

Uncertainty follows Sturchio rally

Continuing coverage of Bigotry & ignorance rampant in U.S. Border Patrol article in November 13, 2006 issue of Stonewall News Northwest



By Joyce Crosby
Special to Stonewall News Northwest

(SPOKANE, WA) - On November 16th supporters braved the chilling cold and wind to rally outside the Spokane Border Patrol Compound at the intersection of U.S. Highway 2 and Nevada Street in North Spokane to support Tracy Sturchio, a transgender woman from Colbert WA, as she fought for her job. About 15 people came out to protest the proposed dismissal of Sturchio by the Federal Office of Information Technology (OIT), a subsidiary of Customs/Border Patrol under the Department of Homeland Security.

Inside the compound, beginning at 10:00 a.m., a disciplinary review board

hearing was held, in which Tracy Sturchio and her attorney replied to the charges against her, including the allegation that she sent a derogatory fax to herself, and then lied about it, that may lead to her termination from her job as a telecommunications specialist. The hearing which continued for more than three hours, was held behind closed doors, before Cynthia Walters, deputy director of Customs/Border Patrol's Office of Information Technology, while protestors rallied outside.

Bearing a sign of protest, the Reverend Christina Pollack, Deacon at Saint John's Cathedral, in reference to the marginalization of transgender and

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Photo above: Kim Stankovich protests in front of the US Border Patrol compound in north Spokane on November 16th. Inside the compound, Tracy Sturchio and her attorney met with the Border Patrol's OIT director to dispute an internal investigation that proposes to fire Sturchio.

Photo right: Wanda Daehlin, Kathryn, and Catherine Willis protest across the street from the Border Patrol compound.

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Fly your Flags on Fridays!

Photography exhibit, speakers, to honor 18th Annual World AIDS Day

By Cat Carrel

(SPOKANE, WA) - A fine-art photography exhibit will be the highlight of the 18th Annual World AIDS Day event, which will also feature speakers, drumming, music, and a candlelight vigil. The event will take place on Friday, December 1, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the WSU-Riverpoint Campus, 410 E. Spokane Falls Blvd., next door to the WSU bookstore, The Bookie. Parking is easily accessible in front of the building and is free for the event.

Marc Morris, a photography student at EWU and an instructor at Spokane Art School, will present large-scale photographic prints of people who live with HIV/AIDS.

"I want to bring attention to HIV/AIDS in a very loud way," says Morris, whose portraits feature people with

their parents, children, partners and selves.

"Ultimately, I want to represent each individual's identity" Morris adds. "I want the public to see them as people first and living with HIV/AIDS second. We have a tendency to treat HIV/AIDS as clinical, and I want the public to see HIV/AIDS as human."

In addition to the photography exhibit, speakers include Dr. Kim Thorburn, Susan Fabrikant, director of Spokane AIDS Network; Nancy Nelson, Professor of African American Studies at Eastern Washington University; Dr. Rebecca Block, and HIV/AIDS Educator "Mountain Man" Charley Fawcett. Marc Morris will also speak on his experience photographing people living with HIV/AIDS.

The theme of this year's global World AIDS Day continues to be "Stop AIDS, Keep the Promise," a campaign

through 2010 that holds governments and policy makers accountable to reach their goals in fighting the worldwide pandemic.

"I firmly believe all of us need to work in partnership, including the business, nonprofit, faith-based, and government sectors, and we should all be accountable when addressing the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS," says Susan Fabrikant.

A candlelight vigil will follow the presentations. For more information, call 455-8993.

Other World AIDS Day happenings include Gonzaga University's AIDS Awareness Week, November 27-December 1, and a special edition of Queer Sounds on November 30, 6-8 p.m. on KYRS (Thin Air Radio), FM 92.3.

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Spokane & Regional

STURCHIO

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GLB people within our society, stated, "We are all God's people. We shouldn't even have to be here." Carla Brannan from Inland Northwest Equality, a program of the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane, came out to support Sturchio and the transgender community, as well as to act as the voice for justice. Brannan proclaimed that the situation reeks of injustice because "Tracy fears losing her job just because of whom she is." PFLAG's Wanda Dae-hlin was at the 4-hour rally to "protest the treatment of Tracy Sturchio."

Several members of Papillion, a local social and support group for transgender/transsexual people, were in attendance. Kim Stankovich stated she was there to call for an investigation into what is "a terrorist act in my opinion," referencing the alleged threats by Sturchio's coworkers to destroy radios and other electronic equipment if Sturchio was not fired. Stankovich further stated that Customs/Border Patrol's "policy is apparently to get rid of the person being harassed." Another Papillion member, Kathryn, said, "If you

vilify a GLBT person, it is because you have an axe to grind, not because of the facts." Kathryn, who has known Tracy Sturchio and her wife Kim for several years, was adamant that "these are good people. They care about their family, their community, and their jobs. This is an atrocity!" There was a consensus among Papillion members that Tracy Sturchio is fighting for her job for more than just herself. She wants equality in employment for all minorities, including transgender individuals.

As GLBT allies rallied outside, Stonewall News Northwest conducted a brief interview inside with Danielle Suarez, Senior Patrol Agent in the Public Information Office, and her colleague, Deputy Chief Patrol Agent, Rudy Karisch. Suarez and Karisch worked diligently to distance themselves from the incident, investigation, and ensuing disciplinary hearing by emphasizing that OIT is under a different chain of command, so they have no direct knowledge of the matter. Suarez stated that Custom Border Patrol takes all discrimination "very seriously." In Sturchio's case Border Patrol



Supporters rally around Tracy Sturchio (in white) following her hearing at the U.S. Border Patrol on November 16th.

did not conduct the investigation. The investigation was handled by Homeland Security's Office of the Inspector General (OIG). Since the Office of the Investigator General (OIG) and Customs/Border Patrol are both components of the Department of Homeland Security, at issue here is whether or not OIG's investigation was thorough and impartial. Suarez stated that this is a "disciplinary case following due process" and "to suggest corruption in our agency is completely inaccurate."

When Tracy Sturchio appeared

after the three-hour closed door hearing, she told supporters she and her attorney presented facts and stated their belief that the Office of the Inspector General's investigation of the circumstances leading up to Sturchio's proposed dismissal from OIT and removal from federal service was "less than it should have been." Until a final decision on her employment is rendered by OIT management under the Department of Homeland Security in Washington D.C., Sturchio will remain on paid administrative leave.



Rudy Karisch, Deputy Chief Patrol Agent and Danielle Suarez, Senior Patrol Agent of the Public Information Office with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection talk with Stonewall Publisher Mike Schultz on November 16th. Other than to emphasize that Sturchio was with the Office of Information Technology which maintains its own chain of command under the larger Border Patrol umbrella, and that a separate human resource department exercised the Tracy Sturchio investigation, neither Karisch nor Suarez would comment any further and had no other objection to the *Bigotry & ignorance rampant in U.S. Border Patrol* article in the November 13 issue of *Stonewall News Northwest*.

Voices

Letters to the Editor

Dear Stonewall,

On behalf of the Spokane Film Festival, I would like to thank the Stonewall and Christopher Lawrence for the review of the 8th annual festival. I thought Christopher did an excellent job in his reviews, and I appreciate the praise of the festival. We certainly enjoyed the event ourselves.

The only item I would want to bring you to task for is a common but substantial shortcoming. The article begins with "Barb Lee and her partners in crime". I know no offense was meant, and I have received not a complaint from a single committee member. However, I'd like to express that I'm just one of a very dedicated and hard working committee. Most of the committee has been involved now for 3-4 events, each carving out their own niche of expertise. The festival could not have excelled

each year as it has without the talents of April Bresgal, John Brindle, Bill Geelan, Dalean Neiner and Drew Smith. They are a wonderful group of individuals that I consider it a privilege to have involved in the festival. There may have been a time many years ago when the festival was "my baby", but that time is long past, and each of these individuals deserves to be named.

While having the opportunity, I would also like to say thank you to the many volunteers this year who pitched in to assist with numerous unglamorous tasks. We could not have done it without you.

Barb Lee, Programming Director
Spokane GLBT Film Festival

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13% in Seattle are gay or bisexual, second only to S.F., study says

By Lornet Turnbull
 Seattle Times staff reporter

Among the 50 largest U.S. cities, Seattle is second only to San Francisco in the percentage of residents identifying themselves as gay, lesbian or bisexual, a new study reports.

A researcher used census and other government statistics to offer an estimate of a segment of the population in cities, metropolitan areas and congressional districts nationwide whose size has only been guessed in the past.

The study reports found that 12.9 percent of Seattle residents — roughly 57,900 people — identified themselves as gay, lesbian or bisexual. In San Francisco, 15.4 percent of residents identified themselves as gay, lesbian or bisexual.

The study's findings are drawn from newly released U.S. census data on same-sex households showing that between 2000 and 2005, the reported number of gay-couple households increased by 30 percent in the United States and by 50 percent in Washington state.

The findings do not necessarily suggest the number of gay people and couples is growing dramatically.

Rather, say the study's author and others, the findings may have more to do with people becoming more comfortable about disclosing their sexual orientation in government surveys.

They also believe the trend holds social and political implications, as civil rights for gays remain a deeply divisive issue across the country.

"Basically, we're looking at the size

Cities with highest percentages of gays, lesbians, bisexuals

Among the nation's 50 most populated cities, Seattle has the second-highest percentage of adults identifying themselves as gay, lesbian or bisexual.

Cities with the 10 highest percentages of gay, lesbian or bisexual residents:

RANK	CITY	PERCENTAGE
1	San Francisco	15.4
2	Seattle	12.9
3	Atlanta	12.8
4	Minneapolis	12.5
5	Boston	12.3
6	Oakland, Calif.	12.1
7	Sacramento, Calif.	9.8
8	Portland	8.8
9	Denver	8.2
10	Long Beach, Calif.	8.1

Sources: U.S. Census; the Williams Institute

of America's closet," said Gary Gates, senior research fellow at the Williams Institute on Sexual Orientation Law and Public Policy at the University of California, Los Angeles. The institute focuses on sexual-orientation law and public policy.

While there have been attempts to estimate the gay and lesbian population in specific cities or states, the Williams Institute estimated the population's size across cities, metropolitan areas, states and congressional districts.

Gates used data from the National Survey of Family Growth, a multipurpose survey sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to estimate a gay, lesbian and bisexual population in the United States of 8.8 million people.

He then applied that data to the results of the American Community Survey, a periodic census update, to estimate the number of gay, lesbian and bisexual people in cities, metropolitan areas and congressional districts.

Same-sex households

Between 2000 and 2005, the number of households identifying themselves as being of the same sex increased in every state across the country. The increases were most dramatic in the Midwest.

STATE	SAME-SEX COUPLES		PERCENT CHANGE
	2000	2005	
New Hampshire	2,703	5,578	106%
Wisconsin	8,232	14,894	81
Minnesota	9,147	16,081	76
Nebraska	2,332	3,986	71
Kansas	3,973	6,663	68
Ohio	18,937	30,669	62
Colorado	10,045	15,915	58
Iowa	3,698	5,833	58
Missouri	9,428	14,722	56
Indiana	10,219	15,714	54
Washington	15,900	23,903	50

Sources: U.S. Census; the Williams Institute

His formula assumed that the percentage of all same-sex coupled households in any area — data provided by the census — reflects the percentage of all gays, lesbians and bisexuals in that same area.

He multiplied the estimated total national gay, lesbian and bisexual population of 8.8 million by the percentage of all same-sex couples in a given area to reach an estimated gay, lesbian or bisexual population for that area.

"There's really no other way to get at this population," he said. "There's not a better source out there."

The findings come in a year the state Supreme Court upheld a ban on same-sex marriage and when Washington became the 17th state in the nation to pass legislation extending housing and workplace protections to gays.

Josh Friedes, advocacy director for the gay-rights group Equal Rights

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Publisher's Note: Stonewall News Northwest (SNN) exists to engage, enlighten, and affirm the GLBTQA Community in a posture of dignity and inclusiveness. SNN welcomes content covering all spiritual facets and opinions relevant and affirming to our community, recognizing that all voices deserve to be heard.

Anything but Straight

Merry Christmas

by Wayne Besen

Leave it to the Religious Right to turn Santa Claus into a wedge issue and exchange the gift of seasonal cheer for a box of holiday fear. Thanks to their histrionic "War on Christmas" campaign, major retailers, including Wal-Mart and Walgreen Co. are now dumping "Happy Holidays" for "Merry Christmas" and piping in religious Christmas carols.

"They're all trying to get the spirit back," industry analyst Marshal Cohen told the Los Angeles Times.

Is he talking about the universal Christmas Spirit or the sectarian Holy Spirit? This sudden change of heart was due to an intensive lobbying campaign last year by right wing organizations, such as the American Family Association and Liberty Counsel, and conservative pundits like Sean Hannity and Ann Coulter. While mainstream Americans went to the store with a shopping list, conservatives showed up with a political agenda, checking chains once and twice to see if they were naughty or nice.

Yes, their tireless efforts to divide America paid off, and Jesus is now officially the "Reason for the Season." With this monumental change, we can purchase Sin on sale to the soundtrack of Silent Night. Praise the American Family Association, for they have put morals back into the mall. With the new Big Box Bible plan, you can also get that violent video game for your child,



confess your wickedness while in line and be absolved by the time you swipe your American Express.

You know what, if Jesus were a greeter at Wal-Mart, I bet he'd welcome customers with the more inclusive "Happy Holidays."

Jesus was about humility and respecting other people, while this phony "War on Christmas" is about humiliation and disrespecting the views of others. This is a muscular version of religion that seeks to overpower and stomp on diversity.

The reason that retail stores began to say "Happy Holidays" was a recognition that many of their shoppers were not Christians. It was not a war on anyone or anything, but a matter of courtesy, good manners, and common decency. After all, why would a genuine Christian want to tell a Hindu, Jew or atheist "Merry Christmas?"

It makes no sense unless the hidden goal is to intimidate people and cow them into accepting religious supremacy of the majority religion. This

is the right wing's way to let you know that they are in charge, and that this is a fundamentalist Christian nation and you are merely renting space, thanks to their overwhelming generosity.

If you break it down, this is really about proselytizing. It is a sort of Jesus tax, that lets non-believers shop for the holidays if they are willing to pay the price of constantly having to bow before another's deity.

This issue does not seem like a big deal on the surface, since it is largely symbolic. However, if you look at the way the right wing incorporates symbols and then uses them to bludgeon opponents, there is reason to worry.

They often point to the dollar bill and say, "See, it says 'in God we trust!' Doesn't that prove we are a Christian nation? Or, they will point to the Pledge of Allegiance and say, "It says one nation under God, so we can deny gay people equality or teach creationism in public schools because it is 'our' country."

As with these other symbols, the extremists want to hijack the shared shopping experience that holds us together and remake it in their own mean-spirited image.

While Merry Christmas may be a truly joyous message to Christians, it may not be entirely benign to others. It is the celebration of the birth of Jesus and to make other people share in the religious festivities when they enter a Wal-Mart is wrong. These large chains should reverse course and not give in to the demagogues on the fringe.

After getting creamed in the elections, the conservatives get this consolation prize while they lick their wounds. For now, they may have won Wal-Mart and Walgreens in their war on Christmas, but they have lost their reason for the season of love for all.

Wayne Besen is a columnist, author and the founder of Truth Wins Out, www.TruthWinsOut.org

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Practical Spirituality for Daily Life

This season... Be the light!

by Bob Schout

There is a hope that burns in the heart of every person. It's there all of the time, but desperately seeks expression during the winter months. Maybe because the days grow shorter, the nights are a bit colder, or simply because we've been conditioned to express it more during this time of year. I'm not sure what's its cause, and I don't really care. I like its effect. It is a hope for community, unity, acceptance, peace, joy, assurance and love. It's a hope, and an inner knowing, that there is light and love in the world, and it's an invitation to discover it, embedded, in each one of us

Most of us hold that light of hope silently, patiently and privately in our heart. We hope that others, during this season, will notice us, invite us, befriend us – and give us the gift of love. We even begin to call ourselves on any hopeless attitudes or behaviors, putting ourselves in check, proclaiming "it's the season." What this season beckons us to, however, is not the receiving of these gifts, but the giving of these gifts; gifts of hope, love, and light – and the gift of sight, to see them in our self and in others.

So what is it about this season that invites all of us to see light and be willing to give it more freely? During this season, Muslims ready themselves to begin the holy days of Ramadan, Jews look forward to Hanukkah – the Feast of Lights, Wiccans prepare for the celebration of the solstice, African-Americans prepare for the cultural festivities of Kwanzaa, and Christians anxiously await Christmas. The celebrations and rituals from each path have a few things in common. Each is a celebration of renewal, new beginnings and light. Each celebrates light bursting forth in the world, and into the hearts and minds of all people.

Why then, do some of our GLBTQ family members feel such sadness and darkness during these long nights and in the midst of these celebrations? There are many people who are terrified and anxious about the upcoming season. It seems that as the lights of the holidays are strung up, many of our GLBTQ friends get strung out. They fall into darkness during this season, afraid of being alone and dreading going to family dinners and celebrations during which they don't feel quite at home or at peace. As the days get shorter, their hope during this season of light seems to dim. Maybe that's to be expected. After all, the winter solstice is fast approaching, the longest and darkest night of the year, a night which has given birth to countless traditions, from the burning of the Yule log to the placing of candles and luminaria in windows to welcome wayward strangers in the night.

I think that some of our GLBTQ family misses the point of this season, this solstice, and these celebrations of gift-giving. The most important gifts that we have to give are the gifts of ourselves: our pure, unadulterated love. We are the ones who are meant to shine in the darkness. It takes but one light – one smile, one invitation, one word, or even one hug – to pierce the dark veil of a long night, warm a heart on a cold winter's eve, and create a hospitable place where friends and strangers know that they are



welcome. We have the opportunity to be that light. Look around and see who has no place to call home for a night. Who has not been invited to a party or dinner celebrating love and light? What strangers could desperately benefit from your smile or kind words? Who or what organizations would be grateful for your gifts of time, service or donations? These are just some of the ways that we shine in the darkness.

Regardless of religious or family traditions, there are opportunities that this season offers to do just that – SHINE and truly begin to give the gift of love for love's own sake. We have the chance to buy into the basic assertions of the truth of who we are and the truth of our divinity; that we are children of light. We don't have to dwell in darkness within or in that which at times, seems to surround us. We have incredible, unimaginable power within us to literally break through darkness, start anew, see past surface realities to the needs and hopes of others, and offer tangible gifts of peace and love, not just simple platitudes. In each of us there is a spirit that is not bound by one religious path or another. It is a spirit of unbridled passion and light eagerly waiting to renew, to love, and to be the light of the world in someone's life.

There are countless people who will tell us that the season is nothing but a superficial, materialistic, commercial orgy. But they're wrong. This season is what we make of it. The collective hope and joy of the entire world is palpable during this season. Everyone, deep within their heart, feels the yearning and burning of a small flame of hope and love, and yearns to ignite it and let it rage, spreading it from one person to another. Solstice festivities and faith-based traditions celebrate this life energy. They celebrate our ability to conquer darkness and spread light. They celebrate the eve when we turn the corner and begin to experience longer days of sunlight, the renewal of the world, and hope for tomorrow. These celebrations proclaim a central truth...the light is within us, we've had it all along, so let it shine.

So, on the Solstice and for each day in the months ahead, make a commitment to be the fire that brings light into the lives of others. Be the joy, hope, peace and love in a person's life for a day or merely a moment in time. For this entire season...be the light of the world.

Bob Schout is based in Dallas Texas. He is a life coach, pastoral counselor, and motivational speaker for business, government, non-profit and faith-based organizations. He can be reached by e-mail at psdevelopment@sbcglobal.net.

Politickers

Partings, sweet and sorrowful

by Catherine D. Willis

"So long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, good night" Yes, I have been singing the Rodgers and Hammerstein lyrics since Nov. 7. At times I've even indulged in uncharacteristic acts of gleeful spontaneity – dancing around my living room to that playful tune. I can't help myself. Brad Benson has been defeated.

Ten months ago when I told Fran Dunaway, then-executive director of Equal Rights Washington, that I saw the unseating of Sen. Benson as a primary goal for 2006, I didn't really believe it would happen. Chris Marr seemed up to the task, but so had Laurie Dolan in 2004. The analysts will explain the just completed race in greater detail than any of us care to examine; it's the end result we should celebrate now: A legislator utterly unsympathetic to the interests of our GLBTQA community has been dispatched, and in a most honorable way – through a vote of the people. Hooray for us!

I had planned to commend Benson on the civility of his campaign. In the closing days of the contest, however, too many slick, high-priced mailers crossed my path on his behalf. (If I could get through life without the services of a realtor or a dentist, I would seriously endeavor to do so!) Benson said on election night that he did not authorize the pieces, which may have been true, but he did not renounce them either.

Sins of omission can be as damning to a person, group or nation as sins of commission. Candidates should be as prepared to bear the consequences of their inactions as their actions. Let political action committees be warned too. Voters aren't as gullible as the mudslingers thought. Or are we? Cathy McMorris sailed to victory over Peter Goldmark in perhaps the most mean-spirited of any of the Eastern Washington campaigns this season. Go figure.

Spokane County Commissioner Phil Harris grossly underestimated challenger Bonnie Mager and the winds of change that appear to have toppled him. (Residual votes are still being counted at deadline, but Harris needs to capture an impossible number, more than 80 percent of the pending votes, to win a fourth term on the commission.)

Mager brings what many hope will be a refreshing new perspective to county government. Just don't expect wholesale shifts in focus and decision making. Commission chairman Todd Mielke and fellow Republican Mark Richard will probably vote in tandem, restricting the amount of changemaking Mager can accomplish, at least in the short term. Her gift to the process will be *process*.

I will count on her to encourage thorough and open discussion of issues that come before the commission. I want her to raise questions, to demand accountability, to facilitate creative problem solving. The "same old, same old" approach to government must end. Our quality of life depends on a thoughtful interpretation of our long-term transportation, land use, environmental, infrastructure, public health and public safety needs.

Public health took a hit Nov. 15 with the unceremonious firing of Spokane's



public health officer, Dr. Kim Thorburn. I can't believe I'm standing with The Spokesman-Review's Doug Clark on this issue. *What were they thinking?* The Spokane Regional Health District Board (SRHDB) has been gunning for the competent but unconventional Thorburn for years. Twelve supposedly intelligent people, nine of them elected officials, put management style and their own (bruised or simply weak?) egos over the best interest of the wider community, and we're going to pay for it big-time. We can't afford adequate police protection, mental health services or ongoing street maintenance, but we can buy off Dr. Thorburn's contract for \$125,000. No one on the health board can say with any certainty how much it will cost to replace her or how long it may take us to lure a qualified candidate to our chew-'em-up-and-spit-'em-out little neck of the woods.

The termination would make sense if there were cause. There isn't. On this point all agree. Thorburn has been an exemplary health officer. She's advocated vocally, unequivocally for policies the GLBTQA community supports. From needle-exchange to sex education to STD/HIV/AIDS prevention and intervention programming, Thorburn has taken proactive, cutting-edge positions on controversial public health questions. The conflict is, and has always been, about personality. In short, some people don't like the uppity little woman – oops – doctor.

The latent feminist in me is enraged by this debate. A man in the same role would never have been subjected to the indignities that have been heaped on Thorburn! Shame on the SRHDB and on us if we let this action pass without comment. I am especially disappointed in the votes of the two women on the board. Spokane City Councilmember Mary Verner had been seen as an ally. I wrote two endorsements of her candidacy for Stonewall News Northwest last year. She'll need to earn my trust and vote when she stands again for election, as will other politicians on the board.

The SRHDB's decision leaves our region with yet another black eye – right on the heels of the nationwide airing of the "Frontline" segment on Jim West that portrayed us as a narrow-minded, homophobic, backwater community. Spokane needs bold leadership if we are to transcend the area's entrenched inferiority complex. Unfortunately, we're still looking for it.

Welcome, Bonnie Mager! Perhaps you'll help fill our leadership void?

Thank you for your service, Kim Thorburn. Many of us are sorry to see you go.

Catherine Willis, a freelance writer/editor and community advocate, has been a political junkie for 30 years.

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National & International

A stand against hate

School board gets earful over anti-gay harassment at Harper Junior High School



Guy Fischer addresses the Davis Board of Education on Thursday, joined by his son Zachary Fischer and his partner Richard Carrillo. Wayne Tilcock/Enterprise photos

Nov 17, 2006

By Jeff Hudson and Lauren Keene
Enterprise staff writers

(DAVIS, CA) - After hearing three hours of emotional testimony Thursday about recent incidents of anti-gay harassment at Harper Junior High School, the Davis Board of Education reaffirmed its commitment to safe schools.

A standing-room-only crowd turned out for the discussion, which stemmed from a case involving a 13-year-old Harper eighth-grader, Zachary Fischer, who last month revealed that, for about a year, he had been the subject of anti-gay harassment from other students because of his father's relationship with another man.

Several students have been disciplined for their role in the harassment, but Zachary's father Guy Fischer is asking for more.

Board members asked Mel Lewis, the district's school climate coordinator, to draw up an action plan designed to reduce or eliminate harassment not just at Harper but at all Davis schools.

Zachary's revelation followed an incident in which the family's South Davis home and car were toilet-papered and splattered with a dozen eggs on the morning of Oct. 21 — exactly a week after the family's Mercedes was torched in the driveway.

Both incidents are being investigated by Davis police, who say they have identified three suspects in the vandalism and are recommending a diversion program for the teens. Investigators do not believe the arson is related to the egging, and they say there is no evidence that either incident is a hate crime.

"It's just a sad set of coincidences," Lt. Colleen Turay said. In the vandalism case, "the motivation had nothing to do with homophobia in any way."

Turay said the teens who allegedly vandalized the home are not the same people who have harassed Zachary, who following the egging presented school administrators with a list of 14 students he said have repeatedly called him a "fag" and made references to gay sex.

In response, the school disciplined seven students in connection with the harassment, with punishment ranging from detention to suspension. But when Zachary returned to school several days

later, he said the comments continued with little or no follow-up discipline.

Zachary's father, Guy Fischer, delivered a lengthy statement Thursday in which he upbraided the school's principal and vice principal, district administrators and others for their handling of the situation. He said Zachary had been subjected to "vulgar, atrocious, venomous" statements, and asserted that not enough had been done in response.

On Oct. 31, Guy Fischer pulled Zachary out of school. He has not been back since, and Guy Fischer said the school district has denied his requests for home instruction until Zachary returns to school.

"It was quite evident that they had not made it safe," Fischer said in an interview earlier this week along with his partner, Richard Carrillo. Both said they have not been satisfied with either the school's or the school district's handling of the matter.

"I'm angry," Zachary added. "The kids don't stop, and the school hasn't done anything about it."

School administrators disagree, however. Ginni Davis, associate superintendent for educational services, said via e-mail that in the wake of the disciplines, Harper Junior High conducted staff meetings, classroom discussions and, last Friday, held school assemblies on the subject of bullying. The school also is exploring a partnership with UC Davis' Gay and Lesbian Center, Davis said.

Fischer told the board Thursday that one of the students who had already been disciplined was once again harassing his son.

Harper Principal David Inns confirmed that one of the students disciplined was accused of further harassment, but the student denied it. Without something

to substantiate the accusation of harassment, Inns said his staff could "do no more than warn and caution," and the accused student was returned to class.

Fischer said he'd been told, "Your son should go into independent study, or transfer to another school." He added, "This isn't addressing the issue, not fixing the issue. This is running away from it. The school district wants to put the blame on the victim."

Noting that the Davis district's school climate coordinator has a half-time position, Fischer said "this is a full-time problem. There are a lot of things that could be done."

Zachary followed his father to the podium. "I have no faith in our school, the people that work there, they obviously cannot take control of the problem and fix it," he said. "I have been hurt by this. It changes me because I have to go through this."

"I also assume it changes other students, what they do, and other students that hear this. It happens all the time after school. It shouldn't be allowed."

The eighth-grader added, "Our school doesn't feel safe to me," and said he just wants "to have a normal life and not be called names."

School board president Keltie Jones — a lesbian mother with children in

Please see SCHOOL page 10

Israel recognizes equal marriage

In precedent-setting ruling court says state must recognize gay marriage

By Yuval Yoaz, Haaretz Correspondent and Haaretz Service

In a precedent-setting ruling, the High Court of Justice on November 21st ruled that five gay couples wedded outside of Israel can be registered as married couples.

A sweeping majority of six justices to one ruled that the civil marriages of five gay couples obtained in Toronto, Canada, can appear as married on the population registry.

The gay petitioners sought to force the state to give equal recognition to common law marriages of heterosexual couples to those of gay marriages, which can be performed in certain countries.

The Association for Civil Rights in Israel that filed the petition on the behalf of the couples, argued before the court that the Interior Ministry's refusal to register them as married compromises their right to equality and to hold family life, and is based on "homophobe social perceptions."

The court rejected the position of the State Attorney, that states recognizing single-sex marriages cannot expect Israel to recognize such nuptial agreements drawn in these countries.

The state told the High Court that "Israel lacks the appropriate legal framework for such marriages," and therefore it cannot register them.

After the ruling was issued, the Civil Rights Association said it is "all the more important in the wake of the [recent] public turmoil stirred by the gay pride parade in Jerusalem."

Itay Pinkas, a prominent member of the gay community who married his partner in Canada said in response: "This is an historical day for the [gay] community and for democracy. This is our real pride parade. We will keep battling for full equality in other areas."

The minister in charge over religious affairs, Yitzhak Cohen (Shas) said "the High Court has sunken in the gates of defilement and has torn out

Please see ISRAEL page 10

Pentagon alters gay guidelines

Homosexuality now included in list of conditions that includes bed-wetting



(WASHINGTON, D.C.) AP - Pentagon guidelines that classified homosexuality as a mental disorder now put it among a list of conditions or "circumstances" that range from bed-wetting to fear of flying.

The new rules are related to the military's retirement practices. The change does not affect the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy that prohibits officials from inquiring about the sex lives of service members and requires discharges of those who openly acknowledge being gay.

The revision came in response to criticism this year when it was discovered that the guidelines listed homosexuality alongside mental retardation and personality disorders.

Mental health professionals said Thursday they were not satisfied by the change.

"We appreciate your good-faith effort to address our concern that the document was not medically accurate," James H. Scully, head of the American Psychiatric Association, wrote David Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness. "But we remain

concerned because we believe that the revised document lacks the clarity necessary to resolve the issue."

The guidelines outline retirement or other discharge policies for service members with physical disabilities. The rules include sections that describe other specific conditions, circumstances and defects that also could lead to retirement, but are not physical disabilities.

Among the conditions are stammering or stuttering, dyslexia, sleep-walking, motion sickness, obesity, insect venom allergies and homosexuality.

"More than 30 years after the mental health community declassified homosexuality as a mental disorder, it is disappointing that the Pentagon still continues to mischaracterize it as a 'defect,'" said Rep. Marty Meehan (D-Mass.), a member of the House Armed Services Committee.

Pentagon spokeswoman Cynthia Smith said "homosexuality should not have been characterized as a mental disorder. A clarification has been issued."

The psychiatric association declassified homosexuality as a mental disorder in 1973. Questions about the Pentagon's guidelines were raised in June by a research institute at the University of California at Santa Barbara.

There were 726 military members discharged under the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy during the budget year that ended Sept. 30.

New Dems mixed on gay issues

Many oppose same-sex marriage, two back constitutional ban



Brad Ellsworth, one of dozens of new Democrats elected to Congress last week, supports a federal constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage. (Photo by Darron Cummings/AP)

By JOSHUA LYNSEN

Last week's election results may be more of a mixed bag for gay rights supporters than many originally thought.

At least 13 of 50 newly elected House and Senate Democrats oppose same-sex marriage, with two of those backing constitutional amendments to ban such unions.

According to research conducted by the Washington Blade, 16 Democrats elected Nov. 7 prefer civil unions to full marriage rights.

Nine incoming Democrats of the 50 examined by the Blade were verified to support full marriage equality for gay couples. They are Sen. elect Sheldon Whitehouse (R.I.), and Reps. elect Ed Perlmutter (Colo.), Joe Courtney and Chris Murphy (Conn.), John Sarbanes (Md.), Keith Ellison (Minn.), Carol Shea-Porter (N.H.), Yvette Clarke (N.Y.) and Stephen Cohen (Tenn.).

Forty-two incoming Democrats oppose a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage.

Issue positions were culled from campaign statements, news reports, voter guides and interviews with gay activists across the nation. The Blade identified nine new senators and 41 representatives who won their races last week. A handful of races remained undecided at press time; the research focused exclusively on freshman Democrats.

Those nine Democrats who favor marriage equality will be at odds with Reps. elect Brad Ellsworth (Ind.) and Nicholas Lampson (Texas), who support a federal constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage.

Experts said the split illuminates political divisions among incoming Democrats.

"Many are moderate or conservative," said Clyde Wilcox, a Georgetown University government professor. "They're not all your traditional, liberal Democrat."

But many gay activists said the political and ideological disparities were inevitable among the large group.

"We have some very progressive new members," said Samantha Smoot, political director of the Human Rights Campaign. "We also have some very conservative new members."

Also in the mix are many new members who have taken no clear stance on key gay issues. Of the 50 new Democrats reviewed, the Blade could not determine where 25 members stand on civil unions. And 10 could not be verified to support any gay rights legislation, including the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which has been identified as a priority of gay activists.

Smoot said HRC and other gay organizations must work in the weeks and months ahead to read these political wild cards.

"There are a number of Democrats who are not necessarily with us on most issues at this time," she said, "so we have our work cut out for us, even though Congress is now in the hands of fair-minded leaders."

Dodging the issue?

Among those who could receive the greatest scrutiny are congressmen from Indiana, Montana and North Carolina.

The five men did not receive an HRC endorsement and largely avoided discussing gay issues during their campaigns.

Sen. elect Jon Tester (Mont.) and Rep. elect Heath Shuler (N.C.) courted voters with their anti-abortion and pro-gun stances.

Indiana's three new representatives, meanwhile, offered no clear stance on civil unions, and at least two campaigned against gay marriage. Their victories drew uneasy support from gay activists.

"We are happy with the election of these three people," said Indiana Equality Chair John Clower. "They helped remove the party in control that has not been supportive on issues of concern to GLBT people in our state."

But he noted the three were just "marginally better" than the GOP incumbents they will replace.

Ellsworth, who supports the marriage amendment, defeated Rep. John Hostettler, who backed a House bill to stop federal courts from ruling on marriage-related issues.

Joseph Donnelly and Baron Hill, the state's other new House members, are social conservatives who maintain ambiguous or hostile stances on gay rights issues.

Still, gay Democrats hope to reach these and other new congressmen.

"We do have more conservative Democrats who were elected," said John Marble, spokesperson for the gay partisan group National Stonewall Democrats. "But that doesn't mean they won't be supportive of LGBT issues."

Marble said gay-friendly congressional leaders, including soon-to-be House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, could unite liberal and conservative Democrats.

"Someone like Nancy Pelosi is a great leader, and can work with conservative Democrats in the House," he said. "All the incoming Democrats are more than willing to work with her."

Wilcox noted Pelosi's ability to unite Democrats is key to advancing any gay legislation.

"It looks like she's going to stress party loyalty," he said. "She'll meet with them and pressure them a bit to go along with the leadership."

But other new members of Congress won't need to be pressured into supporting gay legislation.

Beyond the nine Democrats who back marriage equality are many who support civil unions or expanding gay civil rights and protections.

Please see DEMS page 13

Transgender teachers growing in numbers



(Tuckerton, New Jersey) For nine years, he was Mr. McBeth, a substitute teacher who kept things moving along in the classroom and filled in ably when the regular teacher was out sick.

And then one September, he was Miss McBeth.

The sex-change operation William McBeth underwent in 2005 roiled this rural, conservative area when she applied to be rehired as a substitute in Eagleswood Township. Parents packed a school board meeting last winter, some decrying what they termed an experiment, with their young children as guinea pigs; others supported her right to be who she is and work at what she does best.

But then a strange thing happened a few months later: When McBeth was up for a job at a different school in the area, no one protested. In fact, no one voiced an opinion at all when she was hired.

"There's no doubt about it; they've calmed down," said McBeth, a retired marketing executive and divorced parent of three.

"There's no reason I shouldn't teach," said McBeth. "Look at me as a person: Am I qualified to teach? Yes. Do I have experience? Yes. Do I have a good report card from the schools? Yes. I have nothing to hide, and I'm proud of who I am."

About 20 transgender teachers are working in classrooms across the country, but more are in the process of "transitioning," experts estimate. That opens up a host of issues the teachers - and their employers and students - have to deal with.

"The question often arises: Are transgender people competent to be employees, and those questions can come from co-workers, management or students," said Chris Daley, director of the Transgender Law Center in San Francisco. "A lot of that is because there is a lack of information about who transgender people are."

David Nielsen, a librarian at Southwest High School in Minneapolis, began living as a woman in the spring of 1998 and came to school one Monday as Debra Davis. She was sued by a co-

worker who objected to her using the women's restroom. The claim eventually was rejected by an appeals court, but not before local police got involved.

"I had a sex crimes detective in my building investigating me," she said.

Part of the difficulty was the suddenness of Davis' transformation.

"As far as I knew and as far as the school knew, I was among the first people to suddenly do that in a high school who worked directly with children, basically over a weekend," Davis said. "I didn't take a year off, I didn't do it over the summer. Literally, a man left on Friday and a woman came back on Monday."

She met with school officials and staff, and again with students to answer any questions they had.

"They asked, 'What do we call this person?' It's Miss Davis now, it's Debra," she recalled. "It's 'she' now. 'What bathroom is she going to use?' The kids did pretty well. Did they come to the library to see their new, improved librarian? You bet they did!"

The students were great, she said. Some festooned the hallways with signs of support, including one with the slogan Hate Is Not A Family Value.

Not every adult was as welcoming, though.

"The people who struggled were people who struggle with diversity," she said. They were concerned that "the kids would have to have contact with someone like me who's an abomination of God."

For 72-year-old William McBeth, he had the feeling he was different from the age of seven. Growing up in Atlantic City, N.J., he would sneak into the closet to try on his mother's and aunt's clothes when no one was around, and wasn't quite sure why.

"You had these feelings that you didn't clearly recognize," she said. "You knew you were different, and you knew these were thoughts you couldn't bring up to anybody. I lived that life in fear. I did everything I could: I was a Boy Scout, a surfer, I was in the military. I ran a ski lodge in Alaska. I had a magnificent life."

"But you're living under the fear that someone would find out about you," McBeth said. "You know they wouldn't understand; I didn't understand it. It wasn't until middle age that I knew there were other people like me."

In 2003, while hospitalized for a heart condition, McBeth did some soul-searching.

Please see TEACHERS page 14

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Vincent Bozzi
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Christopher Lawrence, A & E Editor

Nearly Gone... with the Wind

Three weeks into shooting *Gone with the Wind*, producer David O. Selznick shuts down production, plucks director Victor Fleming off the set of *The Wizard of Oz*, hijacks writer Ben Hecht, and they rewrite the entire screenplay while locked in Selznick's office for five days. Sound dangerous? Maybe...

Moonlight and Magnolia's is quite the saga of these three larger-than-life Hollywood legends at their best and worst.

Weaver's portrayal of Selznick is bursting with the talents and demons one would expect and is far more comical than I am convinced Mr. Selznick would have preferred. Vacillating between being poetic and painfully driven, he brow beats, threatens, appeals and begs his captives into completion of the project he believes to be an industry-changing vision.

Patrick Treadway as legendary screenwriter Ben Hecht embodies the conscience for the group with well delivered lines that ring of dry wit even as he launches himself into direct and occasional physical confrontation with the tough-as-nails-personality of the director, Victor Fleming, adroitly played by John Oswald.

Wonder Russell plays the secretary in that crisply charming and submissive, my-boss-can-do-no-wrong attitude even when he is a monster.

The incessant infighting and one-



L-R: Patrick Treadway, Michael Weaver, John Oswald. Not pictured: Wonder Russell

upsmanship between these gigantic personalities as they explore the possibility of writing the screenplay is completely believable. When they act out all the various parts of the original book by Margaret Mitchell, the audience is helpless with laughter.

The humor is nicely punctuated with social, political and discrimination issues that are prevalent in both the early history of

our country and in Hollywood's society of 1939.

The result is not only funny but insightful as they work their way through the five fateful days that will change the movie industry so dramatically.

So much comedy is woven into the direction and lines that the night speeds by in no time at all.

The sets were simple with spectacular appointments that helped create a design one might really have encountered in that time and place.

Well done! ART is a treasure in our community, and they deserve our support. Tickets are available until Dec. 9 by calling (509) 838-4013.

Does unfettered restraint work?

Anyone wanting to see a classic example of an exercise in insanity would have enjoyed interPLAYERS' zany production of *Moon over Buffalo*.

A rather long in the tooth husband/wife acting team are playing a second rate theater in Buffalo, N.Y. and performing an alternating repertory of *Private Lives* and *Cyrano*.

As I mentioned in the last issue, this is the play that lured Carol Burnett back to Broadway and inspired a series of ongoing sketches in her long running variety TV series about similar characters who climb the curtains and chew the scenery to their hearts content as they perform their overly dramatic monkeyshines across the unsuspecting nation's less stellar theaters.

The theme is familiar, but the take by the actors under the guidance of first time director Paul Villabrilie is still fresh and entertaining.

Moon is set in the early 50s, and many references are lost for some of the younger attendees, but most of the humor is timeless and is delivered in broad swatches of visual comedy.

Nowhere in sight is the "restrained" performance Gary Pierce threatened. His character of George could use a few more moments of contrast with the high energy he so frenetically brings home.

Damon (Howard) as the hesitant betrothed of the daughter is a gem, and his nervous giggle of lunacy after being tied up, gagged and locked in the closet



L-R: Dan Anderson, Damon Mentzer, Alba Jean MacConnell, Kari Meuller, Gary Pierce, Ryan Marie Patterson, Robert L. Wamsley and Jean Hardie.

is brilliant. He always captures the audience, and we will miss him when he heads for the Sunshine State to garner his Masters degree.

Grandma Ethel (Alba Jean) is particularly amusing as the crusty and antagonistic hard of hearing matriarch with a keen dislike for her high mainte-

nance son-in-law.

The ensemble was strong and their timing was nearly flawless. They all delivered another great offering from interPLAYERS theater group.

"Holiday In Jazz"

The Spokane Jazz Orchestra will be showcasing the swinging voice of Seattle's jazz singing sensation Charlotte Carruthers on arrangements of the best known holiday classics and also Duke Ellington's ingenious arrangement of "The Nutcracker Suite" on Fri., Dec. 1 at 8 P.M. at the Met Theater.

"When Charlotte sings a song, her expression and style come straight from her heart! She will be singing many of the best known and loved holiday songs, including "The Christmas Song," "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas," "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," and many others. Her performance at the SJO Holiday Concert two years ago was such a hit and so well received, that we had to bring her back for an encore," says SJO music director Dan Keberle.

Tickets are available at TicketsWest by phone at (800) 325-SEAT or online at www.ticketswest.com.

For information contact Dan at (509) 777-4582; dkeberle@whitworth.edu or visit www.spokanejazz.com.

The Sound of (a) Music(al)

Let me begin with praise for the new sound system at Civic Theatre's Main Stage. The improvement is amazing and the voices are clear as a bell through nearly the whole production. If only the small orchestra were not smothered by being in the nearly closed pit. Too much of the music seems nearly insubstantial by comparison to the sweet vocals by Keith Hahto and other cast members.

It was refreshing to see at least one cross dressing (female to male) for some of the party scenes. She was elegant and masculine and seemed completely at ease in the stylish party surroundings of the artsy New York scene. I also do not recall hearing the lesbian reference in the original dialogue. Kudos to Troy Nickerson for so casually reminding our conservative theater community that we are well into the 21st century.

Mame is a favorite musical of mine from a childhood infatuation with the wildly zany characters surrounding young Patrick that treated my mind to new flavors. Opening night was a wonderful reminder of how delightfully witty musical comedy can be. Although many references have to do with a New York society of 50 years ago, most of the humor still rings true today.

And humor trumps nearly every other emotion here. Kathy Doyle-Lipe may not measure up to the part of Vera in physical stature yet she manages to bring her over-the-top abilities to bear in making the character memorable. The staging of her big number, "The Man in the Moon is a Lady" was priceless.

Young Patrick, played by Keith Hahto is crisp and sophisticated with a clear sweet voice. We will be seeing much more of his talent in future productions as he matures and builds his craft.

Other notables in the cast were Tami Knoell as Agnes Gooch, Jone Campbell Bryan as Mrs. Upson and Christina Winn as the salon owner. I wish I had more room to mention everyone in the fine cast, but space does not allow.

Overall this was a delightful evening and with the few opening night mishaps enhancing the party mood rather than distracting from it.

Casting Melody Deatherage as *Mame* may have seemed like a good idea. As always, she is polished and professional, but there are times when her voice is not powerful enough to carry the real grit and style and do justice to this iconic character. Her performance was adequate, but not inspired.

While on the topic of uninspired, Civic's costume department did not live up to the usual expectations. Often appearing to be ill-fitted, some are fine and others are only fair. I suppose we have been spoiled by the wonderful costum-



L-R: Melody Deatherage as Mame, Kathy Doyle-Lipe as Vera and Keith Hahto as young Patrick.

ing of last year's *My Fair Lady* and *The Music Man* earlier this year.

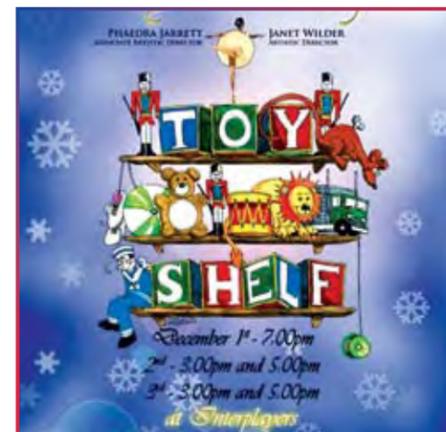
The sets are passable, but seem flimsy and lack the real flair of this musical's setting and style. Even so, there are far more reasons to see it than there are to miss it. So don't.

Mame is being presented at Civic Theater through Dec. 17. Tickets are available at TicketsWest online or by calling (800) 325-7328.

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.

The upcoming review session is *Highsmith* by Angler Highway on Dec. 6.



This is the time of year that belongs to children of all ages. The holidays can be filled with wonder and this is your chance...

If you have children, know children or want to remember what Christmas was like when you were a child, do not miss the story of Miss Ellen and her school children's visit to a magical toy shop. *The Toy Shelf* has become a Spokane holiday tradition, and the wonderful *Ballet Spokane* might just bring out your spirit for the holidays at interPLAYERS on Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. and on both Dec. 2 and 3 for two performances at 3 and 5 p.m., (\$5)

REVIEWS & PREVIEWS

BOOKS - VIDEOS - MUSIC

Christopher Lawrence & Graham Ames

Queens

Manuel Gomez Pereira, director
Genius Products/here! Films

By now it should be clear to most of our GLBTQ community that much of the free world is light years ahead of the U.S. when it comes to marriage rights. Spain is such a country. *Queens* is a fictional accounting of the 48 hours prior to Spain's first same sex marriage ceremony.

We may not know their names, but Betiana Blum, Carmen Maura, Marisa Paredes, Mercedes Sampletro and Veronica Foriqué are the royalty of beloved actresses and film stars in Spain.

They play five of the mothers who came to Madrid to participate in Spain's first mass same-sex wedding. Five of the 20 couples and their families' idiosyncrasies, subsequent adjustments, reactions and mistakes are detailed in this humorous and risqué comedy. European sensibilities blur the boundaries of respectable behavior and sexual proclivity in comparison to much of what we see in American cinema of a similar but heterosexual bent. Each mother is distinct from the next, and each is required to see life from a new perspective while finding the strength to support her son. The media blitz over this historical event adds but one complication to many others, as secrets are revealed and hearts are bared.

One of the mothers is a nymphomaniac who sleeps with her son's husband-to-be, and there is her therapist who is sleeping with her already engaged son.

Add to this a lost shaggy dog by the name of Marilina (Marilyn), who terrorizes and somehow manages to tie each of these families together, along with the floor show for the queer Bachelor Party pre-event, and hilarity reigns supreme in this fast-paced social comedy.

Most of the characters are complex, sharply written and keenly drawn by direction and portrayal. Every single actor is top-notch, and the ensemble plays together with sharp wit and perfect timing.

Queens production values are also excellent on every front. Lighting, cinematography, sound, sets, costumes are each worthy of awards.

Perhaps my hyperbole is overstated, but not by much. This is a film worthy of any GLBTQA library that would never have been created and released in this country. Hollywood seldom has the nerve to dish it out with no apology.

Spain is still far ahead of us. Its time for us to have equality in marriage AND equal representation in our own film industry.

Be sure not to miss this one. Street release date is Dec. 7.

Creatures from the Pink Lagoon

Chris Diani, director/co-writer
Seattle Theater Project, 71 minutes

I missed this offering on Sunday at the Spokane GLBT Film Festival, but I was anxious to see it after hearing mixed responses from local community members who attended.

After viewing it, I can see why there was such a wide range of reactions from the audience, although *Creatures from the Pink Lagoon* received great reviews in most cities where it was shown this year and it won a few awards. The North Caroline LGBT Film Festival sold out three showings!

The story line is clever. Visualize *Boys in the Band* meeting George A. Romero's *Night of the Living Dead* at a cruisy rest stop. Mixing the genre of 1950s black and white horror flicks with high (and low) camp may not yield the stuff that appeals to a more conservative audience, but it does make for some interesting and often very funny entertainment.

Zombies upchucking a mixture of what appears to be oatmeal, chicken salad and a few chunky strands of hijiki seaweed notwithstanding, the few pseudo-grisly scenes lampoon the gory appetites of those who crave such fare. **Warning:** Some body parts that fall off were never seen in Romero's works.

It seems a chemical plant that resides between the Pink Lagoon and local rest stop #5 has been dumping toxic waste into the lagoon, and the mosquitoes that infest that unholy area are spreading the zombie (West End) virus by biting local queers who frequent said rest stop. As the homo-zombies are overcome with the disease, they hunger for homo flesh

and begin to also infect the locals. Stereotypes always seem to be prevalent in any satire, and here they abound with no shame at all. The antidote to the virus is queerly humorous, and all but a few survive to proudly face another 1950s queer day.

Suffice it to say that several of the actors appear to have talent that is filtered through the style of wooden performances from the era with unerring results. Filmed in dramatic black and white (and occasional magenta), every detail of production is carefully thought out. The music for the film and goofy choreography for the zombies was delightful.

Rent it before you buy it unless you KNOW this camp is for you. I would give it a thumbs up if I were not afraid of having that thumb eaten by some rampant homo-zombie.

Love

The Beatles
EMI Records Ltd. / Apple Corps Ltd.

You must be thinking, "Another Beatles album? They broke up 30-odd years ago. Two of them are dead. How on earth can there be a new album by this band? Are they just recycling old material?" To a certain extent, you would be correct; almost nothing on this 2006 release was recorded after the foursome disbanded. But this is not *The Beatles* as you have heard them before. Even for the most jaded aficionado, there are brilliant moments of illumination. For a Fab Four newbie, this might be a perfect introduction. In either case, it deserves a place on any serious record shelf.

Sir George Martin, the original producer of All Things Beatles, accepted the challenge of reworking the recordings of his protégés back in 2003. His hearing damaged from years of musical abuse, he enlisted the help of his son, Giles.

They spent over two years with the original master tapes, teasing them apart and reassembling them to create a "re-imagining" of familiar material that is at once nostalgic and startlingly fresh.

The 26-track, 78-minute opus begins with the intense vocal harmonies of "Because," this time performed acapella. Soon is heard the fading piano chord from the end of "A Day In The Life," backwards. Suddenly, the opening off-kilter chord from "A Hard Day's Night" is heard, blending into the drum solo from "The End," and finally building into a full-blown new mix of "Get Back." Bleeding into "Glass Onion," the music suddenly shifts to the heartbreaking "Eleanor Rigby" string quartet. Not even ten minutes into the album and already it has presented at least eight soundscapes, each recognizable, yet somehow new. The onslaught continues, with early tracks such as "I Want To Hold Your Hand" and "Drive My Car."

Most of the quartet's greatest songwriting achievements are here, including "Something," "Strawberry Fields Forever" and "Here Comes The Sun." In fact, there are so many familiar titles listed, it would be nonsensical to repeat them here. Amongst the ear-opening moments is the overlaying of the vocals of "Within You Without You" atop the drum-and-bass section of "Tomorrow Never Knows." It would be difficult to imagine without hearing, but it works as if it were written that way.

The engineers who recorded these sounds in the mid-60s were working at the very cutting edge of their craft and technology. The sound is so good, it is hard to believe the source material is nearly 40 years old. (The 5.1 surround-sound mix isn't reviewed here.) It makes one wish the original albums had been re-mastered to this level of clarity. As it stands, this newest offering from a long-defunct band might be the most exciting thing to hit record stores in many years.

It has the power to create new fans for what is arguably the most important rock band of all time. It might inspire young artists to follow in the pop-yet-avant-garde footsteps of Lennon, McCartney, et al. More importantly, it breathes new life into a musical legacy that might have faded across the years. Made with the collective blessing of Paul, Ringo, Yoko, and Olivia, *Love* is a stunning release by history's top rock act. Whether a teenage newcomer or an aging Boomer who grew up with the band, it may be that "All You Need Is Love" ...at least in your CD collection.

Hannah Montana

Hannah Montana
Disney Records

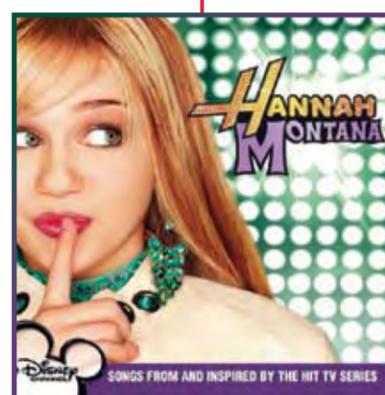
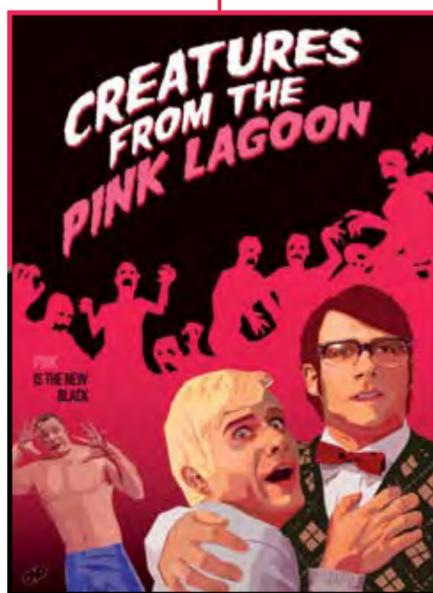
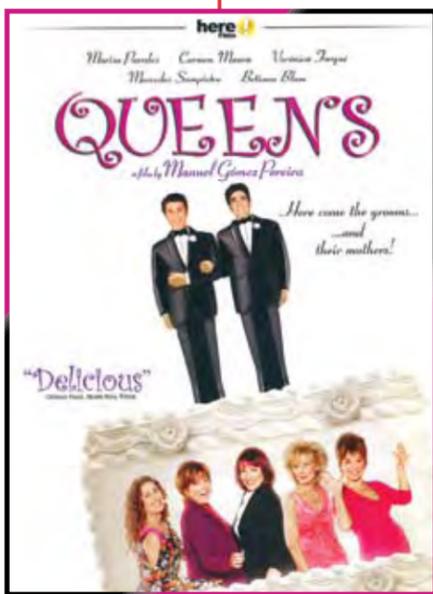
Miley Cyrus is Miley Stewart is Hannah Montana. The real-life daughter of Billy Ray Cyrus ("Achy-Breaky Heart,") Miley plays Miley, a teenager who just wants to be considered normal. But Miley is also Hannah, a

music mega-star who draws crowds everywhere she goes. How can Miley/Hannah manage to maintain a normal life and still be a huge performer? Such is the quandary explored in "Hannah Montana," the most-watched television show aimed at today's tween audience.

Eight of the 13 tracks on this album are performed by "Hannah," Miley's alter-ego. Each of them is a pop gem, filled with catchy generic hooks and charming music moments that cannot help but entice the most wily listener. Skirting the fine lines between pop, rock and modern country, Hannah's songs are uplifting and slightly subversive. They deal with adolescent relationships or comment directly on the show's secret identity premise, with a

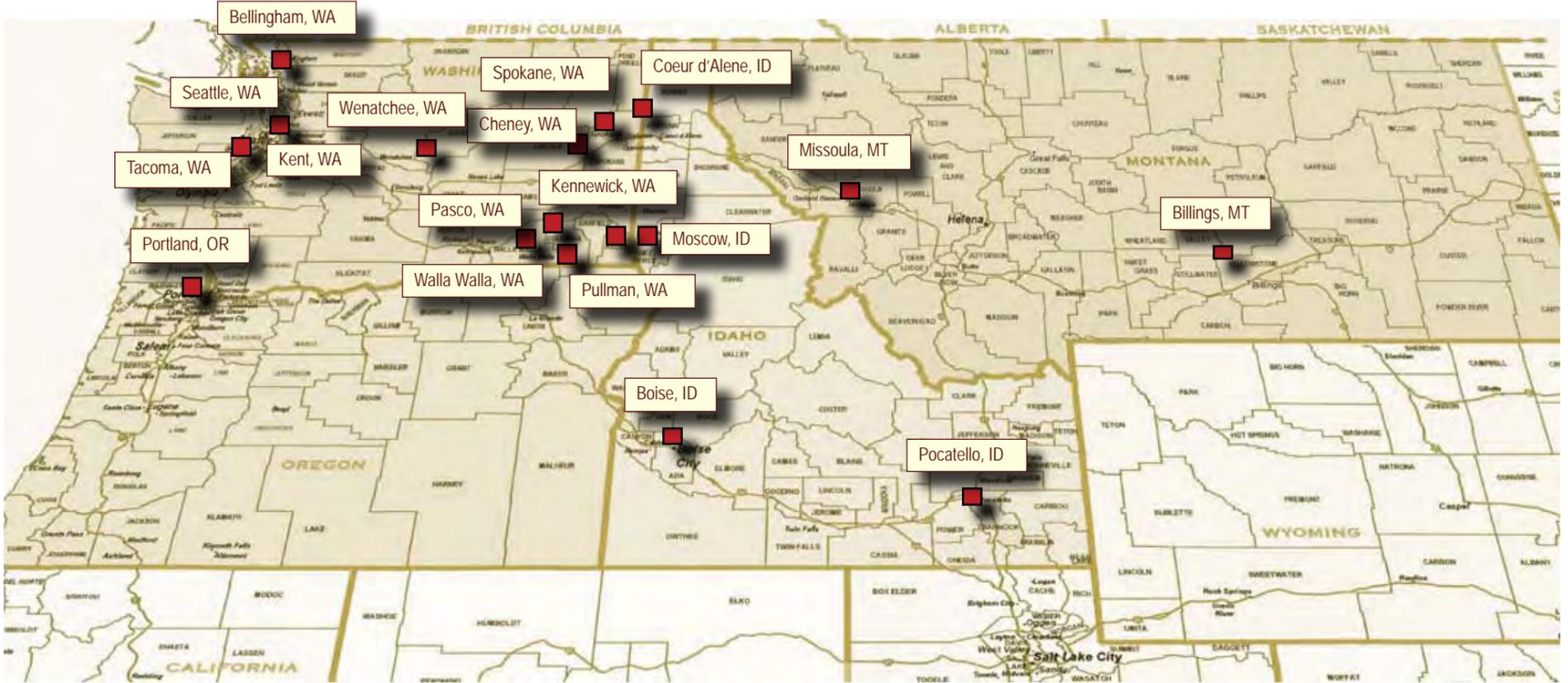
knowing wink toward the audience. Drawing a wider circle, Hannah/Miley sings about the uncomfortable situations we have all felt in our lives, certain that we have monumental contributions to make to the world around us, if only those closest to us would recognize the amazing person hiding beneath the surface. If "being in the closet" could be given a joyous spit-polish and then presented to the world in a family-friendly format, it would sound like this.

The remaining tracks have their own charm, performed by the likes of Jesse McCartney and B5. The album finishes with a touching duet by Billy Ray and Miley about learning life lessons from loved ones. Overall, it is an album which may not live forever in the rock-and-roll catalog, but will surely satisfy the musical longings of blooming pre-adults without alienating parents in the process. It is dance/country/pop at its finest, burning up the sales charts and dominating on television. Look for the version with the extra DVD featuring five concert performances by Hannah. It is a perfect stocking stuffer for the kids, or even perhaps for yourself. After all, you loved The Archies, didn't you?



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SCHOOL

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local schools — also made a passionate statement.

"I'm deeply distressed about what's happened with this student," she said. "I believe this is a learning opportunity for everyone. I don't see training as piecemeal. I believe in celebration of our differences; that what's make this society beautiful."

Jones said she "may not agree" with all the assertions made at Thursday's meeting, adding "what's happened thus far isn't perfect. ... We have to do more, make it clear to the entire district that this is one of our highest priorities."

Trustees Jim Provenza, Tim Taylor, Sheila Allen and Gina Daleiden also made statements that echoed Jones' sentiment on that point.

Bruce Nickerson, an attorney representing the Fischers, warned trustees that "from what Zachary and his family told me, individuals and the school district are at present liable" under California law. He said his clients are "not planning necessarily on a lawsuit, merely saying that as we stand now, laws have been violated. This must be corrected."

Other speakers were less critical, including Ingrid Salim of the Harper Junior High faculty, who identified herself as an "out gay teacher." Salim said she was speaking on behalf of "20 staff members," and said "we're definitely against harassment ... and we definitely support our administration. I want that to be loud and clear from us."

Gay activist Ellen Pontac praised the work of Lewis, the school climate coordinator, and advised "this is not a problem at one school, it should be dealt

with districtwide."

Lewis discussed at length the work he is doing, and repeatedly asked the school board for more resources.

Hui-Ling Malone, student representative on the school board, observed that "as a Davis High School student, I know (harassment) happens every day. Other students know it, too. We know it's wrong. We know."

Fred Harvey, a member of the Yolo County grand jury, also a gay parent and co-founder of the local chapter of Parents, Family and Friends of Gays and Lesbians, said the grand jury has received several complaints about harassment of gay children, and "more from Davis than from any other districts in the county."

Gretchen Bender, a lesbian mom who serves as a trustee on the Sacramento County Board of Education, said, "I'm impressed by what I hear tonight. Staff is saying all the right things," but added that the next step is "following up with action."

Sue Franck, a lesbian mom from Davis, said the district's response "needs to go beyond having someone come in for a training session. Let's have a dialogue with teachers, let's talk about gay families. ... It needs to be something we are saying out loud."

In addition to Thursday's school board meeting, Fischer and Carrillo, along with school district representatives, took the matter before the Davis Human Relations Commission. As the discussions continue, Fischer and Carrillo say they hope the focus stays on the school environment, and not their personal relationship.

"This isn't about promoting the gay lifestyle," Fischer said. "It's about the

fundamentals of looking out for our kids' best interests."

"Nobody should be on the receiving end of bigotry — nobody," Carrillo added.

— Reach Jeff Hudson at jhudson@davisenterprise.net or 747-8055. Reach Lauren Keene at lkeene@davisenterprise.net or 747-8048.

SEATTLE

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Washington, said the numbers demonstrate why it's important for states such as Washington to address such issues as how best to meet the needs of gay and lesbian couples as they age.

State Rep. Ed Murray, D-Seattle, who is gay, said that while the goal is still same-sex marriage, he plans to introduce legislation in the next session that "extends to gays and lesbians the same benefits of marriage, even if we can't get marriage."

"I know it will be a multiyear process."

Cheryl Haskins, executive director of Allies for Marriage and Children, said her organization is working to ensure it will have a voice in what goes on. The group supports defining marriage as the union between one man and one woman.

Seattle news researcher Gene Balk contributed to this report.

Lornet Turnbull: 206-464-2420 or lturnbull@seattletimes.com

ISRAEL

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the last mezuzah from its doors. Marriage can only be held by the faith of Moses and Yisrael [the traditional Jewish marriage vows].

"The dam that protected the Jewish state has been burst open under the auspices of the High Court, asking for an anti-Jewish deluge clad in black capes," he said.

"We don't have a Jewish state here. We have Sodom and Gomorrah here," said Moshe Gafni, an ultra-Orthodox lawmaker, referring to two cities the Bible said was destroyed because their citizens were so sinful.

"I assume that every sane person in the State of Israel, possibly the entire Jewish world, is shocked, because the significance is... the destruction of the family unit in the State of Israel," Gafni told Army Radio.

Yossi Ben-Ari, who petitioned the court along with his partner, Loren Shuman, brushed off Gafni's comments as a continuation of the ultra-Orthodox "frenzy" against Israel's gay and lesbian community.

"This is only the beginning of the battle. The courts here are very progressive ... but the battle is for the face of society," Ben-Ari told Army Radio. "The battle for our rights doesn't end here, it is still very long."

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 in St. John's Cathedral, 12th Ave. Entrance

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Resource Directory

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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

Web site: <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

Friends of SAN

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

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

Gay/Lesbian Info Line

Call: (509) 489-2266

Immediate Crisis: (509) 838-4428

GLBT Book Group

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

Call: Julie Smith: (509) 838-0206

Gonzaga University GLBT Resource Center

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

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

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

Direct line: Bryce: 323-5847

Hospice of Spokane

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

Call: (509) 456-0438

ISCS –

Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane

Call: (509) 251-1242.

Web site: www.iscspokane.com

INBA –

Inland Northwest Business Alliance

A Professional GLBTQ/Allied Business Alliance. Monthly luncheon meetings and annual community resource directory.

Write: PO Box 20163, Spokane, WA 99204

Voice mail: 509-455-3699

E-mail: info@inbaspokane.org

Web site: www.inbaspokane.org

Inland Northwest Equality

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

Call: Krista Benson: 838-7870

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

Integrity

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

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

Lutheran Community Services-SafeT Response Center

Call: (509) 747-8224

Crisis line (509) 624-7273

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.lilaccitymensproject.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

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

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 The Inland Northwest

HIV antibody testing and counseling.

Call: Clinic for Appt.: (800) 788-9128

Administration: (509) 326-6292

Pride Foundation/Inland Northwest

The Pride Foundation connects, inspires and strengthens the Pacific Northwest GLBTQ community in pursuit of equality by awarding grants and scholarships and cultivating leaders.

Call: Spokane office (509) 327-8377 or (888) 575-7717

E-mail: outreach@pridefoundation.org

Website: www.pridefoundation.org

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

Ryan White CARE Consortium

HIV care education and planning group.

Call: Tarena Coleman: (509) 444-8200

E-mail: tcoleman@chas.org

Rainbow Regional Community Center

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

Call: (509) 489-1914

Web site: www.spokanerainbowcenter.org

SAN –

Spokane AIDS Network

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

Web site: www.spokaneAIDSnetwork.org

Spokane County Domestic Violence Consortium

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

Call: (509) 487-6783

Spokane Falls Community College – The Alliance

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

Call: (509) 533-4507

Spokane Human Rights Commission

Call: Equity Office: (509) 625-6263

Spokane Regional Health District

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

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

Web site: www.spokanecounty.org/health

Stonewall News Northwest

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

Call: (509) 570-3750

Fax: (509) 267-6309

Web site: www.stonewallnews.net

Unitarian Universalist Church

Gay, lesbian resource committee.

Call: (509) 325-6383

Web site: www.uuchurchofspokane.org

Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery

Call: 535-3155

Web site: www.vanessabehan.org

Women and Friends

Women-only activities and events in the Spokane area.

Call: (509) 458-4709

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

North Idaho College

Gay-Straight Alliance

E-mail: BCARDISON@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

Panhandle Health District

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

• Kootenai County Call: (208) 667-3481

• Boundary County Call: (208) 267-5558

• Shoshone County Call: (208) 786-7474

• Bonner County Call: (208) 263-5159

• Benewah County Call: (208) 245-4556

Web site: www2.stateid.us/phd1

PFLAG - Sandpoint

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

Call: (208) 263-6699

Planned Parenthood of The Inland Northwest

HIV antibody testing and counseling.

Call: Clinic for Appt.: (800) 788-9128

Administration: (509) 326-6292

LEWISTON/CLARKSTON

PFLAG - Lewis-Clark

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

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Administration: (509) 326-6292

Washington State University

Gender Identity/Expression and Sexual Orientation Resource Center

Call: Heidi Stanton (509)335-8841

E-mail: hstanton@wsu.edu

Web site: www.thecenter.wsu.edu

Washington State University

GLBA Student Group

Fun, fellowship and socializing.

Call: (509) 335-6428

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

Out There

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

Call Melinda: (509) 335-6428

University of Idaho

Gay-Straight Alliance

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

Call: (208) 885-2691

TRI-CITIES

Benton-Franklin District Health Department

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

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

Confidential voice mail also.

River of Life

Metropolitan Community Church

Christian church celebrating diversity and affirming GLBTQ 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

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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 GLBTQ community. Promoting the health and well-being of GLBTQ individuals, their families and friends.

Call: (509) 529-5320

Write: 527 E. Oak

Walla Walla, WA 99362-1248

E-mail: pflag_walla2wash@hotmail.com

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

Seventh-day Adventist Kinship

Call: (509) 525-0202

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) 860-7354

E-mail: shine_org@yahoo.com

YAKIMA

PFLAG - Yakima/Yakima Valley

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

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12 - Announcements & Notices

Items Wanted. Odyssey Youth Center has an ongoing need for bus token donations. There is also a need for a soda dispensary machine, gift cards/certificates to use as youth rewards and incentives, and an X-Box 360 video game console. To donate these or other items please call Odyssey Youth Center, 509/325-2627.

13 - Volunteers

Spokane AIDS Network Needs Volunteers
Contact Cherie at 509/455-8993

OUTSPOKANE IS LOOKING for community-minded people to help with the 2007 Pride
Call Christopher at 509/624-9639 for details on meeting the 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month.

44 - Travel



Cowboy Up Montana Roadhouse
Dinner & Bed

Your special GAY Hideaway in the beautiful mountains of western Montana!
Soft beds and gourmet meals! Only 2 hours from Spokane via I-90.
www.cowboyupmontana.com

46 - Miscellaneous For Sale

FOUR BIONAIRE 9 & 6 GAL. HUMIDIFIERS FOR SALE!
Need to be cleaned and demineralized. Work perfectly and need a good dry home to love. \$30 each. 509/570-3751

CARDIO-GLIDE EXERCISE MACHINE-\$75
Good working condition but no instrumentation. Excellent upper **and** lower body workout. Call 509/570-3751

13 - Personal-General Services

SENSUOUS MASSAGE
AROUND-the-world massage by 6-ft., 175-lb., 49, handsome, clean, muscular, willing to please, blue-eyed bottom masseur using latest technique and essential oils. Call Gary: (509) 889-9294.

Rates: Classified Ads are \$10 for up to 25 words. Each additional word is 25 cents. For a bold face headline, add \$1.50.
Payment Method: You may pay for your Classified Ad by check or money order via the US Postal Service or by credit card, debit card, or PayPal by mailing, E-mailing, or telephoning your information.
E-mail Ads: You may submit your Classified Ad at Stonewall's Web site at www.stonewallnews.net. Click on the Classifieds link to enter your information on the E-mail. Your payment will need to be received by Stonewall at least one week before publication.
Mail-In Ads: Type or legibly print your ad on an 8 1/2 x 11 sheet of paper along with your name, address, and phone number; include your signature. Mail your completed ad along with your payment to: SNN, PO Box 2704, Spokane, WA 99220.
Personals: If your Personal ad uses an address, Stonewall will only use a PO Box or a Stonewall Personal Blind Box (PBB). For a PBB, add \$5 to the cost of the ad. Stonewall will assign a code for your PBB and will forward replies weekly for up to two months after your ad runs.
Policy: Stonewall reserves the right to reject or edit any ad which may be considered demeaning or offensive to our readers. Any errors will be compensated with advertising credit.
Deadline: Classified ads must be received by Stonewall by the 8th or the 20th of each month for following 15th or 1st of the month publication.
Mailing Address: SNN, PO Box 2704, Spokane, WA 99220
Website: www.stonewallnews.net **E-mail:** mail@stonewallnews.net

DEMS
continued from PAGE 7

Ellison, the nation's first Muslim elected to Congress, told the Blade he will work with others in Congress to enact new rights and protections for gays.
"If my gay neighbor suffers from discrimination, then I suffer as well, and so does the entire community," he said, "just as when my female neighbor

is held down by a glass ceiling, or my new immigrant neighbor is treated in a way that makes him or her feel unwelcome in our country.
Markos "Kos" Moulitsas Zuniga, a liberal political commentator, backs such inclusive approaches.
Moulitsas, who writes the Daily Kos blog, said gay legislation is best advanced under the more widely accepted political banner of equal opportunity.

"As long as we talk about fairness and opportunity instead of what the gays are getting, what the blacks are getting, what the women are getting," he said in an interview, "if we can get away from that, and talk about a fair society, a just society, it gets much harder for the opposition."
Marble said such unifying Democratic ideals should help overcome any ideological differences among the new

congressmen.
"I don't see ideology, whether it be liberal or conservative, being an obstacle to supportive legislation in the 110th Congress," he said. "Maybe there will be a few incoming freshmen Democrats who won't be supportive of everything, but I think we're very optimistic about the incoming Democrats."

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DECEMBER 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2006 CALENDAR

Covering Spokane, Tri-Cities, Pullman, Moscow, Walla Walla, and Yakima

Spokane, WA

Friday, December 1st

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm **World AIDS Day Commemoration** (at WSU Riverpoint campus Bookie) Action Makes a Difference! This year's WAD will commemorate 25 years of HIV/AIDS in America. Speakers, a photo-documentary of people living with HIV, and candlelight vigil are some of the events happening this year.

Contact: Cherie Moss
Email: cheriem@san-nw.org
Phone: 455-8993
More Info: www.worldaidsday.org

8:00pm - 10:00pm **Friday Night OUT!** FNO is a social hour for LGBTQ and allied individuals to get together for fun and friendship. There will be no politics, no fund raising. So come and meet some people and have some fun!

Contact: Jim Jones
Email: jim.jones90@comcast.net
More Info: www.choiceofthepeople.blogspot.com

Sunday, December 3rd

12:30 pm - 3:00 pm **Gay/Bi Men's Bowling Group** (at Northbow) Come hang out with the guys and bowl. Ten bucks gets you two hours of bowling and shoes. Space is limited, so reserve your spot early by calling 267-9444 and leave a message for Mark or just mention Bowling Group.

Contact: Mark
Email: markg@san-nw.org
Phone: 267-9444
More Info: www.lilaccitymensproject.org

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm **Emmanuel MCC Evening Service** (at Bethany Presbyterian)

Contact: Len Mace
Email: emmanuelmcc@qwest.net
Phone: 509.838.0085
More Info: www.emmanuelmcc.com

Tuesday, December 5th

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm **INWE Meeting** (at the Community Building)

Wednesday, December 6th

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm **Vision Committee Meeting** (at Northern Exposures Studio) Meetings are informal potlucks at Northern Exposures Studio on the first Wednesday and third Monday of each month. We work on projects to help the visibility of Spokane's GLBTQA community. Currently working on a local billboard project.

Contact: Bonnie Aspen
Phone: 509.838.3866

Thursday, December 7th

7:15 pm - 9:00 pm **OutSpokane Meeting** (at RiverPark Square) Meetings are the Kress Gallery on the 3rd floor of RiverPark Square each Thursday from 7:15 to 9 pm. Located next to and behind the food gallery near the theater ticket outlets.

More Info: <http://www.outspokane.com>

Friday, December 8th

4:00pm - 6:00 pm **HIV/AIDS Support Group** (at Maple St CHAS Clinic) Community Health Association of Spokane (CHAS), in conjunction with Ryan White Title 3 Community Advisory Board, is offering monthly educational/support groups for people living with HIV/AIDS and their friends and families. Topics will vary by month and time will be provided for discussion and support. Snacks provided.

This month: Surviving the Holidays
Contact: Tarena
Phone: 434-0313 x3132

Saturday, December 9th

9:30 am - 10:30 am **PFLAG Moms Group** (at Conley's Restaurant) The MOM'S Group, an informal support group welcomes and supports mothers (and occasionally grandmothers!) of gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered children. It meets monthly, on the second Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. for breakfast at Conley's Restaurant on east Sprague. Call the PFLAG help line 509.624.6671 for more information.

Phone: 509-624-6671

Sunday, December 10th

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm **Emmanuel MCC Evening Service** (at Bethany Presbyterian)

Contact: Len Mace
Email: emmanuelmcc@qwest.net
Phone: 509.838.0085
More Info: www.emmanuelmcc.com

Monday, December 11th Stonewall goes to press

Tuesday, December 12th

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm **RRCC Board Meeting** (at SAN) Board meetings are open to the public, but please contact at least one week in advance with requests to be on the agenda. Meetings will be at SAN until further notice.

Contact: RRCC
Email: info@spokanerainbowcenter.org
Phone: 489-1914

Wednesday, December 13th

11:30 am - 1:00 pm **INBA Luncheon** (at Europa Pizzeria)

There is no planned topic or speaker for the luncheon, just a chance for members to socialize and share community information with one another. INBA Outreach will also be conducting a fundraiser to benefit INBA scholarship fund. Each year INBA Outreach awards scholarships to gay and gay-friendly students in Eastern Washington, Idaho, and Montana. We will also have a few words from one of last year's scholarship recipients and INBA intern Jeremy Bolton.

Contact: INBA
Email: info@inbaspokane.org
Phone: 509-455-3699
More Info: <http://www.inbaspokane.org/>

Saturday, December 16th

10:30 am - 12:30 pm **OWLS Brunch** (at Old Country Buffet-Franklin Park Mall) OWLS Brunches will be held the 3rd Sat. of the month (Sep-May) at 10:30am at The Old Country Buffet in Franklin Park Mall on N. Division. If you are the first to arrive, ask the cashier where we can pull tables together for approx. 20 women. Then ask the cashier to direct arriving OWLS to that area. (Schedule for Jun, Jul, & Aug to be announced)

Contact: Ginny
Email: way2qt_99@yahoo.com

Sunday, December 17th

12:30 pm - 3:00 pm **Gay/Bi Men's Bowling Group** (at Northbow) Come hang out with the guys and bowl. Ten bucks gets you two hours of bowling and shoes. Space is limited, so reserve your spot early by calling 267-9444 and leave a message for Mark or just mention Bowling Group.

Contact: Mark
Email: markg@san-nw.org
Phone: 267-9444
More Info: www.lilaccitymensproject.org

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm **Emmanuel MCC Evening Service** (at Bethany Presbyterian)

Contact: Len Mace
Email: emmanuelmcc@qwest.net
Phone: 509.838.0085
More Info: www.emmanuelmcc.com

Monday, December 18th

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm **Vision Committee Meeting** (at Northern Exposures Studio) Meetings are informal potlucks at Northern Exposures Studio on the first Wednesday and third Monday of each month. We work on projects to help the visibility of Spokane's GLBTQA community. Currently working on a local billboard project.

Tuesday, December 19th

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm **PFLAG Monthly Meeting** (at UUCS)

We meet the third Tuesday of every month at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane at 7 PM. 4340 W. Fort Wright Dr. Spokane WA 99224 Our mission is to provide support, education and advocacy for GLBTQ family and friends.

Contact: Tiina Buckaloo
Email: info@pflagspokane.org
More Info: www.pflagspokane.org

Thursday, December 21st

7:15 pm - 9:00 pm **OutSpokane Meeting** (at RiverPark Square) Meetings are the Kress Gallery on the 3rd floor of RiverPark Square each Thursday from 7:15 to 9 pm. Located next to and behind the food gallery near the theater ticket outlets.

More Info: <http://www.outspokane.com>

Friday, December 22nd Winter Begins

Sunday, December 24th

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm **Emmanuel MCC Evening Service** (at Bethany Presbyterian)

Contact: Len Mace
Email: emmanuelmcc@qwest.net
Phone: 509.838.0085
More Info: www.emmanuelmcc.com

Monday, December 25th Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 26th Stonewall goes to press

Sunday, December 31st New Years Eve

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm **Emmanuel MCC Evening Service** (at Bethany Presbyterian)

Contact: Len Mace
Email: emmanuelmcc@qwest.net
Phone: 509.838.0085
More Info: www.emmanuelmcc.com

TEACHERS

continued from Page 7

“I said to myself, ‘What is the one thing you’ve always wanted to do in your life?’” McBeth recalled. “On your deathbed, you regret not the things you did, but the things you didn’t do. I said, ‘Well, let’s do it.’”

McBeth had a sex change operation in May 2005, after a long process of psychological evaluation, hormone therapy and electrolysis.

She said she erred by not keeping her certification as a substitute teacher current while she was out of work during the surgery. That required her to reapply, and set the stage in February for a contentious school board meeting in Eagleswood, a community near Atlantic City. One parent, Mark Schnepf, took out a full-page ad in a local newspaper urging parents to oppose the hiring.

“This person taught as a man, left for a year, and came back as a woman,”

Tri-Cities, Pullman/Moscow, Walla Walla, Yakima, WA

Friday, December 1st

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm [Yakima, WA] **First Fridays** (at 1st St Conference Center) Yakima's gay social group welcomes you and your friends to our monthly gathering.

Email: 1st-Fridays@gayakima.com
Phone: 509/576-0276
More Info: <http://www.gayakima.com/1stfridays.html>

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm [Moscow, ID] **NIGMA First Friday** (at University Inn Quiet Bar) NIGMA (North Idaho Gay Men's Association) Visit us on the web at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NIGMA> for more information.

Sunday, December 3rd

10:30 am - 11:30 am [Kennewick, WA] **River of Life MCC** (at 2625 Brneau Place Ste A)

Email: info@riveroflifemcc.org
More Info: <http://www.riveroflifemcc.org>
6:30 pm [Yakima, WA] **Rainbow Cathedral MCC** (at 225 N 2nd St)
Phone: 509/457-6454

Monday, December 4th

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm [Kennewick, WA] **Rainbow Sobriety AA Meetings** (at ROLMCC)

Contact: Edna Mae W.
Email: fiddlebanjo@charter.net
Phone: 509-546-2626

Wednesday, December 6th

7:30 - 9:00 pm [Pullman, WA / Moscow, ID] **NIGMA Coffee Social** NIGMA's 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>

Sunday, December 10th

10:30 am - 11:30 am [Kennewick, WA] **River of Life MCC** (at 2625 Brneau Place Ste A)

Email: info@riveroflifemcc.org
More Info: <http://www.riveroflifemcc.org>

11:00 am - 1:00 pm [Pullman, WA / Moscow, ID]

Second Sunday Brunch NIGMA (North Idaho Gay Men's Association) Second Sunday Brunch is 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>

6:30 pm [Yakima, WA] **Rainbow Cathedral MCC** (at 225 N 2nd St)

Phone: 509/457-6454

Monday, December 11th Stonewall goes to press

7:00 pm [Walla Walla, WA] **PFLAG Monthly Meeting** (at First Congregational Church Fellowship Hall)

Contact: Carol
Email: pflag_walla2wash@hotmail.com
Phone: 509-529-5320
More Info: <http://www.pflag.0catch.com/>

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm [Kennewick, WA] **Rainbow Sobriety AA Meetings** (at ROLMCC)

Contact: Edna Mae W.
Email: fiddlebanjo@charter.net
Phone: 509-546-2626

Wednesday, December 13th

7:30 - 9:00 pm [Pullman, WA / Moscow, ID] **NIGMA Coffee Social** NIGMA's 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>

Sunday, December 17th

10:30 am - 11:30 am [Kennewick, WA] **River of Life MCC** (at 2625 Brneau Place Ste A)

Email: info@riveroflifemcc.org
More Info: <http://www.riveroflifemcc.org>

6:30 pm [Yakima, WA] **Rainbow Cathedral MCC** (at 225 N 2nd St)

Phone: 509/457-6454

7:00 pm [Yakima, WA] **PFLAG Monthly Meeting** (at First St Conference Center)

Monday, December 18th

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm [Kennewick, WA] **Rainbow Sobriety AA Meetings** (at ROLMCC)

Contact: Edna Mae W.
Email: fiddlebanjo@charter.net
Phone: 509-546-2626

Wednesday, December 20th

7:30 - 9:00 pm [Pullman, WA / Moscow, ID] **NIGMA Coffee Social** NIGMA's 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>

Friday, December 22nd Winter Begins

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm **NIGMA Fourth Friday Wine Tasting**

NIGMA (North Idaho Gay Men's Association) Wine tasting is 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>

Sunday, December 24th

10:30 am - 11:30 am [Kennewick, WA] **River of Life MCC** (at 2625 Brneau Place Ste A)

Email: info@riveroflifemcc.org
More Info: <http://www.riveroflifemcc.org>

6:30 pm [Yakima, WA] **Rainbow Cathedral MCC** (at 225 N 2nd St)

Phone: 509/457-6454

Monday, December 25th Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 26th Stonewall goes to press

Wednesday, December 27th

7:30 - 9:00 pm [Pullman, WA / Moscow, ID] **NIGMA Coffee Social** NIGMA's 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>

Thursday, December 28th

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm [Tri-Cities, WA] **PFLAG Monthly Meeting**

Check website for meeting location
Email: info@tcpflag.org
More Info: <http://www.TCPFLAG.org>

Sunday, December 31st New Years Eve

10:30 am - 11:30 am [Kennewick, WA] **River of Life MCC** (at 2625 Brneau Place Ste A)

Email: info@riveroflifemcc.org
More Info: <http://www.riveroflifemcc.org>

6:30 pm [Yakima, WA] **Rainbow Cathedral MCC** (at 225 N 2nd St)

Phone: 509/457-6454

Schnepf said. “My biggest problem is it’s very young children in the Eagleswood school. For the young ones, it could cause tremendous confusion.”

But Scott Rodas, whose son is a third-grader in Eagleswood, said McBeth’s hiring “should have been a no-brainer. We should give enough credit to our children to know that someone like this isn’t going to hurt them.”

When McBeth was up for rehiring at the Pinelands Regional School system in September, no one said a word.

“I personally don’t think there’s anything wrong with it,” said Katie MacPhee, a student at Pinelands Regional High School. “I can see where some people might have concerns, but people just need to get over it.”

Jennifer Boylan, an English professor and author of the best-selling autobiographical novel, “She’s Not There: A Life In Two Genders,” said she was concerned about how students and faculty would respond to her transition six years ago.

“Everyone was extremely supportive and generous,” she said. “That surprised me, but maybe it shouldn’t have. It’s possible that we are all more grown up than we think.”

For some who have made the transition, what’s at issue goes beyond an identity change.

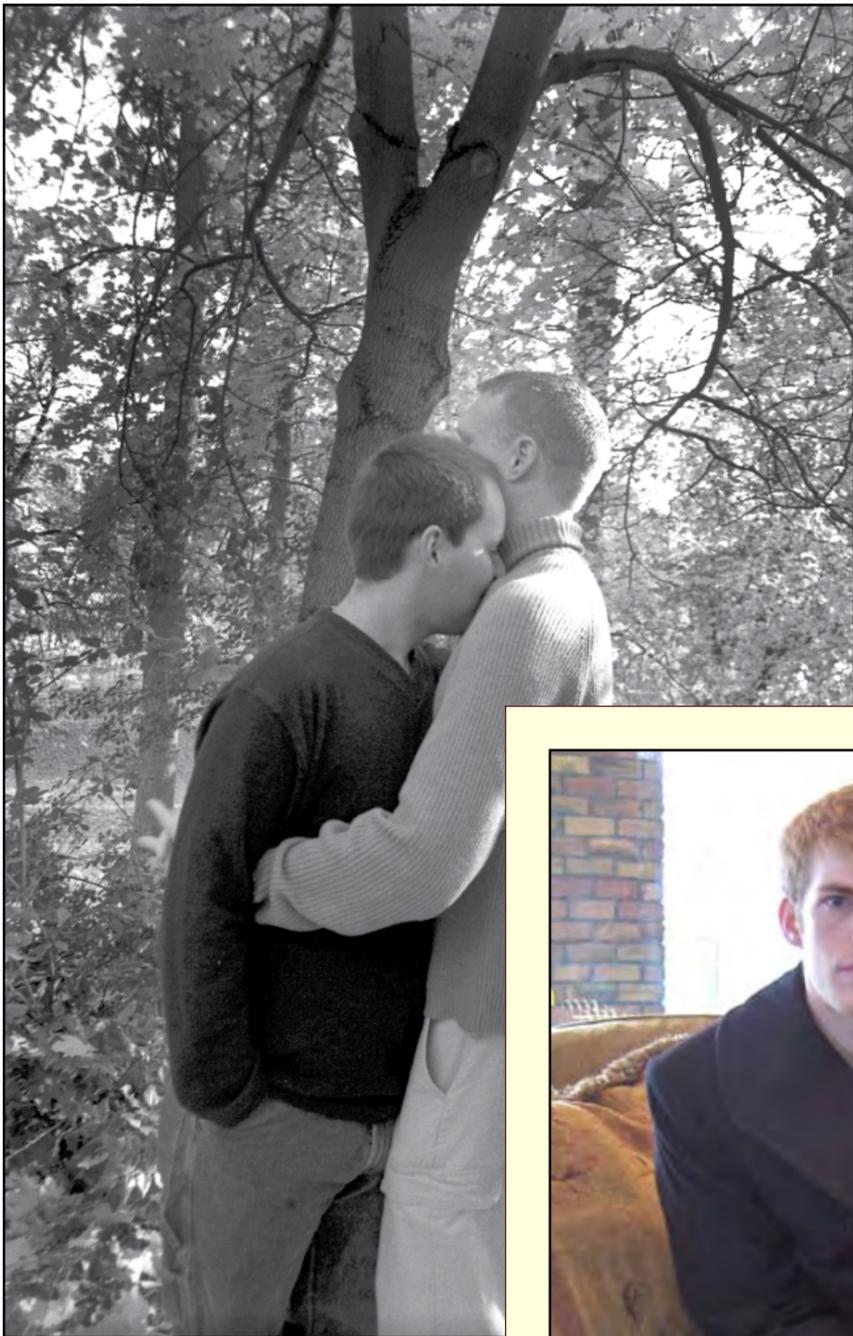
“This is about how we treat people in the workplace in a civil society,” said Jillian Todd Weiss, an assistant professor of law and society at Ramapo College in New Jersey, who transitioned in 1998, about five years before she began teaching. “It’s not about acceptance, although that would be nice. It’s about law and policy, which states that it’s illegal to discriminate against someone on the basis of gender.”

Daley said the same rules apply to transgender teachers as anyone else.

“Just treat them like you would any other employee,” he said. “Give them a supportive, comfortable work environment, and you won’t have any problems.”

Portraits of HIV/AIDS

a photo documentary by Marc Morris



Brian and Steve



Thorn and Charlie



Photo by Mike Schultz

Photo above: Marc Morris, 21, is pursuing a bachelor of fine arts at EWU with an emphasis in photography, sculpture and digital media. He is also presenting **Portraits of HIV/AIDS**, a photo documentary, at the WSU-Riverpoint campus Nov 27th to Dec 8th. He hopes the project will send a message to the community to not be complacent and drop the stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS.

Photos surrounding: Four of the nine 4' by 5' photos by Marc Morris that will be on display at **Portraits of HIV/AIDS**.

Morris can be reached through his website at www.marcmorris.net.



Patricia Ann Parker



Mark and his mother

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December 30



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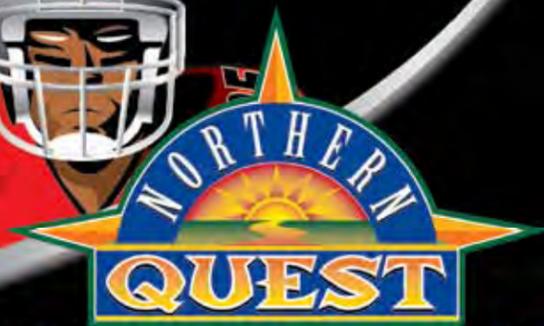
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