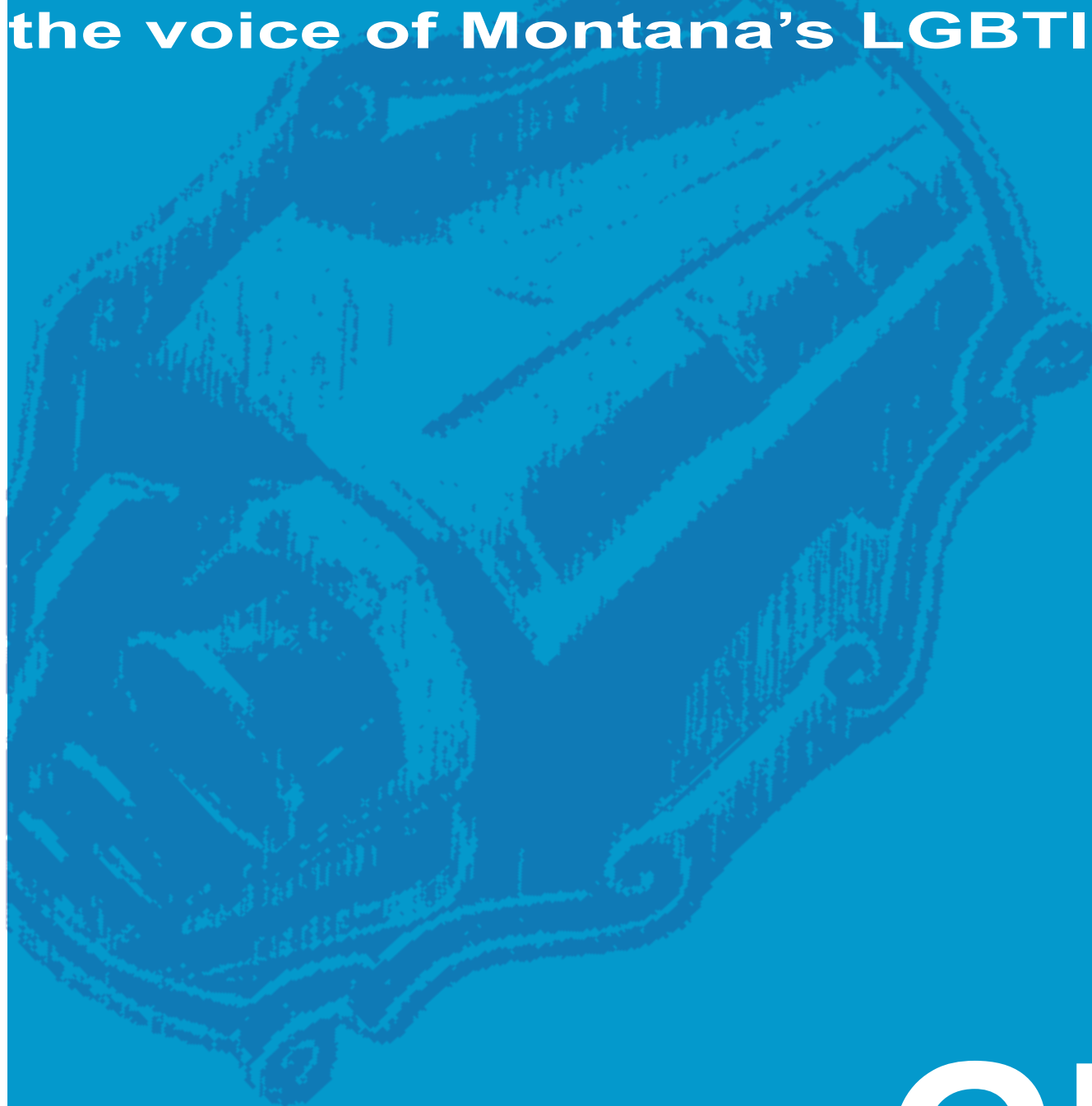


# out words

the voice of Montana's LGBTIQ community

December 2007



## 2007 GIFT GUIDE

Home for the holidays,  
what family means to our community



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## OUT WORDS WISHES YOU ALL A VERY GAY HOLIDAY

By S. Katherine Brown

Welcome to the final edition of Out Words for 2007. We decided to focus on families in order to begin a dialogue about what exactly family means in the queer community. The pieces printed here start to pull out the threads of difference even in our community. Some of us want to create families, others are trying to re-write the notion of family and others are trying to simply keep their heads above the turbulent waters of our biological families. Read on and join the dialogue.

As we go to press, we have seen the ENDA (Employment Non-Discrimination Act) pass in the house and senate. It may not make its way to Bush's desk this session of congress but sometime in the near future we will see it made it to law. It may take a different presidency and slightly different congress, but we are closer then we have ever been. I for one am glad that we may have to wait. Not because I believe that discrimination is okay, but precisely because I believe that discriminating against any group of people is wrong. I want to see the trans community represented in the next act that actually makes it to the presidents desk and pass.

Here in Missoula we have been working very hard to get a rally together to educate the public and the gay community about hate crimes. This is in light of recent anti-gay violence here in town. We have had enough, and we are going to speak up and stand out. We have received some great press and are hopeful that we get lots of folks to turn out on November 26.

On the issue of hate crimes, we are waiting to hear about the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007. Bush has promised a veto, but hopefully he will get some humanity and see the error of his discriminatory ways. Stranger things have happened my friends. Keep those letters to the editor coming in.

I wish you all a peaceful holiday season, filled with simplicity, honesty and integrity. See you in the new year!

## OUT WORDS RADIO NOW COMING TO YOU LIVE

By Out Words Staff

MISSOULA- Hey all you college radio listeners, tune in every week for your installment of everything gay. Out Words Radio will broadcast on KBGA 89.9 FM every Monday night from 8-10pm.

Out Words, your monthly publication of the LGBTIQ community in Montana in conjunction with KBGA is sponsoring this new show. Host dharmagr1 will be spinning tunes you can't live without, as well there will be interviews, news, queer history, culture, general frivolity and some serious gettin' down.

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Trans Exclusive ENDA Passes House

Courtesy of Task Force Press Release

WASHINGTON—Following six weeks of rancorous debate, the House of Representatives voted November 7, on a version of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) that does not include protections on the basis of gender identity. It passed by a vote of 235 to 184. When congressional leadership announced late October that it planned to advance a version of ENDA that only contained protections on the basis of sexual orientation to the House floor, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, took a leading role in moving to block that strategy and move forward on the fully inclusive bill. A coalition called United ENDA was created with more than 360 national, state and local organizations joining the struggle.

The following is a statement made November 7 by Matt Foreman, Executive Director, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force:

"We are deeply disappointed that House leadership decided to ignore the position of a vast majority of LGBT organizations, ignore the legal assessment that this bill may not even provide adequate protections for gays, lesbians and bisexuals, and ignore the fact that this vote might make it more difficult to persuade members of Congress to support a fully inclusive bill in the future. We are also disappointed that House leadership forced many members of its own caucus to choose between voting for a bill not supported by most in the LGBT community, or voting against a civil rights bill. This entire process has been painful, divisive and unnecessary. And worst of all, we went through all of this on behalf of a bill that the president has already said he would veto.

"The past six weeks have been among the most difficult and challenging our community has ever faced. When confronted with the possibility of Congress moving forward on a bill that stripped out protections for transgender people, the activist and grassroots backbone of our movement responded almost instantaneously in unprecedented numbers with conviction, passion and political savvy. United ENDA — a broad coalition of more than 360 national, statewide and local LGBT organizations, community centers and health clinics — fueled the effort. All of this has shaken the long-established order to its core and things will never be the same. While we are frustrated with the course of action that has been taken so far, we will not stop pressing forward toward our ultimate goal: nondiscrimination protections for everyone in our community.

"We are relieved this episode is

behind us, and starting right now we are going to pick up where we were six weeks ago — namely, working to pass into law in 2009 the ENDA our entire community wants and deserves.

"We also applaud our champions in Congress who courageously fought in committee, in their caucus and on the floor to guarantee protections for all LGBT individuals. Many members of Congress took significant risks to buck their leadership and speak out in favor of an inclusive bill. Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis) fought to bring an amendment to the floor to add gender identity protections. Representatives Rush Holt (D-NJ), Yvette Clarke (D-NY), Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio) and Linda Sanchez (D-Calif) voted against the non-inclusive bill in the House Education and Labor Committee. Seven members voted against the bill on the floor today on the principle that the bill should have provided protections on the basis of gender identity: Rep. Yvette Clarke (D-NY), Rush Holt (D-NJ), Michael Michaud (D-Maine), Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), Edolphus Towns (D-NY), Nydia Velazquez (D-NY) and Anthony Weiner (D-NY). The LGBT community will be forever grateful for their passionate support."

### Remembering Anti-Transgender Violence

By Out Words Staff

NATIONAL- November 20 marked the 9th Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance here in the US. Several cities held candlelight vigils and rallies to remember those individuals who have died due to anti-transgender violence and prejudice in the past year. In 2007 11 transgender people have been murdered, or denied medical services causing their death, due to their trans status.

From 1990 to 2004, on average one transgendered person was murdered per month, according to a report compiled on the website, gender.org. The year 2002 saw the most deaths with 34 reported, followed by 2003 with 32. These statistics are only those either known to the transgender community or reported to the media.

### Old and Gay: Who is Looking Out For You?

Courtesy of Task Force Press Release

WASHINGTON- Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE) and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force announced November 13 they received a \$500,000 grant from the Arcus Gay and Lesbian Fund to support a joint national advocacy and policy effort in the area of LGBT aging. For this new project, SAGE and the Task Force will collaborate on a series of ventures that push public policies that address LGBT aging concerns and enhance support, protections and quality of life for LGBT seniors.

Amber Hollibaugh, a Task Force senior strategist and

specialist on LGBT aging issues, convenes and coordinates the National LGBT Aging Roundtable. Ms Hollibaugh worked successfully with SAGE to gain the first-ever specific inclusion of LGBT elders in the Final Report of the 2005 White House Conference on Aging (guiding federal aging work through 2015), and will be issuing a second edition of *Outing Age*, a seminal report on policy issues affecting LGBT elders, issued in 2000.

The new SAGE-Task Force collaboration has four main goals: to build and provide leadership to an action-oriented national LGBT aging network; to win strategic policy victories for LGBT older people at the federal and state/local levels; to build the capacity for LGBT aging policy advocacy in communities across the country; and to ensure that LGBT aging issues are a focus in broader aging policy discussions. SAGE and the Task Force will carry out this work in close collaboration with local LGBT aging organizations, as well as "mainstream" and "minority" senior organizations.

### FDA Says "No" to Sex with Men

By Out Words Staff

WASHINGTON, DC- If you are a man who has ever had sex with a man, even once, since 1977, you are unable to give blood, according to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). They announced in July of this year, a restatement of their position regarding the male to male sex deferral issue (which is indefinite), confirming informal statements at previous Blood Products Advisory Committee (BPAC) meetings.

The American Association of Blood Banks (AABB), Americas Blood Centers and American Red Cross have asked the FDA since 1997 to change the deferral period for male-to-male sex to twelve months.

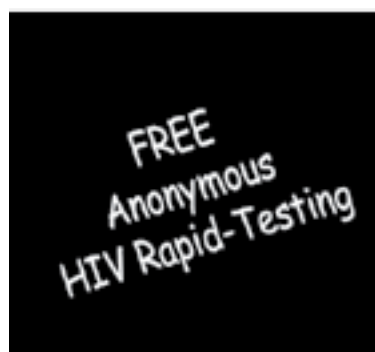
According to the AABB website, the current indefinite deferral period, for men who have sex with men, "does not appear rational to broadly differentiate sexual transmission via male-to-male sexual activity from that via heterosexual activity on scientific grounds."

With the continued emphasis on a policy that is seen as marginal scientifically and obviously discriminatory, the AABB are concerned this may motivate individuals "to actively ignore the prohibition and provide blood collection facilities with less accurate information."

In a press release responding to the FDA restatement, the American Red Cross expressed disappointment the FDA had not chosen to make changes and stated "we intend to continue to work through the AABB to press for donor deferral policies that are fair and consistent and based on scientific evidence, while protecting patients from potential harm."



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## Intimate Partner Abuse Is Extensive among Gay and Bisexual Men

New York Academy of Medicine Press Release

NEW YORK CITY – An arresting new study in the Journal of Urban Health: Bulletin of The New York Academy of Medicine finds that 32 percent of gay and bisexual men —nearly one in three— are victims of intimate partner abuse.

Little has previously been researched and documented about the patterns of intimate partner abuse in same-sex male couples. The results provide an important addition to the body of knowledge on this subject, and a call to action for health providers treating men who have sex with men (MSM).

“Men in same-sex relationships experience abuse rates similar to those faced by women in heterosexual pairings,” said lead author Eric Houston of the Department of Psychology, University of Illinois at Chicago. “Intimate partner abuse among MSM does not receive the same attention as it does among heterosexual couples. As a result of the lack of attention, many MSM who need help may not be recognized unless the healthcare provider is appropriately trained and takes time to assess for abuse.”

Men in abusive relationships were more likely to report suffering from serious health problems such as heart disease, hypertension, depression, and anxiety, according to the study. These men also were more likely to engage in unhealthy behaviors such as substance abuse and unprotected sex, leaving the gay/bisexual population at elevated risk of spreading and contracting HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Few prior studies have examined the health problems specific to abused gay and bisexual men.

According to the study, more than half of the men who were victims of intimate partner abuse in a current or a past relationship reported experiencing more than one form of abuse (verbal, sexual and physical). Of the men reporting abuse, 63 percent reported verbal abuse, 59 percent reported physical, and 57 percent reported sexual. Prevalence of abuse did not significantly vary by ethnic group, or among men who did or did not have a primary partner.

The study looked at three key health behaviors: alcohol and drug use, unprotected sex, and smoking. Test results found that abused men were more likely to report monthly or more frequent alcohol intoxication and problems caused by substance use. Abused men were also more likely to report frequent use of substances before or during sex as well as having unprotected sex, leading to a higher risk of spreading or contracting HIV/AIDS and other STDs.

“It is imperative that future research focus on ways to assess abuse and examine strategies designed to improve outreach to bring these men out of danger and improve their overall health outcomes,” Houston said.

## LGBT Student Scholarships

By Out Words Staff

NORTHWEST REGION- In partnership with Greater Seattle Business Association, Pride Foundation offers scholarships to students who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender or are a straight ally to the LGBT community. More than \$1.8 million has been awarded to over 650 recipients since 1991.

Students who reside in the Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington are eligible to apply and are awarded to help build leadership and promote diversity.

Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to human civil rights for all people and awards may be used for any postsecondary education, including nontraditional/alternative programs and vocational training.

Applications must be postmarked by January 25, 2008. For more information go to [www.pridefoundation.org/scholarships](http://www.pridefoundation.org/scholarships).

## Just Say “No” to Walmart, Toys ‘R’ Us, Harry & David

By Out Words Staff

WASHINGTON—Just in time for the biggest shopping day of the year, the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) released their 2008 Buying for Equality Guide. The Buying Guide for Equality is an HRC annual publication to help LGBT shoppers direct their dollars to the companies that have earned high marks for supporting LGBT causes and instituting gay-friendly employment policies.

This year, a record 195 companies received a 100 percent score on the Human Rights Campaign Foundation’s Corporate Equality Index, the index used to determine the rating system for the guide. This represents a significant increase from the 138 companies that earned a perfect score in last year’s guide.

Wal-Mart, RadioShack, Toys “R” Us, Harry & David were several of the companies given the thumbs down in the buying guide. Whereas Best Buy, Borders, Sears (which includes Kmart), Supervalu and Walgreens were all given perfect scores.

According to recent research, LGBT buying power is estimated to be \$723 Billion in 2008. In a different study by Witeck-Combs Communications and Harris Interactive, research also showed 78 percent of gay and lesbian adults and 77 percent of heterosexuals are likely to consider a brand that is known to provide equal workplace benefits for all of their employees, including gays and lesbians. As well one in four gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender adults say they have switched products or service providers because they found a competing company that supports causes that benefit the LGBT community.

HRC rated 519 companies and any business with 500 or more employees is eligible to be rated. Businesses are rated on a scale of 0-100 based on how they rate in terms of LGBT anti-discrimination protections, domestic partner benefits, diversity training, transgender wellness benefits and advertising practices. There are three tiers to the rating system, corresponding to the colors of traffic lights. Green (businesses with scores ranging from 80-100), yellow (46-79) and red (0-45). HRC advises to make choices of where to buy based on this simple rating system, avoiding any businesses in the red zone.

The guide is organized in groupings such as, business and finance, eating out, kids, pet care, planning a trip, newsstand and fun and games. Each grouping is organized by the three color system enable to make buying decisions easier for LGBT and allied consumers.

## Montana PRIDE 2008 in Billings again

By Traci Briske

BILLINGS- On September 25, the Pride committee started the kickoff for planning the 2008 Pride Celebration. With lots of enthusiasm and excitement, ideas for the coming year were abundant.

The theme for the upcoming year will be “Magic Under The Big Sky”. With activities for young and old, it will be a fun filled family oriented weekend. The evening of Friday June 20, the weekend festivities will start with a show by the Imperial Sovereign Court of the State of Montana.

Saturday June 21 will feature the parade, followed by activities in the park including kickball, eating, browsing, and shopping. That evening will be a great time to dance, laugh, make new friends, see old ones and enjoy some fabulous entertainment.

Everyone is invited to Billings this year June 20, 21, 22 for a little “Magic Under the Big Sky.”

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# GAY MEN'S TASK FORCE AUTUMN MEN'S RETREAT

By Camp Scribe 2007

MONTANA- A sizeable bunch of us gay-critters did gather in the deep woods (20,000 acres), up some 1,000 feet above the nearest mountain-city, actual location of no importance. Friday, Saturday and Sunday, a three day men's retreat-many "out," some still anonymous and deserving of that respect.

The Gay Men's Task Force hosted the event, funded in part by individual donations and the continued support of the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services as a state-sponsored men's retreat.

As planned, the three days were completely free of "drugs and alcohol", but with plenty of pent-up inspirational energy! One thing to be said about a wilderness gathering: You're as close to nature as you'll ever get, and, the trees merely whisper in the wind but never talk back. Regrettably, in the atmosphere of today's homophobic-society some people are so obsessed of their own tree, that they fail to see the rest of the forest of humanity.

The facilitators (all voluntary) handled such topics as; Internalized-Shame, Living Positive, Safety, First and Foremost (a scary discussion of all the ugly and debilitating sexual disease and their means of transmission), Coming OUT, Team building and Mutual Respect. These were generalized titles that were both instructive and entertaining.

We had a well-planned agenda. Excellent accommodations, plenty of good food and the camp-dog (Razer) knew us all individually as we exited the cook-shack door! There were frequent "breaks" between sessions, with ample opportunity to meet and form lasting friendship in small groups, popcorn and candy worked when words were lacking! Oh, yes, never a dull-moment with unscheduled movies and supplemental side-chat.

Our Native American brothers from different tribes and reservations carried out the central theme of our meeting. That we are all created equal in the sight of our creator dispelled much of the religious dogma that tends to promote discrimination and lack of respect. The Two-Spirit History encompassed the re-establishment of traditional cultures, rituals and languages. The likes of which have been suppressed or ignored too many years and now are perilously on the brink of extinction.

The wood smoke and crackling embers of the rec-hall/ Community-room fire-places evoked many campfire memories. Along with the fragrance of burning logs, many spoke out, telling of their own inward thought process that motivated their coming OUT.

The power circle/closing ceremony, with acknowledgements, summed-up three days of fraternal activity, along with the group picture which will be cherished as a reminder. In closing, this gathering was well worth the time, effort and expense.

Now, how about the womyn? They deserve something beyond the limits of a segregated chat room! Why not an annual retreat for the equally important lesbian community (womyn, that is!).

**OUT WORDS NEEDS YOUR REVIEWS.  
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## BOOK REVIEW

### *The Cottage*, By Gerri Hill

Reviewed by Lynne Pierce

Most likely, after you are finished reading *The Cottage* you will be weeping. Whether it's from joy or despair will depend on your personal experience.

Jill and Carrie meet one day in a park they both enjoy frequenting. Both are involved in marriages to men that have been in trouble for along time. At first the women feel an instant connection, as if they have always known each other. They strike up a friendship and soon begin to realize their sexual attraction to each other. Ultimately, they come to realize that no one can be happy around them if they are personally unhappy and it's clear what needs to be done. But, what if the decision is made too late?

This is not a typical Gerri Hill novel, nor for that matter a typical lesbian romance. Anyone who is using fiction as an escape mechanism from the real world won't find that here. What the reader will find is a well crafted exploration of two women who discover important truths about themselves. The story is told from Jill's perspective, so you get a good sense of the irrelevancy she feels in her marriage and her confusion

when she realizes that Carrie is beginning to mean more to her than a casual friendship. The stress that she feels from dealing with her husband, daughter and mother-in-law can be felt in the pages. Likewise, the emotion and peace that she shares with Carrie is just as strong. Carrie is less well drawn, but the warmth of her personality and her feelings for Jill are very clear.

Jill and Carrie's story asks the reader to believe in the concept of "soul mates," souls that travel together, reappearing and being drawn to each other in multiple lifetimes. Souls that are linked in time may appear to each other in any form or relationship, but they cannot avoid each other. These women, who have had no reason to believe until now that they may be lesbian, also know that they are meant to be together regardless of what society says is proper. Some people would say the book has a sad ending, but, if you believe in the concept of soul mates, then the resolution of their story is also hopeful. This is where the reader's experiences and beliefs come into play.

*The Cottage* is a well told story with a very personal feel to it. It can easily be read in one sitting, but the emotions it brings up will probably linger with the reader for a long time.

Hill has proven in previous novels that she can write by the formulas so popular in lesbian fiction. This book proves that she can also move outside of the formula to tell a different kind of tale.



# A&E

## BRIEFS

### Trans Columnist Celebrates 100th Anniversary

Written By Chrys Hudson

courtesy of Gaylinknews.com

SAN FRANCISCO—When author Jacob Anderson-Minshall wrote his first TransNation column for the San Francisco Bay Times he had no idea how popular it would become. Now, as he releases his 100th column, the weekly, syndicated article appears in LGBT publications from San Francisco to New York—and on GayWired Media's portals Gaywired.com, 47Gay.com and LesbiaNation.com.

"It's been an amazing two years," says Anderson-Minshall. "I've interviewed some of the most renown trans people in the world—from actors like Candis Cayne (from ABC's *Sexy Dirty Money*) and Calperina Addams, to authors Kate Bornstein and Jamison Green, musicians like The Cliks, Katastrophe and Joshua Klipp, porn star Buck Angel, former Las Vegas showgirl Jahna Steele, and literally dozens of other activists, politicians, artists, scholars, athletes, filmmakers and folks from every walk of life. I feel incredibly honored to have spoken with these remarkable individuals."

Kim Corsaro, the publisher and editor of the San Francisco Bay Times, says that TransNation has been "an important voice in the paper," and has sparked numerous letters to the editor. GayWired's L.A. Vess concurs, "We've gotten great feedback on the column."

Unlike most columns, which tend to be personal essays or opinion pieces, Anderson-Minshall—who transitioned from female to male less than a year before TransNation debuted—has positioned the weekly column as a space to profile remarkable individuals from the trans community. In doing so, he says, "I try to let my subjects speak for themselves—even when that means setting my personal opinions aside."

Anderson-Minshall formatted TransNation this way so he could increase coverage of the trans and genderqueer communities and illustrate the great diversity of gender expressions that are often lumped under a transgender umbrella.

"There's a significant population of people who were assigned one sex at birth, and now live as a different sex, but do not identify as transgender or transsexual," he says. "They are men and women. Period. Because they often don't feel like they are a part of the LGBT community, their voices frequently go unheard in queer press. TransNation is a forum willing to share these perspectives."

For his 100th column, Anderson-Minshall profiles activist Donna Rose, a former Human Rights Committee board of directors' member who left her post in protest of the organization's unpopular position on the stripped-down Employment Non Discrimination Act (ENDA).

"The debate over ENDA and the unparalleled support of transgender rights, from over 300 LGBT organizations, that has come out of it, make this the biggest trans story of 2007," Anderson-Minshall contends. "That makes it fitting as the topic for my 100th column. By my 200th, I hope I'll be celebrating the passage of a gender-inclusive ENDA."

Anderson-Minshall co-authored *Blind Leap*, the second installment in the *Blind Eye* mystery series he writes with his wife of almost 18 years, Diane Anderson-Minshall, the executive editor at *Curve* magazine, with whom he also co-founded *Girlfriends* magazine.

### Anne Will, Germany's Top Political and Sports Analyst Comes Out

Written By Dylan Vox

Courtesy of GaylinkNews.com

GERMANY—Imagine what would happen if Katie Couric came out of the closet. In November, Germany got a similar taste of a surprise when top political news and sports analyst Anne Will announced her five-year relationship with University of St. Gallen Professor Miriam Meckel.

Born in Cologne Germany, Will began working as a reporter

at *Kölnische Rundschau* (Cologne Review) while still attending college.

She became a well-respected journalist during the 1990's and began writing for a variety of news magazines before landing a job hosting the popular German sports show *Sportschau*.

During the 2000 Summer Olympics, she presented athlete segments and sports commentary and was eventually brought on to anchor Germany's top evening news show *Tagesthemen*.

Early last month, Will began her own political talk show, *Anne Will*, which helped catapult her career as a successful political liaison.

While at an event at the Jewish Museum in Berlin, *AfterEllen.com* reports that the 41 year old confirmed rumors about her sexuality while posing for a picture underneath the museums placard which reads "Tolerance and Understanding" with her longtime partner Meckel.

"Yes we are a couple," Will explained to reporters, "but we would like to keep our private life private." This was the first time Will had made a public statement about her relationship, although the couple has never tried to hide it even attending the 2002 Federal Press Ball together.

Will's employers released a statement of support and acknowledged her dedication and perseverance as a talented journalist.

Will has been an advocate for establishing better European-African relations and has been a vocal voice for the abolishment of landmines. Will has used her notoriety to help campaign for UNICEF and other charities, which benefit children all over the world.

### Gaymers Come Out

Written By Bryan Ochalla

Courtesy of Gaylinknews.com

ON THE WEB—If you're gay and you've been surfing the Web for any amount of time, you've likely come across the term "gaymer" once or twice. The increasingly common portmanteau—a word formed by joining two others and combining their meanings—refers to gay (as well as lesbian, bisexual and transgender) folk who are fond of video games.

Gaymer is hardly the only gay portmanteau around. Everyone's heard and used "gaydar," of course, and "gayborhood" is making its way into more and more headlines and water-cooler conversations every day. Go to *UrbanDictionary.com* and you'll find even more examples of this typographic trend, including "gayngsta," "gaythiest" and even "gayby boom," which refers to the present-day increase in gay and lesbian parents.

Just because a few Net denizens glom onto a new word doesn't mean it's going to be accepted by the masses—or that it will be admired or adored by the few. Take gaymer: Although the neologism has only been around for a few years, it has been both championed and reviled in that short span of time. Atlanta's Chris Vizzini liked the word so much he built a website, *Gaymer.org*, around it. Head over to *GayGamer.net*, though, and you'll find a slew of people who are far from fans of the term.

David Edison, the site's associate editor, counts himself among that crowd. "I'm not crazy about cutesy slang that incorporates the word gay into any rhyming syllable," he says. A recent poll on the year-old site found that 34 percent of visitors agree with him (they'd like to stick with the old standby, *gamer*), while 27 percent prefer to call themselves gay gamers and 39 percent go with *gaymer*.

While he was a student at the University of Illinois last year, Jason Rockwood conducted a similar survey that attracted nearly 10,000 participants. The gaming neophyte's most shocking finding? That *gaymer* wasn't well received. "Everyone I spoke to about the survey was supportive of it as a whole," he says. "But there was a lot of criticism of the use of the term *gaymer*."

For his part, Rockwood is fond of the word, neologism, portmanteau, whatever you want to call it. "I'm glad it's being used more commonly," he says. "Until gay people are recognized in the video game world, we need the visibility this often polarizing term brings."

Sean Lund, director of messaging and communications strategy at the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, sees the rise of portmanteaus like *gaymer* and *gayborhood* in a similarly positive light. "I think they show that pop culture is coming up with innovative ways of talking about and describing gay and lesbian life," he says. "When these terms are used inclusively, they represent the kind of language that can and does expand visibility and awareness of the gay and lesbian community."

That some gays and lesbians like these new words while others abhor them is no surprise to Henry Rogers, a professor in the linguistics department at the University of Toronto, who describes the two-pronged reaction as predictable. "By and large, people don't like new words," he says. Words like *gaydar* are exceptions to that rule. "People like cleverness," Rogers says. "Although they tend to disapprove of changes in language, sometimes their fondness of cleverness wins out."

Gaymer may be similarly clever, though Rogers doubts it'll stand the test of time like *gaydar*. "Very few newly coined words survive," he says. "In the 16th century, Jonathan Swift had a list of ten new terms he thoroughly loathed. Of these, only one—*mob*, a shortening of the Latin 'mobile vulgus'—survived. I would guess that *gaydar* might just possibly survive, but the others are more likely to disappear."

### O'Reilly Does It Again

Out Words Staff

NATIONAL—On the November 7 edition of Fox News' *The O'Reilly Factor*, Bill O'Reilly reported on the recent crowning of two girls as "Cutest Couple" during an annual senior yearbook poll at Waukegan High School in Illinois, and accused the high school kids of using their sexual orientation to disturb parents.

O'Reilly said to his guest, Dr. Laura Berman, assistant clinical professor of psychiatry at Northwestern University, "[T]he kids voted this couple the cutest couple to tweak the adults, Doctor, to cause trouble, to make an issue of the yearbook."

Yet, during the August 15 edition of *The O'Reilly Factor*, O'Reilly stated, "I think everybody's got to relax on all this gay stuff," in reference to a viewer's email about comments he had made in response to criticism Gov. Bill Richardson (D-NM) received for an answer he gave at a presidential forum to the question of whether homosexuality is a choice.

Later in the November 7 edition O'Reilly claimed: "A lot of parents say, 'Listen, we don't want to normalize homosexuality in a public way in an academic setting, high school, among minors.'"

When Berman asked "Why?" O'Reilly replied, "Well, for a number of reasons. One: social. It's much more difficult to be a homosexual than a heterosexual in America. Two: religious. There are people who believe that that kind of a lifestyle ... is against their religion. And they pass that on to their children. ... Three: an exposition of sexuality in a minor -- and that's very important -- in a minor situation is inappropriate in an academic setting."

O'Reilly also asserted: "I think private behavior belongs in private settings. ... I don't think it belongs in the high school yearbook."

Berman then asked: "But you'd be OK with the cutest couple, heterosexual couple, though?"

O'Reilly replied: "I would be, because that is the norm of society. See, it's the same gay-marriage thing. You have a 6 percent option here. Homosexuals, according to research, are 6 percent of the population."

Berman later asked: "But since African-Americans are a minority, would you have a problem with an African-American heterosexual couple as the cutest couple?"

O'Reilly responded, "No ... because race is not conduct. There's a difference between who you are and what you do," later adding: "[Y]ou don't allow sexuality to intrude in your high school yearbook."

### Clearweather Winery Hosts a Grand Opening Concert

By Out Words Staff

MISSOULA—Camille Bloom, beloved artist of the lesbian scene here in Montana, will be performing in Missoula December 8. This will mark the grand opening of Clearweather Winery, located at 5546 West Harrier. The doors will open at 6 pm, with the concert starting at 7pm. \$10 gets you in the door and includes a complimentary glass of wine.

Camille, recently signed an endorsement deal with Gibson Guitars and completed her 3rd full length album, *Say Goodbye to Pretty*, w/Paul Kimble, producer of such acts as Radiohead and David Gray. She is already receiving international media and radio recognition for her current work. In her more recent past Camille composed the soundtrack for the HBO Documentary "Not Straight Forward," which was released in 2004.

# MISSOULA QUEER CONTINGENT AT THE SPOKANE GLBT FILM FEST

By Carly Kleinert

I was fortunate enough to see many of the films at Spokane's 9th Annual GLBT Film Festival. Some were very good, some were very bad and a couple were truly bizarre. Beyond seeing the films, the weekend was a short little vacation out of Missoula and a chance to be the "cool new kids" in a different queer community.

Held over the weekend of November 2, 3 and 4, the film festival showed 22 contemporary indie films with an emphasis on queer themes.

We missed Friday's films which was a disappointment, as three of the films shown that night won national awards. I was most disappointed in missing *Freeheld*, which won the Audience Choice Award for the whole festival. This film was apparently an unfortunate one to miss, as it has also won numerous awards at other film festivals this year, including the Special Jury Prize at Sundance and Best Documentary Short at the New York City LGBT Film Fest.

However, Saturday made up for skipping out on Friday. At the first of the two sessions of the day, we Missoulians received an enthusiastic and raucous welcome and commemorative neon pink frisbees during the opening comments.

The afternoon got off to a shaky start with one of the worst films of the festival. The only lesbian-centric film of the afternoon was *Will You?*, a corny and cliché short following a cash strapped Terry in her mission to conceal the fact that she can't afford a ring to propose to Allison. Bad acting, non-existent plot and a corny love ballad made this film close to gag-worthy.

One of the best films was also shown Saturday afternoon. *Red Without Blue* documents a Missoula family struggling with issues concerning sexuality, drug abuse and family dynamics. The film centers around a pair of identical twins in their early twenties as one transitions from male to female. *Red Without Blue* was the winner of Best Documentary at the San Francisco LGBT Film Festival and the Audience Choice Award at the National Queer Arts Film Festival, among other honors.

After a quick dinner at a painfully average Italian restaurant, we went back for the second session. The films for the evening were of a wide variety, ranging from a dark Norwegian piece featuring a creepy little neo-Nazi kid, to a half-animated, no-dialogue short about a pair of balding, overweight Finlanders getting hot and heavy while engaged in a bizarre tango in a deserted bar.

My favorite of the festival was the last film of Saturday night: *Bob and Jack's 52 Year Adventure*. In 1952, Bob and Jack met in Germany during World War II and knew they could not be apart. Their relationship evolved over the years, surviving mental illness, family problems and economic hardship. It is a sweet story of two regular men who found the love of their life in each other, a love that has lasted into their 80s.

The night wound down with a darts/air hockey/pool marathon in which I was soundly spanked at all three. Seven dollar drinks at a surprisingly dead and surprisingly not-so-gay bar quickly renewed my appreciation of Zoo Town. And for the finale, a coronary inducing pile of cheese fries at a crowded and loud late night punk rock diner-bar.

Sunday was billed as "Sinful Sunday! For those who like their humor dark and their perspectives slightly bent." The most memorable film of the day (and possibly my life) was *Trannymals*, which featured 12 minutes of talking genitals spreading the message of fair legal practices, transgender pride and positive self-identification. The people to my right were clearly uncomfortable with the "in your face" outspoken genitals, but judging from the applause at the end, a majority of the audience got the message and enjoyed the...actors.

Along with *Trannymal*, Sunday featured a minute and a half piece of badly computer-rendered aliens with probes *AE4HG*. I missed the point and was glad it was so short. Michelle Tea, a queer core writer and co-founder of the Sister Spit spoken word tour and Cindy Wonderful of Scream Club starred in the 4 minute long *Dream of an Ex-Girlfriend* which was a comical rendition of one of Tea's poems.

*The Saddest Boy in the World* was a whimsical and depressing story about Timothy Higgins, a nine-year-old boy who tells his apathetic mother that he is the saddest boy in the world. After being put on medication that makes household objects chant "kill yourself," Timmy prepares to do just that. It was at once hilarious, sad and strange, an interesting combination and a memorable film.

The film festival was a great opportunity to see films I would have no chance seeing anywhere else. I would recommend anyone who has the time and the means to make the trip next year.

Carly Kleinert is a Junior at the University of Montana majoring in Liberal Studies.



poached



# eggs\*

be afraid,  
be very afraid.



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# A HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS: FOSTER PARENTING AND THE LGBT COMMUNITY

By S. Katherine Brown

I love children, and, for the most part, feel capable of being a good role model and caretaker. However, I do not buy into the notion that my only reason to exist is to procreate, as my brother told me recently. I do not want my own children and while I remain open to having a child in my life, I believe there are already so many children out there who need good homes.

This led me to ask the question, “So what about those 513,000 children in the foster care system that have ended up there due to neglect and/or abuse and what can we as a queer community offer?”

According to Erin Williams, program director of Youth Homes’ Dan Fox Foster Care and Adoption Program (Dan Fox), many of the kids in their programs are 5 and older, as a lot of the problems that require children to be removed from the home are not detected until children make it into the school system. There are, she says, many kids who need a stable, loving home.

After 10 years together, Maggie and Rachel, a young couple living in Missoula, are considering expanding their family. In the last year they have started the process to become licensed care providers and hope to one day have a foster child that they can work towards adopting.

Although their decision to move forward is not set in stone, Rachel said, “In general fostering/adopting appealed to us because it offers the chance to parent kids who are already here, who otherwise wouldn’t have homes, and who deserve the chance to have good childhoods. Also sometimes hard things are the most rewarding.”

According to research released in 2005 by the American Psychological Association there is no evidence to suggest that lesbian women or gay men are unfit to be parents or that psychosocial development among children of lesbian women or gay men is compromised relative to that among children of heterosexual parents. There are no studies that find that children of lesbian or gay parents are disadvantaged in any significant respect relative to children of heterosexual parents. Evidence to date, the study suggests, shows that home environments provided by lesbian and gay parents are as likely as those provided by heterosexual parents to support and enable children’s psychosocial growth.

That is to say, regardless of whom your parents are, gay or straight, you have just as much chance of being messed up as the next kid. And you have just as much potential for success as well.

Maggie and Rachel believe their goals as potential gay parents will be no different than any other parent, whether single or a couple, straight or gay. To Rachel this means, “to raise kids in a safe environment, to keep them safe, and to give them the tools to find out who they are, (to) like who they are, and (to) go forth and do good things.”

Maggie added, “Like they told us in the training: ‘Your worst day parenting could be these kid’s best days.’” This advice has helped her feel more relaxed about taking on the responsibility of not only being a new parent, but also taking in a child who, so far, has had a particularly trying young life.

The training that new foster parents undergo is quite extensive. There is a thirty-hour mandatory training series covering topics ranging from parental skills to childhood development to multicultural diversity training.

Williams pointed out that there is currently no discussion of specific LGBT issues in this part of the foster parent training. However, she and the staff at Dan Fox recently did a two-day agency training on LGBT issues and will begin to incorporate many of the issues raised in those sessions.

Overall, Maggie and Rachel were very happy with the level of training they received through Dan Fox and felt they were respected as a couple from the beginning.

“It couldn’t have been better,” said Rachel. “Everyone we met- including other people in the foster class- seemed completely accepting of our status as a couple. The case managers and therapists from Dan Fox were always careful to address and validate our relationship- saying things like ‘partners’ instead of ‘husbands and wives’ or ‘moms and dads’ in class- and told us during an interview that rather than our

relationship being a negative thing, they consider it something that makes us special.”

This sentiment was echoed by Williams who said that caring for a child that has experienced years of abuse can be challenging, but she has found that LGBT couples, “have a leg up” in parenting these kids. Being a foster child makes kids “different” in their peer groups and society at large, which allows LGBT foster parents to understand in a way that many straight parents do not.

Having grown up in a culture that deems LGBT people outside of the mainstream allows us to relate to many of the problems of difference that foster children experience. For many of us the heartbreaking experience of rejection by our biological families for being gay allows us insight into some of the rejection and abuse foster children have been raised with.

Approximately 236,000 children live in family foster homes with non-relative caregivers. Gay and lesbian parents account for 6 percent of these homes, according to a study released in March of this year by The Williams Institute UCLA School of Law and the Urban Institute. As well, this percentage divides roughly five to one between single and same-sex couples. Nearly three-quarters of these children likely have female foster parents.

“We currently have four children placed with gay couples,” says Williams of Dan Fox, who has offices in Missoula, Polson, Kalispell, Hamilton and Helena. Of these four families, two are headed by single gay men and two by lesbian couples. She hopes that people in the LGBT community will realize that Youth Homes is committed to diversity in all of its programs, including Dan Fox.

“We welcome with open arms, gay and lesbian couples, or singles,” said Williams.

The initial requirement for all couples, gay or straight, is that they have been together for over a year. “This helps to show us that the couple has a relative amount of stability,” she said.

The licensure for becoming a Therapeutic Foster Care Parent is administered through the State of Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Division of Child and Family Services. That means that after going through the training, filling out lots of paperwork, undergoing an interview and a home study, you and your partner are recommended to the state for licensure. If you are a gay couple, thankfully, both of your names go on the license and you are both officially foster parents.

However, state law is unclear when it comes to adoption. Montana law allows an unmarried adult or husband and wife to petition to adopt. The law is not explicit whether or not two unmarried adults can adopt a child legally. According to Williams, only one parent of a same-sex relationship can adopt through their program, which she states is not an agency decision but up to the state.

Every year, for the past eight years, the Saturday before Thanksgiving has marked National Adoption Day, here in the US. This year was no different. National Adoption Day aims to raise awareness of the 114,00 children in foster care who are awaiting adoption into new ‘forever’ families.

This year the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) is working to raise awareness about the LGBT community’s continued presence in the foster care and adoptive systems. They aim to increase the visibility of those LGBT individuals who are already in the foster care system, as well as encourage those in the community who are interested in learning more about the process.

For a long time, most state agencies were not open to having out LGBT individuals or couples foster or adopt children. According to the HRC website, Mary McGowan applied twenty years ago in Minnesota to be a foster parent and was rejected based on the fact that she was gay.

Three years later, she applied again in another county and her application for licensure was accepted. She has fostered close to thirty kids in the past eighteen years and now with her partner, has a mixed family of three adopted children, two foster children and her partner’s two biological children.

Right now only Florida explicitly prohibits any gay person from adopting. In most cases there’s no formal policy. Several states are known either for family judges that are disinclined to grant LGBT individuals custody or have indirect statutory barriers to gay parenting. Nebraska banned gay foster parenting in 1995. Mississippi and Utah allow only married couples to adopt, a restriction geared in both cases to exclude gay couples.

California, Connecticut, Colorado, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Washington State and Washington, DC, all permit “second-parent adoption,” which grants parental rights to both members

of an unmarried couple, in at least some jurisdictions.

Courts in many other states have also granted second-parent adoptions to same-sex couples, though there is no statewide law or court decision that guarantees this, as is the case in Montana.

In fact, courts within the same state but in different jurisdictions often contradict each other in practice. Critics of such restrictive policies also point out that, in many of the states that have bans on second-parent adoption by same-sex couples, these same couples are still able to act as foster parents.

As Maggie and Rachel come to the next phase toward licensure, the home study, they remain optimistic that they will move forward with exploring foster care as an option for their family.

“We haven’t mentioned this to too many people, because we’re not sure where it will go,” said Rachel. “Mostly it’s (been) a mixed response - people acknowledging what a hard but noble endeavor fostering/adopting is, and being glad people want to do it - but at the same time worried for us because there is the potential for so much emotional and physical hardship.”

Their experiences so far have remained positive and both would highly recommend Dan Fox to other gay couples or singles. “They can be assured that their sexuality and/or relationship will be treated with the utmost respect,” adds Rachel.

## LGBT FAMILIES FIND A HOME

By Out Words Staff

ON THE WEB-Families Joined By Love ([www.familiesjoinedbylove.com](http://www.familiesjoinedbylove.com)) is a website that contains books, resources, and provides community for LGBT families.

According to the website, “We provide information on a wide array of topics on LGBT parenting and family life. At our bookstore, you will find books covering every stage of child development, from infancy through adolescence and beyond. We also offer an extensive selection of titles pertaining to the unique legal and financial issues LGBT individuals face. Finally, we provide a wide range of resources for members of the professional community, including scholarly texts on homosexuality and relationships as well as guides for social workers and adoption professionals.”

Topics include parenting issues, international adoption, domestic adoption, surrogacy, donor insemination, pregnancy, legal and financial issues, and dealing with prejudice.

As well, they offer books for adults and children of all ages, genders, orientations, and backgrounds.

## Website resources for LGBT families

[www.familyequality.org](http://www.familyequality.org)- The Family Equality Council (formerly Family Pride) is the national advocacy organization committed to securing family equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer parents, guardians and allies. Their work consists of strategically linked initiatives—broad in scope, but simple in vision—love, justice, family, equality.

[www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org)- PFLAG. No other group in our community can bring tears to my eyes quicker than those posters in pride marches, “I love my gay son/daughter.” Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, states as their vision- “We, the parents, families and friends of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, celebrate diversity and envision a society that embraces everyone, including those of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities. Only with respect, dignity and equality for all will we reach our full potential as human beings, individually and collectively. PFLAG welcomes the participation and support of all who share in, and hope to realize this vision.”

[www.familieslikemine.com](http://www.familieslikemine.com)- A website created by Abigail Garner, author of the book, *Families Like Mine: Children of Gay Parents Tell It Like It Is*.

“This site launched in 1999 with the mission to decrease isolation for people who have parents who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT), and bring voice to their experiences.” Contains links to other sites maintained by Abigail and proves to be a valuable resource for gay families.

## LEGAL TIPS FOR LGBT FAMILIES

Provided by Bjornson Law

Don't have a will? You may be happy to know that the State of Montana has an estate plan for you – and it's free! But it may not be the plan you want.

When a state provides an estate plan, it is called "intestacy." Under the Montana laws of intestacy, the estate of a person without a will or a trust passes to biological relatives defined by the model of "traditional family." A surviving partner will be left with nothing upon the death of a partner, no matter how long or intense a relationship has been. Same-sex couples do not have the support of the law, and in many cases, of the family. You must rely on legal documents prepared specifically for you.

While having a will is a good start to an estate plan, it is not a complete solution. Any property owned by a person passing to a partner is generally subject to probate (other than property held as joint tenants with right of survivorship), which can sometimes be a costly and time-consuming process. A will **can be** contested by the family of the deceased, and frequently is if the family has not come to terms with their sexual orientation or life choices.

A will is also a public document. Anyone can see it by simply making a trip to the courthouse.

### **Joint Tenancy as a Permanent Solution**

In even the best of relationships, s\*#! happens, and when you put an asset into joint tenancy with your partner, you are making a gift to him or her right now. If you want that asset back later, however, you might have problems.

Another consideration is that property owned with someone else is completely subject to that partner's creditors and liabilities. Even as a 50% owner, you could lose the property or have it seriously encumbered by a lawsuit or debt-collecting action.

Joint tenancy also removes control of the asset's ultimate disposition – during your partner's life or after your partner dies. The property becomes the partner's to dispose of, gift, or bequeath to whomever he or she chooses.

### **Living Trusts**

A revocable living trust is a good way to avoid the expense and delay of probate, ensure your control of all assets while you are living, and allow a smooth transfer of assets after your death, with no probate. A properly prepared and executed living trust is much less open to dispute than a will. A living trust is also private. No one except the beneficiaries has the right to know how you chose to allocate your assets.

### **Durable Power of Attorney**

With a durable power of attorney, you can appoint your partner as an agent who will have authority to make certain decisions for you. This can become effective immediately, or only upon legal incapacitation certified by a physician, at your option.

Some of the situations for which you might want to appoint an agent are making mortgage payments, collecting money due and/or owed to you, paying bills, filing taxes, and even keeping a business running. This document can include as many or as few types of powers as you wish.

In the absence of a durable power of attorney, someone must petition in court to be your agent, potentially costing significant attorneys fees and delay. The distress this type of action can cause in an already stressful time can be avoided by being proactive.

### **Advance Health Care Directive and Medical Power of Attorney; HIPAA Release**

These documents are critical for health care decisions in the event you become incapacitated. This affords you control of important decisions regarding your care and your body. Visiting privileges and even decision-making powers for partners can be assured, something hospitals and health facilities don't necessarily allow.

Estate planning does not need to be complicated or expensive. Consult with an attorney who is experienced in estate planning and same-sex laws. Waiting to put your estate in order is a gamble. Yes, it can be difficult—considering the worst is never fun. But it is an enormous expression of love and respect for your partner and your family.

## “FAMILY” IN THREE ACTS

### **Whatever happened to just living?**

By Mija

So ... Family... who's to say? The church, the state, your mom?! My mom, who won't say anything? Where does this question of family begin? Blood? Marriage? An orgasm? A test tube? The difference between you and me? Most people you ask will say that family is what you make it. But what about those of us who were just pushed out?

As a biological family we are more than just blood. We may be sharing diabetes, heart attacks, breast cancer, prostate cancer, ADHD, etc. Family members are commitments we never signed up for. We carry various personality and facial features just because our mom had sex. Maybe she had it once, maybe twice. Maybe more times than me.

I certainly feel family in more ways than one. But really... as a result of my upbringing, who am I compared to you? Did you ever feel invisible? Like you lived with strangers? Strangers who were always suspicious of you and why you behaved the way you did? Because I did... and it made me hide... so I got out. Not like OUT OUT (of the closet). Literally. I left. I refused to live inside myself and I refused to live with strangers. I had to find a way to be who I really was.

This raised questions. Was being who I really am based on my sexuality or gender identity? Couldn't just being Mija be enough? Why didn't anyone see all the good things inside me, instead of what they hated already?

Most people I meet on a social basis don't ask me about my gender or sexual identity. It's always about my heritage, background, where the color of my skin & shape of my body comes from. But that is a whole other article to write.

So... what about me? What about Family? I ask this. Am I privileged? Yes and you are too. Those of us who work, play and participate among Missoula unrecognized. Those of us who live with accepting loving families whether they are biological, traditional, or rainbow. We are privileged. And we say no we aren't because we don't notice. We don't see how good we really have it and maybe it's because we are used to fighting for it so darn hard.

Take this moment to acknowledge your place in this community. Realize your privilege. Whether it's because you are who you are, no matter what, or because you're a person of your own gender & sexuality with confidence. You know you belong somewhere.

But what happens to those who don't know their place in our community? Our family? Do you care? You should. Own it. Stand up for anybody who ever felt like you! Once... whenever, if ever. Do you live truly to support those whom you say you love? That is where I believe we find the answer to family.

### **Re-defining family**

By Caitlin Copple

I remember the spring day my girlfriend asked me to sign up for a cell phone "family plan" together. At the time, it seemed like a symbol for where our relationship was heading. We agreed that the word "partner" was overused in the queer community, while "girlfriend" sounded too ambiguously heterosexual for our tastes. With our first bill in hand, my girlfriend proclaimed us "family mates." Cheesy, sure, but as members of a community that lacks the recognizable language and institutions to describe couplehood, "family mates" seemed perfect. I shrugged off the collective eye rolling of my lesbian friends, most of whom had experienced the untangling of family cell phone plans at least once. This love of mine and I were different. We were no longer just girlfriends with cell phones. We were family mates.

She broke up with me just over a month ago, and now I'm left with a family plan, and no family mate. She told me it was over during couples' therapy. I remember the look of wonder on our straight therapist's face as I cried: "But you said we were family mates!"

Toothbrushes, earrings, books and other objects that migrated between our homes have long since been returned. We've agreed to keep splitting the bill for our cell phones until we catch our breath from dismantling our life together.

All families endure betrayals of some kind. Queer people are perhaps better equipped than anyone to understand this, since many of us are disowned by our biological families when we come out, and our partners' names are often missing from the annual Christmas card Mom sends each year to update loved ones on family successes.

This Thanksgiving I'm heading to Idaho to be with my biological family. It will be the first holiday where they've all known I'm gay, and I'm sure my evangelical grandmother will say a passive aggressive prayer for me before the turkey is carved. It will be the first holiday since my brother and his live-in girlfriend of four years split up. And, most unfairly, it will be the fifth Thanksgiving dinner without my father. The bitterness of his ultimate betrayal — dying unexpectedly at age 50 — will form

### **Out without Coming Out?**

By Fanchon Stearns

I am twenty years old, and have been a lesbian since, well, the day I was born. I am heavily involved in LGBTIQ rights, activist groups, and the whole "gay scene" here in Missoula. I am on the board of the University of Montana Lambda Alliance and have been quoted in at least 4 of our local newspapers as a queer voice. I have become a bit of a "token lesbian" around campus, serving as an LGBTIQ voice on several different University councils and advisory boards. Yet I have never come out to my mother.

My mother and I have always been fairly close. She has always been there to help mend a broken heart, offer up maternal relationship advice, and save souls. She has always told me how proud of me she is, and how beautiful I am. I really could not ask for a better mother.

She knows full well that I am gay. She has never told me, but just as I have never told her, I know she knows. And I know that it changes very little about our relationship. While I tend to get an occasional stern sermon about "my lifestyle", it is nothing that I would not get anyway. I just know that she is preaching to a specific sin.

Living out and proud is much different than living closeted and in fear. But when did that transition become what it has? Why do we put such an emphasis on the act of coming out? Do we feel it's necessary to tell people that we are who we are? While I have never come out to my mother, I am out in my life. I do not lie or hide who I am. I know that she is not okay with my being gay based on her religious convictions, but I also know that there is more to her than that. She is not just a "conservative Christian", nor am I simply an "empowered lesbian". These are two facets to each of us, but I think that we both are much more than just that.

I do plan on coming out to my mother eventually. I don't know why, but I feel that it is important to do so. In the meantime, though, I enjoy our ever-evolving relationships as mother and daughter, teacher and student, and simply as women. I do look forward to the day that I can add proud LGBTIQ supporter and lesbian to that list.

*Fanchon Stearns is the Outreach Coordinator for the U of M Lambda Alliance. She will be spending the holidays with her partner and family in beautiful Whitefish, MT, and can be contacted at [fanchon.stearns@umontana.edu](mailto:fanchon.stearns@umontana.edu).*

a small lump at the back of my throat, making it hard to swallow that second helping of sweet potatoes and green bean casserole. My mom and brother will understand this, but we won't talk about it.

It's funny how betrayal depends on silence for survival. When many queer people go home for the holidays, their sexual orientation is tolerated, so long as it's not talked about. Politically, the Democrats know the LGBT vote is water under the bridge, so Sen. Jon Tester decided he could stay away from the November 26 rally against recent anti-gay hate crimes in Missoula. Silent support seems to be the most queers can hope for in a swing state like Montana.

As lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, sometimes it's exhausting to speak up against betrayal, whether it's personal, political, or a physical assault. A gay acquaintance of mine said if he had to report every time he walked into the University of Montana cafeteria and heard someone call him a "fag," he would never have time to eat lunch. I'm glad, in Missoula, queers and our allies are attempting to stand up against the betrayal of lesbian Jess Keith, who was beaten in the parking lot of the public library, as well as the 22-year-old gay man who was jumped on the foot bridge. The mind-numbing exhaustion that can set in after hearing about another unprovoked assault didn't win this time.

Like many families, queers stick together in times of crisis, but that doesn't mean that in daily life we aren't just as dysfunctional as the biological families from which we sprang. It's not fair that we are grasping so much for words to describe our relationships that we turn to a Verizon marketing plan. It's not fair that when a longtime couple breaks up, our community's response is often, "Sweet, you're single!" — and that American society certainly won't take our relationships seriously until we do. It's painfully not fair that the only way a federal employment non-discrimination law can pass is if it excludes our transgender brothers and sisters.

Yet I believe there is reason for hope. Whether it's producing another issue of Out Words, attending a rally against hate crimes, or even just holding hands with your lover as you cross the Higgins bridge, queers are constantly challenging the culture of silence that threatens to close us in. That gives my heart reason to believe that 2008 will be the best year to be gay in Montana yet.

# What to Get Your Gay Family?

by Acton Seibel

If you're like me you're a slacker who waits to the last moment to buy gifts for your loved ones during the holidays. In fact, we are the poor slobs running around like sissy marys on Christmas Eve hopelessly searching for that one last gift for our third cousins twice removed.

This year I have decided a change is in order. This year I have done the research and sweated the small stuff. This year I am queerly prepared and have decided to share my insights with the rest of you.

First on my Christmas list this year is my gay dad/daddies. And when I say "gay dad," I mean the guy who donated his sperm not my "daddy."

Get them a Wii game cuz if they're anything like my gay dads they already have a Wii and spend countless hours playing Wii golf. The new Simpson's Wii game is a kick and they'll love you for it.

Now, if that's a little out of your price range, say \$50 out of your range, then I recommend giving them a photo of you. No, I'm serious go to Kinko's and use that fancy Sony Picture Station and print out some cutesy photo of you and have your gay friendly Fedex Kinko's employee plaster your face on anything from a key chain to a deck of cards to coasters to picture puzzles. Dads love that crap.

And for those of us who make more \$60,000 a year I suggest you get your dads a European Gay Cruise. Check and check.

Next on my list is my lovely gay mom or "my two mommies." Now, personally, I would just order some sterling silver rainbow bracelets or some 24 carat gold triangle pendants from [www.gaymart.com](http://www.gaymart.com), but that's so 1997. So this year I put a gift certificate from Ms. B's Island Ink and a sweet ass belt buckle from TigerCub Designs on my list. Check out them out at [www.islandink.net](http://www.islandink.net) and [www.tigercubdesigns.com](http://www.tigercubdesigns.com) because not only are they awesome they're local too.

If you have a gay mom who's still not into that than I highly recommend a bag of wood pellets for her pellet stove. It's useful and currently on sale at your local Ace Hardware.



photo courtesy of buyolympia.com

Now what to get my gay siblings, specifically my dyke indie rock little sister and my fashion obsessed fag brother? Well, gift certificates to [www.buyolympia.com](http://www.buyolympia.com) covers not only amazing indie music but some fantastic fashions as well.

However, keeping with the local trend this year, little bro is getting the gift certificate to Betty's Divine (521 S. Higgins Missoula, MT) and little sis is getting the gift certificate to Ear Candy Music (624 S. Higgins Missoula, MT). Not only will my sibs find the sassiest jeans, they'll find the best music, gay and indie or not.

Certainly, I did not forget my gay repressed third cousin twice removed. Especially, after that last Thanksgiving were I found out she voted for Bush and we got into a huge fight and I called her an uninformed silly twat and she called me a liberal hippie slut. Wow was mom mad.

Anyway, I've decided to make amends and get her Mary Cheney's 2006 audio book *Now It's My Turn* by Simon Schuster Audio Works. I hope she sticks it...er, I mean I hope she likes it.

I've saved the best for last-what to get my gay lover; specifically, my tranny boyfriend/queer girlfriend/long term partner/ bisexual buddy/houseboi/ etc.. I can't believe that I never thought about this before, but instead of buying cheap plastic toys from the FAV, that intimidate and more than a little frighten me, I'm going for the gold and shopping at [www.babeland.com](http://www.babeland.com).

Babeland.com is, by far, one of the most sex positive internet stores on the web. They've got everything, except a real date, but that's not the point. The point is that Babeland has everything for the sex positive, gay, straight, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, intersexed, two-spirited person and their special someone.

And really, isn't that what Christmas is all about-getting sex toys in your stocking?? Well, maybe that's what my Christmas is about. Anyway I hope you find this helpful. Merry Christmas and all that stuff.

Acton is a homo mechanic who one dreams of taking a fabulously gay Euro trash vacation in the south of Spain



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## PRIDE, PEACE AND GIVING

by Lisa Wright

As the trees become barren and rustic leaves fall silently to the ground it's apparent that the holidays are right around the corner. First, we start by giving thanks and filling ourselves to an incapacitating state. Then, we recover and quickly discover that there are not many days left until Christmas and Holiday shopping. From there we roll into the New Year with hopes and plans to start anew. It all happens as quickly as a sleigh ride to grandma's house. During this time of giving and sharing I would like to share with you, the idea of shopping at the Jeannette Rankin Peace Center this year. For those of you whom have never stopped in, the obvious part is that

we are focused on peace. The not so obvious is the diversity represented in the JRPC's fair trade store. By shopping fair trade we bring equality to artisans from all over the world by ensuring that they are being represented fairly. We strive to educate people on how important and just it is to buy fair trade in lieu of free trade. The JRPC houses many wares from local Missoulian's as well as a large amount of pride merchandise. The GLBTIQ community understands the great need for positive representation, support and equality. I ask, as you find yourself strolling through town looking for the perfect gift, consider stopping by the Jeannette Rankin Peace Center.

## BULLETIN BOARD

### Join the Board of the WMGLCC

Support LGBT visibility and equality throughout the state of Montana. People of color, women, the disabled and straight allies encouraged to apply. Opportunities include: helping plan LGBT events like the Black and White Ball and Holiday Soiree, recruiting volunteers, fundraising, assisting Out Words with advertising and distribution and starting and supporting LGBT groups at the Center. Download application at [www.gaymontana.org](http://www.gaymontana.org) or email [wmglcc@gaymontana.org](mailto:wmglcc@gaymontana.org) for more information.

Have something you want to share with the community? Post it on Bulletin Board! Ads are \$10 for 25 words or less and 25 cents each additional word. Must be in by the 20th of each month. Submit columns, ads, calendar events, and bulletin board items to [wmglccnews@gaymontana.org](mailto:wmglccnews@gaymontana.org).

An Open Letter  
By Melissa Darnell

To the f o u r  
nameless, faceless cowards  
who  
in the safety of your numbers  
took it upon yourselves  
to respond  
to the kindness of a stranger  
with your serpent's tongues  
("stupid dyke"  
"fucking faggot")  
and then follow her

she alone  
my friend  
my comrade  
my love  
she alone  
the one who eats French onion soup without the  
onions  
she alone  
the one who paints her hair blue to make her nephews  
laugh  
she alone

To the f o u r  
nameless, faceless cowards  
who  
in the safety of your numbers  
stopped your car  
and in a dark parking lot  
took it upon yourselves  
to strike her  
repeatedly

she alone  
my friend  
my comrade  
my love  
she alone  
the one who worships Cubs baseball

she alone  
the one who urges the world to be kinder than  
necessary  
she alone

To the f o u r  
nameless, faceless cowards  
who  
in the safety of your numbers  
took it upon yourselves  
to steal her wallet  
and then drive away

to you I say:

your hate  
your fear  
your bigotry  
your violence

empowers me  
energizes me  
encourages me  
ignites me

and I am not alone.

Love.  
Is.  
Love.

and that is much  
much  
M U C H  
stronger

than the f o u r  
of you

*Melissa Darnell is finishing her Master of Social Work  
degree at California State University, San Bernardino. Her  
research interests include feminist-oriented empowerment  
and culturally competent practice with sexual minorities*

## A Father's Appeal: Choose To Act

By Dennis Shepard

Co-Founder of the Matthew Shepard Foundation and Father of  
Matthew Shepard

WYOMING-When my son Matthew was murdered nearly  
nine years ago, my family had a decision to make.

We could mourn Matthew's death privately  
- withdrawing into some semblance of seclusion, try to  
resume our "normal" lives, pretending that nothing had  
changed...or we could use this tragedy to talk about  
hate and help make Matthew's murder a wake-up call  
throughout our country. We made our decision - a choice  
we consciously and proudly continue to support every  
day.

Our son died because of hate. He was killed  
simply because he was gay. For us, our choice was a  
no-brainer. Not a day goes by that I don't think about  
Matthew - his spirit, his passion for people, or his smile.  
And since his death, we have witnessed more acts of hate,  
bigotry, and injustice against other lesbian, gay, bi-sexual,  
transgender (LGBT) Americans. For Matthew and all of  
the other victims, our family has chosen to fight and to act  
- to speak out against hate, to "come-out" as allies, and to  
engage ourselves in the process of change.

Some days are harder than others, but I choose  
to act for the memory of my son. I choose to act for  
the memories of the thousands of victims of hate crimes.  
I choose to act for those that don't have the strength  
or ability to act. I choose to act because we, as a nation,  
cannot afford not to.

I choose to act because I was, and still am, very  
proud of my son...of who he was and the struggles he had  
to overcome to become that man. I choose to act because  
I never want another LGBT American to go through the  
fear, the pain, the violence, or the loneliness that Matthew  
went through on that horrible night.

I choose to act because I never want another  
parent to go through what we went through - the grief, the  
giant hole in the heart, the bedside vigil, or the realization  
that holidays, family vacations, and the normal, dull routine  
of work, home, and life will never, ever be the same.

All of us - gay and straight alike - need to act. Hate  
affects each and every one of us. It knows no limits, follows  
no clear set of rules, and has infiltrated our society's most  
basic institutions. For that reason, I am humbled that the  
United States House of Representatives has chosen to act,  
and to do so in Matt's memory, and the United States  
Senate is poised to follow. They are now taking the first  
giant steps in making the Matthew Shepard Act the law of  
our land.

The legislation is simple: to protect people from  
being attacked, beaten, brutalized, and murdered because  
of who they are. It's a necessary, measured response to  
the consequences of hate that took my son away from me  
and has taken far too many other Americans from those  
who loved them.

I challenge all of you to follow the example  
of the House by making the choice to act. Thank your  
Senators who voted for the Matthew Shepard Act. Today.  
Tell your story about how hate has affected your family.  
Today. Come out as LGBT and allied. Today. Choose to  
erase hate. Today! We all have a responsibility to act. If we  
don't - who will?

### QUEER WIKIPEDIA OF THE MONTH:

#### HATE CRIME

*From Wikipedia, the free internet encyclopedia*

Hate crimes (also known as bias motivated  
crimes) occur when a perpetrator targets a victim  
because of his or her membership in a certain  
social group, usually defined by race, religion, sexual  
orientation, disability, ethnicity, nationality, age, gender,  
gender identity, or political affiliation. Hate crimes differ  
from conventional crime because they are not directed  
simply at an individual, but are meant to cause fear and  
intimidation in an entire group or class of people.

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A PETITION URGING REP. DENNY REHBERG TO  
SUPPORT THE MATTHEW SHEPPARD ACT!**

### History

Concern about hate crimes has become  
increasingly prominent among policymakers in many  
nations and at all levels of government in recent years,  
but the phenomenon is not new. Examples from the past  
include Roman persecution of Christians, the Ottoman  
genocide of Armenians, and the Nazi "final solution" for  
the Jews, and more recently, the ethnic cleansing in Bosnia  
and genocide in Rwanda. Hate crimes have shaped and  
sometimes defined world history. In the United States,  
racial and religious biases have inspired most hate crimes.  
As Europeans began to colonize the New World in the  
16th and 17th centuries, Native Americans increasingly  
became the targets of bias-motivated intimidation and  
violence. During the past two centuries, some of the  
more typical examples of hate crimes in the US include  
lynchings of African Americans, cross burnings to drive  
black families from predominantly white neighborhoods,  
assaults on gay, lesbian and transgender people, and the  
painting of swastikas on Jewish synagogues.

**Read the rest of the article at [wikipedia.com](http://wikipedia.com)**

# GAYS IN THE MILITARY

By Justin Olson

Boo-frickety-hoo! People are crying and moaning about it. But I'm frankly thankful. There is this big "discrimination" movement happening (aka "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"). Apparently, gays are forbidden to serve in the military. And people are upset about it.

I am a white American male of the ripe age of twenty-one, and I see no problem with the policy. In fact, if I would have known about it four or five years ago, I could have saved myself a lot of worrying about possibly being drafted (I was naïve, but not so much that I thought Bush could be elected again... sigh). I could have jumped out the closet, bungalow, recliner, whatever, right then and there. Gosh, how I wish I knew about this unwritten law back then!

I might be a bit biased on this subject and for good reason. I have never wanted to join the armed services or even the unarmed services. I'm just not one for all the sweatin' and gruntin' and sit-ups and push-ups and yellin' and spittin' and jerkin'-off-in-three-minutes-while-you're-showerin'. Call me crazy. But if you are into all that, then do the next best thing, work on an off-shore oil rig. Problem solved. But what are the benefits of this "discrimination" policy?

Mostly, we don't have to fight wars! We don't have to hold guns and shoot people. We don't have to look the enemy in the eye and say, "Gosh, you'd look better in pink glitter lipstick, boi!" No. We can stay in America and do the same thing – right in our own back yards, front porches, or woman's locker rooms. The locations really are endless.

The other benefits include: not having to get up early, eating crappy food in only a few minutes and we wouldn't have to wear those ugly uniforms.

I know some of you find men in uniforms "sexy," but are they? Personally, someone who wears the same thing every day and doesn't have to use one brain cell to accessorize seems just a bit... well, I'll stop there. But if you do find manly-men

in uniforms attractive, wouldn't a police officer or a parking attendant suffice? Or hell, even a postal worker. Either way, you can just keep renting *Platoon* or *In the Army Now* for all the men in uniform you want to see.

Finally, the best and only real reason gays should be (and are) kept from active duty is because we can't be doing all the work in this country. If we're already doing the straight guys work here in America, running the country and all, and now we have to go overseas and help fight too? Well, then the question would eventually be brought up, what are straight males good for? Procreation? Ha! I'm sure we could handle that too.

Now I know what you're thinking, that we already think that about straight males, but that's the point. If we're now overseas, fighting, being able to do everything the straight guys can do... well, then that might make us equal to - scratch that - superior to, straight men. And that would be, gasp! So wrong and soooo gay!

This whole topic is finally something me and the conservative-old-white-guy population can agree on. It's the first patch of ground we can mutually stand on. Gays shouldn't serve in the military. Let's leave it for the straight guys. They need something to do and something to prove. Us gays have more important things to worry ourselves with – like running the country and giving fashion advice to the celebrities. And yes, you would look better with the pink glitter lipstick, boi!

Justin Olson is a senior at the University of Montana Western finishing his degree in Literature and Writing.

citi smith barney

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear OutWords & Lesbian Community,

Did I read that right in the November issue of Out Words? Is the agenda for the December 11th Lesbian Chat Night/Womyn's Night really to be "Come Out and Play! Sex Toy Party!?" Really? Am I the only one who thinks this is highly inappropriate? Isn't that the sort of thing that should be done in private, not in a public place that's open to all? Did no one think of the many possible situations in which this could go wrong? I'll describe just a few.

December is a time in which family members visit. Suppose some unsuspecting lesbian wants to take Aunt Carol to Womyn's Night to show her that lesbians really aren't all that different, and to introduce her to some of the community. They walk in, and oh my god, it's a sex toy party!

Suppose someone from the *Missoulian* or *Independent* picks up a copy of OutWords, and wants to do a story on the queer community in Missoula. They decide to go to Womyn's Night, walk in, and, oh my god, it's a sex toy party! That will look great to the folks who already hate us, and the ones who were undecided.

Suppose a young lady of about age 15 is having a hard time, and wants to go somewhere to talk to people who might understand her. It's Tuesday evening, she goes to the center, and oh my god, it's a sex toy party. And now there's a minor there.

Suppose someone is new to Missoula, and she decides to go to Womyn's Night to try to make some new friends. She walks in, and oh my god, it's a sex toy party. Embarrassed, she leaves and never goes back.

I may be a minority voice here, but I think that sex toy parties are the kind of things that should be done in private, with consenting individuals only, not in a public setting into which people may enter not expecting a dildo parade. The general population already perceives the queer community as being obsessed with sex anyway; we don't need to give them fodder.

My advice to the Womyn's Night folks: if you want to be taken seriously, if you want people to show up, don't offend them or make them feel uncomfortable. Having a sex toy party is totally inappropriate. Keep your sex toys in your nightstand drawer, and take them out only for special people, in a private setting, amongst the consenting. Please. Have some decency.

Thanks.

Dear editor,

As parents, we all want our children to be safe within the community. My daughter, an outspoken member of the LGBT community, should not need to worry about epithets or assaults as she walks home from UM events or from a gay-friendly bar. I am proud of her efforts to create a more tolerant environment for *all* members of the Missoula community. I have met many friends of the LGBT community during my visits to your city. They are engaged in valuable volunteer work, social activism, and civic causes.

My biracial, adopted son also has felt discrimination on his visits to Missoula. It seems a young man of Latino descent is automatically suspect in some downtown stores and restaurants. I would hope that other students of color do not experience this prejudice.

Missoula is a beautiful and vibrant city in many respects. I encourage all Missoulians to work for an inclusive environment in which people are valued for their talents and commitment whether they are lesbians, immigrants, Native Americans, or middle-aged widows like me.

Patti Copple  
Nampa, Idaho

Dear Sarah,

YWCA Missoula appreciated November's issue spotlighting the problem of homelessness in Missoula. However, we want to clarify that we do provide men, including gay men, with emergency shelter services, in keeping with our policy not to turn away anyone fleeing relationship or sexual violence. Ellie Hill's article, "Montana's LGBT Homelessness: An Elevated Risk," stated that there is no domestic violence shelter that can accept men. While we do not house men and women together at our shelter, we do provide men with motel rooms for confidential and safe shelter.

At the YWCA, we recognize and honor the diversity found within Missoula's families and couples. We know that statistics show that, unfortunately, same-sex abuse happens at the same rate as in heterosexual relationships. All of our staff and volunteers are trained extensively in homophobia-reduction and are equipped to care for people of all sexual orientations and gender expressions when they need it most. One of our core values at YWCA Missoula is that all people deserve lives rich in peace, justice, freedom and dignity. For that reason, we support equal rights for the LGBT community.

Bridget Hanna, our Pathways manager, will lead a workshop on same-sex relationship violence at Women's Night on Tuesday, Dec. 11 at 7 pm. She's also available to speak to other groups through the WMGLCC by calling 543-6691.

Sincerely,  
Caitlin Copple, Marketing Coordinator  
On Behalf of YWCA Missoula

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### KISMIF

Meeting every Monday 7 - 8:30 p.m. at The Ark at 538 University Ave, entrance down the stairs at the rear of the building.. - Contact Randy at 406-726-3525

### Gay Men's Chorus

Meeting every Monday 7 - 9 p.m. at WMGLCC, 127 N. Higgins Ave., Suite 202 - Contact Gary at 406-370-9876

### Gay Men's Task Force

406-829-8075

### Imperial Sovereign Court of the State of Montana

Call Rosalinda de la Luna at 406-499-0078 or visit: <http://www.iscsm.org>

### Keep It Simple AI-Anon Family Group

Meetings every Thursday 5:30 p.m. at The Ark at 538 University Ave, entrance down the stairs at the rear of the building. 406-726-3525 or 406-777-1169

### Womyn's Night

406-543-2224 or 406-721-3824

### Living Forward Group:

#### Men Who Are Living With HIV

Meet Wednesday evenings 7 - 9 p.m.  
Call Andrew Laue at 406-327-9445

### Missoula Aids Council

406-543-4770

### Missoula City Health Department

406-258-4745

### Officer Nicole Pifari

LGBTI Liaison Officer Missoula Police Department  
435 Ryman Street • Missoula, MT 59802  
(406) 552-6300 (main) •

Alternate meeting place: WMGLCC

### Outfield Alliance

A Coalition of LGBTI faculty, graduate students, staff and their supporters at the University of Montana. Email [caseycharles@umontana.edu](mailto:caseycharles@umontana.edu) or call 406-243-2762

### PFLAG Missoula

Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday each month prior to Community Potluck, University Congregational Church 405 University Ave. Call 406-721-5013 or 406-541-0163

### Transgender Support Group

Contact Emily Phipps at 406-550-3835.

### U of M Lambda Alliance

406-243-5922

### University Congregational Church

405 University Avenue, Missoula  
<http://www.uccmsla.org> • 406-543-6952

## MONTANA

### Butte Men's Support Group

Last Monday of the month 406-491-1378 or 406-490-6125

### Butte AIDS Support Services

Meet 2nd Tuesday of each month at Blaine Center BASS office Call Rick 406-491-1378 or BASS at 406-490-6125  
[www.buttebass.org](http://www.buttebass.org)

### Flathead Valley Alliance

[www.flatheadvalleyalliance.org](http://www.flatheadvalleyalliance.org)  
406-758-6707

### Hot Springs, Montana Gay and Bisexual Men's Support Group

406-741-2810

### HIV Positive Support Group

Call Rick at 406-491-1378 for information and location

### LGBT - Friendly AA Bozeman

406-599-3230

### LGBT State-wide Events

[www.qnewsmontana.com](http://www.qnewsmontana.com)

### Lewis & Clark AIDS Project

530 S. Harris • Helena • 406-447-6030

### Metropolitan Community Church

1220 17th Street South • Great Falls  
406-771-1070 • [www.mccmontana.org](http://www.mccmontana.org)  
Rev. Gina L. Hartung, Pastor  
Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.  
E-mail: [bishman59401@hotmail.com](mailto:bishman59401@hotmail.com)

### Montana Department of Public Health & Human Services

[www.dphhs.state.mt.us/hpsd](http://www.dphhs.state.mt.us/hpsd)

### Open Hands Foundation - Great Falls

[www.openhandsfoundation.org](http://www.openhandsfoundation.org)  
406-868-8382

### QSA - MSU

[www.qsamsu.com](http://www.qsamsu.com)  
406-994-4636

### Seeker's Harbor Faith Community Billings

[www.seekersharbor.org](http://www.seekersharbor.org)  
406-661-1584w

### Tri - State HELP Eastern Region

406-245-2029

### Victorian - HIV Testing

406- 245-4293

### Yellowstone City-County Health Department

406-247-3376

### Yellowstone Aids Project

406-245-2029

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST & NATIONAL RESOURCES

### Advocates for Youth

[www.advocatesforyouth.org](http://www.advocatesforyouth.org)

### AEGIS: AIDS Education Global Information Systems

[www.endAIDSnow.org](http://www.endAIDSnow.org)

### The Body

[www.thebody.com](http://www.thebody.com)

### Centers for Disease Control

[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

### Gay City

[www.gaycity.org](http://www.gaycity.org)

### Gay Men's Health Crisis

[www.gmhc.org](http://www.gmhc.org)

### Human Rights Campaign

[www.hrc.org](http://www.hrc.org)

### Out Spokane

[www.outspokane.com](http://www.outspokane.com)

### Pacific Northwest Gay Rodeo Association

[www.pacificnwgra.org](http://www.pacificnwgra.org)

### Pride Foundation

[www.pridefoundation.org](http://www.pridefoundation.org)

### Queer Core

[www.queercore.org](http://www.queercore.org)

### Stonewall News Northwest

[www.stonewallnews.net](http://www.stonewallnews.net)

### Wyoming Rural AIDS Prevention Project

[www.wrapp.net](http://www.wrapp.net)

*Do you have LGBTI resources you want listed? Email us by the 20th of each month for the next issue! Send your email to: [wmgccnews@gaymontana.org](mailto:wmgccnews@gaymontana.org) with Resources in the subject line. Resources will be listed on a first come first serve basis as space permits.*

## Recurring Events Around Montana

**WMGLCC Board Meeting**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, 7 p.m. at the Center [Missoula]

**LGBTI Community Potluck**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday every month, 7 p.m. at the University Congregational Church - Fireside Room (405 University Avenue) [Missoula]

**PFLAG Missoula / Five Valleys meeting**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday every month prior to potluck at the University Congregational Church, call 406-721-5013 or 406-541-0163 for more information. [Missoula]

**HIV+ Monthly Dinner**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month, 6:30 p.m. at the University Congregational Church, call Nancy at 406-543-4770. [Missoula]

**Gay & Lesbian AA Meeting**, every Monday 7 to 8:30 p.m., call Randy at 406-726-3525 [Missoula]

**Keep It Simple / AI-Anon Family Group** Thursdays 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.. Call Randy at 406-726-3525 or Celia at 406-777-1169 [Missoula]

**University of Montana LAMBDA Alliance General Meetings**, every Tuesday, 7 p.m. at the UC (Room 330), call 406-243-5922 for more information. [Missoula]

**Living Forward Group: Men Who Are Living With HIV**, every Wednesday from 7 to 9 p.m., call Andrew Laue, LCSW for more information at 406-327-9445. [Missoula]

**Hot Springs, Montana, a Gay & Bisexual Men's Support Group** meets on Sunday evenings at 6 p.m.. Call 741-2810 for directions and information. [Missoula]

**Women's Coffee and Chat** meets on Thursdays at 7 p.m. Location: Fireside Coffee House 1446 Euclid Ave, [Helena]

**Women's Potluck**, 1st Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm. Location changes. Contact Sandy at 406-442-0200. [Helena]

**Christian LGBTI Support Group** meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month 7p.m. at the Center [Missoula]

**GLBT Open AA Meeting** Every Thursday 7:30 p.m. 1417 13 St. West. Call Duane Nez at 406-861-8478 [Billings]

**Cancer Patient Support Group** Every Other Friday: 12 p.m. 2835 Fort Missoula Rd., Ste. 301, Call Joni or Susie at 406-721-1118 E-mail [joni@drjudyschmidt.com](mailto:joni@drjudyschmidt.com) [Missoula]

**Billings AIDSpirit Meeting** 2nd Tuesday of the month at Holy Rosary Church, 521 Custer at 7:00 p.m. [Billings]

**Billings PFLAG Meeting** 2nd Wednesday of the month held at the UCC Church in Conference office located at 2016 Alderson at 7:00 p.m [Billings]

**Client Advisory Board Meeting** 4th Monday of the Month at YAP at 6:00 PM [Billings]

**POZ Night** Monthly opportunity for socializing and fun! For more information contact the Client Action Body at [cab@yapmt.org](mailto:cab@yapmt.org) or staff at (406) 245-2029. [Billings]

**QSA General Forum Meetings** Every Monday In the Strand Union Building room 276 at 7 p.m. [Bozeman]

**JavaQ Coffee Social** - A chance for those of us who want to meet new people and talk to old friends in an informal setting. 7 p.m., every first, third, and fifth Thursday at International Coffee Traders, 720 S 10th Ave. [Bozeman]

**PFLAG Meeting** 2nd Wednesday of the month. Check out: [bozemanpflag.com](http://bozemanpflag.com) for more information.

**Flathead Valley Alliance** monthly meeting, 1st Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Flathead Count Library basement. [Kalispell]

FORWARD MONTANA & KBGA COLLEGE RADIO PRESENT:

# MOUTH OFF! MISSOULA

TUESDAYS AFTER THE NEWS 5:10PM-6:00PM

## UPCOMING TOPICS INCLUDE:

10/23 Missoula Housing

10/30 Missoula Transportation

11/6 Iraq Referendum

11/13 Global Warming's Effect on Winter Recreation

11/20 Hunting, Guns & the Environment

11/27 Marijuana & Chickens

12/4 Missoula's Homeless Population



MOUTH OFF MISSOULA IS LOOKING FOR TWO CO-HOSTS WITH POLITICAL PERSPECTIVES LIBERAL, CONSERVATIVE OR OTHERWISE. IF YOU'RE INTERESTED PLEASE STOP BY KBGA, UC RM 100 OR FORWARD MONTANA TO S HIGGINS FOR AN APPLICATION AND MORE INFO

## DECEMBER:

**Saturday, Dec. 1:** World AIDS Day, a national day of awareness about HIV and AIDS in order to educate and commemorate those affected by and lost to the epidemic.

**Saturday, Dec. 8 – Sunday, Dec. 9:** Missoula Gay Men's Chorus 3rd Annual Christmas Cabaret in MISSOULA at Marianne's in the Wilma. No Host Bar 5 p.m. Dinner 6 p.m. Concert by the Chorus. For more information contact: Gary at 406-370-9876 or Mark at 406-543-4608

**Saturday, Dec. 8:** I.S.C.S.M. "White Ball" Christmas Show to benefit the Watkins Childrens Shelter at Club Q doors open at 9:00 pm and the show starts at 10:00 pm

**Sunday, Dec. 9:** Sunday brunch in KALISPELL at the Sizzler at 11am.

**Saturday, Dec. 15:** Butte Christmas Show at the Blaine Center in BUTTE. For more information go to [www.buttebass.org](http://www.buttebass.org) or call 490-6125. Proceeds help support Butte AIDS Support Services.

**Saturday, Dec. 15:** YWCA Missoula (1130 W. Broadway) is offering a FREE public workshop for those interested in understanding domestic violence, Saturday, December 15, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Contact Jen Geist at 543-6691 or [jgeist@ywcaofmissoula.org](mailto:jgeist@ywcaofmissoula.org) for more info.

**Friday, Dec. 21:** Winter Solstice Community Celebration in MISSOULA from 6:00-9:00 pm at the Orchard Homes Country Life Club on 3rd near Reserve.

**Saturday, Dec. 29:** Open Hands Foundation New Year's Eve Dance in GREAT FALLS at the Moose Lodge. 9pm – 2am with \$7 cover. 18 & older welcome with ID. Bring 2 cans of food or 2 non-perishable items for our pantry and get \$2 off at the door (\$5 cover). To learn more visit [www.openhandsfoundation.org](http://www.openhandsfoundation.org).

## Missoula LGBTI Community Potluck

I am sure we are all thinking about family this month (and hate crimes, too, it would seem). The holidays can be a hard time for those of us who have fractured relationships with our bio families and/or fractured relationships with the holidays.

I was the child who single-handedly ruined x-mas every year for not only my mother, but my father and my two brothers. I obviously wield a lot of power, eh? For that reason and others, not only am I Scrooge, but I don't even celebrate the blasted holiday anymore. But I do believe in community and sharing. I believe these are ideals that should apply all year round.

To that end I propose that we all get down and have a great December community potluck. Bring a dish to share. And an open heart, while you're at. Just in time for the holidays or whatever else you decide to celebrate as the days start to become longer at the end of this month.

There will be singing, food, chatting and general frivolity this month and for months to come. Won't you join us?

WHERE: University Congregational Church- Fireside Room (405 University Ave.)

WHEN: December 15, at 7pm

WHAT SHOULD YOU BRING: A potluck dish

## DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> IS WORLD AIDS DAY SEE HOW MONTANA SHOWS ITS SUPPORT

### Billings:

Simply elegant and the promise of partnerships. November 30th at 6:30 p.m. at The Perfect Place. Live and silent auctions, wine tasting and tapas, inauguration of the "Jordan's Journey" scholarship, World AIDS Day award presentation honoring Delores Wing, Performances by winners of the "Positively Moving" Youth Contest, Retrospective tribute to World AIDS Day artwork contributed by five well-known artists.

### Missoula:

FREE and anonymous 20 min rapid HIV testing available from 11am-2pm at Partnership Health Center located at 323 West Alder. Call 258-4165 for questions.

Dine Out For Life will be December 7th at area restaurants. Proceeds help support the Missoula AIDS Council. Check out [www.peopleshive.com](http://www.peopleshive.com) for more information or see our ad on the back page!

### Bozeman:

Red ribbon specials at local restaurants! Proceeds to help fund AIDS Outreach, the new AIDS Support organization serving Bozeman and the surrounding areas. Contact...

FREE and anonymous 20 min rapid HIV testing available from 9am-7pm at Connections located at 1117 N. 7th St. #3. Call 600-3608 for questions.

### Great Falls:

FREE and anonymous 20 min rapid HIV testing available from 12pm – 4pm. Call 868-8382 to make an appointment.

Chili feed from 5pm – 6:30pm at Metropolitan Community Church located at 1220 17th St. S. Donations welcome! All money raised goes towards two non-profit AIDS organizations in our area: Open Hands Foundation and Falls AIDS Network.

AIDS Remembrance Ceremony with Rev. Gina Hartung at 7pm at Metropolitan Community Church located at 1220 17th St. S. Come and let's remember our friends and family that are no longer with us. Call 771-1070 for more info about World AIDS Day events in Great Falls.

### Helena:

World AIDS Day Recognition Awards for Montana, November 30th at 10am in the State Capital Rotunda.

### Ronan (SKC):

Celebration dinner (6pm—8pm) at the Late Louis Caye Building at SKC (dinner provided by Papa Don's Grill in Polson). Call Niki at 275-4920 for info.

## WMGLCC WEEKLY EVENTS

### Monday

7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - Gay Men's Chorus Rehearsal

### Tuesday

7 p.m. - Womyn's Night: A Lesbian Support Group

### Thursday

7 p.m. - Gay Men Together, A safe and affirming place for gay & bisexual men to meet.

### Saturday

5:30 to 7 p.m. - TG/TS/Intersex Support Group meeting (1st and 3rd Saturdays only)

Special  
After 10:30 Party  
at **Scotty's Table**  
100% of proceeds  
benefit **MAC**

# World AIDS *in* Missoula December 7

*Dine out for*



*Event Sponsors*



A percentage of your bill benefits Missoula AIDS Council when you dine Dec. 7th at:

**Sushi Hana**  
**Wheat Montana**  
**Montana Jacks**  
**Jus Chill'n**  
**515**

**Press Box**  
**Tipu's Tiger**  
**Taco Del Sol**  
**Fuddruckers**

**Scotty's Table**  
**Hob Nob Cafe**  
**Biga Pizza**  
**Red Bird**

**Butterfly Herbs**  
**Paradise Falls**  
**Doc's Sandwich Shop**  
**The Higgins Alley**