courtney, who ended their reign with a fun-filled weekend. Pageant Director Empress 16 Eunice Kennady Smith kept the program moving.

The Monarchs, College and Board have extended thanks to all who contributed to the event, including Steve Reichelt and Rob, Dennis and Gordon, Richard, Scott, Justice Rose and Lyndee, Ariel, Dino and Zach.

And to the Mirabeau Park Hotel staff and management for a warm welcome and excellent care. This will be the site of Coronation 2006.

Irma Vep *continued from page 10*

Vep, which features everything from a sympathetic werewolf to a vampire to an Egyptian princess brought to life when her tomb is opened. In this recently revived off-Broadway comedy the complications pile up as fast as the incredibly speedy character switches. This should be a great match for the combined talents of Damon, whom you may remember from the hilarious **Inspecting Carol** during the holidays last winter, and Christopher, another gifted physical comedy actor, under Niké Imoru's splendid direction. She uses her sense of timing with masterful finesse, honing her comedy to a razor-sharp edge much like the cleaver used in this amusing free-for-all. Don't expect propriety to be on anyone's mind during this marathon of quick changes.

Do expect a definitive send-up of every gothic melodramatic moment known on stage during the 19th and early 20th centuries. As Niké says, "...it's like taking all your favorite goofy moments from popular novels, movies and theater and rolling them into one play." If any three people can handle it, they can. I expect it to be rollicking good, mindless fun.

The Mystery of Irma Vep runs through Nov. 12, Wednesday through Saturday, and a Saturday Matinee. Call 455-7529 regarding tickets.

Visit our web site at www.stonewallnews.net for more News, Online Classifieds and Community Calendar.



Tell Trinity

Ending A Relationship So That No One Gets Killed

Hey Trinity,

My ex is mad, not because I dumped him but because I did it on the phone.

With my last breakup I just wrote a letter and that worked fine. Did I do something wrong?

Thanks, YBThere Maui, HI

Hey YBThere,

In no book, bible or contract is it written that you can dump someone like a wimp i.e. phone, letter, voicemail or post-it note. Ending a healthy relationship is like ripping a nursing baby from its mother's bosom, especially if you've been dating for over a month. In other words Sweetie, you **MUST** end it like a doctor telling someone they have cancer, by being present, gentle and ready for tears or anger. Pumpkin, next time do it in person please and close to their home so no one gets killed.

Love, Trinity

Dear Trinity,

I've been with my lover for almost a year and it's still one big drama after another. How can I stop the drama before it destroys our relationship?

Yours,
Less Drama
Hoboken, NJ

Dear Less Drama,

Unfortunately, some people are born with 'drama cells.' So either get him to meditate, do breathing exercises or spiritually accept that it's all taken care of, plus watch his sugar and coffee intake. A glass of wine with meals might help too. Lastly, let him know that his drama truly rules and ruins you, him, your relationship and world peace.

Kisses, Trin.

DATING DILEMMA #137

Dear Trinity,

I've been dating a girl who smokes (and smokes and smokes). It's been six months of avoiding her breath, clothes, hands and ashtrays. Help!

In Cigarette Hell Austin, TX

Dear Cigarette Hell,

Dating a smoker means being polite while suffocating. Even the outdoors promise no salvation. Sorry Honey but it may never go away until a) she quits smoking, b) you begin smoking c) you create some 'smoking rules' or d) you both quit the relationship. Until then it may always be, me, my date and her cigarette.

Love, Trinity



Hello Trinity,
I'm forty and dating a twenty-eight year old who is great but still dresses and lives like a student on a student budget. He needs a makeover. How do I tell him?

Makeover Mate Montreal, Canada

Hello Makeover Mate,

Many students even ten years after graduation don't realize dorm life is over. If you want this to work Pumpkin send him flowers with a copy of:

Trinity's Sensible Tips For What It's Time To Do By Your Twenty-Eighth Birthday

1. It's time to **MOVE OUT** of your family's house unless assisting an ailing relative!

2. It's time to replace those meals of french fries, chips, alcohol and cereals with the **'ADULT DIET'** of foods you have to cook.

3. It's time to rebuild your **WARDROBE** because those old clothes that made you look cool ten years ago now make you look unemployed!

4. It's time to fully accept the word **'HYGIENE'**, including daily showers, moisturizers, (unwanted) hair trimmings and twice a year dental cleanings.

5. It's time to start a **HEALTHY LIFESTYLE**, which means a) 'partying' only on special events and b) needing to 'prove' yourself only to people who love you.

6. It's time to **REFURNISH** and repaint. The milk crate cabinets, bed sheet curtains and torn posters never really worked anyway!

7. It's time to start an **EXERCISE PLAN** by getting a jogging partner, a gym membership, joining a sports team and counting your cholesterol.

8. It's time to start a **RELATIONSHIP** by actively looking to date, going on dates or finally marrying the guy or girl you've dated for the last eight years.

9. It's time to have a **SELF-SUSTAINING JOB**, pay your own bills and credit cards and be mature enough to know when to ask for help!

10. Lastly, it's time to **DECIDE** who you are. The days of hanging out with best friends at the pinball arcades are over!

Reverend Trinity has a master's 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, PO Box 1362, Provincetown, MA 02657-5362

Sponsored by PBG: the Provincetown Business Guild 800.637.8696 or www.ptown.org
www.telltrinity.com



Community Service Announcements

CenterStage Theater is searching for a board member from the GLBTQ community. If you or someone you know loves the arts and is willing to work hard to continue the fine work of this non-profit organization, please contact Tina Luerssen, Executive Director at 74-Stage.

ATTENTION GLBTQA nonprofits and other community oriented organizations: If you are

looking for volunteers, participants, financial backers or staff, please e-mail an announcement of your needs by the 20th of the month to Stonewall News Northwest at mail@stonewallnews.net.

Correspondents Wanted
Stonewall News Northwest is looking for correspondents to help us bring comprehensive news coverage to the GLBTQ Community we serve in Spokane and the Inland Northwest.

Call (509) 570-3750 or e-mail us at editor@stonewallnews.net. No pay, but lots of satisfaction and great resume enhancement!

Public Affairs Forum

Here is your chance to weigh in on the Jim West recall issue.

Stonewall will be facilitating a public forum on the matter during the month of November. Please see our website www.stonewallnews.net for date, time, place, and other details.

Send us your wins!

Stonewall is preparing a year-end collection of GLBTQA achievements. If you or your organization would like to see something featured in this report about the progress our community has made in Spokane, please call us at (509) 570-3750 or e-mail us at mail@stonewallnews.net by Nov. 15.

Please patronize our advertisers:
They bring the Stonewall to you!

Resource Directory

SPOKANE AREA

BiNet Spokane

A social support group for bisexual men and women.

Call: (509) 217-1271

Eastern Washington University SAFE Students' Alliance for Equality

Weekly meetings for students, faculty and staff.

Call: Kat Olson: (509) 359-4253

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

EMCC – Emmanuel Metropolitan Community Church

Christian church with an outreach to the GLBT community.

Call: (509) 838-0085

Web site: www.emmanuelmcc.com

Friends of SAN

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

Write: 1212 E. Front Ave.

Spokane, WA 99202

Gay/Lesbian Info Line

Call: (509) 489-2266

Immediate Crisis: (509) 838-4428

GLBT Book Group

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

Call: Julie Smith: (509) 838-0206

Gonzaga University GLBT Resource Center

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

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

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

Direct line: Bryce: 323-5847

Hospice of Spokane

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

Call: (509) 456-0438

ISCS –

Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane

Call: (509) 251-1242.

Web site: www.iscspokane.com

INBA –

Inland Northwest Business Alliance

A Professional GLBTQ/Allied Business Alliance. Guests are welcome to our monthly luncheon meetings, non-members are welcome to advertise in our annual community resource directory. Visit our website for information.

Write: PO Box 20163,

Spokane, WA 99204

Voice mail: 509-455-3699

E-mail: info@inbaspokane.org

Web site: www.inbaspokane.org

Inland Northwest Equality

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

Call: Krista Benson: 838-7870

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

Integrity

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

Call: Chuck: (509) 326-7707 or

Ann: (509) 624-6671

Landlord Tenant Information Hotline

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

Call: (509) 325-3037

MPOWERment

For gay and bisexual men 25 and up; a frank and open forum about sex, self, safety and socializing. For more information about upcoming meetings and events:

E-mail: mpower@san-nw.org

Northwest Fair Housing Alliance

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

Call: (509) 325-2665 or

(800)-200-3247

Odyssey Youth Center

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

Call: Laurel: (509) 325-3637

Outreach Center

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

Call: (509) 838-6859

OutSpokane

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

Web site: www.OutSpokane.com

Papillon

A social support group for the transgendered community.

Call: (509) 292-8852

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

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

Call: (509): 624-6671

Web site: www.pflagspokane.org

PJALS – Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane

Independent, membership organization building foundations for a just and non-violent world.

Call: (509) 838-7870

Planned Parenthood of Spokane & Whitman Counties

HIV antibody testing and counseling.

Call: Clinic for Appt.: (509) 326-2142

Administration: (509) 326-6292

Quest Youth Group

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

Call: Ryan: (509) 290-3519

Web site: www.QuestYouthGroup.org

Spokane-Kootenai Pride

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

Call: Spokane office: (509) 327-8377

Rainbow Regional Community Center

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

Call: (509) 489-1914

Web site: www.spokanerainbowcenter.org

SAN –

Spokane AIDS Network

Call: (509) 455-8993 or

1-888-353-2130

Web site: www.spokaneAIDSnetwork.org

Spokane County Domestic Violence Consortium

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

Call: (509) 487-6783

Spokane Falls Community College - The Alliance

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

Call: (509) 533-4507

Spokane Human Rights Commission

Call: Equity Office: (509) 625-6263

Spokane Regional Health District

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

Call: (509) 324-1542 or

1-800-456-3236

Web site: www.spokanecounty.org.health

Stonewall News Northwest

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

Call: (509) 456-8011

Fax: (509) 455-7013

Web site: www.stonewallnews.net

Spokane Gender Center

Resources and support for transgendered people.

Web site: www.gendercenter.com

Unitarian Universalist Church

Gay, lesbian resource committee.

Call: (509) 325-6383

Web site: www.uuchurchofspokane.org

Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery

Call: 535-3155

Web site: www.vanessabehan.org

Women and Friends

Women-only activities and events in the Spokane area.

Call: (509) 458-4709

Women's Cultural Exchange

Promoting arts and entertainment events by women, for women.

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

IDAHO

Idaho for Basic Rights

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

Call: (208) 343-7402

NIAC –

North Idaho AIDS Coalition

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

Call: (208) 665-1448

Web site: www.nicon.org/niac

North Idaho College

Gay-Straight Alliance

Email: BCHARDISON@icehouse.net

Panhandle Health District

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

• Kootenai County

Call: (208) 667-3481

• Boundary County

Call: (208) 267-5558

• Shoshone County

Call: (208) 786-7474

• Bonner County

Call: (208) 263-5159

• Benewah County

Call: (208) 245-4556

Web site: www2.stateid.us/phd1

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

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

Call: (208) 263-6699

LEWISTON/CLARKSTON

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

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

Call: (509) 758-6437

MOSES LAKE

AACW – Alternative Alliance of Central Washington

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

Write: P.O. Box 1282,

Moses Lake, WA 98837

PULLMAN/MOSCOW

Washington State University GLBA Program

Fun, fellowship and socializing.

Call: (509) 335-6428

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

Out There

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

Call: Melinda: (509) 335-6428

University of Idaho

Gay-Straight Alliance

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

Call: (208) 885-2691

TRI-CITIES

Benton-Franklin District Health Department

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

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

Confidential voice mail also.

River of Life

Metropolitan Community Church

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

Call: (509) 542-8860

Tri-Cities Chaplaincy / Tri-Cities CARES

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

Call: (509) 783-7416

WALLA WALLA

Blue Mountain Heart to Heart

AIDS prevention education, support and services.

Call: (509) 529-4744

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

Spanish: (509) 529-2174

PFLAG – Walla Walla Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays

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

Call: (509) 529-5320

Write: 527 E. Oak

Walla Walla, WA 99362-1248

E-mail: pflag_walla2wash@hotmail.com

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

Seventh-day Adventist Kinship

Call: (509) 525-0202

YAKIMA

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

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

Call: (509) 576-9625

Rainbow Cathedral Metropolitan Community Church

An MCC Seattle parish extension.

Call: (509) 457-6454

To have your group listed in this directory, e-mail your organization's information to Stonewall News Northwest at news@stonewallnews.net.

Weekly Calendar of Events

SUNDAYS
9 and 11 am: Worship services at UNITY CHURCH at 29th and Bernard.
Noon-1 pm: Counter Crisis meets at RAINBOW REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER
1-2 pm: Radical Cheerleaders meets at RAINBOW REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER
2-6 pm: RAINBOW REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER.
5 pm: EMMANUEL METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH worship service in sanctuary of Bethany Presbyterian Church, 301 S. Freya.

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.
5:30 pm: PEER TO PEER SUPPORT GROUP meets at Rainbow 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.)

Tuesday Nov 1

INWE (Inland Northwest Equality) meets at the Rainbow Center at 5:30 pm. All are welcome to attend.

Friday Nov 4

Quest Youth Group meets at River Park Square for Food & Flicks! at 6 pm. Open to all GLBTQ youth 18-25 and their allied friends.
The Legal Marriage Alliance meets at the Rainbow Center at 7 pm.
The **7th Annual Gay/Lesbian Film Festival** starts at 7 pm at Riverpoint Auditorium. Tickets available at the door. For more information visit www.spokanefilmfest.org.
ella's *Supper Club* hosts **Friday Night OUT** from 9:30-11 pm at CenterStage (3rd floor, 1017 W. First Ave.) Be Visible! Wear your rainbows and pink triangles.

Saturday Nov 5

The **7th Annual Gay/Lesbian Film Festival** continues with a matinee starting at 3 pm and films in the evening at 7 pm at Riverpoint Auditorium. Tickets available at the door. For more information visit www.spokanefilmfest.org.

Tuesday November 8

Election Day

Wednesday Nov 9

The Gay and Lesbian Book Group meets at Auntie's Bookstore at 7 pm.

Spokane's entertainment and meeting calendar for November

November 2005

Birthstone: Topaz

Flower: Chrysanthemum

Astrological Guide: Scorpio to the 21st; Sagittarius begins Nov. 22

Spokane's 7th Annual Gay/Lesbian Film Festival Schedule

Friday Evening, Nov. 4, 7 pm

Bikini, 7 minutes
An animated musical, *Bikini*, stars a young man, dolled up in his mother's yellow swim suit.

A Fish Almost Eaten By A Shark, 17 minutes
Two elderly ladies meet unexpectedly at a hairdressing salon and reawaken youthful memories of their shared past.

In My Father's Church, 49 minutes
A documentary about Charissa, a lesbian who wants a church wedding, but her father is the pastor.

Saturday Matinee, Nov. 5, 3 pm

Irene Williams, Queen of Lincoln Road, 23 minutes
Eric Smith's gem concerning a colorful old bird in homemade gauche-couture outfits and her adoring hag fag [a fag who has a hag] who films her over nine years, is as short and spirited as its four-foot-tall titular heroine.

Small Town Secrets, 7 minutes
A 1980s documentation of a woman's childhood raised by closeted gay parents in a small, Midwestern town.

Medo de que? (Afraid of What?), 8 minutes
From Brazil, this wordless film demonstrates that storytelling needs no words to portray our young protagonist, Marcelo, as he begins to perceive "strange" desires. Animated

Journey Of Love, 45 minutes
Local, aspiring filmmaker Frank Hays' second film; documents the relationship of locals Christopher and his partner Kevin Anthony who died of AIDS.

Saturday Evening, Nov. 5, 7 pm

Me, Myself, I, 3 minutes
A fascinating exploration of gender through imagery. A scene from the film

Hi, Maya
Documentary of a 17-year-old soccerplaying Latina making a video, "How to Start a Gay-Straight Alliance in Your High School," who runs smack into her principal.

Proteus Point, 16 minutes
In this stylish black and white short, Jason is torn between settling down with his girlfriend and fervently flirting with his desperately closeted roommate. He wants to take both of them camping with him at Proteus Point. But will they do it?

Cairo Calling, 8 minutes
Ahmed's tranquil life is thrown into a tailspin when his meddling mother from Egypt comes for a visit.

My Hustler Boyfriend, 4 minutes
Not for the prudish. A tale based on a poem by Ben McCoy of a transsexual and her pimp as they sell drugs, do sex work, and look fabulous. Presented entirely in stills.

Inclinations, 13 minutes
Aspiring young writer Mia strugglesto find the perfect plot for an erotic short story while a diverse group of unexpected characters encourage her to try some exotic explorations of her own.

We Are Dad, 68 minutes
Heartfelt documentary about two gay men in Florida who are foster parents to children with HIV/AIDS and other life-threatening illnesses, detailing their day-to-day struggles raising these special-needs children, as well as the issues they face in dealing with Florida's adoption laws and anti-gay bias.

Friday Nov 11

Veteran's Day

Blayne Bell in Concert at EMCC, 7 pm, Free Admission.

Saturday Nov 12

OWLS (Older Wiser Lesbians) meets at Old Country Buffet on N. Division from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm.
Integrity, an association of gay and lesbian Christians meets at St. Johns Cathedral at noon.
The Lion King Cast & Party hosted by OutSpokane at CenterStage Theater 11 pm-1am
Non cast & crew ? \$5 Donation

Sunday Nov 13

Dempseys hosts a "Chinese Style" 2-bit Auction to benefit Friends of SAN from 4-8 pm.

Tuesday Nov 15

PFLAG-Spokane (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) will hold its monthly meeting at Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane at 7 pm.

Thursday Nov 17

Ryan White CARE Community Meeting, 4 - 6 pm at Spokane Regional Health District, 1101 W College Avenue, Rooms 310-311.

Sunday Nov 20

The Spokane Lesbian Association meets at the Rainbow Center at 11 am for games, movies, activities and social time. Public is invited.

Tuesday Nov 22

CenterStage Theatre will feature (movie name) at its **Pride & Joy Movie Night**. Social at 6 pm, film at 7:15 pm. \$5, Quest and Odyssey members, \$3.

Thursday Nov 24

Thanksgiving

The 2nd annual **Friends of SAN's Community Thanksgiving Family Dinner** will be held at Dempseys at noon. Donations gladly accepted.

Thursday Dec 1

WORLD AIDS DAY

Saturday Dec 3

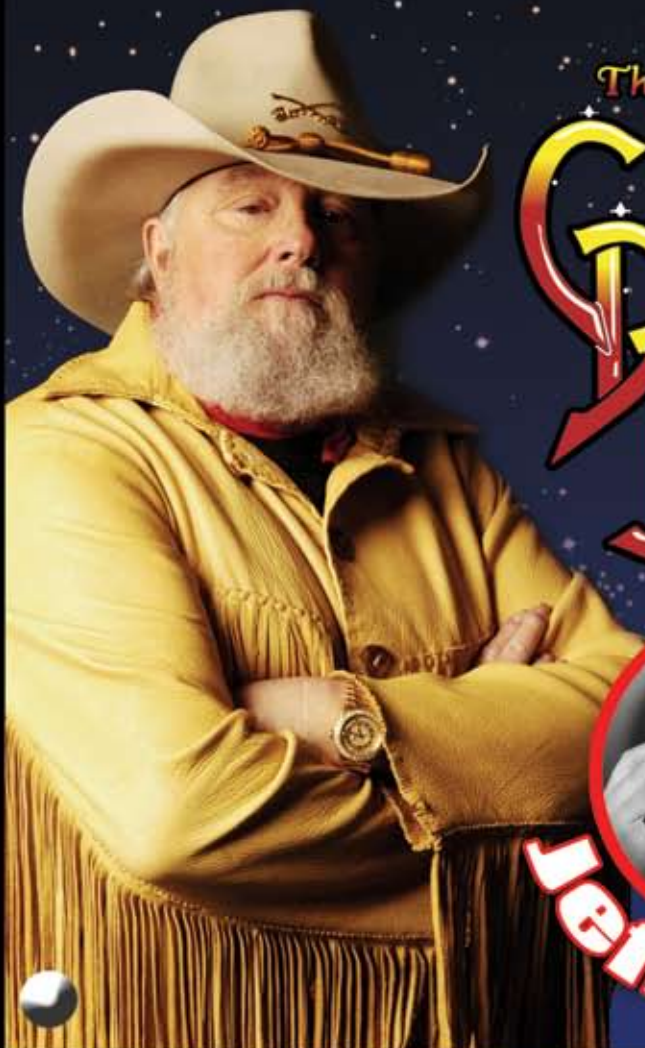
Spokane Jazz Orchestra presents their Holiday Concert at the Met, 8 pm.

We would love to include your organization's events in this Calendar!
Please visit the GLBTQA Calendar at www.stonewallnews.net to request your own name and password for posting events!

NORTHERN QUEST CASINO

Proudly Presents


TWO STEPPIN' INTO 2006



(COUNTRY)

The CHARLIE DANIELS BAND

(COMEDIAN)



Left Pirran



Pinocchio

November 5th 11:00AM
& November 6th 2:00PM

(FAMILY)



Crystal Gayle and Lee Greenwood

(COUNTRY)

November 12th 8:00PM



The Oak Ridge Boys

November 19th 8:00PM

(COUNTRY)



The Bacon Brothers

December 2nd 8:00PM

(ROCK 'N' ROLL)



A Christmas Carol

December 16, 17 & 18

(FAMILY)

SEE CAMAS CLUB FOR DETAILS

Play "It's on the House" and WIN!

NOVEMBER 1 - 30

YOUR RENT OR MORTGAGE PAID FOR ONE YEAR!



OVER \$30,000 TO BE GIVEN AWAY!



THE MILLION DOLLAR ULTIMATE FOOTBALL GAME!

YOU COULD WIN ONE MILLION DOLLARS INSTANTLY!

From September 5 through January 1

PLAY EVERYDAY!!!



FOOTBALL Frenzy!

\$30,000

\$750

GIVEN AWAY WEEKLY FOR MOST WINS & MOST LOSSES

September 5 through January 1

TICKETS FOR ALL ACTS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE NORTHERN QUEST CASINO BOX OFFICE, BY PHONE AT (509) 340 - 6700, OR CALL TICKETSWEST AT 325 - SEAT (7328). TICKETSWEST TICKETS ARE SUBJECT TO A SERVICE CHARGE.

All events are 18 years and older unless specified.



NORTHERN QUEST CASINO

A KALISPEL CASINO

WHERE THE FUN NEVER ENDS

CAMAS CLUB MEMBERS YOU COULD WIN

\$250

FOR ATTENDING ONE OF OUR SHOWS.