



Stonewall News Northwest turns 15!



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STONEWALL News Northwest

Serving the GLBTQA Community of the Pacific Northwest since 1992

Our Final Issue Stonewall suspends publishing

Letter from the Publisher



A dear friend reminded me recently of something I said to him a couple years ago, "If you're not having fun at what you're doing, you need to find something else to do".

My fun as Publisher of Stonewall News Northwest over the last two years has regularly reached euphoria. After all, what a privilege it is to wake up every morning with the opportunity to engage 25,000 loyal

readers a month, and growing, from all walks of life, on the common ground of moving forward issues of social equality and dignity.

In magazine racks, on coffee tables, and across computer screens spanning the Pacific Northwest and beyond, you have welcomed Stonewall into your hearts, minds, and conversations.

On the pages of this publication, at the heart of its content, we've been regularly privileged by the direct contributions of Christopher Lawrence, Joyce Crosby, Catherine Willis, Tim Anderson, Joan Opyr, Bob Schout, and Graham Ames. Also assisting were Jane Bengston, Steven Sanford, and Kathy Ferguson.

But the fun had become increasingly lost on the struggles of declining advertising revenue. My deepening relationship with my partner and building our lives together have also taken priority over the cost of personal time for the outreach that it takes to keep our community actively engaged with Stonewall.

While Stonewall has enjoyed a circulation and readership that has tripled over the last two years, stable advertising revenue has declined. Odd, yes, given that at

the core of Stonewall's expanding readership is the statistically documented highest disposable income minority group in America.

Advertisers have only recently begun clamoring toward gay & lesbian publications after also learning that this sought after demographic is very loyal to advertisers reaching out to them.

So what happened at Stonewall? Something very simple, actually.

Our advertisers didn't hear from you, our reader.

The reluctance of advertisers to continue their advertising with Stonewall without feedback from the group of people they are trying to reach is understandable. But I believe our GLBTQA community is vibrant and active enough to need a voice.

As the lights go out at Stonewall, the door of opportunity remains open. Perhaps someone motivated and committed to a level of outreach that transcends the insulated tendency of our community will come forward to assume ownership of this publication, despite the cost of personal time and energy.

I also hold hope that our community can arise from its apathy and let advertisers who are reaching out to us know that we appreciate their support.

Mike Schultz
President & Publisher
Stonewall Publishing, Inc.

Domestic Partnership Registry signed into Washington State law

Gay couples can register by mail

OLYMPIA, Wash. – On Saturday, April 21, just 14 months after signing a bill adding sexual orientation to the state's anti-discrimination statute, Washington State Governor Christine Gregoire once again addressed a large crowd of equal-rights supporters as she signed into law a measure that grants basic protections to same-sex and opposite-sex elderly couples.

"Today marks the beginning of the path toward full equality. We are taking an important step in the right direction but we need to remain focused on the final goal," said Rep. Joe McDermott (D-West Seattle), one of Washington's five openly gay legislators. "It may take a while, but that's just how social evolution takes place, we'll get there."

McDermott expressed his gratitude to his partner of eight years, Michael Culpepper, and thanked those who have supported and shared their own stories to help people understand why this bill is so necessary.

He underlined the importance of Charlene Strong's testimony in committee hearings.

Strong lost her life partner, Kate Fleming, during a December storm, was denied the opportunity to visit her in the hospital until legal relatives were reached, and was ignored by the funeral director.

The Domestic Partnership Registry,



Rep. Joe McDermott shakes Gov. Chris Gregoire's hand at the Domestic Partnership Registry bill signing ceremony on Saturday, April 21, 2007 in Olympia, WA.

introduced by Sen. Ed Murray (D-Seattle), will provide same-sex couples and unmarried heterosexual couples over age 62 a few basic rights including:

- The right to visit one's partner in the hospital;
- The right to provide informed consent for a partner who is not competent;
- The right to inherit a partner's property without a will; and
- The right to make funeral arrangements.

The bill's sponsors made it clear that this new law is the first step in an incremental process of securing legal protections for Washington's gay and lesbian families.

In the United States only Massachusetts, and five nations, the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Canada and South Africa currently have equal marriage laws.

"We know they all had to go through lengthy discussions to achieve marriage equality; I welcome those conversations," declared McDermott.

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Fly your Flags on Fridays!

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Stonewall News Northwest welcomes letters and e-mail. All submissions will be considered for publication. They should be typed and 250 words or less. Each submission may be edited for length and/or coherence. Full name, address and phone number must be included; letters will be verified. Names withheld by request only. Submissions will not be returned.

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 2006 | *Love & Support Award* | Mr. Gay Spokane XXVI
 1999 | *Rainbow Award* | Inland Northwest Pride
 1997 | *Vice Versa Award* | Q Syndicate
 1996 | *Rainbow Award* | Inland Northwest Pride

Spokane & Regional

Remembering Bill Nourse

August 16, 1923 - February 22, 2007



By Joyce Crosby

Longtime PFLAG member and community activist Bill Nourse passed away quietly and painlessly with his son Roy at his side in Phoenix, AZ. He was 83. Nourse, who had a male lover during WWII but was married to a woman for over 60 years, came out to family, friends, church and community at the age of 68. A retired corporate attorney, he served on the board of Spokane PFLAG, used his legal skills to gain 501c nonprofit status for Odyssey and other GLBT organizations, was a member of the Stonewall Patriots, spoke to the City Council in support of "Equal Rights For All" Spokane's Non-Discrimination Ordinance and donated money to local and national GLBTQ organizations.

After high school, Nourse enlisted in the Army, was stationed at Geiger Field near Spokane Washington during WWII and attained the rank of Sergeant. Bill Nourse attended frequent parties held at a boarding home for female military enlistees, as well as civilian women, at 1709 S. Cedar St. The boarding home was known as a place where military men who passed through Spokane could go to dance, meet girls and have a good time. Another man, Robert, frequented the boarding house. Robert could play piano very well, and Bill had learned to sing growing up as an Episcopal altar boy. So Nourse would sing, and Robert would play the piano. Bill's son, Roy Nourse, commented, "The fact of the matter is that Robert was my father's boyfriend."

Roy Nourse's mother, Ramona Hearonemus, who worked at Geiger's PX, lived in the boarding house on Cedar St. After building a friendship over several

months, Ramona fell deeply in love with Bill Nourse. Roy Nourse indicated, "She knew my dad was gay when she was living at Cedar. Still, she decided that she wanted to marry him. She said to my father, "I know you have a boyfriend, and I don't care. I love you, I think that you are the greatest and I want to get married." Bill Nourse replied, "You know that I am gay but I have always wanted to have children. So I'm up for getting married." Bill and Ramona Nourse were married on March 28, 1946, at St. John's Cathedral in Spokane. In a photograph of their wedding party, Robert, Bill's boyfriend, is sitting next to the newlywed couple.

After the war ended, Nourse worked for the Spokesman-Review, put himself through Gonzaga Law School and had a law practice for more than fifteen years in the Mohawk Building on Riverside. His wife, Ramona, became his secretary. Throughout his career, both as a private attorney and as a corporate lawyer, Nourse was a social liberal and did a lot of pro-bono work. He loved to write, authored a book titled "So You Want to Be an Attorney" and as chief counsel for the Federal Land Bank in Spokane, Nourse wrote farm legislation in later years. Roy Nourse stated, "The gay issue was never brought up in the household the whole time I was growing up. I didn't know it existed because people didn't talk about it. I heard the word homosexual for the first time when I was twenty. It was a different time."

Bill Nourse retired at age 65, but according to his son, retirement didn't suit him very well. Accustomed to being busy, Nourse became bored and depressed, so he volunteered with Meals on Wheels and Ronald McDonald House. After two-thirds of a century in the closet, it just became too uncomfortable, and Bill Nourse came out. According to Roy, his father first came out to Ann and Charlie Wood of PFLAG. Ann Wood reported, "When Bill 'came out' to us, very formally, back in 1989, he said that he had told Ramona when he proposed that he was attracted to men." With the Wood's support and encouragement, Nourse came out to his family, friends, church and community. "He switched from volunteering at Ronald McDonald House to PFLAG in 1993," Roy reported. "Dad really felt compelled to no longer lie about his past."

When Bill Nourse came out his wife, Ramona was not pleased about it, because it was a secret she had never told anyone. Bill and Ramona had agreed not to talk about

Please see BILL NOURSE page 8

SAN evolves to meet needs, engage community

In the over 20 years that Spokane AIDS Network (SAN) has been serving the HIV community in Eastern Washington, the agency has grown from one case manager helping a handful of very ill clients who all too quickly lost their battle with AIDS to four full and part-time case managers working with over 130 clients living much longer and healthier lives with HIV and AIDS. Due to effective treatment of HIV, the agencies client population is now nearly equally divided between those diagnosed with HIV and those with the more advanced disease AIDS.

The demographics of the agencies caseload remains over 80% white men, most gay, who contracted the virus through sex. However, nationwide, women now represent nearly 30% of total cases, up from 8% in the 1980s, with over 60% of those cases in African American women. SAN and our partner agency Spokane Regional Health District has seen similar trends, with disproportionate new infection rates in communities of color and Native American populations.

"With over 30 new cases of HIV annually in our region and reduced funding, we have been challenged as a community to maintain the same quality of care, and that is very concerning to everyone fighting

this pandemic locally," states Mark Garrett, Client Advocate at SAN.

Our greatest challenge as a community is educating those most at risk to reduce new infections. Prevention programs in Spokane have suffered the greatest cuts over the past six years, and SAN alone has lost over \$200,000 in prevention funding due to federal cut backs. This trend is statewide. "Hard to understand when we know that it costs more than \$600,000 over a lifetime to treat someone living with HIV/AIDS" says Susan Fabrikant, Executive Director of SAN for the past five years.

As the face of HIV/AIDS evolves, the state has seen a reduction in new infections in men who have sex with men. Over the past 10 years, the agency has focused on engaging both the gay and straight communities in Spokane. "Reducing the stigma and misconception that this is only a gay disease is critical to ending this pandemic and ensuring that the hundreds of persons in our region that do not know they are HIV positive get tested and access care services," says Garrett, who believes we are years away from a cure or vaccine but closer than ever as a community to working together in reducing its impact on everyone in the Spokane area.

Pride 2007 takes shape

By Joyce Crosby

With the theme "Spokane, We're Family - Let's Celebrate," OutSpokane has been working hard since August 2006 to bring the 16th annual Pride! celebration to Spokane. An umbrella organization made up of six board members and a network of volunteers, OutSpokane works with Spokane's numerous LGBTQ organizations to organize and coordinate Pride events, including the upcoming Pride Parade and Rainbow Festival on June 9th. OutSpokane wants to extend a special invitation to our Seattle neighbors to celebrate Pride 2007 with Spokane's LGBTQ community. OutSpokane's Vision Committee is also sponsoring an equality based billboard campaign beginning on May 1st. The Vision Committee's message will appear on seven billboards in highly visible locations throughout the area.

OutSpokane expects about 30 regiments to participate in the Pride Parade. Col. Grethe Cammermeyer, the subject of the 1995 movie *Serving in Silence*, will serve as Grand Marshall. Christopher Lawrence, Chairman of OutSpokane, noted that the 60-member Rainbow City Band from Seattle was a surprise highlight of the 2006 parade. A corporate sponsor is needed to bring the band and flag corps to this year's Pride parade. Lawrence stated, "If we can get them here, there will be a drum off between Rainbow City Band and Spokane's own Giant Ass Drum Corps."

New to this year's Rainbow Festival is a baking contest, a silent auction, and a floral design competition with cash prizes for the top three arrangements. There will also be a non-judged open class exhibit for people who want to bring a flower, houseplant or something from the garden to display. Odyssey's Queer History Project will have a display featuring local LGBT historical figures "to whet people's appetite for the great work Mo (Nickerson) and some of the youth have been doing," Ramon Alvarez, Odyssey's Executive Director commented.

"We want to emphasize that this is a family event," board member Bonnie Aspen noted. There will be an expanded family

Please see PRIDE 2007 page 10

Community Service Announcement

Local LGBTQ PAC forms

By CAE-PAC Executive Committee

Do you believe our elected officials adequately respond to the needs of their LGBT constituents? Do you sometimes feel that candidates court our community, but once elected, offer only tepid support for LGBT civil rights? Do you want to hold politicians accountable for their positions on issues related to the LGBT community?

If you're ready to speak up on political matters, there's a new organization in Spokane that's ready to be a loud and proud voice of the LGBTQ community. Formed by a group of community activists this past winter, Citizens Advancing Equality (CAE-PAC) is a membership-driven political action committee devoted to educating and fostering relationships with elected officials and increasing voters' awareness of issues affecting our community.

CAE-PAC's charter members have laid the foundation for exciting political engagement, but success will depend on your involvement and support. To join this change-making effort, send an e-mail with your name and contact information to info@CitizensAdvancingEquality.org. And look for our web page, www.CitizensAdvancingEquality.org, which will be online soon.

Together, we can ensure that our friends, family and community have the information they need to make good decisions at the ballot box.

Spokane Falls Community College Cultivates Future GLBT Leaders



Barbara Williamson

By Joyce Crosby

A longtime fixture on Spokane Falls Community College's (SFCC) campus, the Alliance Club, represents those members of the college community who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (GLBTQ) as well as straight allies. Membership in the alliance includes students, faculty and community members. Barbara Williamson, faculty advisor for the Alliance stated, "Our mission is two-pronged. The first goal is to create a safe space for GLBT people and allies on campus. The second is educating the community about GLBT issues."

The Alliance has been a steady and active group since the 1990s. The number of students who regularly participate in club activities varies, but average attendance at the weekly Alliance meetings runs from five to fifteen students.

Social activities such as pizza parties or bowling foster a sense of community and allow students as they walk across campus to see a familiar face from the Alliance and know that is a safe person they can turn to. As part of the Alliance, students learn where to go for support and to access advocacy. Leonard Anderson, a SFCC graduate who is currently attending EWU, commented, "The Alliance gave me a sense of community family and direction."

Recently, Alliance members decorated

a window in the Student Union Building to draw attention to and promote dialogue about the need for marriage equality for GLBT people. A wedding cake with a congratulatory banner on the wall behind it is featured in the center of the window. The cake and other decorations are flanked on the left by a pair of tuxedos together and on the right by a couple of wedding gowns together. On the front of the window is a sign that reads Consequences of Inequality. Also taped to the window near the tuxes another sign proclaims, "Upwards of \$40,000 spent by couples to inadequately mimic rights of married people." Other signs states, "Death of partner leaves survivor and children homeless," and "Partner of 10 years denied entry into hospital room," and "Social Security benefits denied to partner." The Marriage Equality window impacted heterosexual students who had never really thought about inequality, about the fact that they are able to exercise rights, privileges and obligations that GLBT people are still fighting to attain.

The Alliance also sponsors the SFCC library's Pride Collection, a collection of GLBT-related movies, books and other media. The Alliance's long-term goal is to have a GLBTQ center on campus so that there is a recognizable place to go. The administration supports the idea, but there is no space available at this time. Students at SFCC's sister campus, Spokane Community College, recently followed SFCC's lead by creating a Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transsexual or Straight Alliance (GLOBAL ST). The mission of this club is to combat ignorance with diversity education.

The Alliance at SFCC benefits students because through thinking about what is helpful to the community, organizing club events and hosting quest speakers, Williamson stated, "They learn to become leaders." The Alliance also acts as a campus speaker's bureau for GLBTQ issues. Students learn public speaking and how to present themselves, as well as "how to maintain an individual voice and speak for greater needs of our community," Williamson said. Anderson noted, "Attending training sessions and representing the Alliance at GLBT conferences gave me the confidence to pursue a teaching certificate. It is because of the Alliance that I am still in school. Barbara Williamson is an amazing mentor." Williamson, an English instructor who loves working with community college students, commented, "Anytime you can make a student see the impact they can have on the world, they are going to take that with them and make ripples in the community."

New federal guidelines will affect SAN's Supplemental Food Program

Cherie Moss
Food Program and Volunteer Coordinator
Spokane AIDS Network

There are many changes happening in federal programs that support services regarding HIV/AIDS. SAN's Supplemental Weekly Food Program is not immune to these new changes. The federal government is requiring a medical need for supplemental food, with documented proven results in weight gain or weight stabilization. More than 60% of SAN's food dollars are federally funded. The rest of the funds are received through grants and local contributions.

What does this mean to our community? First, don't panic! SAN, along with a focus group of community members and consumers, will be working on guidelines in the coming months. People who are currently on the program will remain there until SAN schedules a meeting with clients in the late Summer or Fall. This meeting will establish eligibility for the program under the new weight guidelines. Household income is no longer a factor in eligibility for the program. That said, this program will open a new door to clients in need.

The focus group is working very hard to make this transition as easy and as least stressful as we can. The focus group is

working on:

- Information about local food banks.
- SAN's possibility of an emergency food bank 3-6 times per year.
- Transportation of food from food banks if possible.
- Establishing how the new program might be run. (Weekly, bi weekly, pantry, prepared or?)
- New avenues for funds that are not related to the federal or grant restricted funds.

Please realize that this is not easy for anyone, but if SAN wants to keep the federal money, we must adhere to their protocol. SAN's food program has always been the corner stone of the agency and will continue to be. SAN, along with community members like you, will do our best to see that no one under our umbrella goes hungry. Maybe now more than ever, we need the support of our community to stand and face the challenges presented to those in our area who are affected by HIV/AIDS.

On a personal note, I would like to thank Stonewall News for always being there with support, informed information and dedication to the cause of HIV/AIDS and the GLBTQ community. We will miss you, but never forget you...

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A Glimpse of Spokane's LGBTQ History

By Joyce Crosby and Maureen Nickerson

1811

Water-Sitting Grizzly, a Kutenai Indian woman who lived as a man and had a series of wives is mentioned in the journals of several trappers and explorers. John Work a trader at Flathead Post described her as, "a courier, a guide, a prophet, a warrior, a peace mediator, she often dressed as a man and had a wife."

1825 & 1837

Water-Sitting Grizzly is mentioned in two additional journals. Missionary W.H. Gray gives an account of her death.

1920

Female Impersonator Eric Davidson's handmade wig was stolen while he was performing at Pentages Theater in Spokane. His stage name was Natal Dewara and is Spokane's first known female impersonator.

1927-28

Dr. Alan L. Hart, a physician and novelist, and Edna Rudick Hart, a nurse and social worker, both biological women, lived in Spokane as husband and wife.

Early 1940's

Bill Nourse sings and his boyfriend, Robert, plays piano at a Spokane boarding house. The boarding house located on Cedar Street near 19th Avenue was a gathering place for military people during WWII.

1947

John Leonardo, is arrested in Yakima for petty theft. His female gender is discovered and he is identified as May Golden.

1948-50

Donald Brown, a Spokane businessman, is charged with sodomy for having sex with a 24 year old man. Brown was sentenced to ten years in prison.

1958

Billy Tipton, a transgender jazz musician moves to Spokane, WA.

1965

Claude Schaeffer publishes an article about Water-Sitting Grizzly. The author mentions other LGBT Native Americans from Pacific Northwest tribes.

1960's

The Casbah, located at the same address as Dempsey's Brass Rail, and owned by Dorothy Pruitt, may have been Spokane's first gay bar.

1970

Provincial Press Collective, Spokane's first "gay" newspaper is born when a gay couple Tony and Ernie purchase Spokane Natural, a small independent paper and begin focusing on gay liberation issues.

1971

The first gay pride event, Gay-In, a picnic held in Spokane's High-Bridge Park, is organized by the Gay Liberation Front.

1972

A former Episcopal priest and his partner opened a gay bar called The Other Side.

The Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane is founded, making it the oldest continuous gay organization in Spokane. In the early days it included both drag queens and drag kings. ISCS was crucial to raising funds for GLBT causes. In the 1970s members of the Imperial Court frequented Jacks, Night Hawk and 7 Palms.

1970s

Bud Buell's Chicken House, is an old chicken barn converted into an after-hours party house for GLBT folks.

1976

The sodomy law, as it relates to sex between consenting adults, is repealed in Washington State.

1978

A Spokane branch of Seattle's Dorian Group, a gay political group, is organized by Gene Otto and Dr. Jim Edmonds, a professor at EWU. To meet the needs of the community, the Spokane group, primarily focused on networking and socializing.

1980's

The Swan, a gay newsletter, was first published by Jan Loehr & Jerry Wood. The Swan was later purchased & published by April Bresgal & Midge Cook in 1986, then sold back to the original owners.

The Tin Ear and Signatures, both gay bars open.

1982

Rev. Austin Amerine founds Emmanuel Metropolitan Community Church, in Spokane.

Spokane Women United, a group of feminists most of whom are lesbians, sponsors an all day women's fine arts festival in River Front Park that includes sculpture, painting, photography, quilts and music by women.

1983

Owner of Sonya's Magic Inn becomes first person to undergo sexual reassignment surgery in Spokane (source oral history interview of Gene Otto & Ted Clark)

PFLAG formed by Katie & Harry Urbanek as part of a national "Support, Education and Advocacy" movement by straight allies. The Urbaneks had been a part of the first organized meetings in LA, before moving to Spokane and starting a local chapter. This organization is pivotal in advancing gay rights and societal acceptance of gays as natural human beings. They were literally on the front lines of the movement, hosting consciousness-raising

events for the larger community, giving trainings and seminars where ever they could, and sending their newsletter to every waiting room in town.

1985

Pride Foundation, a source of financial support for LGBT orgs and scholarships for LGBT college students, was established.

"Rainbow Awards" established by Greater Spokane Gay Leadership Coalition— presented for outstanding contributions to the gay community and presented during Pride Week. At this time Pride festivities consisted primarily of a picnic with booths set up by LGBT friendly organizations in Sullivan Park.

Spokane Aids Network is (SAN) founded. It was originally referred to as SPAN.

Spokane's Gay-Lesbian Coalition listed 33 member organizations in 1985.

Gov. Booth Gardner issues an executive order banning discrimination in state hiring based on sexual orientation. (Then Senator Jim West opposes)

In response to the AIDS scare, gay/bisexual men are banned from donating blood in the United States.

1986

Pride Week event organized by PFLAG at the public library draws bomb threat

Lesbian Concerns Task Force founded as a subgroup of the Spokane Regional Women's Commission

S-R does a full-page spread in the local section showcasing 3 lesbian families.

This was part of a visibility campaign. Later the same year the S-R was awarded a "Rainbow Award" (2nd annual awards)

1989

Jazz musician Billy Tipton dies and is discovered to be a woman. Some in our GLBT community recognized Tipton as transgender, but that disclosure shocked Spokane.

PFLAG begins publishing BRIDGES, a pro-LGBTQ newsletter sent to hundreds of addresses unsolicited (including businesses and organizations such as doctor's offices and the Boy Scouts Council).

1992

Stonewall News, the LGBTQ newspaper paper serving the inland northwest until 2007, is founded by Larry Stone, owner of ScafeCo Steel. (2nd publisher – John Deene, 3rd publisher – Mike Schultz)

Spokane's annual Pride Parade begins its current incarnation.

Odyssey Youth Group, an HIV prevention discussion group for young gay men, is established as a part of the Spokane Regional Health District. It soon becomes a supportive group for queer youth of any gender or identity.

1993

Hands Off Washington is established in Spokane. This was a statewide political activist organizing founded in response to an anti-gay activist organization.

Papillon, a social support group for transgender individuals is founded by Marianne Hurmence-Dawson & Michelle Flynn.

1994

Craig Peterson starts a pro-GLBT group for United Methodists called "Affirmation."

Inland Northwest Business Alliance (INBA) is established. INBA publishes a Resource Directory listing queer owned or queer friendly businesses.

1996

Barbara Lampert runs for a democratic seat in Washington State House of Representatives.

1998

Craig Peterson, from Deer Park, runs for House of Representatives 6th district, on democratic ticket as an openly gay man.

1999

PFLAG ceases publication of BRIDGES.

The City of Spokane passes C32232 a non-discrimination ordinance that includes sexual orientation (but not transgender status).

2004

ACLU argues for recognition of same-sex marriages performed legally in British Columbia. A Spokane couple, Marge Ballack and Diane Lantz, joins the lawsuit.

2005

City passed Ordinance No. C33625 entitled "Providing for the extension of employee benefits to employee's domestic partners."

2006

Washington passes HB 2661, becoming the seventeenth state to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation, and the eighth state to prohibit prejudice against transgender people.

Odyssey Youth Center comes out of the closet, advertising its location for the first time.

2007

The Washington Legislature passed, and the governor signed a domestic partnership bill that gives some family rights to registered same sex couples.

OUT! In the Middle of Nowhere

Outlasting Out In the Middle of Nowhere

By Tim Anderson

Penning this last column for Stonewall News is a bittersweet experience. Over the last two years, as this publication matured, it became a professionally produced and comprehensive resource for the gay community. Stonewall also demonstrated a unique commitment to thinking outside the box, which sadly enough is something that few other gay orientated publications have been willing to do.

It's not like Spokane and the Intermountain West haven't born the brunt of tremendous ignorance. For example, The Advocate was quite willing to give Seattle Stranger editor and columnist Dan Savage free reign to torch Spokane and the entire Inland Empire as a region hostile to gays, progressive ideals and freedom during the Mayor West scandal. Yet as the ultimate ironic bitch slap to Savage, it was Spokane's Lisa Brown who led the fight in Olympia to ensure that Washington embraced equality. We sure didn't see any coverage of Brown's leadership by Savage in the Advocate.

The **Brokeback Mountain** phenomenon created interesting opportunities in our area as well. The distribution of Stonewall covers much of Montana, Idaho and Eastern Oregon, and I'm sure plenty of copies of the paper eventually make their way south of Billings toward Wyoming. That's prime Brokeback territory and is often defined by the loneliest silence filling up all that big sky. Without major population centers for reference, it wasn't surprising when the press began Googling our area for comment on all things Cowboy Up.

Sadly, those in the press that should know better were more than willing to blindly echo the fear driven, sometimes homophobic messages of the movie. How many times were we subjected to storylines that asked if a "real" cowboy could be gay? Was Brokeback just another version of sex, lies, and saddle sore - produced via the Hollywood fiction machine? In the midst of that coverage, ABC News approached me asking if I could help find the network closeted gay cowboys—big hatted guys who would cower before the camera's, portraying for America their shame, fear and self revulsion.

I didn't know any closeted cowboys who wanted national notoriety. Duh—the closet does sort of imply that individuals who haven't come out aren't exactly going to be seeking attention. But, I did know plenty of out and proud ranchers from Olds Alberta to Crane Oregon who would gladly appear on camera. Unfortunately, the producers of the piece weren't interested in happy endings, and once again, long invalid stereotypes were reinforced by the coverage that was eventually produced.

Traditionally, the media images most often associated with the gay community are of urban gays. These portrayals reinforce the entire country's stereotypes, especially when it comes to championing the myths of gay's higher disposable incomes, HGTV Network materialism, or a disproportionate focus on the fabulous lives we must be leading partying it up in gay enclaves on either coast. Working class gays, when they have any visibility at all, are usually regulated to the stuff of porn fantasy—hold their humanity please.

Talk to most gay truckers, cowboys or mill workers and life is anything but a series of rolls in the hay with an endless list of hot partners. As the

global economy ramped up and free trade, deregulation and outsourcing began steamrolling the wages of the working class, those gays working in extraction industries, manufacturing and transportation have seen their wages and working conditions deteriorate. For some of these workers, meth isn't a recreational party drug but a way to get through day after day of 18 hours spent behind the wheel of a big rig or 24 hours shifts slaving away on a drilling rig.

Even among well educated gays, this disconnect can be stunning. I've experienced openly gay, well-traveled and highly educated writers ridiculing working class gays. Laughing at those among us who live in double wide mobile homes, get paid by the hour, or may not have the gas money to attend some fabulous dinner, these intellectuals completely dismiss any reality that doesn't reflect their loft-lived lifestyles.

Yet to get our stories told, access to media is precisely through these illuminati. The largest barriers to a truly diverse representation have often come from within the gay community. It's easy to be a critic but much harder to open your mind to the possibility that one size does not fit all, and that we have many varied dreams and lifestyles. The portrayal of gays that millions of Americans witnessed on Will and Grace was a start, not an ending.

Under the leadership of Mike Schultz and the editors of Stonewall, not only has the paper respectfully acknowledged working class and rural gays, they've done so without falling into the typical traps of talking down to these communities or hypersexualizing them. Our story was finally getting told, without the fear, stereotypes or the porno'd endings. Still, the gay community is changing rapidly. Print media is under increasing competition from the Internet. Traditional gay meeting places such as bars and clubs struggle to survive against the convenience of online communities.

With our increased acceptance and mainstreaming, gayborhoods such as the Castro and Provincetown struggle to retain their gay identity. We are actually realizing that which we've struggled for so long—acceptance. And that acceptance is coming quickly, wherever we may happen to be.

Yet my agenda—and I do have one—is to keep telling these varied stories of who we are. Even if those stories are set **Out in the Middle of Nowhere**.



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

National & International

New Hampshire legislature passes civil unions bill

Governor has pledged support and says he'll sign

New Hampshire legislators passed a civil unions bill on April 26 that will permit committed same-sex couples to have the same state-level rights, responsibilities and obligations as married couples.

The state Senate passed H.B. 437 by a vote of 14-10. A companion bill passed the state House of Representatives with a bipartisan vote of 243-129 earlier this month.

"New Hampshire has taken a significant step in giving all families the equal state rights, responsibilities and protections they need," said HRC President Joe Solmonese. "Thanks to the Legislature, Gov. John Lynch and countless supporters of fairness across the state, New Hampshire families are significantly more protected today than they were yesterday."

The bill would provide protections for same-sex couples in the state, including hospital visitation, medical decision-making and inheritance rights.

Lynch has pledged to sign the bill, which would make New Hampshire the fourth state to recognize civil unions and the ninth to provide some level of protection to committed same-sex couples. Massachusetts provides equal marriage rights; Vermont, Connecticut and New Jersey recognize civil unions; California has domestic partner benefits that provide nearly all the state-level benefits of marriage; Hawaii has a reciprocal beneficiaries law;

and Maine, Washington and the District of Columbia provide registered domestic partners some level of critical protection.

Human Rights Campaign staffers worked closely with legislators, community groups and local leaders to help elect a fair-minded majority in New Hampshire in 2006, which subsequently voted today to pass the civil unions bill in the Legislature.

"It is my hope that New Hampshire's successful effort will serve as inspiration across the nation that it can be done," said Ray Buckley, New Hampshire's Democratic Party chair.

"This positive result proves that direct involvement in elections makes a real difference. Were it not for the significant support from HRC, we would not be celebrating today's victory."

"This is not a state that believes in discrimination," said Senate President Sylvia Larsen (D-Concord). "And once people understood that same-gender couples were being denied rights like hospital visitations and the right to inherit the homes they'd shared with their loved ones — stories like that opened our eyes. And once your eyes are opened, you can't close them again. This is the right thing to do."

Larsen noted that New Hampshire was one of the first states to oppose slavery and, later, to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. New Hampshire also is among the minority of states in amending its constitution (in 1974) to prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, sex or national origin.

House committee advances hate crimes bill

Prejudice based on sexual orientation and gender identity included

WASHINGTON - A House committee approved a hate crimes bill supported by the victim of a vicious racial attack in a Houston suburb last year.

The House Judiciary Committee approved the bill allowing the U.S. Attorney General to help local law enforcement investigate hate crimes. The vote on April 25th was 20-14.

David Ritcheson, 18, testified last week on behalf of the bill sponsored by Rep. John Conyers, the committee's chairman. Ritcheson was kicked, stripped, burned with cigarettes, beaten nearly lifeless and sodomized as his skinhead attackers yelled anti-Hispanic slurs at him.

His attackers were sentenced to 90 years and life in prison even though they were not prosecuted under state hate crimes laws. Ritcheson told the panel that he was fortunate because local police had the resources and interest in vigorously prosecuting his attackers. But he said other hate crime victims are not as fortunate and need the federal hate crimes law.

The bill defines such crimes as those motivated by prejudice based on the actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability of the victim or is a violation of the state, local, or tribal hate crime laws.

Under current law, hate crimes can only be prosecuted at the federal level if the crime is committed while the victim is carrying out a federally protected act, such as voting, Conyers said.

"Hate crimes are a stain on our national heritage. We should accordingly do what we can to better equip our federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies with the tools to prosecute these crimes," Conyers said in a statement.

Opponents of the bill have said it would take jurisdiction from states and lessens the seriousness of crimes with other motives than prejudice. Others oppose the inclusion of sexual orientation in the definition.

Polish Prime Minister: More Gays Bad For Society

(Warsaw) Poland's conservative prime minister rejected European Union criticism April 26 of a proposal to fire teachers for "homosexual propaganda," saying it was not in the interest of society to have more gay people.

Prime Minister Jaroslaw Kaczynski said homosexuals did not face discrimination in his country, responding to an EU parliament vote to send a mission to Poland to investigate recent anti-gay comments by senior officials.

"Nobody is limiting gay rights in Poland," Kaczynski told reporters hours after the vote.

"However, if we're talking about not having homosexual propaganda in Polish schools, I fully agree with those who feel this way," he said. "Such propaganda should not be in schools; it definitely doesn't serve youth well."

"It's not in the interest of any society to increase the number of homosexuals - that's obvious."

Last month, Deputy Education Minister Miroslaw Orzechowski said teachers deemed to be promoting "homosexual culture" in schools would be fired, and the ministry announced it would draw up corresponding legislation.

The ministry has not defined what it means by efforts to promote homosexuality and has yet to submit the legislation, according to the parliamentary press office.

The EU parliament called on Polish authorities to publicly condemn and take measures against declarations by officials "inciting discrimination and hatred based on sexual orientation."

The assembly asked the EU's anti-racism center in Vienna to look into "the emerging climate of racist, xenophobic and homophobic

intolerance in Poland," and to determine whether the bloc's anti-discrimination rules were being violated.

The resolution - sponsored by the Socialists, Liberals and Greens but largely opposed by conservative lawmakers - was likely to strain EU-Poland relations further. Since joining the EU in 2004, Poland has clashed with the bloc on a variety of issues, from the environment to the economy.

The vast majority of Poland's 38 million people are members of the Roman Catholic church, which considers homosexual behavior sinful. Kaczynski's Law and Justice party, which won parliamentary elections in September 2005, has stressed Catholic values. The party governs with the small, right-wing League of Polish Families, which is militantly anti-abortion and anti-gay rights.

Robert Biedron, the head of Poland's Campaign Against Homophobia, condemned Kaczynski's statements, calling them "old homophobic comments, full of hatred and intolerance toward homosexuals."

"It's an old tune from this government," he said.

During a visit to Germany earlier this year, Education Minister Roman Giertych, the leader of the League of Polish Families, said "one must limit homosexual propaganda so that children won't have an improper view of family."

Human Rights Watch has sent a letter to Kaczynski saying it fears the measure would bar safe sex education and lead to the expulsion or dropping out of gay students.

President Lech Kaczynski - the prime minister's brother - refused to grant parade permits for gay rights marches while he served as mayor of Warsaw, although a gathering was held anyway, in front of his office.

Legislature passes gay rights bill

DES MOINES, Iowa - Gays and lesbians may soon enjoy more civil rights protections after the Legislature approved a bill that would allow them equal opportunity in employment, housing and other areas.

The House had blocked the measure for weeks but approved it April 25th, sending it to the Senate, where it passed hours later. Gov. Chet Culver said he plans to sign the proposal into law, calling the bill historic and commending lawmakers for their votes.

"I think it's a good bill, a very strong bill," said Ralph Rosenberg, who heads the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, which enforces the civil rights laws. "It sends a strong message."

The House added an amendment to clarify that the proposal wouldn't alter a state law that defines marriage as between a man and a woman.

House Minority Leader Chris Rants (R-Sioux City) opposed the measure, saying he wanted to underscore the state marriage law. "A lot of Republicans wanted to protect marriage," Rants said.

Seventeen states and the District of Columbia have enacted similar protections for gays and lesbians. In Iowa, several local governments have enacted ordinances providing those protections, including Ames, Bettendorf, Burlington, Cedar Rapids, Davenport, Des Moines, Dubuque, Iowa City and Johnson County.

Group won't challenge Oregon law banning discrimination

But Oregon Family Council still would like to see bill defeated

The Oregon Family Council announced it will not seek a referendum vote on the recently passed legislation banning discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The council led the charge for the state constitutional amendment banning gay marriage that voters approved in 2004. In a press release April 24th, the group said it would not challenge the anti-discrimination measure because the Legislature had provided an opportunity for public say and addressed their concerns that religious freedoms might be infringed upon.

The council said if some other group were to gather the 55,179 valid signatures required to force a statewide referendum vote, it would not take an active role in the campaign but would encourage its supporters to defeat Senate Bill 2.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Christopher Lawrence, A & E Editor

Dusk deals with dreaded decisions

Bryan Harnetiaux, Playwright-in-Residence at Spokane Civic Theatre, does the Lilac City proud with his latest play. **Dusk** is tightly written, moving and deeply considerate of the painful interactions in a family where the specter of death for one of them clutches at the hearts and fears of the entire brood.

It would be difficult not to have your heartstrings pulled when the subject matter is as universal as the looming demise of a parent. The dialogue investigates the complicated cascade of emotions evoked by processing the many legal papers that prepare the way for one's wishes to be carried out and the decisions that need to be made.

Nik Adams' physical portrayal of the resentful patriarch Gil is visually perfect. He is every bit the character—an aging curmudgeon with a “boggy” heart. Vocally, he could pull it down a few notches and allow his voice to more closely match his ailing character's winded health.

The entire cast is well rehearsed and delivers their lines smoothly and professionally, yet somehow they are too powerful for such an intimate story in the equally intimate Firth J. Chew Theatre.

Nevertheless, this is a production that will touch everyone.

Director Diana Trotter might consider developing the more organic ‘being’ of the characters. Let the audience strain to hear some of the lines rather than have the volume outweigh the natural ebb and flow of the insightful dialogue and flux of emotion. Capture us with the quiet and internalized fear that drives this family toward their eventual frenzy.

Sara Nichols as the dutiful and equally resentful, but loving daughter/caregiver/martyr and Brooke Keiner as the visiting nurse manage their changes of energy with a more delicate ebb and flow. The male actors could improve an already very good evening at the theater by following suit.

If you let this play slip away, you will miss a chance for reflection on the things in life that give meaning.

Tickets are available by calling (509) 325-2507.



L-R Sara Nichols, Maxwell Nightser, Benjamin Lee, Nik Adams and Brooke Keiner

interPLAYERS raids the “ER”

Michael Genovese and Ellen Crawford, veteran actors from TV's famed ER and members of Actors Equity Association, will appear in in **Sparky and Fitz** at interPLAYERS.

I am looking forward to seeing these two seasoned actors who have had both a professional and personal relationship for years. Mike Genovese portrayed Sgt. Al Grabarski in the “ER” series and married Nurse Lydia Wright, played by Ellen Crawford.

These two are no lightweights. Among many other stage performances, they have worked together in such powerful produc-



tions as **Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf**.

Sparky and the Fitz is a comedy based on a retirement-age love triangle. The story centers on the everyday relationship between the husband (Sparky) and the wife (Fitz.) It seems Fitz is teetering on the edge of a huge decision whether she should stay with the status quo and let the years continue to roll on by, or jump into another relationship with the UPS man. How she makes her final choice is a hilarious closing scene. Call (509) 455-PLAY for tickets.

OUT n' About in The Lilac City

- ♣ April 27 - May 18, **Dusk** at Civic's Firth J. Chew Studio Theatre. Call (509) 325-2507 or (800) 446-9576 for tickets.
- ♣ May 2 - 15, **Clrque Dreams—Jungle Fantasy** at Northern Quest Casino
- ♣ May 3, **Pride & Joy Movie Night** presents **My Mother Likes Women** at Center-Stage Theatre, 2nd Floor. FREE. Social at 7 p.m. Movie at 7:30. Call 74-STAGE.
- ♣ May 5 & 19, **SAFARI Saturdays**. Every 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month at 9 p.m. \$5. SAFARI is an always changing improv showcase! It features short-form, long-form and anything in-between! Some material may not be suitable for all ages. Blue Door Theater at 815 W Garland Ave. (509)747-7045.
- ♣ May 10 - 26 **Sparky and the Fitz** by Craig Volkat at interPLAYERS Theatre \$10 - \$21. Available from Interplayers Theatre Box Office, (509) 455-PLAY, TicketsWest: (800) 325-SEAT, or www.ticketswest.com.
- ♣ Through June 3, “From Head to Toe: Shoes and Hats” on display at the MAC E-mail: themac@northwestmuseum.org. More information at <http://www.northwestmuseum.org> or call 509-456-3931.
- ♣ June 3, 7 and 9 p.m. **Cabaret: Food, Glorious Food!** Abbey Crawford, one of the stars of **Assassins**, will perform her lively cabaret show in the atmospheric environment of the Firth J. Chew Studio Theatre. \$20 Includes dessert!
- ♣ May 12, 8 p.m. **Salute to Frank Sinatra and Nat King Cole** - featuring vocalist Horace Alexander Young with Spokane Jazz Orchestra, Bing Crosby Theater. Call TicketsWest at (800) 325-SEAT, or www.ticketswest.com.

“Six inches forward-five inches back!”

Hedwig and the Angry Inch by John Cameron Mitchell, with music by Stephen Trask, will be presented on stage in Spokane June 8-9 at 8 p.m. and June 10 at 4 p.m. during PRIDE weekend at the Ignite Community Theater (1003 E. Trent Ave).

Newly transplanted from Seattle, e.v.e. productions brings us this ground-breaking, Obie-winning, off-Broadway smash that also won multiple awards for its hit film adaptation.

If you have not already seen it, this is the OUT-rageously queer story of “internationally ignored song stylist” Hedwig Schmidt, a fourth-wall smashing East German rock ‘n’ roll goddess who is also the victim of a botched sex-change operation that left her with just “an angry inch.”

This remarkable and unexpectedly hilarious story is dazzlingly performed by Hedwig (née Hansel) in the form of a rock gig/stand-up comedy routine backed by the hard-rocking band “The Angry Inch.”

Using songs and monologues, Hedwig tells her story, which begins in the former East Berlin where, as Hansel, he meets Luther, an American GI who promises to take the young man to the States on the condition that he switch his sex. After the bungled operation, Luther abandons



newly named Hedwig in a Kansas trailer park where she turns to music and meets and mentors geeky Tommy Speck, for whom she soon falls.

Tommy steals her songs and achieves rock star fame, so Hedwig is once again cast aside. She decides to demand redress, and in a comic reversal of fortunes, stalks Tommy's world tour, performing in venues

(burger joints, laundromats) that are situated next door to his stadiums.

Hedwig describes her life's search for “The Origin of Love” and her other half. It's a rocking ride, funny, touching and ultimately inspiring to anyone who ever felt life gave them an inch when they deserved a mile.

This should be a gem even if it is half as good as the movie adaptation!

Tickets are \$15 or \$10 (if 10 or more tickets are purchased together, or are purchased in advance). www.myspace.com/headwigspokane

Spokane Public Schools is committed to providing learning environments which are respectful of all participants.

POLICY 5170 Harassment and Discrimination is Illegal

Persons should use Policy and Procedure 5170 to resolve discrimination or harassment complaints.

For a copy, visit the Equity website at www.spokaneschools.org/equity and click on the bullying/harassment icon or call:

Ivan Bush, Equal Opportunity Officer @ 354-7344
Vickie Countryman, Director of Equity @ 354-5956

Sallie Christensen, Violence Prevention
Coordinator @ 354-5953



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REVIEWS & PREVIEW

BOOKS - VIDEOS - MUSIC

Christopher Lawrence & Graham Ames 24.24.2.1250

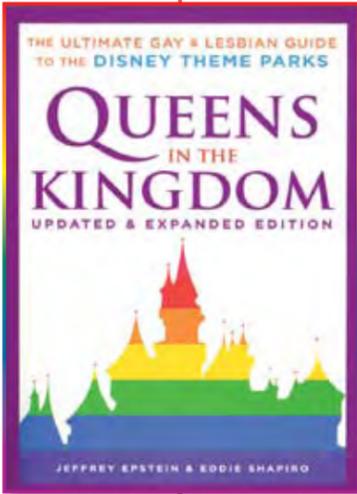
Queens in the Kingdom

by Jeffrey Epstein & Eddie Shapiro
Avalon Ravel Publishing, 405 pages

Billed as the "Ultimate Gay & Lesbian Guide to the Disney Theme Parks," *Queens in the Kingdom* is a delightful queer take on one of our favorite vacations spots. There are other guides to all of these parks and cruises, but as our authors remind us, [GLBTQ visitors] "look for something a little less common, a bit less obvious. We look for Fabulous! ...attributes that may or may not resonate with breeders, but definitely ring bells for us."

Ratings for every ride, area, food venue and surrounding hotels are included in a five star system from best (Supercalifragilistic-expialidocious) to worst (Cruella De Vil). After all, these theme parks are overwhelming and offer so many choices, that you can use this book as preparation to avoid being stuck in long lines or dine on second-rate gastronomical disasters.

Witty, clever and truly helpful. Don't leave home without it!



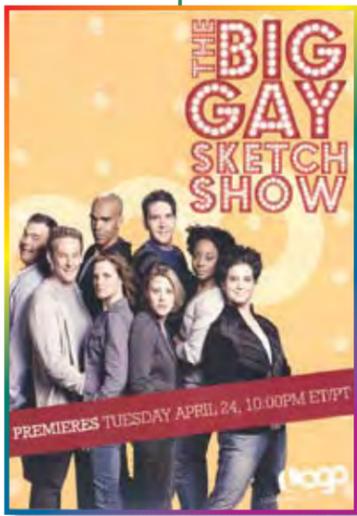
The Big Gay Sketch Show

Scott King, writer (MAD TV)
Oh Really productions, Logo TV

Fans of Saturday Night Live and Mad TV will likely find this combination of traditional and music-based sketches, pop culture parodies and recurring characters, all from a unique LGBT perspective, fun and refreshing. Like SNL, not every sketch is a winner. Even though the show as a whole is uneven, I found most of the second half of the DVD amusing and occasionally dead on with OUTrageous impersonations.

I expect the winning "gay werewolf," "Tranny 911," the gay "Facts of Life," and "The Honeymooners" to become regular sketches if this turns out to be an ongoing Logo series.

Executive producers are Rosie O'Donnell, Jim Biederman, Dan MacDonald and Joe Del Hierro. Directed by Amanda Bearse ("Mad TV," "Married with Children") this first attempt is imperfect and filled with comic stereotypes, but it might make you chortle.



Light At The End Of The World

Erasure
Mute Records

Vince Clark was having a mid-tempo crisis. "Our albums seem to have got slower and slower," he realized, "so I started searching for classic funk or disco baselines, put some ideas together with chord changes and baselines underneath," and together with Andy Bell came up with lead-off single "I Could Fall In Love With You." One of ten tracks on the upcoming *Light At The End Of The World*, the song is classic Erasure: upbeat synth-pop, rich in melody and well-crafted lyric. In fact, *Light* brings the old Erasure sound neatly into the twenty-first century, gorgeously melding new sounds and trends in dance music with the classic '80s sound which propelled Erasure to prominence over twenty years ago.

My first encounter with them was as an opening act in 1986, touring Europe in support of *Wonderland*. (Andy Bell came out wearing a red tutu. I was scandalized and entranced all at the same time, and I am certain it was one of the major clues during my own internal coming out process.) I was scandalized and entranced all at the same time, and I am certain it was one of the major clues during my own internal coming out process.) At the time, I had no idea I was witnessing one of the first outings of what would become one of the most successful recording acts in history. Well, at least everywhere in the

world but the US, where after a mild splash with "Chains Of Love" and "A Little Respect," they have not really been heard much outside of dance clubs. Even that trend has been interrupted by their recent foray into acoustic and country/western restylings of deep cuts from their own back catalog, 2006's *Union Street*. With the release of *Light*, Erasure returns to its roots in great form.

At its core, this album is everything we love about this band, from the electro-bass percussion line to the layered, soaring vocals. Producer Gareth Jones has helped imbue this core idea with surprising touches. The overdubbed backing vocals are mixed sound like a live choir, not a studio trick. There are subtle keyboard touches lurking on songs such as "How My Eyes Adore You," deepening the texture until you nearly fall in. Other tracks stray a bit further, such as "Sucker For Love," a screaming synth dance floor anthem begging for the Oakenfold touch. Or the kaleidoscopic "Glass Angel" or "Storm In A Teacup," which build on newer electronica song forms, with marvelous results.

Light At The End Of The World has only one fault: it is far too short. Several times while listening to it, I wondered if I had received only a sampler to review, as it seemed to end far too quickly. But is that not the measure of any good art, that it feels as if it should not be over?

Light At The End Of The World will be in stores May 22.



Jockstraps and Unicorns

Athens Boys Choir
Rykodisc

Athens Boys Choir, the spoken word "band" of transgender performance poet Katz, returns with a third studio album, *Jockstraps and Unicorns*. Across thirteen tracks, Katz explores issues of gender, politics, love, sex, and how any of these may intersect at any time. Step aboard and strap in; it is going to be a wild and worthwhile ride.

If you are familiar with ABC, you already have some idea of what to expect: uncompromising waves of words and images which, on first listen, overwhelm with their pointed piercings of society's veils and shadows. If you have never heard of ABC or spoken word or performance poetry before, you might be in for a treat. All that is required is the willingness to not do anything else, sit down and really listen. Listen more than once.

"Athens, GA" takes an exploration of dialect into a full-blown commentary on a particular style of life. The utterly frank "Dafodils And Macrame" [sic] expresses the explosion of new love with an exquisite precision that it becomes at once

singularly personal and yet universal. "Poem for My Ego, Stupidity, Pride" begins with frustration, but soon explodes into queer fury, managing to speak out

to stupidity the truth we all carry inside us. Many others stand out: "Love Poem," "I'm a Mo'Fo' Genius Because I've Got the Answer to World Piece" [sic], and the stunning, outrageous "Tranny Got Pack (Revised)." Easily, the whole of

this album is greater than the sum of its parts.

Some tracks are simply Katz speaking his poems. On others, guest artists Heidi Hensley and DJ Kinda Gay add instrumental, vocal and turntable assistance. Humor is sprinkled liberally throughout, as are adult themes and some explicit language. This would be an ideal CD for a car trip, although perhaps not with kids in the vehicle.

With this release, it has never been easier to find Athens Boys Choir. Their entire catalog is available on iTunes, and you can purchase actual CDs through the store at their website (www.athensboyschoir.com). Give your queer spirit a resounding boost with *Jockstraps and Unicorns*. It is artistic therapy for any soul which leans even a bit outside the norm.



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Community Service Announcement

Spokane, We're Family... Let's Celebrate!

June 1 Friday

Pride 2007 kicks off 15 days of celebrations and events with:

- **One Night Stand** (For Pride) by the Spokane LGBT Film Festival presents *The Believers* at 7 p.m. at WSU Riverpoint Campus Auditorium, 668 North Riverpoint Blvd. www.spokane-filmfest.org. The fun begins here! Hors d'oeuvres, prizes, live performances
- **Gay Spokane Awards Dinner**, 7 p.m., Imperial Sovereign Court of Spokane, Dempsey's, 909 W. 1st Avenue.

- **Gay Spokane In Town/Out of Town Show**, 8 p.m. Line-up at 7 p.m. ISCS at Dempsey's, 909 W. 1st Avenue..

June 2 Saturday

- **MCC 11th Annual Party Cruise for Pride**. Boards at 1:30 p.m., Cruise 2-4 p.m. on Lake Coeur d'Alene, Emmanuel Metropolitan Community Church of Spokane. Music, dancing and prize drawings. 21 or older please. \$15 per person or 2 for \$25 if purchased before May 19, 2007. Contact Ginnay at way2qt_99@yahoo.com for tickets or information. To visit the EMCC Spokane Web site, click here.

- **ISCS Gay Spokane Pageant**, Saturday June 2 at 6 p.m., Doors open at 5 p.m., ISCS, Dempsey's, 909 W. 1st Avenue, 2nd Level.

- **Beach Party Dance** to celebrate Pride, June 2 at 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.. Sponsored by **Giant Ass Drum Corps** and **OutSpokane**. Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane, 4340 W. Fort Wright Drive. \$8 per person, \$75 to reserve a table for a party of 8 and only \$4 per person if you show your Coronation ticket stub or \$6 with your Cruise ticket stub. EVERYONE is WELCOME

June 3, Sunday

- **Gay Spokane Victory Brunch**, ISCS, 12 noon.

June 4, Monday

- **Rainbow Awards**, 7 p.m. at CenterStage. The **Pride Foundation** honors individuals and organizations whose efforts have positively impacted the GLBTQA community of the Inland Northwest. FREE.

June 5, Tuesday

- **Push for Youth Dinner**, 6 p.m.. Dempsey's Brass Rail, 909 West 1st Ave. Fund-raiser to benefit **Odyssey Youth group**. Reservations only. Call (509) 747-5362. Dempsey's Drag Divas will be your servers.

June 7, Thursday

- **KYRS 89.9 FM Queer Sounds**, 6 to 8 p.m. Interview with Camille Bloom. www.camillebloom.com
- **Pride & Joy Movie Night**, 7 p.m. social, 7:30 movie, (*To Be Announced*) CenterStage Theater.

June 8, Friday

- **GLBTQA Youth Forum with Camille Bloom**, 2 - 4 p.m.. Free.
- **Meet-and-Greet with Col. Grethe Cammermeyer**, 5:30 p.m. at *ella's*, CenterStage.
- **Community Forum with Col. Grethe Cammermeyer**, 7 p.m. Coffee and tea will be served. No charge.

- **Hedwig and the Angry Inch** at Ignite Community Theatre. Presented by **e.v.e. productions** as a benefit for the LGBT Community Center on June 8-9, 8 p.m. & June 10, 4 p.m. Tickets \$15, \$10 group discount. www.myspace.com/headwigspokane

- **Rocky Horror Picture Show**, Garland Theater Midnight Movie

June 9, Saturday

- **Mom & Pop Annual Breakfast**, 8-10:30 a.m.. PFLAG at Dempsey's Brass Rail - \$5 suggested donation goes towards GLBTQ scholarships. www.pflagspokane.org

Pride Parade, noon - 1 p.m.

- **Grand Marshall Col. Grethe Cammermeyer and Christopher Peterson** lead the fray.

- Staging starts at 11 a.m. on the pedestrian walk on Wall Street between Main Avenue and Spokane Falls Blvd.

Rainbow festival 12 - 1 p.m.

- Gondola Meadows, RiverFront Park. This year the theme is "**Spokane, We're Family - Let's Celebrate.**" Local talk radio host and cabaret singer, Abbey Crawford will join Christopher Lawrence as Masters of Ceremonies in the park as we celebrate 16 years of PRIDE in Spokane.

- **Camille Bloom**, musical artist, headlines a variety of entertainment. Check her out at: www.camillebloom.com.

- **The Annual Wedding Ceremony**.

- Continuous live stage entertainment will last until 6 p.m. including the "**Karaoke - Off**" between semi-finalists.

- **Family Play Area** will now have entertainment, fun and educational activities, games from **Chum Chum**, building projects, booths, giant blow up bounce-around toys and much more.

- **EYECONS** starring **Christopher Peterson**, 8:30 p.m. at **Northern Quest Casino**. Join us for Christopher's perfectly skewed impersonations of the greatest female stars you have ever loved! Laugh OUT loud ribald hilarity. Tickets are \$35 - \$45. Call 509/325-7328 or by visiting ticketswest.com. Mature content. Over 21 please.

- **Rocky Horror Picture Show**, Garland Theater Midnight Movie

June 10, Sunday

- **Interfaith Pride Service**, 9:15 & 11 a.m., hosted by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane, United Church of Christ and EMCC at 4340 W. Fort Wright Drive.

June 13, Wednesday

- Inland Northwest Business Alliance Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

June 15, Friday

- **Stem & Stein Wine Tasting**, 5:30 to 11 p.m. at Northern Quest Casino as a Spokane AIDS Network Fund-raiser.

BILL NOURSE - continued from page 2

his being gay. Even though Nourse was living an authentic life for the first time, his wife was uncomfortable and embarrassed at first, but she loved him and wanted him to be happy, so in time, she supported his coming out as an openly gay senior citizen. Ann Wood commented, "We often had (PFLAG) board meetings at his home with Ramona serving us lunch."

Roy Nourse stated that during a telephone conversation in 1994 Bill Nourse said to him, "You must wonder why your father is involved in PFLAG- Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Obviously I don't have any gay children. I just want you to know that I am gay, and I have been gay all my life."

Roy replied, "That's okay Dad, I've been gay all my life, too. We've just never had this conversation before." They had a very close relationship, particularly from that point on.

Bill Nourse wrote letters to most of his family members, particularly nieces and nephews of childbearing age, telling them that he was gay and explaining his situation. Nourse believed homosexuality to be hereditary, and to keep it quiet was doing a disservice to the family, especially the ones who might have a gay or lesbian child. He wanted to educate and prepare people. "When Dad came out, he really felt elated," Roy Nourse stated.

By 1996, when Roy and his partner Tony invited Bill Nourse to attend the San Francisco Gay Pride Parade with them, Bill was extensively involved in PFLAG. With Bill Nourse representing Spokane PFLAG, the three men carried PFLAG's banner as they walked the entire parade route accompanied by several hundred PFLAG San Francisco members and cheered on by a half million spectators. Roy stated, "It was an overwhelming experience for Dad. He was so thrilled!"

Bill Nourse was one of eight Stonewall Patriots who testified before a televised Spokane City Council meeting on May 5th, 1997 in favor of "Equal Rights for All" Spokane's non-discrimination ordinance that includes sexual orientation. Nourse was very proud of his participation in Stonewall Patriots, a group that led the effort to get ordinance C32232 passed. The non-discrimination ordinance was passed on January 25, 1999, and went into effect a month later.

When Roy Nourse returned to live in Spokane in late 1999, he visited gay bars in Spokane. Roy stated that he met several older men close to his father's age at the bars that told him on separate occasions that his father had continued to have a relationship with Robert the whole time he was married to Ramona. They claimed that Bill Nourse essentially led a double life. Roy revealed, "People at the bars told me that when my father got depressed about his retirement it was really because Robert had died. That was why he decided to come out. I never really believed it at the time." Roy continued, "A long time ago, five or ten years ago, I asked my father if the stories about him and Robert were true. Dad said no they were not true." Ann Wood confirmed, "He told us that he had remained faithful to her (Ramona) all his life."

Later, when his wife became ill with lupus, Bill Nourse dedicated most of his time and effort to caring for her. After Ramona passed away in August 2006, Bill Nourse moved to Phoenix to live with Roy and his partner Tony Silva. About a month before Bill Nourse died, Roy asked his father again if the stories he heard in the bars were true. This time Bill Nourse replied, "Yes. It is true." Still, Roy isn't certain if his father lived a secret life with Robert while maintaining a life with his wife and sons or not. Roy declared, "It's not important. It's amazing to have lived with someone who was a good consistent father and devoted husband for over 60 years who could have had a completely different life that very few people knew about." Roy confided, "I actually think it was true. Too many people told same story to not think there was some credibility to it." When asked if Bill Nourse had a partner, Ann Wood indicated she didn't know for certain adding, "Our society trains gay men and women to be gracious liars. An honorable survival trait."

The family held a memorial service for Bill Nourse, as well as an ash spreading ceremony for Bill and Ramona Nourse, at Borrego Springs, California in March. Roy stated that a portion of his parent's estate is going to a local GLBT organization, but he declined to name the organization. Bill Nourse's life is an example of courage and dedication. He was a friend to Spokane's GLBT community and showed that it doesn't matter whether you are 17 or 70—it is important to come out and be yourself. He will be missed.



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1003 E. Trent Ave.

June 8 & 9 @ 8pm

June 10 @ 4pm
\$15.00

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R U LOOKING?

www.lilaccitymensproject.org

If you're a gay or bisexual guy 18-29 we invite you to join us. We get together monthly for socials, dinners, wellness groups, & more. Visit our website for details on us and all our upcoming activities.

First Friday: Food & Flicks!

Join us on the 1st Friday of every month at 6p.m. for dinner and a movie at River Park Square & AMC Theaters. Grab a meal from the food court and meet in the Kress Art Gallery on the 3rd floor of River Park Square.

509 455 8993 ext. 231

Mpower@san-nw.org

The Lilac City Men's Project would like to thank Mike Schultz and the Stonewall for their outstanding service to the Spokane Community.



CALENDAR
Covering Spokane, Tri-Cities, Pullman, Moscow,
Walla Walla, and Yakima
is online!
www.stonewallnews.net

Resource Directory

SPOKANE AREA

BiNet Spokane

A social support group for bisexual men and women.

Call: (509) 217-1271

Eastern Washington University SAFE Students' Alliance for Equality

Weekly meetings for students, faculty and staff.

Call: Kat Olson: (509) 359-4253

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

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

Westminster Congregational UCC

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you ARE welcome here! An Open and Affirming Congregation of faith in downtown Spokane. Informal worship at 8:30am, traditional worship at 10:30am. Located at 411 S Washington St. (corner of 4th and Washington)

Call: 535-3155

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: BCHARDISON@icehouse.net

NIGMA –

North Idaho Gay Men's Association

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

E-mail: NIGMA@yahoo.com

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

PULLMAN/MOSCOW

Planned Parenthood of The Inland Northwest

HIV antibody testing and counseling.

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

Administration: (509) 326-6292

Washington State University Gender Identity/Expression and Sexual Orientation Resource Center

PRIDE 2007 – continued from page 2

area with entertainment sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Church. Mobius and Chum Chum will be on hand with games and activities for the kids. Brigit Potter of OutSpokane stated, "We want the Pride Festival to be a safe supportive place for people to get information and celebrate pride as we move forward with our vision." The Pride Festival will continue to have its Annual Wedding Ceremony every year until it is legal for LGBTQ people to get married.

Through its work with various community organizations, OutSpokane's mission is to "advance visibility, advocacy and empowerment of our diverse community of LGBTQ people, their families, friends and allies." The community will kick off Pride! 2007 on June 1 with the Gay Spokane Awards Dinner and a screening of The Believers. From a cruise on Lake Coeur d'Alene, to ISCS Gay Spokane Pageant, to an Interfaith Pride Worship Service, to the annual Stem & Stein wine tasting, Pride! 2007 has something for everyone. Pride events will continue through June 15.

MONTANA

Flathead Valley Alliance

Northwest Montana information and referral services.

Call: (406) 758-6707

Web site: www.flatheadvalleyalliance.org/index.html

Lesbian Avengers

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

Call: (406) 523-6608

Our Montana Family

Supporting Montana's GLBT parents and their children.

E-mail: barbatpride@aol.com

PFLAG Billings

Meets monthly Sept. - May.

Call: (406) 255-7609

PRIDE!

Statewide lesbian/gay/trans civil rights advocacy group.

Call: (406) 442-9322

or, in Montana: (800) 610-9322

PRIDE Celebration

Group in charge of annual Montana June PRIDE celebrations.

Call: (406) 442-9322

Western Montana Gay & Lesbian Community Center

127 North Higgins, Suite 202

Missoula, MT 59802

(406) 543-2224

E-mail: wmgcc@gaymontana.org

Web: www.gaymontana.org/wmgcc

WASHINGTON

Bi MEN Group

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

Web site: www.egroups.com/group/bi-men-west

Equal Rights Washington

Fighting for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality.

Call: (206) 324-2570

Web site: www.equalrightswashington.org

GLSEN Washington State

The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network

E-mail: mail@glsenwa.org

Web site: www.glsenwa.org

Legal Marriage Alliance

Working to achieve the right of same-sex couples to marry legally in Washington.

Web site: www.lmaw.org

Lesbian Resource Center

Resources and referrals, groups and events. Monthly newspaper.

Call: (206) 322-3953

Lifelong AIDS Alliance

Providing support, prevention and advocacy for people with HIV/AIDS.

Call: (206) 329-6923

PositiveVoice Washington

Advocates for programs and services needed by people with HIV. Offers self-advocacy training.

Call: (888) 704-0099

There's Power in Our Pride.



Participate in the largest LGBT Community Survey in history, and help demonstrate the growing Power in Our Pride.

Everyone who completes the survey by May 15, 2007 will be entered into a drawing to win one of FOUR free airline tickets from/to any of the participating airline's destinations in the 48 continental U.S. States, plus Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean. Restrictions apply.

Please take the survey today, and tell your friends!

www.GaySurvey.com
www.LesbianSurvey.com

Tremendous strides toward full equality have been achieved by our communities over the past decade. There's Power in Our Pride. Power to make a difference:

- Gay and lesbian survey studies have opened doors (and minds) in leading corporations and organizations, which in turn have recognized the value of their LGBT employees through the establishment of equal hiring policies and domestic partner benefits. This has been a catalyst, leading to sweeping changes in political and social inclusivity.
- Demographic reports also influence marketing investment. Virtually absent until recently, we now see a growing variety of products and services represented in gay media, celebrating our diversity. Ads keep LGBT publications and websites in business, serving their communities with independent news and information.
- Beyond simply advertising, though, these companies support us in many ways, including sponsoring community events and funding community-based charities in order to earn our loyalty.
- Taking an annual pulse on market trends through surveys helps demonstrate the LGBT community's growing power, and influences positive change.

We respect your privacy. All personal survey data is held confidentially by Community Marketing, Inc., an independent market research and communications firm based in San Francisco (founded 1992, and proudly 100% gay-owned and -operated) and will not be sold to third parties or used for marketing purposes. Thank you!

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www.CommunityMarketingInc.com

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Saturday, May 12 at 8 p.m.
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Dan Keberle, Music director

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June 10

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