

What's Valentine's Day without a compelling love story? Three couples share theirs.

## At long last... anti-discrimination bill passes!

by Catherine D. Willis

Essentially two simple words... nearly 30 years in the making... It sounds like a promo for a potential Hollywood blockbuster, but it's merely background on the biggest GLBTQA-related news story out of Olympia in more than a generation.

The Anderson-Murray Anti-discrimination bill (HB 2661) was passed in both houses of the Washington State Legislature last month and signed into law Jan. 31 by Gov. Christine Gregoire.

Senate Majority Leader Lisa Brown, D-Spokane (3rd District) ushered the long-awaited measure through the historically reluctant legislative body, helped in large measure by a change of heart announced well ahead of the vote by state Sen. Bill Finkbeiner, R-Kirkland. He was the only Senate Republican to vote for the bill.

Two Democrats opposed the bill, as did all other GOP senators in attendance. The vote, taken Jan. 27, was 25-23. Spokane Valley's Bob McCaslin was excused from the vote; he was in Spokane for medical reasons.

HB 2661 adds sexual orientation to language in existing law governing the mandates and authority of the state's Human Rights Commission to investigate and redress claims of discrimi-

nation in employment, housing, public accommodations, credit, insurance and other financial services.

Protections against discrimination based on age, race, sex, creed, national origin, marital status and disabilities have been in place for years.

The first attempt to include sexual orientation in the nomenclature on protection was made in 1977. The state House has passed anti-discrimination measures many times in the interim only to see the bills languish in Senate committees or fail on the floor.

A vote on a similar bill in the Senate last session (HB 1515) failed to pass by a single vote.

The House approved HB 2661 by a vote of 60-37 on Jan. 20. It cleared a Senate committee on a vote of 7-3. The

*Continued on page 5*



Gov. Chris Gregoire, Sen. Lisa Brown, the Rev. Monica Corsaro and Rep. Ed Murray (insets) and Rabbi Jonathan Singer (below) addressed nearly 1,000 GLBTQA activists gathered on the Capitol steps for Equality Day, Jan. 23. Pictured holding '7' is Gerry Stinnett of Harrington with Tracy Sturchio of Chattaroy holding '3'.

Photos by Rob Chandler

## Crowd rallies for equality

by Rob Chandler

More than 1,000 gay rights supporters from across the state of Washington rallied Jan. 23 on the steps of the Capitol, calling for passage of a gay rights bill that finally became law Jan. 31 after nearly 30 years of failure in the state Legislature.

Many in the crowd wore red, along with red "I'm for Equality" buttons. Those who had attended morning workshops were told to "get the word out" and "be visible."

Many carried numbered signs signifying their legislative district. Nearly all of the state's 48 legislative districts were represented. Others carried placards that read "Equality for All of God's Children."

Following a performance by the Seattle Men's and Women's Choruses, under the direction of artistic director Dennis Coleman, the Rev. Monica Corsaro of the United Methodist Church in Seattle welcomed

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## Oops!... Forum to be held on Feb. 11

The Community Forum on Marriage Equality announced in these pages last month is indeed happening, but *not on the date reported* (editor's error). The event will actually take place Saturday, Feb. 11, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at CenterStage, 1017 W. First Ave., in downtown Spokane.

Rogers High School teacher Peter Perkins will moderate the program, as he did Stonewall's first forum in November.

See pages 2 and 22 for additional

information about the forum panel.

Each panelist will make an opening statement and then there will be an extended question-and-answer exchange among panelists and the audience.

The program is free and open to all voices. Civil discourse is expected; disruptive individuals or groups will be ejected. Stonewall reserves the right to refuse admission to anyone whose presence appears to pose a risk to program participants or attendees.

### Fridays are our Flag Day!



Show everyone that we are here and proud. Let's make a statement at least once a week.

Photo by Pat Devine



# STONEWALL

News Northwest

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# Voices

## Letter from the Editor

# A great week for the community!

Let me start this month's missive with a reminder about our upcoming Community Forum on Marriage Equality. **The correct date for the event is Saturday, Feb. 11.** We're expecting a good-sized turnout, so come early to get a premier seat.

If, as I recently wrote, everything is political, then a suitable corollary might be: **Local politics matter.** The Spokane GLBTQA community fought hard for the city's domestic partner benefits ordinance, passed in April and reaffirmed in September of 2005.

It matters to us who got the appointment to fill the recent vacancy on the City Council. GLBTQA leaders advocated for Judith Gilmore, the primary candidate many 3rd district residents hoped would challenge Nancy McLaughlin in the general election last November. I sat in on the interviews, which were open to the public, expecting to get some sense of the other three wannabes, about whom few in my circle of contacts had much information. Two hours later, I left the city council briefing room no better informed than I'd been when I entered. I wish I could report good news.

Gilmore's presentation was the most animated. Lewis Griffin, an Air Force retiree with strong public administration credentials and, I was told, GLBTQA-friendly sensibilities, would have been a good choice. I doubted that active duty Air National Guard leader Andrew Rathbun would get the nod because of the time constraints of his work. The last candidate – and the one chosen – was Robert Crow, a successful businessman with no political track record and limited community service history.

He spoke clearly, confidently. He carried himself knowingly. He had a ready, almost polished, answer to every question. I don't know if that means he got help with his homework, so to speak, or if he really is the smartest kid on the block. Now he is our newest City Councilman and, like him or not, we need to work with him. Truth is, we don't know him.

Perhaps we'll be pleasantly surprised, as many were Jan. 27, when, after 29 years, the Anderson-Murray Anti-discrimination bill (HB 2661) passed in the Senate giving GLBTs of Washington state protection in housing,

employment and financial service venues? What a thrill!

This event touched the hearts and minds of the Inland Northwest GLBTQA community like nothing I've seen in a long, long time. I sent out a batch of e-mails asking community members for reactions to the legislation, thinking I'd be happy with three or four comments, which would serve well as text graphics in the article I'd write about the bill's passing. I took my dog on a walk and returned an hour later to find a dozen notes, some quite lengthy, in my mailbox. Others arrived over the next day or two. See excerpts from many in the photo collage on page 5, with overruns on page 17.

Though I did not go to Olympia on Jan. 23, an activist reader from Harrington, Rob Chandler, made the journey west – and generously provided Stonewall News with photos and two write-ups on the Equality Day happenings. This, dear folks, is what I had in mind when I asked for your help in this space in December and January. See Chandler's contributions on page 1 and page 5.

I thought you'd to take me up on last month's offer to be a story subject, especially for Valentine's Day. After all, who doesn't like to hear a good "how we met" story? Alas, no one volunteered. I solicited all three of the tales offered in "Family," pages 8-9. The featured couples exemplify committed love in a way some of our more vocal opponents with their legalistic moral arguments would be well advised to emulate.

Sen. Brad Benson's absurd position on anti-discrimination merits comment here, but I am not ready to challenge him at this time. Instead, I want to use my remaining space to salute one of his fellow Republicans, the honorable – and I use the word deliberately, not ceremonially – Sen. Bill Finkbeiner.

I can't imagine how difficult it was for this politically savvy lawmaker to stand alone in front of that condemning chorus of mostly Republican naysayers, passionately articulating the cause of justice, of tolerance, of simple, heartfelt love.

Thank you, sir, for your courage. Should you suffer professional losses for your actions, know that your setbacks are temporary and temporal. History will know you as a leader of uncommon character.

Catherine D. Willis

## Letters

While getting dressed this morning listening to the morning news, I happened to hear something that made my blood run cold and boil at the same time. There is a minister in Washington proposing a boycott against Microsoft and Hewlett Packard because they support gay rights and a bill that has been introduced adding sexual orientation to the state's anti-discrimination law. I understand this language change has been unsuccessfully introduced on 30 prior occasions. Such legislation has failed on many occasions in Montana as well.

I'm mad as hell and I don't know where to turn for help. Will someone explain to me why being gay makes us bad neighbors and untrustworthy employees? Why is it that the world can't discriminate against us because of the things we outwardly represent (i.e., race, gender, etc.), but

it's OK to hate us for the things that are a) not of anyone's concern and b) unrelated to our work skills?

If they are going to legislate morality, let's legislate ALL morality. Having a little something on the side behind the wife's back? I'm so sorry but you'll have to be let go. Pregnant, not married? Please pack up your desk; the guard will see you out. Got a little drunk at the Christmas party and took your secretary to the Ramada Inn? Your severance package is ready; please don't make this any harder than necessary. Let's see how much the heteromajority likes it when we start nosing around in their back yards...

Todd Bartle  
Butte, Montana



# Brokeback speaks to the soul

by Jonathan Shuffield

We didn't buy tickets early. My best friend and I saw no need in a conservative town like Spokane. We were just happy it (**Brokeback Mountain**) was even here to see.

As we rounded the corner on a busy downtown street our resolve was shaken. There they stood, small in number but mighty in ignorance. A group of people huddled in the cold holding their swords of righteousness, picket signs reprimanding our existence as we drove by in shocked horror: "Real Men Love Jesus" and "Jesus Saves, Stop Sinning."

Why were we shocked at all? You would think with our experience we would be numb to it, but it will never cease to take us off guard, this blind ignorance, this blatant disrespect for fellow human beings. All I could think to say was, "I love Jesus and last I checked I was a man." We could not comprehend how one's sexuality could negate their spirituality.

We went back to the safe confines of Dana's apartment, where the world made much more sense to us. After collecting ourselves and adding Dana's partner, Jay, to our group we headed out again.

None of us knew what we should expect of the night or the movie. So much buzz and hype had surrounded it, so many promises and expectations we held. We arrived early, got our tickets without a hitch and headed into

the theater. We chose the very back row, mostly for Jay's comfort, but also a strategic position to view the people who might attend. We were among the first to arrive. I wondered how many might show. I wondered if all the hype I had personally given this film would be proven right or foolish. I wondered if I would cry.

One by one, moviegoers piled in, and kept piling in, a seemingly endless sea of people swelling before me. I loved watching them, people from all walks of life – gay and straight, married and single, loners and groups – they were all there. I felt a sense of pride seeing them all. I had taken some personal ownership in this film, as had many in the gay and lesbian community.

When the lights went down and the previews started, there was not a single seat left wanting. You could feel the impatience in the room as we waited for the film to begin. After what seemed like eternity, the music started and soon the words hit our awaiting eyes and I exhaled, as if I had waited my lifetime for this. **Brokeback Mountain** emblazoned across the screen and I was transfixed!

Having been someone who had talked so big about a movie I hadn't even seen, who spoke so passionately, I admit I held secret questionings in my heart. Would it live up to the short story? Would it live up to the hype? Could it actually transcend sexuality and be a movie souly (misspelling intentional) about love and its power? Is

it possible to create something that can transcend our learned prejudice in this society and touch even those who wouldn't normally see past the "gay cowboys?" I carried these concerns into the movie.

On the other side, as the credits began to roll and the music began its retreat, I had my answer. After the applause died down, many just sat, as I did, to collect ourselves, to reflect, to process, to stop the streaming of tears that could not be contained. Yes, this movie transcended. Yes, it reached beyond what I could have ever dreamed. It did what art is supposed to do: spoke to us in a language that only the soul can understand. It hit you on a level deeper than you knew you had. The filmmakers do not lie when their promotional poster says "Love is a force of nature."

If you have ever loved someone so much it hurts, you will understand this movie. If you have ever dreamed of that love, this movie will speak to you. If you have ever loved and lost, this is your story. Love knows no gender, only soul. This movie represents a testament to that love.

I urge you to see this film. Take your friends. This amazing movie will no doubt be honored at the Oscars. More important, this film has the ability to enlighten and change the way the world views gays and lesbians.

*Jonathan Shuffield lives in Wenatchee and has been very active in GLBTQ causes there and in Spokane. He is president of SHINE.*

## Thank you for doing the right thing!

Sen. Lisa Brown, D-3rd, and your brave colleagues in the Washington State Senate:

Sen. Jean Berkey, D-38th; Sen. Mark Doumit, D-19th; Sen. Tracey Eide, D-30th;  
Sen. Darlene Fairley, D-32nd; Sen. Bill Finkbeiner, R-45th;  
Sen. Rosa Franklin, D-29th; Sen. Karen Fraser, D-22nd;  
Sen. Mary-Margaret Haugen, D-10th; Sen. Ken Jacobsen, D-46th;  
Sen. Jim Kastama, D-25th; Sen. Karen Keiser, D-33rd; Sen. Adam Kline, D-37th;  
Sen. Jeanne Kohl-Welles, D-36th; Sen. Rosemary McAuliffe, D-1st;  
Sen. Erik Poulsen, D-34th; Sen. Margarita Prentice, D-11th;  
Sen. Craig Pridemore, D-49th; Sen. Marilyn Rasmussen, D-2nd;  
Sen. Debbie Regala, D-27th; Sen. Phil Rockefeller, D-23rd; Sen. Paull Shin, D-21st;  
Sen. Harriet Spanel, D-40th; Sen. Pat Thibaudeau, D-43rd;  
and Sen. Brian Weinstein, D-41st.

Members of the House who have so long supported our quest for Equal Rights:  
Representatives Sherry Appleton, Brian Blake, Maralyn Chase, Frank Chopp, Judy Clibborn, Eileen Cody, Steve Conway, Jeannie Darneille, Mary Lou Dickerson, Hans Dunshee, William Eickmeyer, Mark Ericks, Dennis Flannigan, Bill Fromhold, Bill Grant, Tami Green, Kathy Haigh, Shirley Hankins, Bob Hasegawa, Zack Hudgins, Sam Hunt, Ross Hunter, Fred Jarrett, Ruth Kagi, Phyllis Kenney, Lynn Kessler, Derek Kilmer, Steve Kirby, Patricia Lantz, Kelli Linville, John Lovick, John McCoy, Joe McDermott, Jim McIntire, Mark Miloscia, Jim Moeller, Dawn Morrell, Jeff Morris, Ed Murray, Al O'Brien, Timm Ormsby, Eric Pettigrew, Skip Priest, Dave Quall, Mary Helen Roberts, Sharon Tomiko Santos, Shay Schual-Berke, Mike Sells, Jan Shabro, Geoff Simpson, Helen Sommers, Larry Springer, Brian Sullivan, Pat Sullivan, Dean Takko, Rodney Tom, Dave Upthegrove, Deb Wallace, Maureen Walsh, Brendan Williams and Alex Wood.



Inland NW EQUALITY



## OPENING NIGHT

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DJ SAM

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# Spokane

## Odyssey Youth Center seeks funds to accommodate quick relocation

Odyssey Youth Center will move to a new facility at the end of March, Ramon Alvarez, executive director, announced at the end of January.

A relocation has been in the planning stages for months but will be fast-tracked because the organization recently received notice from its building landlord that the month-to-month lease agreement under which it has operated is being terminated March 31.

The center's board of directors determined last fall that their longtime location no longer met their needs. Increased youth participation and expanded programming render the facility inadequate.

Odyssey management had just begun searching for other suitable properties when Jennifer Helmuth, Kelly Lerner and Deborah McCandless approached them with a generous facility offer. Negotiations have been under way for several weeks and a decision is imminent regarding this new facility, Alvarez reported.

The new facility offers such amenities as easy access to bus transportation, walking distance to a city park, a diverse shopping area and neighborhood, as well as a building that has been completely updated within the last two years.

Odyssey's current facility has approximately 1,200 square feet of space; the new one will enable the center to grow to approximately 2,650 square feet.

"We are surrounded by commercial space and traffic in our present location," noted Alvarez. "This is a wonderful opportunity for Odyssey to position itself in a much more community-based location."

Helmuth, Lerner and McCandless have been strong supporters of Odyssey Youth Center. Deborah McCandless has previously served on Odyssey's board of directors. Their joint commitment of ongoing support will manifest as a 20 percent monthly rent discount over the course of a five-year lease. Additionally, they have pledged \$9,000 to be used for building enhancements. This additional pledge will be critical to changing the already commercially zoned building from residential to commercial use that will accommodate Odyssey's needs.

Total cost for renovations has been estimated at \$35,000 by a local contractor. With the commitment of approximately one third of the needed funds coming from Helmuth, Lerner and McCandless, Odyssey is working on a develop plan to secure the remaining \$21,000.

There will be a kickoff open house/fund-raiser at the youth center's current location, 1110 N. Washington St., on Saturday, Feb. 18, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Additional information about the new location will be available then.

"We cordially invite all community members to invest in our LGBT young people's future," said Alvarez.



Photo by Marvin Requindin

## Community elated by 2661 vote

Spokane's GLBTQA community had a hand in the passage of HB 2661 Jan. 27. Not only did individuals lobby legislators by e-mail, fax and phone, but some groups took part in organized phone-a-friend sessions to get local support on record even when legislators were unlikely to vote for the Anderson-Murray anti-discrimination bill.

Inland Northwest Equality, a program of the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane, held two nights of last-minute calling, led by coordinator Krista Benson.

After the historic vote, folks

gathered at the Rainbow Regional Community Center to celebrate the victory. Bonnie Aspen, RRCC board chair, hosted the party, assisted by INWE member and Stonewall News editor Catherine Willis.

Senate Majority Leader Lisa Brown, D-3rd, stopped by the RRCC to give and receive congratulations. Representatives of PFLAG, Odyssey Youth Center, Quest Youth Group, OutSpokane, Inland Northwest Business Alliance, Spokane AIDS Network, Pride Foundation, INWE and many other organizations attended.



INWE Matthew Inman, Krista Benson and Peter Perkins

INWE members did a telephone blitz for HB 2661 Jan. 25 and 26.

## Speaker series opens with examination of gay experience

by Jim Jones

Gonzaga University kicked off its "Catholicism for a New Millennium" speaker series Jan. 26 with "Homosexuality Today: Questiones Disputatae." The Rev. Tim Clancy, S.J., introduced the session, designed in part as a response to three discomfiting events in our community – anti-gay speakers on campus who drew some scathing press last fall, the Mayor West scandal and the ecclesiastical proclamation of Pope Benedict on gays and the priesthood.

The overall message of the panel was one of acceptance of sexual minorities and began with a brief history on the removal of homosexuality as a pathological disorder from the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM)*, psychology's bible. Gonzaga professor of psychology Patrick Mulick debunked many of the

statements made by Dr. John Diggs in a speech at GU Oct. 25. Mulick cited both political and scientific reasons for the removal.

Flawed survey practices resulted in the initial determination that homosexuality was a mental disorder. When surveys are conducted of psychologically healthy homosexuals as compared to psychologically healthy heterosexuals and adjusted for societal implications such as stress from discrimination, however, studies show no inherent psychological differences between homosexuals and heterosexuals, said Mulick.

Dr. Maria Hernandez Peck, a professor of sociology at Eastern Washington University presented on the challenges of everyday life for the GLBT population. She created her elective class at EWU in response to her own homopho-

bia and coming out process. While she does not immediately come out to her students, she does come out as the class progresses. Peck said she is troubled by the recent trend among parents to say to children who come out, "better dead than gay," and expressed thankfulness for organizations like the Odyssey Youth Center, which support youth in the coming out process.

A member of PFLAG, she addressed the mourning process and other issues faced by parents of gay and lesbians as their children come out. She called the transgender the most courageous of all sexual minorities.

"Who would choose such a difficult and emotional path?" she asked, agreeing with Mulick that orientation is not a choice. It is so difficult and traumatizing for people to come out, Peck added,

because "members of our nurturing system often reflect the negative views of society."

The Rev. Steve Lantry, S.J., thought long and prayed hard before accepting the invitation to join the panel. He decided to participate for the sole reason that he is a pastor (St. Leo's in Tacoma). "Pastors have to say something that is true and real. It is easy to say something political and it's extremely difficult to speak the truth with compassion."

Lantry's topic was spirituality and homosexuality. He observed, "People who call themselves Christian seem to forget Jesus' law that we are here to love God and love our neighbor as our self." Jesus dined with the rich, the politicians and the clergy, but he chose to hang out with those who were excluded from these meetings.



## EQUALITY DAY

*continued from page 1*

the assembly, and the Rev. David Strong intoned an opening prayer.

Washington Gov. Christine Gregoire spoke first. She said her biggest disappointment of the 2005 Legislative session was when the gay rights bill failed by just one vote. Gregoire said she expected the bill to pass this session, and she planned to return to the Capitol steps to sign the bill into law in a couple of weeks.

"We are on the brink of doing something truly remarkable," Gregoire said. "Finally, after far too many years, the state is going to take a stand to say that gay and lesbian individuals living in our great state have the right to be valued and considered to be as worthy as any other citizen."

Rep. Ed Murray, D-Seattle, sponsor of the gay rights bill, took the podium next. He had been the primary sponsor of the measure for 11 years and is one of four openly gay lawmakers in the Legislature.

"Our struggle for civil rights and for marriage equality has reached a historic moment," Murray said. "In the words of Winston Churchill, we will never, never, never, never give up."

Rep. Fred Jarrett, R-Mercer Island, one of six Republicans in the House who voted to support the measure, stepped forward, flanked by his lesbian daughter Catherine and her partner.

"I come from a party that got its start in the first great civil rights movement in this country over 150 years ago," Jarrett said. "I believe our party is still on the side of civil rights and I'm sorry that many of my colleagues do not share that [conviction]."

Senate Majority Leader Lisa Brown, D-Spokane, told the crowd she was proud Spokane voters turned back an effort to rescind civil rights for gays within the city.

"The people of my city upheld the ordinance," Brown said. "Equality is the law in Spokane."

Rabbi Jonathan Singer, Dr. Stephen Jones and the Rev. Jamal Rahman shared reflections on love and marriage in the Jewish, Christian and Muslim traditions, respectively. The three religious leaders said God made each of us different so that we can learn to get along. God wants us to learn how to love and accept each other for our uniqueness and diversity. If God had wanted us all to be the same, God could have created clones.

After a performances of "I Do," "How Could Anyone" and "Freedom Come" by the Seattle Men's and Women's Choruses, the rally ended with a closing prayer was led by Cantor David Serkin-Poole.

# HB 2661 is now law .. is marriage next?



**"I think it is loooong overdue. These are equal rights we are talking about, not special rights!"**

– Tiina Buckaloo  
PFLAG

**"It is a great day for the state... a great prelude for the anticipated ruling of the Supreme Court striking down DOMA, making same-sex marriage the law of the state. ...History is on the side of justice and greater inclusion."**

– Brad Read



**"...this bill helps restore my faith in America and its government as a whole."**

– Ryan Oelrich  
Executive director  
GYA/Quest Youth  
Group



**"Passage of this law moves GLBTQ youth one step closer to the day when their reality will match the noble ideal that 'All men ('Don't forget the ladies' - Abigail Adams) are created equal."**

– Peter L. Perkins  
GSA adviser, Odyssey facilitator



"I believe America is finally transitioning toward a true democratic society; gay and straight alike, we all contribute to the greater good of society."

– Donna M. LaJoie



**"Its passage means that the Democratic Party exemplifies what it means to be the Party of the People, all people. I personally am chagrined that there even needs be legislation to recognize fundamental rights previously afforded others."**

– Hugh Davis  
Activist, Spokane Co. Democrats

**"My heart is lighter knowing that we have leaders in the House and Senate that can see beyond the smoke screen the religious zealots fabricate with fear. Our leaders can clearly see that all Washingtonians deserve equal rights."**

– Tim Bartley  
GLBTQA activist

**"The passage of HB 2661 fills me with great jubilation, some sadness and steadfast optimism. I am jubilant that the elected officials in our state have proclaimed that fairness is in and discrimination is out. I am saddened that some will hide behind their internal homophobia and false witness to conduct a referendum campaign to repeal fairness for all. I am optimistic that we will prevail in a statewide campaign to preserve equality for all as the law of the State of Washington."**

– Dean Lynch  
Small business owner  
Chair, 3rd Legislative District  
Democrats

## HB 2661

*continued from page 1*

House passed the Senate's amended version 61-37 soon after the historic vote.

Washington joins sixteen states that have enacted anti-discrimination laws that include sexual orientation protections: California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont and Wisconsin.

Supporters cheered the hard-fought victory. "These important legal protections are the product of decades of work by thousands of Washingtonians committed to equal treatment for every citizen," said Fran Dunaway, executive director of Equal Rights Washington. "A broad-based coalition of religious organizations, large and small businesses, civil rights groups and concerned citizens pushed for this law and our elected representatives in Olympia have responded to the call."

Said Audrey Haberman, Pride Foundation's executive director, "This isn't just about those that have been actively discriminated against over the years, but the many-fold more who have lived in fear of discrimination without recourse from their co-workers, supervisors and landlords. Passage of HB 2661 finally lifts that unfair burden from the shoulders of LGBT people who have lived with it for too long. It is truly a great day."

### Inspiration came in many forms on Equality Day in Olympia.

**1** The Seattle Men's and Women's Choruses led by artistic director Dennis Coleman did it with vocal harmony.

**2** Rep. Fred Jarrett, R-Mercer Island, stood up for Lincoln-esque values with his lesbian daughter and her partner by his side.

**3** Several House members, including Rep. Ed Murray, D-Seattle, primary sponsor of HB 2661, were on hand; one of the state's four openly gay lawmakers, Murray has carried the banner for anti-discrimination legislation for the past 11 years, picking up where his colleague Cal Anderson, who introduced the first such bill 29 years ago, left off.

**4** The program ended with a benediction and John Lellelid's blowing of the shofar.

**5** Equal Rights Washington and the Religious Coalition for Equality sponsored the gathering on the Capitol steps.



# Regional

## No Rest for the Wicked

### Uncluttering Granny's life

by Joan Opyr

*It's time to put the cat in the bathtub. Not literally. I wouldn't wash a cat unless I had a tranquilizer gun and full body armor. No, I'm speaking euphemistically. My grandmother just turned 84. She is no longer fit to live on her own, but she doesn't believe this. She believes she's fine and dandy. She's lived on her own since 1983. Her neighborhood has grown derelict and dangerous, but it's going to take dynamite to shift her out. My grandmother isn't just stubborn – she's the old lady equivalent of a 20-mule team. She kicks, she bites and she hee-haws us lesser mortals until we throw up our arms in despair. We know she's not safe. We know she needs to move. We just can't stand the yelling. Imagine a five-year old with her own house and a checking account and you've got my grandmother.*

This past Sunday, things came to a head. A couple of crackheads tried to break into her house. My grandmother saw them; in fact, she spoke with them. A man and a woman appeared on her porch and told her that Jesus had sent them to see her.



"Jesus will have to wait," said my grandmother. "I'm on my way to church." A damn good answer, I think, and one that might come in handy when dealing with pesky Jehovah's Witnesses, but when my grandmother came back home, she discovered that someone had tried to knock in one of her back windows.

It was with great reluctance and a lot of pushing that she finally agreed to call the police, but when they arrived, she declined to file a formal complaint. "What good would it do?" she asked. "Probably none," they replied. And that was that.

My grandmother is an old lady living in an old lady neighborhood. Most of the houses are derelict and those that aren't occupied by elderly widows are rented cheaply to students and hotheads. A few gay male couples have recently appeared on the fringes but gentrification is at least a decade away. My grandmother has been preyed upon by a number of obvious con artists – the door-to-door repairmen who claimed to have noticed from the road that her roof had a leak, the men who stopped to ask if she had any antiques she wanted to sell, a couple of guys with a truck full of "left-over asphalt" who offered to pave her driveway – the usual assortment of liars, cheats and scoundrels. My grandmother is a product of her culture, the South and her generation, World War II. In her book, a man, any man, knows more than any woman. My grandmother still wears her girdle and bats her eyelashes and often she just gets took.

I grew up in the 1970s. I grew up believing that sisterhood was powerful.

I bat balls, not my eyelashes, and this battle with my grandmother is one I must win. Her house is a disaster – faulty plumbing, a smoking fuse box and a terrifying assortment of broken kitchen appliances on which she has stacked an electric tea kettle, a toaster oven and a microwave.

And then there's the living room. Stacks of *Life* magazine dating back to the Kennedy assassination litter the four corners. We've tried to throw them away, but my grandmother insists that they're valuable – just like the Avon collector perfume bottles and the "Gone With The Wind" plates from the Franklin Mint. (God Almighty, hear my prayer. If we must have earthquakes, why make the epicenter some poor country like Turkey or Afghanistan? Why not the Franklin Mint?)

Honestly, how do old ladies do it? Forget about cold fusion; my grandmother could fit the Smithsonian into a mayonnaise jar. In a space that's roughly 12 by 14, my grandmother has managed to squeeze two sofas, a rocking chair, a six-foot oak desk, four bookcases, a fake fireplace, a formal dining room table with six chairs, and three Wurlitzer organs, none of which work.

My grandmother doesn't know it yet, but I'm flying back to North Carolina next month to move her lock, stock and Wurlitzer, into a nice, safe, one-bedroom apartment. I was going to rent a dump truck, but instead I've rented a Mustang. Why? Because the less space Granny has to stuff, the better. Also, I expect I'll need to take frequent high-speed mental health breaks. Wish me luck.

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

### Give 'em hell, Gerry: Constituents meet their legislators in Olympia

by Rob Chandler

My partner Gerry Stinnett and I live in Harrington, a rural community of just 409 people, some 13 miles south of Davenport, the Lincoln County seat. The county has traditionally been a conservative Republican stronghold. More than 65 percent of county voters chose Bush in 2004.

Yet we know many closeted gays and lesbians in the county, many happily "married" and some living "double lives."

Having sent many e-mails to our state legislators about gay rights, all but one without response, we decided to go to Olympia for Equality Day, to attend a morning workshop and meet our District 7 lawmakers in person.

The 7th Legislative District is a huge area that includes Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Stevens and Ferry counties, along with parts of Spokane and Okanogan counties. The district includes such diverse communities as Airway Heights, Deer Park, Newport, Metaline Falls, Colville, Republic, Oroville, Omak, Davenport and Sprague.

Workshop handouts explained how we were to engage legislators in dialogue. We could say something like, "As a person who believes that discrimination is wrong, I am disappointed that you were not able to vote in favor of HB 2661. Could you describe a little about what led you to vote against HB 2661?"

The goal was not to change the opinion of a House member or to get into an argument or debate. We hoped House members would explain their positions so there might later be dialogue about marriage equality, a subject even more difficult for those against HB 2661.

The prospect of meeting our state legislators was a bit overwhelming.

We arrived at the offices of Rep. Joel Kretz, R-Republic, not actually

expecting to see him. We assumed a legislative assistant would intervene.

When we announced we were constituents from Harrington, however, we were immediately escorted into his office. We were surprised.

We told Kretz we had been at the Equality Day rally, that we knew he had voted against HB 2661. We wanted him to know that this was important legislation for us; we had faced employment discrimination based on our sexuality.

We described how harassment on the job starts when an employer surmises you are gay.

Kretz applauded our efforts. He said he had never met anyone who had faced employment discrimination based on sexuality. He said he had heard HB 2661 was likely to pass. He wished us the best.

After some three or four minutes, his legislative assistant ended the meeting; Kretz was scheduled for a committee hearing, we were told.

We were pleased with the encounter. While Kretz might not vote our way, we sensed he would at least remember us when voting on these issues in the future.

Our experience with Rep. Bob Sump, R-Republic, was different. When we announced we were constituents, we were escorted into his office.

We repeated our presentation, but Sump was totally disinterested. He said he would be totally honest; he was against any more rights for gays. When I asked if he would vote against discrimination, he announced that there were bigger issues at stake. He said it is a fallacy to believe there is any "separation of church and state." We objected, and we ended the meeting "agreeing to disagree."

*Continued on page 9*



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## OUT! In the Middle of Nowhere

# Gays aren't one-size-fits-all

by Tim Anderson

Last October, gay pundit and conservative commentator Andrew Sullivan penned a thought-provoking commentary for the *New Republic* exploring the end of gay culture. While his view that "there is no single gay identity anymore, let alone a single look or style or culture" reflects the breadth of our community's diversity, his essay predicts a reality many national gay leaders are quite hesitant to embrace.

This Sullivan states "what encompasses gay culture itself will expand into such a diverse set of subcultures that 'gayness' alone will cease to tell you very much about any individual." He argues many gays see their sexual orientation as an attribute of their personality, not defining their identity. Translating these cultural trends, Sullivan predicts a "good news-bad news" scenario confronting community leaders.

First, sexual orientation is rapidly becoming a non-issue with most Americans.

Second, the achievement of this hard-won acceptance, what we've been fighting for all along, threatens many entrenched, national gay power brokers. As society marches toward fuller acceptance, many in our community have realized that the best bang for the buck is better spent closer to home.

Enter local upstart, the Pride Foundation. Several Fortune 500 Companies improved their corporate policies toward gay folks as a direct result of Pride Foundation lobbying. Their largest success, Wal\*Mart, is the biggest corporate player on the planet, headquartered in Red-State America's Arkansas.

As Old Guard activists engage in knock-down arguments about the dangers of assimilation and preserving "gay culture," the rest of fly-over America is already assimilating. They've rejected much of the polarizing and politicized rhetoric of our national community leaders. "Gay culture" itself – whatever that is, is undergoing huge demographic change. Former political assumptions are no longer valid. Power is shifting.

Take the 2004 Presidential election – an election where exit polls showed 25 percent of the gay vote went to a Republican President Bush. One in four gay folks completely ignored the endorsement (or lack there of) of nearly every gay organization that weighed in on the election. Had President Bush not been so vocal in his opposition to gay marriage, the number of gay votes Bush received would have been even greater.

Even in recognizable gay neighborhoods, such as Seattle's Capital Hill, gay folk aren't as concentrated and cohesive as they once were. Repeating this trend nationwide, other gay neighborhoods succumbed to escalating property values, straight gentrification and gay-flight



to the suburbs and/or rural areas. Gay bookstores, restaurants and bars have gone out of business as the population base that sustained them is diluted. Aside from their yearly pride celebrations, these neighborhoods are now nearly indistinguishable from other local neighborhoods.

The rise of the Internet is further reducing coastal relevancy. Red-State Gays claim the largest gay rodeos, drag conventions and gay resorts. We've also dug in for the long haul in places like Butte, Mont., Birmingham, Ala., and Omaha, Neb. Do a fly-over on [gay.com](http://gay.com). Jump into any number of Red-State chat rooms. One discovers that the gay community is as active and present in fly-over America as on the coasts.

In some quarters, this is a traitorous statement. A decade ago, when former Sandpoint resident David Knutsen launched [www.ruralgay.com](http://www.ruralgay.com), he caught both the straight and gay press off guard. Journalists across America voiced surprise, "Not every gay person wanted to live in the Castro?"

When the award-winning movie *Big Eden* came out, even the movie's urban-based production team expressed skepticism that their movie reflected current social possibilities. Now with critically acclaimed movies like *Brokeback Mountain* and *Transamerica* offering new views of diversity, the same questions are posed again.

The gay press still remains openly dismissive of Gay Red-State America. Focused on urban fashion, entertainment and the national political scene, our illuminati can't imagine why anyone would consider living in planet Red State. Often they are actively dismissive of the gay folk that do.

Yet as Sullivan correctly points out, and *The Advocate* seemed to recognize in their selection of their 2005 person of the year, significant advances in social change – the very back-breaking legwork so quickly propelling us forward, are actually best accomplished by ordinary people living ordinary lives. Even way OUT there in fly-over country.

*A writer, horseman, truck driver, and graduate of Seattle Pacific University and Lutheran Bible Institute of Seattle, Tim is the president of the Gay Truckers Association. For more in-depth information about him, visit [www.highmountainranch.com](http://www.highmountainranch.com), which won Web site of the Year from [www.roadstaronline.com](http://www.roadstaronline.com).*

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# “Family”

## ‘Crazy mad in love with each other’: a Valentine’s tale

“We had an instant connection,” recalled Diane Lantz, describing her initial encounter with Marge Ballack, whom she met on her part-time job as a delivery person at The Spokesman-Review in 1978. “I didn’t know exactly what it meant, but it was pretty intense.”

Ballack echoed the sentiment, noting, “I was in a relationship but, when I saw her, I don’t know what it was, but I just wafted over to her. I floated through the air.”

Despite the chemistry, the two did not immediately bond. Lantz was married with two children. She’d been struggling with questions of sexual orientation for a number of years but didn’t want to do anything that would hurt her kids.

Ballack moved on to a different delivery job four days after their meeting—and spent the better part of the next year and a half trying to make contact with Lantz. “I literally drove her off the road whenever I could,” she laughed. “She was like an obsession for me. She really was.”

Because both were in the delivery business, they often saw each other on the road. Sometimes they’d stop their vehicles in the middle of the road to talk, sometimes they’d pull into a parking lot.

Finally, around the Fourth of July, they went to buy fireworks together, and Ballack stopped by Lantz’s house as the Independence Day celebration was winding down. They got an opportunity to talk without Lantz’s husband, or anybody else, being around.

As their friendship blossomed, Ballack moved out of the home she’d shared with another woman for a couple of years. “I didn’t want to cheat on her,” she explained. “And I wanted to be available if she [Lantz] had any sort of inclination that she wanted to be with me.”

Lantz started divorce proceedings, which brought new problems. To safeguard her child custody rights, her attorney, with whom she’d been forthright about her newly proclaimed lesbian status, advised against her seeing Ballack anywhere outside of public places. So they went to parks and malls and grocery stores.

“We ate a lot of fast food,” Lantz remembered, and Ballack added, “We gained a lot of weight that year.”

The kids got to know her during this time. In fact, Ballack’s first invitation to move in with the family came not from Lantz herself but from her 11-year-old



daughter, who told Ballack, “I’ve never seen my mom this happy.”

A year later, Lantz’s mother made a similar observation. “I don’t know if I agree with this lifestyle or not, but I have to tell you, you’re so much nicer to be around. You’re actually happy. So, it’s working for me, it’s OK with me—because of the change it’s made in you.”

Lantz’s son John, now a devout Mormon, “is OK with us,” said Lantz. “He was raised by us and he knows better.”

The couple hit what they called “the bump in the road” in the mid-1980s, separating for about three months.

Ballack dated someone else during this hiatus. “I would tell her almost every day, ‘When Diane and I get back together, I’m going to...’”

But it took the bluntness of an elderly friend to get them back on track. “What is wrong with you two?” the retired doctor demanded. “You’ve been together for so long. You deserve each other. You need to be a couple.”

Said Ballack, “I walked up behind her [Lantz], put my arms around her, and that was it.

We were back together. We’ve been together ever since.”

They were married in Nelson, British Columbia, July 21, 2003. That ceremony happened at the urging of friends in Canada who knew Ballack from her work in the kitchen cabinetry field (she made the switch from delivery services to cabinets after earning her associate’s degree in interior design at Spokane Falls Community College in the 1980s, and currently owns her own business, Ballantz Kitchen Design).

The wedding was held in the backyard of the officiating commissioner’s house. There was one hitch: Ballack couldn’t get the ring on Lantz’s slightly swollen finger when the moment

arrived for her to place it on her beloved’s hand. Onlookers thought she was kissing the hand when in truth she was licking the offending joint, trying to ease the ring on. The effort failed; the two just pretended the ring was properly placed.

Their union is legally recognized in Canada but has no standing in the United States. Ballack and Lantz are participants in the combined lawsuit challenging Washington’s

Defense of Marriage Act, a case argued before the state Supreme Court last March. They plan to be among the first to get a marriage license here if the high court finds DOMA unconstitutional and opens the door to legal marriage in Washington.

Together for more than 25 years (September will mark the 28th anniversary of their meeting), the couple boasts six grandchildren, several of whom have had fitful exchanges with Sunday school teachers who tried to dissuade them from including Ballack on their “family tree” projects. “Marge belongs with Grandma,” one child insisted.

Ballack and Lantz heartily agree.

**What it means to be gay is not to be heterosexual. That’s it in a nutshell. We do everything exactly like them. Our lives are ...exactly the same.**

– Marge Ballack

## One night, a thank you note and a lifetime of love



Bonnie Aspen had not yet discovered her lesbian self when she met 16-year-old Alice, the woman Spokane’s GLBTQA community knows as Willow Williams, at Alpha Farm, an Oregon commune where Bonnie’s then-boyfriend Rick had taken refuge from the perils of a real-life commitment to their tenuous romantic relationship. The year was 1976.

Bonnie, who bore a different name then, visited Rick from time to time, making the drive down the coast from her home in Lincoln City and inland to the farm, a journey that took several hours. Sometimes she spent the night there, but not in Rick’s bunk; their relationship had dwindled to the point where such intimacy was neither required nor desired.

It was a commune, after all, and the 1970s, so she bunked where the group leaders who managed visiting guests asked her to stay.

On this particular occasion, she was assigned to Alice’s room for one night. Bonnie planned to be at the farm a few days, but the girl Rick had described in letters as a “wild, freckled Amazon” was scheduled to leave the next day on a bike trip, so her room would be available for Bonnie’s use during the remainder of her visit.

They shared a full-sized bed that single night. “Nothing happened,” noted Bonnie. “She was 16 – and I hadn’t figured out I was a lesbian.”

A friendship developed nevertheless. Alice graduated from high school and went out into the world, where she made a living planting trees. The two women saw each other when they returned to Alpha Farm at holiday times.

“I was now an official ‘friend of the family,’” said Bonnie, and the person responsible for room assignments frequently placed them together.

Three years passed. Bonnie came

out to herself and the world, and she took up residence at Alpha Farm.

At 19, Alice was gone, replaced by Willow, who now confessed that she had fallen in love with Bonnie three years earlier.

“I had left a note to thank her for the use of her room while she was on that bike trip,” recounted Bonnie. “I don’t remember writing the note, but she had saved it. There was something in the note about ‘the bed felt so empty without you there...’ I guess my higher lesbian self had been channeling through my pen.”

Bonnie and Willow fell in love and decided immediately they wanted a committed relationship. They drew up a simple list of agreements to guide their partnership:

1. No one will ever take her dolls and go home.
2. We will make the “we” more important than either of the “me’s.”

*Continued on page 9*



# Across the miles, their love has deepened

Family features by Catherine D. Willis

Chad and Frank Hays will celebrate Valentine's Day at sea, on the cruise ship "Norwegian Star" traveling to Manzanillo, Mexico, one of four exciting ports they'll visit on an eight-day Mexican Riviera cruise.

"We've been to Mexico several times together," noted Chad. "It's a beautiful country and we love it there, but the truth of the matter is, it really doesn't matter where we are going as long as we're together."

Almost nine years ago, he was singing a very different tune. "I was just out of a bad relationship that ended even worse, so I was in no hurry to meet anyone," Chad related.

A good friend who lives in Spokane kept telling the then-Sandpoint area resident about her letter carrier, a kind-hearted man she was sure he'd find interesting. Yet for nearly a year he resisted her efforts to introduce him to Frank Shields. The meeting finally happened when she hosted a dinner party that both men attended.

"I liked him as soon as I met him," Chad confessed. "It was almost like sitting down with an old friend and picking up where we left off."

Frank recalled the details of their first date, April 17, 1998: "We went to dinner at Thai on 1st and saw the movie *Object of My Affection* with Jennifer Aniston and Paul Rudd. We enjoyed each other's company immensely."



They dated regularly for about six months, one or the other making the 70-something-mile trip to or from Idaho to Spokane. Then Chad moved in with Frank.

Fate tested the relationship in June of 2001 when Chad got a job with a major airline, something he had always wanted to do. He would need to relocate to Phoenix and feared the frequent separations would undermine their partnership, but Frank had no such doubts. He encouraged Chad to make the move. "I'm glad he did," Chad affirmed. "I think it brought us closer."

***I wish everyone in the GLBTQA community a Happy Valentine's Day, but most of all I wish it to Frank, my love, my partner, my best friend.***  
– Chad Hays

The two talk to each other by phone up to 10 times a day when apart. And they see each other as often as they can. "If I'm close enough to Spokane on an overnight, he flies in to see me," explained Chad. "If I'm in Spokane, I stay at our house, and sometimes we will mix it up and stay in the hotel. We commute back and forth to see each other in Phoenix and Spokane."

Four months after Chad moved to Phoenix, Frank joined him on a vacation at the Grand Canyon, where on Oct. 10, 2001, the couple expressed their commitment to each other with a private and very personal exchange of vows.

To those who wonder how they sustain a relationship like this, Chad declared, "When it's the right one, you make it work."

Each proclaimed the other his "best friend."

They bound themselves closer still on Aug. 27, 2004. That's when Frank took Chad's last name, Hays, as his own. "This was the greatest gift that

we could have given each other. This sealed our relationship," said Frank.

The couple will consider marrying if the opportunity becomes legal in Washington, but they feel no driving need to

do so. Concluded Frank, "In our hearts we're already married."

***"You must give up everything, in order to gain everything. What must you give up? Everything that is not truly you; all that you have chosen without choosing and value without evaluating. All your self-doubt that keeps you from trusting and loving yourself or other human beings. What will you gain? Only your own true self; a self who is at peace, who is able to truly love and be loved, and who understands who and what s/he is meant for. But you can be yourself only if you are no one else. You must give up "their" approval, whoever they are, and look to yourself for evaluation of success and failure, in terms of your own level of aspiration that is consistent with your values. Nothing is simpler and nothing is more difficult."***

– Dr. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross

## LIFETIME OF LOVE

*continued from page 8*

3. *If one of us thinks our relationship is in trouble, she has to get help for the two of us (friends, counseling, whatever it takes).*

The couple has had its share of rough spots over the years, as is normal for couples, gay and straight. Said Bonnie, "Our relationship has always been saved by those original agreements."

Having witnessed many beautiful weddings during their residence at Alpha Farm, Bonnie and Willow hoped to be married in the commune's lovely garden.

Willow addressed the folks at the breakfast table one morning, "Bonnie and I are in love. We want to be together forever. We want to have a wedding here at Alpha Farm."

Her words were greeted with utter silence around the table. Finally one of the elders spoke up. "What will the neighbors think?"

"We were stunned," said Bonnie. "This was my first taste of real

homophobia and it came from my Love's 'heart family.' The irony, of course, was this was a hippie commune. ... The neighbors were all hippies, too."

Disheartened by Alpha Farm's intolerant attitude, Willow's mother left the farm a few years later.

"So we didn't get married for 25 more years," concluded Bonnie.

They were wed in Portland's Rose Garden on March 16, 2004.



**WARNING:** This month's "Healthier Options" column includes sexual language unsuitable for some age groups. Parents, please monitor your children's access to this material and be prepared to provide accurate and appropriate sex education information.

## GIVE 'EM HELL

*continued from page 6*

Sump teased us by urging us to have someone else elected to his position. We responded by saying we would do our best. The meeting had not gone well.

We then went to the offices of Sen. Bob Morton, R-Kettle Falls. When we announced that we were constituents from the district, we were escorted into the office of a legislative assistant. For all we know, Morton could have been sitting in his office next door. No one provided any apologies or explanations.

We again made our presentation, and the legislative assistant listened without comment or commitment. I advised her that the senator never responded to e-mails, and we were disappointed with his performance as our representative in Olympia.

We doubted that we had changed anyone's mind. We left a written summary about our supporting HB 2661, but we doubt the senator ever got to see it.

After we returned home, I sent another e-mail to Morton urging him to vote for HB 2661. It included a

review of the arguments we had been making, as well as our personal story of discrimination.

Here's something else I shared with him: *If we had met, I wanted to talk with you about your training at Alfred University in upstate New York. I grew up in Yonkers, New York, and passed by Alfred many times.*

*On the Alfred University Web site, it states, "From the beginning, Alfred University took the unusual stance that everyone regardless of gender, ethnicity or religion deserved an equal education."*

*Alfred University is proud to be one of the first in the country to admit women students to its campus, long before larger universities took this step.*

*I wonder why you have strayed so far from the principles you learned at Alfred University. If everyone deserves an equal chance at Alfred University, why is it that you have always voted against equality for your own constituents?*

Sen. Morton has not responded to this or any other communication.



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# National & International

## News in a nutshell

### Arizona wants gay dollars

PHOENIX (AP) – Conservatives may be working to add a gay marriage ban on the ballot, but Arizona cities are working to welcome more gay tourists into the state.

The cities are vying for a slice of an estimated \$65 billion gay travel market. To do that, cities are marketing the area as a cosmopolitan, tolerant place to vacation.

"My money spends like anyone else's," said Albuquerque resident Andee Henderson, 38, who was among the estimated crowd of 5,000 attending the Arizona Gay Rodeo Association's annual competition at Rawhide over the weekend.

[http://www.washblade.com/thelatest/thelatest.cfm?blog\\_id=4630](http://www.washblade.com/thelatest/thelatest.cfm?blog_id=4630)

### Nigeria to criminalize gay marriage and meetings

LAGOS (365gay.com) – Nigerian same-sex couples who marry would face five years in prison under legislation being considered by the government.

A similar sentence would be handed out to anyone who officiates at a gay wedding. The legislation would also make it a crime to stage a protest in favor of LGBT civil rights or to set up an organization advocating gay rights.

The bill was approved during a cabinet meeting chaired by President Olusegun Obasanjo and has been sent to Parliament where it is expected to receive little or no opposition.

<http://www.365gay.com/Newscon06/01/011906nigeria.htm>

### Judge says Maryland must marry gays

MD (Washington Blade) – Maryland Gov. Robert Ehrlich is already promising to fight the ruling today by a Baltimore Circuit Court that a 1973 state law that limits marriage to a man and woman is unconstitutional.

"After much study and serious reflection, this court holds that Maryland's statutory prohibition against same-sex marriage cannot withstand this constitutional challenge," ruled Baltimore Circuit Court Judge Brooke M. Murdock, in an opinion issued January 20.

"[The ban] violates Article 46 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights because it discriminates, based on gender against a suspected class; and is not narrowly tailored to serve any compelling governmental interests."

–Elizabeth Weill-Greenberg

[http://washingtonblade.com/thelatest/thelatest.cfm?blog\\_id=4664](http://washingtonblade.com/thelatest/thelatest.cfm?blog_id=4664)

## Maryland judge blocks Ehrlich

by Bruce Garrett

Just days after Maryland's anti-gay Governor Robert Ehrlich announced his scraps-from-the-table offering of an Advance Directives Registry to take the place of the Medical Directives Registry he vetoed last year, a Maryland Judge declared discrimination against same-sex couples was against the state constitution.

To appreciate why Maryland gay rights activists were willing to eat the governor's scraps, you need only consider the case of Ocean County New Jersey policewoman Laurel Hester, who while dying of cancer, had to fight the Ocean County freeholders for the right to leave her pension to her spouse after she died, so her spouse could continue living in the home they shared for years. And anyone who thinks a simple will could solve that problem has never had to navigate the complexities of joint property ownership outside of marriage. It doesn't work. Marriage makes a couple into a single economic unit in a way nothing else does. The tax burden alone can force the spouse left behind out of the home they shared for years.

But to bigots like Robert Ehrlich and his political base, so much the better. In a relatively liberal state like Maryland, Ehrlich had to be seen to at least be offering same-sex couples something – even if it was barely anything. And gay rights activists would have to accept even that meager pittance because it might make the difference between survival and calamity for some couples.

But now Maryland gets to have its conversation about same-sex marriage, and that great cornucopia of rights heterosexual couples take for granted as merely their due, that same-sex couples can, for now, only dream about. When it's over, if nothing else, we'll all know who can see the people for the homosexuals.



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The Supreme Court does not recognize specialties, and certification is not required to practice law in Washington.

## News in a nutshell

### Will gay families be welcome at White House Egg Roll?

WASHINGTON (365gay.com) – Same-sex couples are being encouraged by a national organization that promotes gay marriage to bring their children to this year's White House Easter Egg Roll on April 17.

Family Pride says that more than 100 same-sex households have signed up with the group to attend the annual event where White House staff each year hide Easter Eggs on the grounds of the Executive Mansion for children to find.

Family Pride on its Web site says gay family participation is not a protest.

"This is a celebration of our families," it says. "We want to give our fellow citizens the opportunity to see us as real families, participating in a great American tradition on the White House lawn, rather than protesting from the sidelines."

–Paul Johnson

<http://www.365gay.com/Newscon06/01/011906whtHouse.htm>

### Ireland moves closer to civil partnerships for gay couples

DUBLIN (365gay.com) – An all party committee of the Irish Parliament is recommending legislation to permit civil partnerships similar to those in the UK but rejects the possibility of same-sex marriage.

The report will be presented to Prime Minister Bertie Ahern next week, ending a year of consultations with citizens groups across the country.

LGBT rights groups have been pressing the government to legalize gay relationships, but the report will advise Ahern that a move to allow same-sex marriage could lead to a national referendum that would prevent Parliament from any recognition of gay and lesbian couples.

–Malcolm Thornberry

<http://www.365gay.com/Newscon06/01/012006ireland.htm>

### Gay foe urges followers to buy/dump Microsoft shares

OLYMPIA (AP) – A pastor who threatened a national boycott against Microsoft and other major corporations for supporting a gay rights bill urged people Tuesday to buy up the companies' stock and dump it to drive prices down.

–Rachel La Corte

<http://www.365gay.com/Newscon06/01/021506microsoft.htm>



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

by Christopher Lawrence

## Sweet Valentine visual treats

Valentine's Day still has a certain romantic aura about it even though most of us have come to realize it as a mostly commercial venture.

Whether or not you have someone with whom to celebrate this holiday, there are a plethora of choices and venues to enjoy with partners, lovers OR friends.

For those of you who have come to appreciate the grace, beauty and stamina of Pacific Northwest Ballet, please do not wait until next Christmas to avail yourselves of their fine works.

From Feb. 2-12 their program will consist of "playful ensembles, electric violin angels, airborne lovers and Sinatra songs dressed in Oscar de la Renta. From sublime to scorching—it's PNB's Valentine." If you appreciate athleticism bound to music and techniques wrapped in the purest of emotions, don't miss this offering in Seattle.

Tickets are available online at [www.pnb.org/season/valentine.html](http://www.pnb.org/season/valentine.html) or call (206) 441-2424 from 10 to 5, Mon.-Sat.



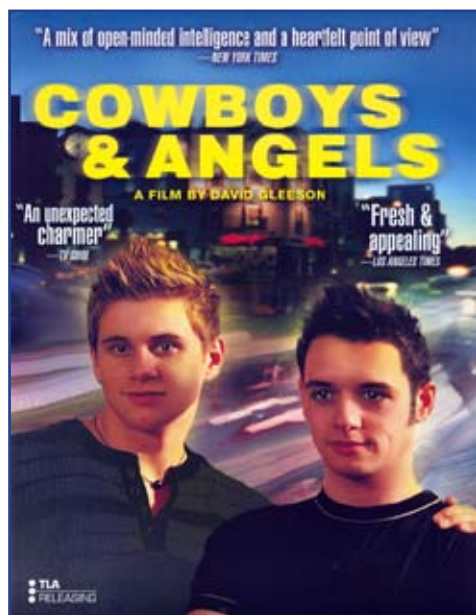
## Jazz tickles ella's ivories

For those who would prefer to celebrate closer to home with a completely different type of classical entertainment, how about a night of incredible jazz musicians and singing at *ella's* SupperClub?

Feb. 9, Arnie Carruthers, who has performed with such jazz greats as Dizzie Gillespie and Bill Watrous, will be tickling the ivories from 8-11 p.m. On Feb. 10, he will be joined by the Arnie Carruthers trio and his well-known daughter/jazz singer Charlotte Carruthers.

This promises to be one sultry weekend, so I recommend that you wear clothing that breathes. For the climax on Saturday, Feb. 11, Arnie is joined by Charlotte and brothers Bill and Don who will bring powerful vocal skills and the sweet seduction of a jazz saxophone.

Expect unique impromptu moments interspersed with their volumes of old and new jazz faves to tickle your own 'ivories.'



On Valentine's Day CenterStage will present the latest offering for **Pride and Joy Movie Night**, hosted by yours truly.

*Cowboys and Angels* is a modest but adorable indie coming-of-age tale that follows two best friends – one straight, one gay – and their camaraderie as they first experience life in the big city.

The big city is Limerick, Ireland, and seems, from the tenor of this film, to give Dublin a run for its metropolitan and business/arts money.

First-time director David Gleeson has created an affable story with great chemistry between the two mismatched lads who become roommates and the complications that arise as they get involved with some of the seedier sides of their new home.

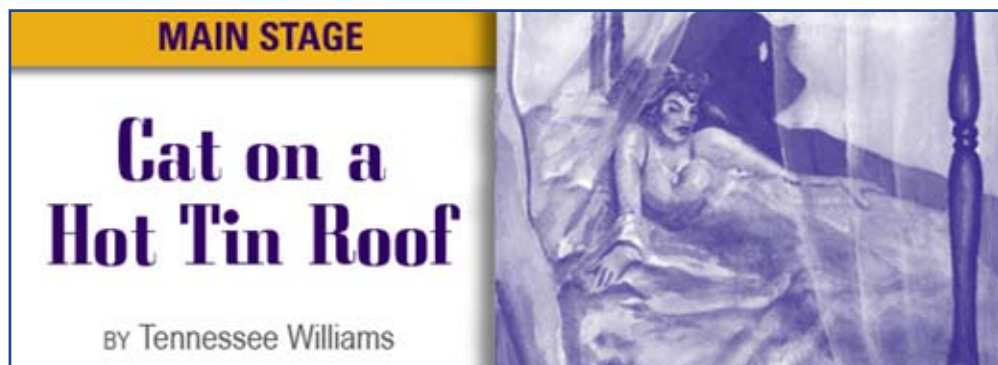
No worries. All's well that ends well.

### GLBT Book Group

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

Upcoming review sessions include: **Line of Beauty** by Alan Hollinghurst on **Feb. 1** and **Girl Walking Backward** by Bett Williams on **March 1**.

## Civic Theatre serves sizzle



Tony nominated for 'Best Play' in 1956, Tennessee Williams' sizzling family drama brings us to the southern plantation of Big Daddy. Vying for both attention and money, Brick, the rebellious son and his fiery wife, Maggie "The Cat," are caught in this dramatically stunning, explosive story filled with lies, deceptions and family secrets.

Expect to find plenty of subtext filled with homoerotic imagery in the hot, humid and oppressive background of an era gone by.

Paul Newman played the part of Brick and Liz Taylor the part of Maggie in the 1958 film. Unfortunately, as sizzling as their performances were, Tennessee Williams' dialogue was sanitized and disguised by the conservative Holly-

wood power elite to keep the element of homosexuality from confronting the easily outraged sensibilities of 1950's audiences.

Not so with the original play, and with any luck, we will be treated to one of the great classics of American Theater sans the protective coddling that can somewhat eviscerate the core of power presented by this complex and tragic playwright.

Grab a cool glass of lemonade in the lobby to slake your thirst. This play is designed to make you perspire.

Jessica McLaughlin directed this version of the Williams' classic and you can get tickets for performances from Feb. 24 through Mar. 11 by calling the Civic Theatre Box Office at (509) 325-2507.

You are invited to the Spokane AIDS Network

8th Annual

## Oscar Night Gala

at the Historic Davenport Hotel

Sunday, March 5, 2006

Doors open at 5:00 pm

Live Academy Awards Telecast at 5:30 pm

Elegant Plated Dinner at 6:30 pm

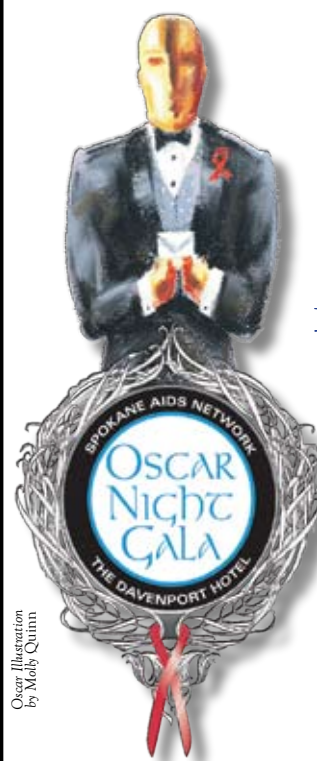
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# “Daniel” leaves, “Crumbs” with “Love Monkey”

Noticing the new TV programming with GLBT characters, it seemed like a good time to do an inventory and see if we are being portrayed as a diverse community instead of the usual stereotypes. Mind you, this reviewer has no problems with roles on shows like “Will and Grace” (“W & G”). In all fairness, those types of characters really do not show much depth, even though they can elicit laughter when I least expect it. So I have done a bit of research to let you know what the following shows might have to offer.

Among the shows cited on cable with major queer characters are: Showtime’s “The L Word,” Comedy Central’s “Reno 911!” and FX’s “Starved.” Broadcast shows with gay or lesbian representation include NBC’s “Will & Grace” and ABC’s “Desperate Housewives.”

This season you may have noticed three new additions to our “family viewing.” Our representation is unique in every show.

“Crumbs” stars are: Fred Savage (“The Wonder Years”–1988), William Devane (“24” and “Early Edition”), and the zany, sour-faced comedic actor Jane Curtin (Emmy Award winner–“Kate & Allie,” “Saturday Night Live” and “3rd Rock from the Sun”). The gay characters in this show are incidental in that they are not played as stereotypes.

Marco Pennette and Suzanne Martin are working with the Interbang Inc. production group. A few shows that come to mind for which they have been responsible, are: “Caroline in the City,” “Frasier,” “Smallville” and “One Tree Hill.” We can expect excellent production values here.

The “Crumbs” fine cast play characters with unusual foibles and loosely structured boundaries when it comes to

family. For instance, some of the real meat of this promising show is the antagonism of Mother Crumb (Curtin) toward ex-husband Father Crumb (Devane) in an ongoing perilous frenzy of murderous intent. It takes no time at all to understand the show’s main premise that “family is enough to drive anyone a little crazy.”

So far, most reviews have been mixed but favorable. Keep your eye on this one. It may prove to be a winner.

“Love Monkey” on CBS stars Thomas Cavanagh, who plays Tom Farrell, a music executive, as he looks for love and work in The Big Apple. The same day he is fired from his record company, Tom’s girlfriend pressures him to get married. He realizes she isn’t ‘the one’ and finds himself not only unemployed but single.

His two buddies, Jake and Shooter, played by square-jawed, lanky Christopher Wiehl (originally from Yakima) and Larenz Tate, are his sounding board and best friends who insist that he jump right back in the game. Some very funny jock bar foolishness ensues and Tom is endearing in his back-in-the-saddle attempts at love and creating his own music agency company.

Why watch? What’s queer? Expect exciting introductions to hip new musical groups, fine acting and good scripts.

AND...

Jake is the ex-pro sports jock in

this group of thirty-something friends. Throngs of women line up to hurl themselves shamelessly at him. But his stoic, gentlemanly reaction along with hints in the dialogue, suggest that he may be recovering from a relationship gone bad. At the end of the pilot episode in the very closing scene, we see him jaunting up the steps of a brownstone. Another very masculine man in appearance answers the door. Our sports hero hands over the flowers and kisses him as he enters the apartment. The apartment door closes. I expect there will be a closet door opening soon. Stay tuned for this quirky and refreshing sitcom.

There has been so much controversy over the unconventional portrayal of “The Book of Daniel,” it was the first one I started to study. It has already been canceled and there have been outcries from the religious right, whom we all know is neither, in an effort to boycott and run the show off the oh-so-pure airwaves. That may have been part of the reason, but by my assessment this was fated a short run anyway. It purported to be sort of a “Seventh Heaven” filtered through the eyes of Karen Walker from “W & G.”

A priest, Daniel Webster (Aiden Quinn) and his dysfunctional family. He has had back problems and uses pain killers under stressful situations. The Je-

sus character who appeared nearly every time he starts to take a pill is a very conventional depiction (Think: Every blond/brown portrait of him in the Garden of Gethsemane you have ever seen). Daniel finds guidance from Jesus, who managed several pithy statements per episode. When Webster asked Jesus if he talked to “everybody,” Jesus said “Yes. ...But not everybody listens.” That being said, the God character from the now-defunct “Joan of Arcadia” was much more edgy in his/her many incarnations.

The supporting characters: Older son, Brian Campbell, was a gay conservative Republican, although clearly no hawk. His nice-guy-but-something-of-a-wimp character could not seem to bring himself to be honest about his sexual orientation to those outside of his immediate family. The second son, Ivan Shaw, was a tall drink of Taiwan-ese water adopted into the Webster family at a young age. Cute and sharp, but the writing provided no real grist for the mill here either. Ellen Burstyn was the bishop who was Daniel’s boss and part time adultress with his father. Susanna Thompson played the dutiful and loving sexy wife; Alison Pill, the angry and isolated-but-secretly-loving daughter who illustrated ‘kick-rump’ Animé based on her view of the screwy Webster family, The list goes on and all are smart, excellent actors. Clearly, it would have taken more than top-rate acting to have saved this badly scripted show.



The second Tuesday of each month at 6 pm for the Social Hour at ella’s Supper Club. Appetizers and dinner at 25% discount

**Cowboys and Angels** Showtime at 7:15 on Feb. 14 Tickets \$5, (\$3 for students)

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## Pride & Joy Movie Night

...is offered as an alternative social venue for the GLBTQA community on the second Tuesday of each month.

Join us on Feb. 14 for the 6 p.m. social and 7:15 p.m. showing of **Cowboys and Angels**, a witty story about two Irish Lads—one straight and one gay.

Ticket holders for Pride & Joy Movie Night are offered drink specials, a 25 percent discount on all food from ella’s Supper Club and drawings for free prizes.

The privilege of watching a primarily gay film with an amiable group of diverse types from the gay community is very freeing and enjoyable. Bring some friends and join us at the ‘family-friendly,’ CenterStage Theater for a great evening of entertainment and camaraderie.

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# REVIEWS & PREVIEW

## BOOKS & VIDEOS

Christopher Lawrence, A & E Editor

### *The Wild Creatures*

Sam D'Allesandro,

Edited by Kevin Killian

*Suspect Thoughts Press, 157 pages*

Through the years, I have admired so much of D'Allesandro's work and now we have a chance to feed our guilty pleasure in a well rounded short story collection in his memory, some of which are no longer in print.

Picking a title for the collection must have been an interesting process. It is the title of one of the included short stories, but truly, wild creatures would be an apt description of many of the characters he has created and I imagine an equally fine reference to the thoughts that obviously haunted the poetic mind of this author.

Few people can more adeptly cast a mood for a cold wintry day. Or, for that matter, the secret and forbidden, thought processes that may be furtively lurking in the brain of a murderous, drug-dependent hustler.

His words can give rise to crystal clear visions of a young man's difficult childhood on a farm OR the painful need of sexual fulfillment that eats at the soul like 'jonesing' for the next 'fix.'

I would have to agree with editor Kevin Killian that D'Allesandro's writing "is so powerful it drags the reader in by the neck." The characters are not always pleasant and the circumstances may be distasteful, but every sentence is compelling; driving you to read through the next paragraph and turn to the next page.

His early passing is a dramatic example of how the AIDS epidemic has robbed us of unique and courageous voices in the arts.

What more could they have contributed? We will never know with certainty.

It serves us well to enjoy what each of these artists contributed to our body of consciousness and protect their works for the generations who follow.

I recommend this book to those who seek to overcome their fear and leave banality to others. Embrace this biting and lucid insight to the raw underbelly of our more basic psychological emotional and mental subtext. It is hiding just

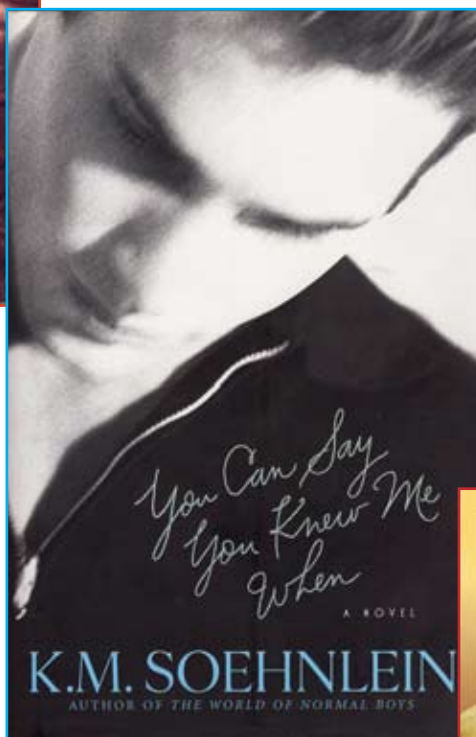
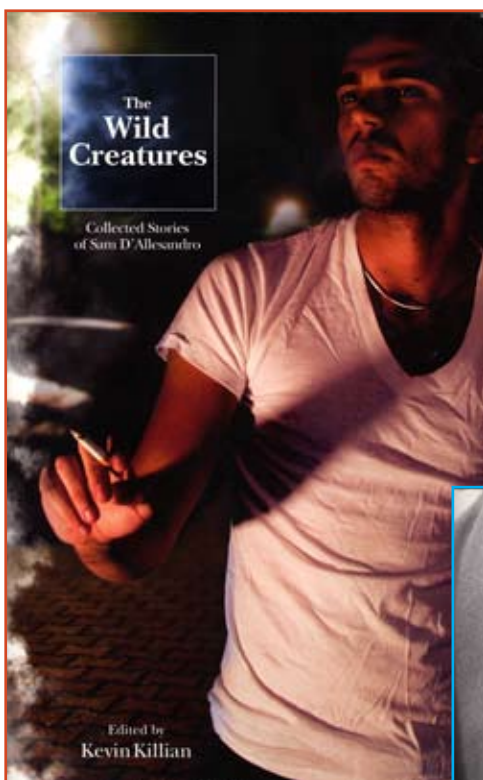
beneath the surface of lives lived in the quiet coexistence of harmony and peace.

### *You Can Say You Knew Me When*

K.M. Soehnlein

*Kensington Publishing, 408 pages*

Soehnlein has proven himself a versatile and talented author. This second novel took four years to complete after his much praised *The World*



*of Normal Boys* was published in 2001. His already outstanding work has matured and deepened.

This trans-generational story explores the relationships common during an era mostly unknown to the majority of today's population, a time that ushered in the psychedelia of the Flower People and free love, a time that was already full of danger and experimentation.

In this potent novel, Jaimie, an obsessive gay man must come to grips with his past, his family relationships, his friends and himself after his father's death.

While assuming unwanted responsibility for taking care of his father's belongings he discovers letters, pictures and other information that motivates him to question his father's secret past.

He embarks on a mission to find out the truth, not realizing that his search will span decades. He must find a way to reach into the past in order to unearth the facts about his father. This man he

thought he knew. A man who lived in and with the Beat generation from Jack Kerouac's *On the Road*, in San Francisco. A man who had some mysterious history that belied the homophobic upbringing of our hero.

Jaimie's research takes him on a journey of historical discovery and one of self-discovery. Drugs, unsafe sex and his refusal to face the consequences of his own actions send him hurtling toward self-destruction. Yet, somehow this character remains so three-dimensional and pure in his heart of hearts that one cheers him on and hopes for his salvation.

In the end, the redemptive power of love and acceptance give him the clarity to pull out of his downward spiral.

By the time you turn the last page, you'll feel as if you know each of the characters populating this novel, intimately. And you will be glad to have met them.

### *Three Dancing Slaves*

Written/Directed by Gael Morel

*TLA Releasing, 90 minutes*

French films have a unique and earthy grit that imbues a flavor seldom duplicated by American movie



directors or producers. The dancing slaves are three brothers who have very separate lives and subplots, but are bound together with an intimacy that is both beautiful and disturbing.

Middle brother Marc is the volatile rebel, selling drugs, fighting with street gangs and eagerly waiting for his idolized older brother to come home from prison.

Christophe does return, but to Marc's great disappointment he chooses to go straight and gets a job in a meat-packing plant.

The youngest and most sensitive brother Olivier finds his emotional needs in the arms of Marc's Arab buddy Hicham and slowly detaches himself from the family. A tragic event suddenly occurs that tests the brothers' loyalties and forces each to make choices that will affect all their lives.

Plenty of erotic male bonding and shirtless muscular men. The full frontal nudity is handled in either a matter-of-fact manner or is astoundingly lyrical in its artistic rendering as fine art on the screen. The scene with the father gazing quietly on the naked brothers asleep and entwined in each others arms and legs as the sun rises beyond the bedroom window is startling in its serenity. The brothers could be subjects of a classical painting my Michelangelo.

Marc's relationship with his gang members is reminiscent *Rumble Fish*. The violence is juxtaposed with moments of sensual familiarity that seem to pulse quietly with sexual desire. It took me some time to adjust after a particularly brutal scene in which the drug dealers beat one of the brothers bloody and force him to kill his dog. If you see it coming, at least you have the option to skip through it quickly.

In the end it seems that blood IS thicker than water. Family loyalty wins over everything else.

The acting is solid. The photography is excellent for a foreign film. Editing is fairly smooth and the soundtrack is original.

According to the *Advocate* this is "one of the most sexy, original and genuinely disturbing films of recent years" and the *New York Press* called it "the sexiest mainstream gay movie ever," and garnered many awards and honorable mentions throughout Europe and America.

I am struck how diverse our representation in films is becoming. In 2005, when this film came out, most of us had never heard of *Brokeback Mountain*.

This is a film worth owning and viewing again. A great addition to any diverse library.



# REVIEWS & PREVIEWIEWS

## MUSIC

Reviews by Graham Ames

### *The L Word: Season 3*

Original Soundtrack

Tommy Boy Records

In this age of iPods and webcasts, shuffle settings and satellite radio, trying to discover new music can still be frustrating. My suggestion is to pick up a

copy of this hot-off-the-press soundtrack album for the hit television show **The L Word**. These 24 tracks have added a half a dozen names to my list of new artists to watch – Tegan and Sarah, Tracy Bonham, and

the amazing Betty, whom I saw open for Indigo Girls many years ago but hadn't heard since. I will be listening a lot more to all of them.

The two discs seem to split moods, the first being higher energy, and the second quieter songs, although there's a good mix on either, as on any good album. Scattered amongst the tracks are performances recorded live on the show and exclusive tracks. One of the more surprising, delightful tracks is "Transformation," a joyous anthem to female empowerment performed live by Nona Hendrix, Pam Grier and Betty. The jazzy second disc includes "It Ain't the Meat, It's the Motion," which is about as subtle as its title suggests. Another stunning moment comes in the simple wisdom of Tracy Bonham's "Whether You Fall."

There is so much great stuff in this album, it is difficult not to laud the whole thing, track by track. I will be coming back to these artists and songs again and again. Thank you, **The L Word**, very much.

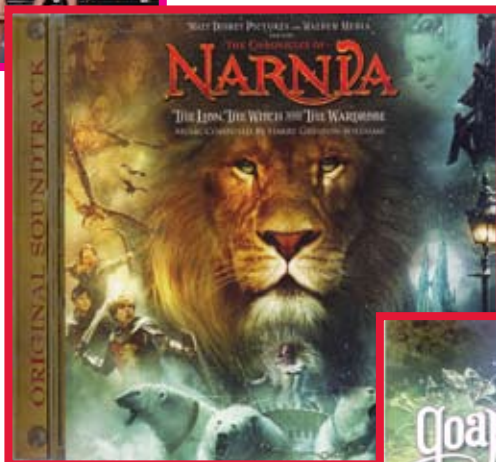
### *Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*

Original Soundtrack

Walt Disney Records

When Harry Gregson-Williams set out to score **Narnia**, I suspect he sat down

and plugged in filler tracks to suggest the musical mood he was wanting to create for each scene. He probably used some Enya, Stravinsky, Art of Noise, Górecki, John Williams, Mannheim Steamroller, maybe even that song from the last **Lord Of The Rings** film. Once he was done, he then sat down and wrote original music for the movie. Maybe, however, he listened to the filler tracks a bit too much, just for inspiration, no doubt. The result is a surprisingly good but not very cohesive score.



Still, there are some excellent moments, like the first track's opening drone which instantly brings to mind the bombers that open the film. The feeling of warmth and comfort in "Father Christmas" is irresistible. But the sudden "jack-in-the-box" bursts of noise when something (presumably) jumps out during the film draw too much attention and ruin the flow. That is, it ruins whatever flow there is in such a scattershot of styles as are represented here.

It plays excellently in the film, but as an album, it lacks internal unity, rather like listening to the Movie Score satelliteradio channel. Although perhaps that is its appeal. Out of 17 tracks, it does have two excellent songs tagged on at the end, one each by Imogen Heap and Alanis Morissette. It also has two not-as-excellent songs. It is too bad even iTunes will make you buy the whole album for just two songs. Perhaps the rest of the tracks will grow on you.

### *Change It All*

Goapele

Columbia Records

**Change It All** will probably be filed under "R&B" at your favorite store. She fits as uncomfortably in that category as Prince, whose sonic inventiveness surely inspired more than a few of these 14 tracks. Goapele (Gwa-pa-lay) pours soul, rock, rap and jazz into a blender and serves up an album that is delicious to the ear and nourishing for the brain. Her insights about love and life are surprising in their depth and texture, often expressing the inner conflicts hidden within strong emotions.

Many of the tracks are lush mellow Rhythm & Blues tracks, all with imaginative vocal arrangements and frequently with musical production in which His Royal Purpleness would take great delight. (Indeed, he and Sheila E were in attendance at Goapele's album premiere party.) This experimenting can lead into unforeseen territory,



such as the pop-funk of "Love Me Right" or "Battle of the Heart," which dissolve and reappear out of Pink Floyd psychedelia.

Sociallyconscious, thought-provoking, fearlessly honest lyrics overtop of amazing aural candy – this is a great album for using headphones and makes **Change It All** worth looking for. You should look under R&B.

www.goapele.com

### *High School Musical*

Original Soundtrack

Walt Disney Records

Don't let that record label put you off. Don't let that record label put you off. This soundtrack album for the Disney Channel original movie **High School Musical** is a clever pop album worth checking out. The film itself is a fun, if predictable, teenage tale, slightly subversive with its message of setting aside sports or academics in favor of artistic expression. Kenny Ortega, who directed the delightfully underrated **Newsies** and the messy, but fun **Hocus Pocus**. This newest film features outstanding production numbers, awkward duets of new love, and a great creative eye for choreography.

Ortega's flair for musicals shows up in the soundtrack. Created seemingly by committee (I count a dozen songwriters), it should be completely unmemorable, like the abysmal **Lion King 2** soundtrack. Instead, the 11 tracks (and two CD+G karaoke instrumentals) are a catchy melange of show tunes and melodic pop. The more obviously radio-ready tunes ("Start of Something New" and "Breaking Free") feel a bit flat next to full company numbers like "We're All In This Together" and "Stick To The Status Quo." One interesting moment is the contrast between the two versions of "What I've Been Looking For," which pits a more Broadway-ready polish against a simpler duet. As could be predicted, the pared-down is the winner. The album closes with the obligatory Disney pop remake of one of the previous songs.

Fortunately, it is not a dreary R&B ballad, but a very high energy track by B5, whoever they are.

But who they are is really not the point. This is a great album of fun songs in various styles, just

begging to be sung karaoke (lyrics are provided, and the final two tracks should display on some karaoke machines). Set your Tivo and watch **High School Musical**, and then get the soundtrack album. Good fun, great songs, and a little artistic subversion. What could be better?





### Be Our Guest

# Do something for yourself

by Joe Reilly

On January 31, Gov. Christine Gregoire signed into law HB 2661, a basic civil rights law that has been 30 years in the making. It passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 60-37. The votes to add "sexual orientation" to the jurisdiction of the Human Rights Commission included every Democrat in the House and five Republicans. It passed the Senate with the support of almost every Democrat and one Republican. This is what the Democratic Party has done for you lately. With the help of hardworking grassroots lobbying groups and individuals writing and calling their representatives, the Democratic legislators have finally secured your most basic rights to be free of discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodation.

But a one-vote margin means our hold on the recognition of these rights is tenuous. A weak Democratic voter turnout in the 2006 elections could prompt a quick legislative shift and a reversal of our newly won rights. The Democratic Party needs your help, not for its sake, but for yours.



Do something for yourself. Realize that there is a difference between political parties and that, through your participation, the Democratic Party can create change. I suggest you to contact your county party. I encourage you to join the Washington State Stonewall Democrats, to help shape the GLBTQA voice in the party. But more importantly, I implore you to register to vote and then to attend your local caucus.



A caucus is a meeting of local registered voters who identify as Democrats. Neighbors from a precinct meet to discuss party philosophy, policy and platforms. They elect representatives to take their ideas to county conventions and legislative district caucuses, where ideas are refined and passed on to the state convention.

This year's precinct (neighborhood) caucuses will be held Saturday, March 4. The location of your precinct caucus will be published on the Web site of the Washington State Stonewall Democrats ([www.stonewalldemswa.org](http://www.stonewalldemswa.org)). County conventions will occur on April 8 and legislative district caucuses will be April 22. Delegates elected at the county and legislative district level go on to consider and vote on a statewide party platform, re-establishing the party's ideological basis for the next two years. These state delegates and alternates will attend the congressional district caucuses and state convention in Yakima on June 3.

Once you've attended your caucus, stay involved locally. Keep in touch with Democrats in your precinct. Consider becoming a precinct committee officer, an elected or appointed position akin to a political block watch captain. Choose to volunteer for and financially support a Democratic candidate in your legislative district or county. Start writing

letters to public officials about issues that concern you. Be out in your community - your neighbors of whatever political persuasion are more likely to support the GLBTQA commu-

nity when they get to know you.

*Joe Reilly is a Democratic precinct committee officer (3155) on Spokane's South Hill, secretary of the Spokane County Young Democrats and a board member of the Washington State Stonewall Democrats. He is reachable by e-mail at [joe@stonewalldemswa.org](mailto:joe@stonewalldemswa.org) or at the following Web addresses: [www.stonewalldemswa.org](http://www.stonewalldemswa.org) and [3155.blogspot.com](http://3155.blogspot.com)*

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**MORE 2661**

*continued from page 5*

**"Three cities in our wonderful state have already passed it – two of them the largest cities, and it's time for the entire state to include fairness and equality in the workplace and public services."**

**– Marvin Reguindin  
Business Owner, Thinking Cap  
Communications and Design**

**"Since I am a community activist, I don't think it will have any effect on my own job security. I believe this bill is actually more important than the impending court decision on marriage equality. I believe that many more lower-class GLBT individuals are at greater risk of being subject to discrimination, and those of us who are middle class or higher lose sight of this reality. To sum up, marriage equality is an important step with regard to the state recognizing the importance of our relationships, but an anti-discrimination statute is more important with regard to economic justice in our community."**

**– Bryce Hughes, coordinator,  
GLBT Resource Center,  
Gonzaga University**

**"It's incredibly exciting and gives me renewed faith that we do still have responsible, fair-minded people in our government who are committed to the ideal of true equality."**

**– Deborah McCandless  
INBA member, supporter of SAN,  
Odyssey Youth Center, Pride**

**"This bill is about fairness and being consistent in how we treat people regardless of their sexual orientation. BRAVO to all the supporters of this bill who continue to advocate for human rights."**

**– Susan Fabrikant  
Executive Director  
Spokane AIDS Network**

**"I can hardly think of a luckier guy – the legislature has handed me equality on my birthday! (I turned 21 Jan. 27.)"**

**Michael Gleason**



# Tell Trinity

## Barflies, Distant Men And Losers

Hello Trinity,

I met someone at the bar who says he "wants to be with me" yet doesn't want to do non-bar related stuff together. When I confront him he compares me to his abusive ex. Should I continue seeing him or are there other issues I haven't figured out?

He Loves Me. Not  
Green Bay, WI

Hello He Loves Me. Not,

I don't have much experience with abusive relationships but I do with barflies, distant men and losers. And Honey, when someone doesn't want to get close they either need more time, need a therapist or are really not interested. Either way, do you really need him, his ex or this smoky situation? When someone likes someone they SHOW IT not avoid it! If it were me, I'd move on to the bar next door!

Hugs, Trinity

Hey Trinity,

Come on! You know it's all about sex, sex appeal and money when it comes to getting picked up. Don't you think all this talk about "inner" beauty or intelligence is bull?

Beauty Or Bull  
South Beach, FL

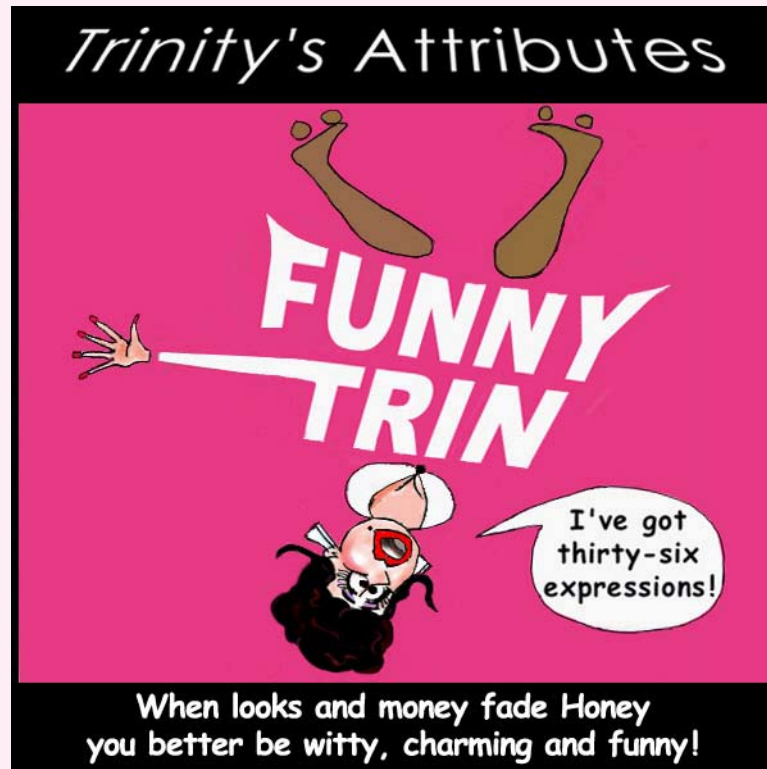
Hey Beauty Or Bull,

Yes, what you look like and have in the bank really helps to catch and keep someone but eventually, Baby, it's inner charm, strength and humor that keep two people happy. In other words you better have something "inside" that appears when your looks and money disappear!

Kisses, Trinity

Hey Trinity,

My friends claim I'm neglecting them because of my new girlfriend. I want to spend time with them but I don't want to neglect my new relationship. When is it



safe to start spending time away from a relationship?

Time Away  
Sante Fe, NM

Hey Time Away,

According to The Rules, a book for women to catch and keep men, which could apply to any relationship, "not being 100% available makes you look important and worthy." So Sweetie, it's never neglectful but rather healthy to spend time apart because that's what successful people do!

Good Luck, Trinity

Dearest Trinity,

My relationship is not perfect but my other half thinks it should be. What does it take to make the perfect relationship?

The Perfect Solution  
Baton Rouge, LA

Dearest Perfect Solution,

Having the perfect relationship Pumpkin is an unrealistic expectation, unless of course you have a staff of 10 scholars guiding you through every situation. So post this list on your fridge and see if your other half lightens up:

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3. A Law Degree: Because misunderstandings and/or accidents happen and YOU'LL be expected to defend your innocence.
4. A Handyman's License: Because things break and YOU'LL be expected to fix them. So keep the manuals!
5. A Chauffeur's License: Because loved ones need a ride or a move and YOU'LL be expected to drive anyone everywhere so that everyone's happy.
6. A Psychic's License: Because YOU'LL be expected to "know" or "see" everything, especially things that were never said or shown to you yet.
7. A Secretary's Training: Because mistakes come back to haunt you and YOU'LL be expected to "pull up" everything in

perfect detail proving just what really happened.

8. A Motivational Leader's Training: Because one of you will surely be less motivated and YOU'LL be expected to "take responsibility" and "recreate a new outcome."
9. A Telephone Lineman's Training: Because communication lines break down and YOU'LL be expected to know just the right "line" to make it all work right.
10. A Nanny's License: Because even if there are no children YOU'LL eventually be expected to clean, cook, sew, nurture and keep everyone "pacified."

*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*

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# GLBT youth needs must supersede bureaucracies!

by Ramon Alvarez, Executive Director, Odyssey Youth Center

There was a knock on Odyssey Youth Center's door. It was quick, frantic. The door wasn't completely opened before the young person was halfway in saying, "I need help. I need an adult advocate!"

This young person comes from a depressed socioeconomic background and single-parent home. The parent has tremendous obstacles to overcome and is not in a condition to take care of a young person. Throw in his being a young gay person in high school, then dropping out of school, living in a transitional home with only 12 months to get his life together before he can no longer reside there, and you have the full picture.

A local, wonderful employment agency, Career Path Services, found a way for this young person to enter and pay for a certification program that will offer a chance for a better-paying job that, in turn, will enable him to afford a roof over his head. Entrance, however, requires a high school diploma or its equivalent, a GED. But he can't just take a GED test anymore; persons between the ages of 16 and 19 must first get what they call a "drop form" signed by an official of the last school attended stating that the student has dropped out. And in this young man's case, the principal refused to sign.

Calling the school got us nowhere – it was a never-ending process of being passed around from office to office, and so, after about 15 minutes of fruitless efforts to discuss the matter, I decided to get in the car and drive the student over to the high school. The principal provided me ample opportunity to read the newspaper front to back before he was ready to see me. Then I went in alone, leaving the youth in the lobby.

The principal would not sign the drop form, he explained, because the youth had lost two textbooks and had supposedly purchased a choir t-shirt that he had not paid for. With added administrative fees, the youth's outstanding bill was \$200, an insurmountable expense for anyone struggling to get by.

The principal assured me he would sign the form as soon as the fees were paid. The problem, I told him, was that neither the youth nor his family had the funds at this time and that if the youth did not get this form signed, he could not take the GED test. Without it, there was a good chance that he would not be able to get



things in order to be able to leave the transitional housing and have a place to live in 12 months.

The principal replied that he could not make an exception. If he did it for this youth he would have to do it for everyone else. The principal did not have a process for making an exception or vetting an exception request. Yes, he understood that this could be this kid's only chance to improve and prepare for a better future, but I needed to understand that the youth owed the

school money. In approximately 10-11 months, when this youth turned 19, he'd no longer need the principal's signature to take the GED test. The principal acknowledged that in that time, the youth might well be homeless. So, OK, he could perhaps lower the fees to about \$125 but no further. He did not have a budget set aside to cover such situations. He suggested that I pay the bill or find someone in the community who would.

"So," I questioned, "you'd stand in the way of this young person's future for \$125 dollars?"

He said he might be able to make some calls to see what he could do, but he doubted anything would change. The meeting was over.

I stood up. Even though I'd grown angrier and angrier as the meeting progressed, I remained polite throughout, and in the same polite manner I thanked him and wished him luck with his calls. Then I nicely told him that I would make my own calls as I thought the story was newsworthy and of special interest as a youth or education piece, perhaps for *The Spokesman-Review*. I told him I was surprised that a law had passed that would be used to keep youth from achieving a better education and future.

On the return ride, the youth was very disappointed. I was ticked, but I held my tongue. After dropping the youth off, I went back to work. I called Jill Wagner, an Odyssey board member and writer for *The Spokesman-Review's Seven* newsmagazine. Like me, she was appalled, and she gave me some ideas as to who might be interested in the story.

Before I had a chance to pursue these options, the principal called to inform me that he had found the funds to cover the young person's fees. Not only had he found the funds, he had called Career Path Services and they had faxed him the form, which he'd signed and faxed back to them. He thanked me for coming by and invited me to contact him if I needed anything else.

I'm glad for the youth that things worked out. I am concerned that it took a threat to "go public" to get this principal into this young man's corner.

There are many factors in this particular young person's life that brought us to where we are. How might things have been different for him – and for all the youth we serve – if they could enjoy the benefits of a healthy and supportive school environment?

Data and research from the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network indicate that GLBT students are three times as likely as non-GLBT students to say that they do not feel safe at school (22 percent vs. 7 percent) and 90 percent of GLBT students (vs. 62 percent of non-GLBT teens) have been harassed or assaulted during the past year. The impact of this is horrendous: GLBT youth who report significant verbal harassment are twice as likely to report they do not intend to go to college and their GPAs are significantly lower (2.9 vs. 3.3). It gets worse: 40 percent of GLBT youth are more likely to skip school because they were simply too afraid to go where there is no policy (or they do not know of one) protecting them from violence and harassment.

We at Odyssey Youth Center are working hard to continue and increase our advocacy on behalf of our community's GLBT youth.

We are doing this at the local level through community partnerships and participation such as a seat on the Diversity Advisory Council within the Spokane Public School system. Statewide, we took approximately 30 young people to Olympia on Jan. 30 to lobby our state representatives around comprehensive sexual education in the schools in collaboration and through a project with the national organization Advocates for Youth.

We need your financial and volunteer support to continue and expand our work. For further information please call (509) 325-3637 or visit our Web page at [www.odysseeyouth.org](http://www.odysseeyouth.org).

*"So," I questioned, "you'd stand in the way of this young person's future for \$125 dollars?"*

Ramon Alvarez

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# STONEWALL News Northwest

## Your Community. ...Online



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### Letters of the Law

## Beware the space you share

by Jerry J. Davis

Our community takes great pride in the help we offer each other. Many times this includes extending housing opportunities to acquaintances or even strangers, which is laudable, but we must be fully aware of the liabilities we expose ourselves to whenever we rent a room in our home or apartment or allow anyone we do not know well to become a roommate. The reason for this is quite simple: Their demons and bad habits can become ours in the legal world.

Take, for example, the laws governing search and seizure. The prevention of an illegal search and seizure is a staple in our culture, institutionalized in the Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution.



We are fortunate to live in a state that takes this federal protection and then adds even more safeguards for the individual. In some circumstances, however, we must be aware that the state has the right to come into our homes even if we are not the intended target of any investigation. If this is not frightening enough, this is just the beginning of what the state can do.

If you have a roommate who is under investigation by the authorities, the state may enter your home even without your being named on a search warrant. Additionally, if there aren't extreme safeguards taken, the authorities can enter and search the entire dwelling, and if something is found in your private bedroom or space, you may be arrested and face legal consequences. In legal terms, this is known as the Community Living Unit Exception.

In laymen's terms, the general rule for a legal search would be that the warrant would state what is being looked for and where it is allowed to be looked for. If you share a home with someone, however, you need not be named on the warrant nor your private quarters listed. If you share living space with someone – for example, you share a common kitchen, bathroom or living room – then be prepared to have your bedroom searched if your roommate has a search warrant issued against him or her. The way to combat this is to have locks on individual rooms, and to use them! For greatest protection, the individual rooms should be designated as such. This probably sounds corny, but placing a "name tag" on your locked door may protect you more than you could ever imagine.

To tie this up, let me repeat the relevant message: If you share any common living spaces with someone and you do not lock your private bedroom or space, then the probable cause to search your roommate's property extends to the

entire premises. If you have anything in your home that would expose you to legal problems, then take the precautions noted above.

Most importantly, know your roommates. If their character and habits are different from yours, be sure that you are prepared to bear the consequences of their

bad habits as your own if they get into trouble with the law.

*If you have a legal question or questions of a general nature that you wish to see addressed in this column, please send them to: [mail@stonewallnews.net](mailto:mail@stonewallnews.net) or write to: Stonewall News Northwest, P.O. Box 2704, Spokane, WA 99220*

*Jerry J. Davis, J.D., has practiced law in Washington for three years. His Spokane office caters to the general law needs of the GLBTQA community.*

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**WARNING:** This month's "Healthier Options" column includes sexual language unsuitable for some age groups. Parents, please monitor your children's access to this material and be prepared to provide accurate and appropriate sex education information.

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## Healthier Options

# Glove your love for Valentine's Day – National Condom Week is Feb. 14-21!

by Cat Carrel

Ahhh, Valentine's Day. Either you love it or you hate it. If you're a conspiracy theorist, you probably think it was invented by Hallmark and Brach's. Or if you are perennially single on that day, perhaps you just grumble under your breath that Valentine's Day is highly overrated and for dorks. (But then you pine about how nice it would be to exchange a rose with a lover.)

Valentine's Day may be for lovers, but did you know that February 14 is also the kickoff day for National Condom Week? Don't look on your Georgia O'Keefe calendars for this one; it's obscure but these dates, February 14-21, mark the 28th Annual National Condom Week. The 29th!! Under our current administration, it's no wonder we haven't heard much about it in the last six years, or even if it is still "sanctioned." But there it is, plain as day on the Missouri Small Business Development Center's 2006 Retail Promotion Calendar. (I love Google.)

Kicking off National Condom Week on Valentine's Day is no co-inky-dink. Organizers use the Lover's Holiday as an opportunity to educate the public about safer sex, condom use and statistics, and to release updated information on sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Always Janie on the spot with the marketing opps to promote safer sex, I couldn't let this one pass without sticking my own condom shtick out there.

Here's my experience talking to men and women about using protection: It goes one of two ways – Either they get this pinched look on their face as if there's a stone in their shoe or they are all ears.

Most guys have used condoms. Some of them actually know how to use them correctly and they do so consistently. But the scary thing is, most of the guys I talk to don't use them on a regular basis. And they aren't the typical "bad boys" portrayed in condom-use campaigns. They aren't demons. They aren't stupid or ignorant. They are regular, normal gay guys who, for various reasons that reach deep into the psyche, don't or won't use condoms. Especially, those who are coupled don't see a need for using them.

"But wait," you say, "my partner and I are monogamous. Why would we have to use protection? I trust my partner..."

Would you bet your life on it? Do you know your partner's status? Do you know your status? Do you get tested regularly? All the more reason to use a condom, dental dam or other barrier as often as you can.



All you dykes out there, if you've even gotten this far in reading this article, listen up! We are not excluded from this discussion. There are plenty of STIs you can pass along, as can your partner. Herpes. Chlamydia. Gonorrhea. HPV. And yes, HIV, to name a few. If you and your girl like sex toys, rough play or just plain old vanilla tongue sex, you are just as at risk as our brothers

for giving (or getting) the gift that keeps on giving.

So glove your toys, cut a condom or use a dental dam for oral sex and rimming (yeah, some of us like it too), wear a latex glove for fingering and fisting and, for heaven's sake, get tested.

If you want to have bare naked fun, that is your prerogative. But take responsibility for your decision and know how to do it in a "safer" way.

It's also the greater responsibility of all of us to protect ourselves and our GLBTQ brothers and sisters by preventing the spread of STIs and HIV. We have enough burdens to overcome without having to battle the subversive effects of these diseases on our community.

**Free condoms and dental dams are available all over town including Spokane AIDS Network and the Rainbow Regional Community Center.**

*Cat Carrel is the HIV Prevention Program coordinator at Spokane AIDS Network and oversees the Lilac City Men's Project.*

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## Benefit Monologues set

by Krista Benson

It's about that time of year. The "v-word" will be on everyone's lips. What word? Valentines? No. Vagina.

For the sixth year, organizations will produce benefit performances of Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues* through V-Day, with all proceeds going to organizations that work to end violence against women and girls. V-Day is a global effort to stop worldwide violence against women and girls, including rape, battery, female genital mutilation (FGM) and sexual slavery.

These performances will appear minimalist – a group of women sitting on simply designed stages. The women recount the experiences of the more than 200 women that Ensler interviewed about their vaginas, sharing stories of abuse, triumph and everyday life. The story of a 60-year old woman's first orgasm is presented alongside a global chorus of women who have been abused by men in societies that allowed their abuse and a woman witnessing the birth of her grandchild.

The *Monologues* are not always easy to watch. At times discomfiting,

at times hilarious, these stories show that, in a society where we're obsessed with sex, we are sorrowfully ignorant of bodies. This ignorance is shattered by the sharing of these stories that range from hilarious to poignant to disturbing to uncomfortable to beautiful.

Some members of the GLBTQA community may wonder why it's important to go to another event, to see another play. EWU organizer Willow Moline explained how this differs from most other theater productions: "This is one of the only places that you can see the untold stories of the women whose voices you never hear."

Local organizations will be presenting five benefit performances. Spokane productions, sponsored by CounterCrisis, are at the Met on Feb. 11 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets for the Spokane production are available through TicketsWest or at The Shop (924 S. Perry). Cheney productions, sponsored by the Student Alliance For Equality (SAFE), are at Showalter Auditorium on EWU Campus. EWU's productions will be March 3 at 7 p.m. and March 5 at 3 p.m. and 7 pm.



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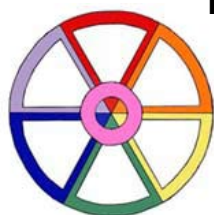
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**SUNDAYS**  
 9 and 11 am: **Worship Services** at **UNITY CHURCH** at 29th and Bernard.  
 2-3 pm: **RADICAL CHEERLEADERS** meet at **RAINBOW REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER**  
 2-6 pm: **RAINBOW REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER** open for meetings and drop-ins.  
 3-4 pm: **COUNTER CRISIS** meets at **RAINBOW REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER**  
 5-6 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** open for meetings and drop-ins.  
 7-8:30 pm: **GLBTQ AA** meets at Emmanuel MCC/ Bethany Presbyterian Church, 301 S. Freya.  
 7:30-9 pm **NIGMA** (North Idaho Gay Men's Association) Weekly Coffee Social. Coffee Social is a weekly event and is held on alternating weeks in either Moscow or Pullman. When in Moscow the Coffee group meets at the One World Cafe on the corner of Main and 6th streets. When in Pullman we meet at the Daily Cup near the corner of Main St. and Grande Ave. For information on location please visit us online at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NIGMA>

**THURSDAYS**  
 5:30-9 pm: **RAINBOW REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER** open for meetings and drop-ins.  
 5:30 pm: **PEER TO PEER SUPPORT GROUP** meets at Rainbow Center.

**FRIDAYS**  
 2-9 pm: **RAINBOW REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER** open for meetings and drop-ins.

(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.)

**Individual Calendar of Events**

**Wednesday Feb 1**

5:30-7 pm: **VISION COMMITTEE MEETING.**

**Thursday Feb 2**

6-7 pm: **LILAC CITY MEN'S PROJECT** (MPowerment) meets at Rainbow Center. The Lilac City Men's Project seeks to build the health and well-being of Spokane's GLBT community (primarily the men's community) by planning regular social opportunities, informational workshops, wellness groups, and weekly activities. Come to a meeting to check us out! All are welcome to plan events. [www.lilaccitymensproject.org](http://www.lilaccitymensproject.org)  
 7:15-8:45 pm: **OUTSPOKANE MEETING.**

**Friday Feb 3**

5 pm-9 pm: **The Rainbow Center's Gallery** will be a part of the Spokane's Visual Art Tour February 3, 4, and 5. The Gallery will be featuring local artist Bailey in his show "Portraits". Opening reception will be on Friday, Feb 3, from 5 pm until 9 pm The gallery will be open for the Visual Art Tour on Saturday, Feb 4, from 11 am until 3 pm and on Sunday, Feb 5, from 2 pm until 6:00 pm This event is free to the public and we invite everyone to come.  
 6:30-8:30pm: **FRIDAY NIGHT OUT!** Ella's Supper Club - The Rhythm Section 3rd Floor, at CenterStage. Friday Night OUT! Is a social hour for Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgendered, and allied people of the Inland Northwest. There will be no agenda, no fund raising, no politics!

**Spokane & the Inland Empire's entertainment and meeting calendar for**

**February 2006**

**Aquarius until Feb. 19/ Pisces until Mar. 20**

**Birthstones: Amethyst/Aquamarine**

**Flower: Orchid/Violet**

7 pm: **LEGAL MARRIAGE ALLIANCE** - The Spokane Chapter of the Legal Marriage Alliance is now meeting regularly on the first Friday of each month at the Rainbow Center.

7-9 pm: **NIGMA** (North Idaho Gay Men's Association) **FIRST FRIDAY** at the University Inn Quiet Bar. NIGMA First Friday Cocktail Hour at the University Inn Quiet Bar in Moscow. Visit us on the web at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NIGMA> for more information.

**Saturday Feb 4**

11 am-3 pm: **The Rainbow Center's Gallery** will be a part of the Spokane's Visual Art Tour February 3rd, 4th, and 5. Please see this listing on Friday Feb 3 of this Calendar for details.

**Sunday Feb 5**

2-6 pm: **The Rainbow Center's Gallery** will be a part of the Spokane's Visual Art Tour February 3, 4, and 5. Please see this listing on Friday Feb 3 of this Calendar for details.

5 pm: **ISCS Board Meeting** at Dempseys Brass Rail  
 7:30 pm: **ISCS Court Meeting** at Dempseys Brass Rail

**Tuesday Feb 7**

5:30-7 pm: **INLAND NORTHWEST EQUALITY (INWE) Monthly Meeting** at Rainbow Center.

**Wednesday Feb 8**

11:30 am-1 pm: **INLAND NORTHWEST BUSINESS ALLIANCE (INBA) Monthly Luncheon** at Europa Pizzeria & Bakery, 125 S. Wall. Guest Speaker: Brian L. Benzel Ph.D.

**Saturday Feb 11**

12-2 pm: **INTEGRITY** - The second Saturday of each month, The Episcopal GLBT Support group meets at noon for Eucharist. Service is followed by a pot-luck. St Johns Cathedral at 12th and Grand.

3:15-6 pm: **QUEST YOUTH GROUPS** - Valentine's event for the local younger GLBTQ population. Please see the online GLBTQA Calendar on the web at [www.stonewallnews.net](http://www.stonewallnews.net) for details.

7 pm: **ISCS Gay Spokane Fundraiser Show** at Dempsey's Brass Rail. The Gay Spokanes will be presenting the Valentines-themed "Center of the Heart" to raise money for the Scholarship Fund. Please consult the online GLBTQA Calendar at [www.stonewallnews.net](http://www.stonewallnews.net) for details or changes in this event.

8 pm-1 am: **GIANT ASS DRUM CORPS - Valentine Ball & Dance!** at Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane. Semi Formal/Formal Affair. 8pm-9pm Social Hour 9pm-1am Dancing. Ball Specials: Photographer! Unique Giveaways! 50/50 Drawing! Bring your own Beer/Wine/Snacks (21+only). Solo's encouraged to attend! You never know when Cupid might strike!!! Tickets \$10 at the door. Open to the GLBTQA community! Questions call 534-0751

**You are cordially invited to the  
 2nd Quarterly GLBTQA  
 Community Forum**

Our community-nominated panel will discuss, engage and debate the issue of **Marriage Equality**

**Saturday, Feb. 11, 2006, from 2 pm-4 pm**

**CenterStage, Main floor Ballroom**

1017 W. First Ave., downtown Spokane

**Tentative panelists**

- **Marge Ballack**, a party in the lawsuit challenging Washington's DOMA, now awaiting a decision from the state high court
- **Krista Benson**, coordinator of Inland Northwest Equality, a program of the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane
- **Rev. Dr. Richard Erhardt**, Unitarian Universalist Church
- **Brooks Goode**, legal assistant
- **Dr. Beth Jones**, G. U. associate professor of political science
- **Cam Lewis**, community educator/lecturer on health issues
- **Sagan Smith**, Spokane mental health professional

**Moderator, Peter Perkins**

Presented by **STONEWALL News Northwest**

**Sunday Feb 12**

11 am-1 pm: **NIGMA (North Idaho Gay Men's Association) Second Sunday Brunch.** Held in Moscow or Pullman at the homes of NIGMA members. The Brunch location is changed monthly for information on the brunch please visit us online at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NIGMA>

**Tuesday Feb 14**

**Pride & Joy Movie Night** - Social at 6 p.m. Show time for **Cowboys and Angels** at 7:15 pm, CenterStage

Every second Tuesday of each month at 7:15 pm, CenterStage hosts this GLBTQA activity night to showcase films that directly portray, support, nurture and challenge the GLBTQ community and allied supporters.

Admission is only \$5 for adults and \$3 for students. All ages are welcome. Doors open at 5:30 pm. Enjoy a 25% discount on food at ella's Supper Club before and after the movie with your paid admission. Drink specials are available and there's a full bar for the over-21 crowd.

**NATIONAL CONDOM WEEK OF ACTION 14-21**

**Thursday Feb 16**

6-7 pm: **LILAC CITY MEN'S PROJECT** (MPowerment) meets at Rainbow Center. Please see this listing on Friday Feb 2 of this Calendar for details.

7:15-8:45 pm: **OUTSPOKANE MEETING.**

**Saturday Feb 18**

10:30 am-12 pm: **OWLS Brunch** at Old Country Buffet - Franklin Park Mall. If you are the first to arrive, ask the cashier where we can pull tables together for about 20 women. Then ask the cashier to direct arriving OWLS to that area.

**Sunday Feb 19**

11 am-3 pm: **SPOKANE AREA LESBIANS** at the Rainbow Center, 3rd Sunday of each month, for games, movies, activities, social time. PUBLIC INVITED

**Monday Feb 20**

5:30-7 pm: **VISION COMMITTEE MEETING.**

**Tuesday Feb 21**

7-9 pm: **PFLAG** Monthly Meeting - third Tuesday of every month at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane, 4340 W. Fort Wright Dr. Spokane WA 99224 Our mission is to provide support, education and advocacy for GLBTQ family and friends.

**Friday Feb 24**

7-9 pm: **NIGMA (North Idaho Gay Men's Association) Second Sunday Brunch.** Fourth Friday Wine Tasting held at private residences and is only open to those who are 21 and over. Please visit us online at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NIGMA>

**Saturday Feb 25**

7 pm: **ISCS Gay Spokane Fundraiser Show** at Dempsey's Brass Rail. Please consult the online GLBTQA Calendar at [www.stonewallnews.net](http://www.stonewallnews.net) for details or changes in this event.

8-11 pm: **LILAC CITY MEN'S PROJECT (MPowerment) OPENING NIGHT!** at Holley-Mason Building, 157 S. Howard St. The Lilac City Men's Project's 2006 inaugural event! A free Dance/Social with an Oscars theme to introduce the community-at-large to the project and some of its dedicated volunteers! DJs, a free Mocktail Bar, and a free raffle to win 2 tickets to Spokane AIDS Network's OSCAR GALA (a \$250 value!!!) Must be present to win raffle, one entry per guest.

**Friday March 3**

7 pm: **Vagina Monologues** at Showalter Auditorium on EWU Campus..

**Sunday March 5**

**8th Annual Oscar Gala Night Fundraiser for Spokane AIDS Network!** Davenport Hotel. Doors open at 5 pm. Live Awards Telecast at 5:30, Dinner at 6:30.

3 pm and 7 pm: **Vagina Monologues** at Showalter Auditorium on EWU Campus.

**We would love to include your organization's events in this Calendar!**

**Please visit the GLBTQA Calendar at [www.stonewallnews.net](http://www.stonewallnews.net) to request your own name and password for posting events!**



# 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 outreach to the GLBT community.

Call: (509) 838-0085

[Web site: www.emmanuelmcc.com](http://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](http://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](mailto:info@inbaspokane.org)

[Web site: www.inbaspokane.org](http://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](http://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

### Lilac City Men's Project

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

[Web site: www.lilacitymensproject.org](http://www.lilacitymensproject.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: Ramon or Bonnie: (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](http://www.OutSpokane.com)

### Papillon

Social support group for the transgender 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](http://www.pflagspokane.org)

### PJALS –

#### Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane

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

Call: (509) 838-7870

### Planned Parenthood of Spokane & Whitman Counties

HIV antibody testing and counseling.

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

Administration: (509) 326-6292

### Quest Youth Group

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

Call: Ryan: (509) 290-3519

[Web site: www.QuestYouthGroup.org](http://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](http://www.spokanerainbowcenter.org)

### SAN –

#### Spokane AIDS Network

Call: (509) 455-8993 or

1-888-353-2130

[Web site: www.spokaneAIDSnetwork.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.stonewallnews.net)

### Spokane Gender Center

Resources and support for transgender people.

[Web site: www.gendercenter.com](http://www.gendercenter.com)

### Unitarian Universalist Church

Gay, lesbian resource committee.

Call: (509) 325-6383

[Web site: www.uuchurchofspokane.org](http://www.uuchurchofspokane.org)

### Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery

Call: 535-3155

[Web site: www.vanessabehan.org](http://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.

## 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 with, affected by HIV.

Call: (208) 665-1448

[Web site: www.nicon.org/niac](http://www.nicon.org/niac)

### North Idaho College Gay-Straight Alliance

[Email: BCHARDISON@icehouse.net](mailto:EMAIL: BCHARDISON@icehouse.net)

### NIGMA -

#### North Idaho Gay Men's Association

Creating community by providing real time social activities for gay men in the Moscow/Pullman area, visitors, and allies.

[E-mail: NIGMA@yahoo.com](mailto:EMAIL: NIGMA@yahoo.com)

### 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](http://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](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

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](mailto:E-mail: pflag_walla2wash@hotmail.com)

[Web site: www.wwpflag.0catch.com/](http://www.wwpflag.0catch.com/)

### Seventh-day Adventist Kinship

Call: (509) 525-0202

## WENATCHEE

### SHINE

An organization that strives to eliminate all forms of prejudice and discrimination by promoting awareness, education, and self-empowerment through the use of the arts.

Call: (509) 860-7394

[E-mail: shine\\_org@yahoo.com](mailto:E-mail: shine_org@yahoo.com)

## YAKIMA

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

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

Call: (509) 576-9625

### Rainbow Cathedral Metropolitan Community Church

An MCC Seattle parish extension.

Call: (509) 457-6454

## MONTANA

### Flathead Valley Alliance

Northwest Montana information and referral services.

Call: (406) 758-6707

### Lesbian Avengers

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

Call: (406) 523-6608

### Our Montana Family

Supporting Montana's GLBT parents and their children.

[E-mail: barbatpride@aol.com](mailto:E-mail: barbatpride@aol.com)

### PFLAG Billings

Meets monthly Sept. - May.

Call: (406) 255-7609

### PRIDE!

Statewide lesbian/gay/trans civil rights advocacy group.

Call: (406) 442-9322

or, in Montana: (800) 610-9322

### PRIDE Celebration

Group in charge of annual Montana June PRIDE celebrations.

Call: (406) 442-9322

## WASHINGTON

### Bi MEN Group

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



# NORTHERN QUEST CASINO

## PROMOTION



**WIN A HUMMER H3!**

Play January 1 through February 28  
for your chance to drive home a HUMMER H3!

**GRAND PRIZE DRAWING**  
**MARCH 1, AT 7:30PM**

live a little...



**SEE CAMAS CLUB FOR DETAILS!**

## ENTERTAINMENT

**LIVE SHOWTIME BOXING**  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 7PM DOORS AT 6PM

**SHO BOX** ★THE NEW★ GENERATION



**NORTHERN QUEST CASINO**  
A KALISPEL CASINO  
WHERE THE FUN NEVER ENDS

**DBE DIBELLA ENTERTAINMENT**

**BANNER PROMOTIONS**

All Bouts Are Subject To Change

**ASIAN NEW YEAR CELEBRATION**  
Saturday, February 11, 2006  
9PM - 1AM Tickets \$25



**THE TRANZ**  
See Camas Club For Details.

**VICKI LAWRENCE AND MAMA**  
February 18 8:00PM



A TWO WOMAN SHOW  
**COMEDIAN**

**TRU & THE GANG** February 25 8:00PM  
**R & B**



**BIG GAME PARTY**



**Sunday, Feb. 5**  
IN THE PEND OREILLE PAVILION

we're giving away  
**CASH and PRIZES** throughout the game.

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.