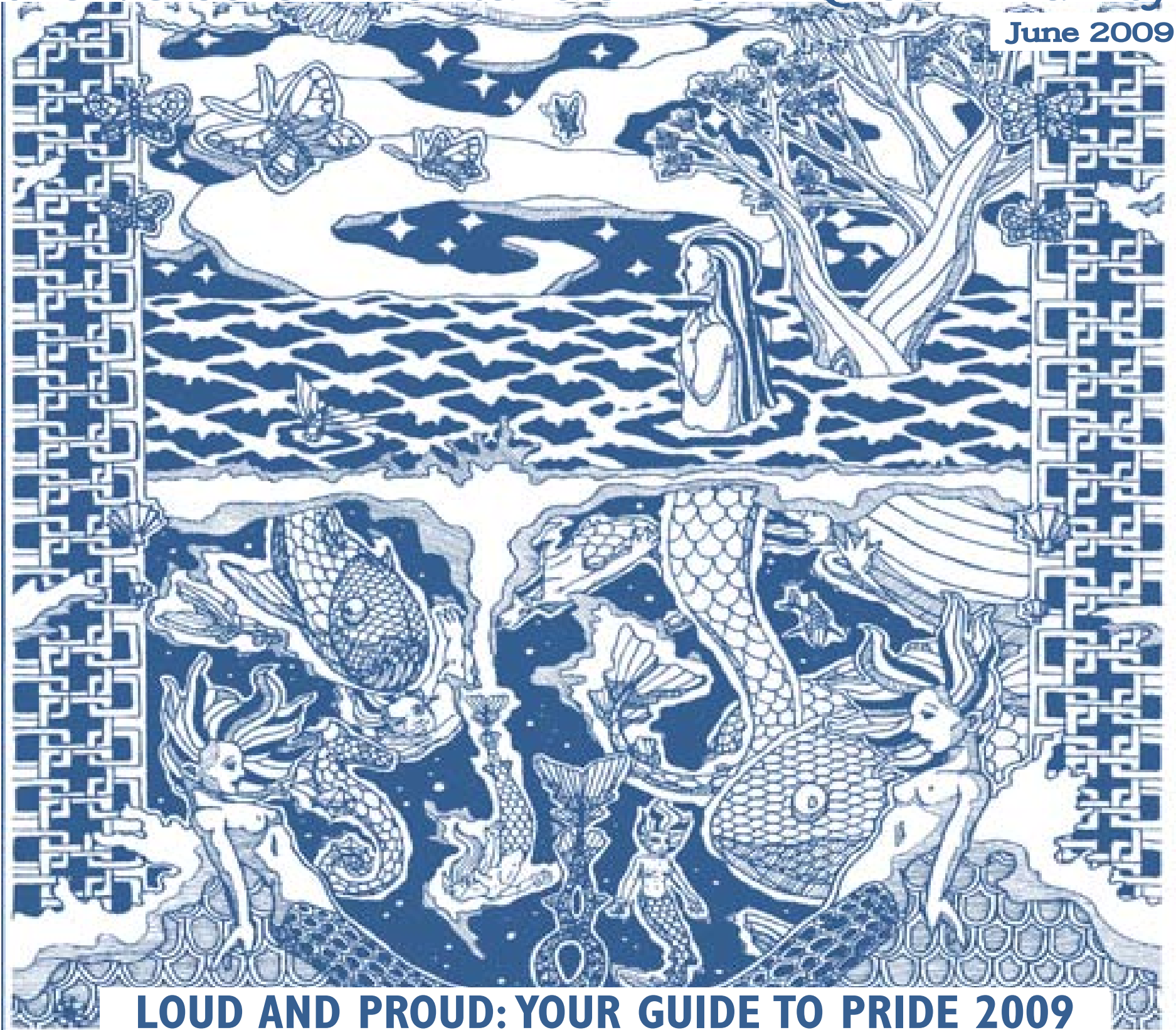


out words

the voice of Montana's LGBTIQ community

June 2009



LOUD AND PROUD: YOUR GUIDE TO PRIDE 2009

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Monthly Circulation: 3,000 copies

Annual subscriptions cost \$10. Mail a check to Out Words via the Center address.

Submit letters to the editor at wmgccnews@gaymontana.org

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Also distributed to: Havre MT, Browning MT, Butte MT, Culbertson MT, Victor MT, Anorage AK, Tacoma WA, Boise ID, Portland OR

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NORTHWEST LGBTQ AND ALLIES TO HOST YOUTH CONFERENCE

Montana lesbian, gay, transgender and questioning youth, parents and teachers are urged to sign up for the Northwest's first LGBTQ Youth Conference.

Odyssey Youth Center will be hosting the conference to be held in Spokane. The conference is scheduled for July 24-26, 2009 and will be held at ITRON Inc. in the Spokane Valley.

When Odyssey youth were put in charge of selecting a name for the conference they selected "Conference for Hope" because for them that's exactly what it represents.

Participation is expected from youth and adults in Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, California, Alaska and Canada. In addition to a series of workshops for youth, there will be workshops for teachers, leaders, community members, service providers, and parents.

Organizers are excited about the possibility that more than 500 LGBTQ individuals and straight allies will join us in Spokane to network learn and support each other.

The weekend promises to be filled with wonder, connection and information to contribute to all relationships.

Special music and dance events, artistic possibilities and free meals are highlights of the planned conference.

Those interested in attending the conference are urged to register as soon as possible. The deadline for registration is June 30. You may register online at www.odysseyyouth.org. For more information call (509) 325-3637.

ITRON is located at 2111 Molter Road, Liberty Lake, WA. Lodging is available at www.hotels.com, look for rooms in Liberty Lake, Spokane Valley, Spokane, (all Washington State) or in Idaho at Post Falls or Couer D'Alene.

Check in for the conference begins Friday, July 24 at 5 p.m. and closing ceremony scheduled for Sunday, July 26 at 2 p.m.

LGBTQ youth face a myriad of challenges and threats. Nearly 9

out of 10 LGBT youth (86.2%) reported being verbally harassed at school in the past year because of their sexual orientation, nearly half (44.1%) reported being physically harassed and about a quarter (22.1%) reported being physically assaulted, according to a survey from GLSEN of more than 6,000 LGBT students.

The survey of 6,209 middle and high school students found that nearly 9 out of 10 LGBT students (86.2%) experienced harassment at school in the past year, three-fifths (60.8%) felt unsafe at school because of their sexual orientation and about a third (32.7%) skipped a day of school in the past month because of feeling unsafe.

ABOUT THE COVER ARTIST

"Butterfly Tree"
Artist Name: B. Murphy

B. Murphy descended from outer space in the early 1970's, & the world became a better place.

When he is not busy battling monsters in his Giant Robot, he likes to relax by illustrating fantasy pictures. Most of his work is in ink, some of his work is done by burning the image onto paper with his laser beam eyes.

B. Murphy's other creative endeavors include music & writing. Mostly stories to accompany his pictures & lyrics for his rock band "Priapism". They'll make your ears bleed.

B. Murphy lives in Missoula, MT with his wife, cat & unearthly minions.
(503) 737-5698
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NEWS BRIEFS

Gregoire expands same-sex partnerships

Washington Gov expands same-sex partnership
By Lornet Turnbull, Seattle Times staff reporter
Used with permission

Surrounded by about 300 people — most of them gay and lesbian couples and their children — Gov. Chris Gregoire on Monday, May 18, signed legislation giving registered same-sex domestic partners all the rights and benefits that Washington now offers married couples.

The law will take effect July 26 unless opponents seeking to repeal it can collect enough signatures to get a referendum on the November ballot.

A network of conservative and religious organizations, through a public action committee called Protect Marriage Washington, plans to begin collecting signatures to repeal the measure under Referendum 71. However, they have to wait a full week to see if someone challenges the referendum's ballot title in court.

They will then have about 60 days — until July 25 — to collect 120,577 signatures. If they are successful, the law would be suspended until voters decide the referendum.

Several gay-rights advocacy groups, through a campaign called Decline 2 Sign, are seeking to raise money to turn back the challenge.

The bill signing by Gregoire at Seattle's Montlake Community Center was a festive event, marking a significant milestone for the state's same-sex couples.

The legislation expands on previous domestic-partnership laws by adding such partnerships to all remaining areas of state law that now address only married couples.

The measure also extends coverage to unmarried heterosexual couples when one person is at least 62.

As of Monday, there were 5,395 registered domestic partners, representing every county in the state.

The signing comes three years after the state Supreme Court ruled against 11 gay and lesbian couples seeking the right to marry in Washington and upheld the state's Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) that limits marriage to one man and one woman.

Charlene Strong, a Seattle woman who was instrumental in the initial push for changes in the law after her partner drowned in the flooded basement of their Madison Valley home, said while she is thrilled with the advancements, she's eager for the next step: reversal of DOMA.

"It is important for us to sit and talk to those who oppose us," Strong said. "We need them to hear us, to meet our families. They speak from a place of fear. We need them to speak from a place of understanding."

Gary Randall, president of the Faith and Freedom Network, which is leading the campaign to repeal the measure, wondered aloud whether there was a concerted effort on Gregoire's part to delay the signing to give opponents a shorter time to collect signatures.

He plans to move forward with the referendum, he said, because he believes it's the right thing to do to prevent gay-rights supporters from taking the next step and pushing for gay marriage in this state.

The institution of marriage might not be perfect, he said, "but that's no reason to redefine it."

Illinois poised to approve civil unions

Lawmakers to amend 'shell bill' to pass measure
By Chris Johnson, Washington Blade
Used with permission

The Illinois General Assembly is expected to approve a measure next week that would legalize civil unions, according to an LGBT activist.

Rick Garcia, political director for Equality Illinois, said Thursday he's "absolutely" expecting the full state House and the Senate to pass a civil union measure either Tuesday or Wednesday. The bill has support from Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn (D).

The House Youth and Family Committee, chaired by Rep. Greg Harris, who's gay, intends to attach an amendment legalizing civil unions to a "shell bill" that's already been approved by the Senate, Garcia said. If the full House votes in favor of the legislation, the bill would be sent to the full Senate within hours for a vote of concurrence.

Garcia said Illinois lawmakers often use "shell bills" to pass legislation expediently. He said it's necessary to legalize civil unions through this method because the legislative session ends May 30 and the approach limits the time that opponents of civil unions can lobby lawmakers.

"We get it out of the House and then senators only have a few hours of being beat up by our opponents rather than three days or a long weekend," he said. "Since there is a perfectly legitimate way of doing it in one day, that's what we're going to do."

The official purpose of the "shell bill" that lawmakers are planning

to amend relates to death and estate issues.

On March 5, the House Youth and Family Committee reported out legislation that would have legalized civil unions with a vote of 5-4. The amendment that lawmakers intend to attach to the "shell bill" has identical language to the legislation, Garcia said.

Garcia said Equality Illinois has nine lobbyists working as either full-time staffers or contractors to encourage lawmakers to vote in favor of civil unions. Other groups assisting in passing the measure include the American Civil Liberties Union, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago and the Service Employees International Union, Garcia said.

Should the measure become law, both gay and straight couples could enter into civil unions. As there's no explicit language regarding an effective date, couples could start entering into civil unions 30 days after the bill is signed into law, Garcia said.

The measure contains language noting that the establishment of civil unions would not interfere with the practices of any religious group and that any religious institution could decide for itself whether or not to solemnize or officiate a civil union.

Steele says gay marriage burdens small business

RNC Chairman says money is the issue

Republicans can reach a broader base by recasting same-sex marriage as an issue that could dent pocketbooks as small businesses spend more on health care and other benefits, RNC Chair Michael Steele said recently.

Steele said that was just an example of how the party can retool its message to appeal to young voters and minorities without sacrificing core conservative principles. Steele said he used the argument weeks ago while chatting on a flight with a college student who described herself as fiscally conservative but socially liberal on issues like gay marriage.

"Now all of a sudden I've got someone who wasn't a spouse before, that I had no responsibility for, who is now getting claimed as a spouse that I now have financial responsibility for," Steele told Republicans at the state convention in traditionally conservative Georgia. "So how do I pay for that? Who pays for that? You just cost me money."

Vermont and Iowa have legalized same-sex marriage in recent weeks, and a Quinnipiac University poll released in April found that 57 percent of people questioned support civil unions that provide marriage-like rights. Although 55 percent said they opposed gay marriage, the poll indicated a shift toward more acceptance.

White House affirms support for DOMA repeal Obama wants marriage issue 'left to the states'

By Chris Johnson, Washington Blade
Used with permission

The White House on Wednesday, May 20, issued a statement reiterating President Obama's support for repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act.

"DOMA is a federal law passed by Congress that precludes uniform federal recognition of same-sex relationships, even those recognized as valid under the law of the state," the statement says. "Because the President believes that this is an issue that should be left to the states, he continues to support the legislative repeal of DOMA."

A reporter asked White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs on Monday what Obama was doing to make sure that same-sex marriages would be recognized at the federal level and what the timeline was for making that happen. At the time, Gibbs said he would have "to go check on that," adding, "I honestly don't know the answer to that."

The statement issued by the White House doesn't address the reporter's inquiry about the timeline for when DOMA repeal would happen.

How about a quickie?

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A&E BRIEFS

Clinton's sax and Pattinson's lips raise money to fight AIDS

from gay 365

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Clinton's saxophone and Robert Pattinson's lips have helped a star-studded charity event raise money to fight AIDS.

An alto sax signed and donated by the former U.S. president was one of the star lots at the Cinema Against AIDS benefit on the sidelines of the Cannes Film Festival, selling for euro 130,000 (\$180,000). There was also keen bidding on two kisses from "Twilight" star Pattinson, which raised euro 20,000 (\$28,000) each.

Sharon Stone hosted the 16th annual event at the exclusive Hotel du Cap on the French Riviera. Annie Lennox entertained about 800 guests who included Paris Hilton, model Claudia Schiffer, director Terry Gilliam, rapper 50 Cent and scientist James Watson, one of the discoverers of DNA.

Stone urged people to give generously despite the global economic slump.

"Looking down at the price of my own shoes, we in this room cannot pretend that we have nothing to give," she said.

Proceeds from the event go to the American Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR), a nonprofit organization that supports HIV/AIDS research.

Like the Cannes Film Festival itself, the event was more muted than in recent years, with just a smattering of A-list stars. Last year's auction raised a record \$10 million. There was no immediate total for the event.

Guests had to pass through police checkpoints to get to the event, where they drank champagne in the hotel grounds overlooking the Mediterranean before dining on smoked salmon and roasted sea bass.

"Everybody knows there is a global economic slowdown of epic proportions," said Clinton, who supports AIDS research and treatment through his William J. Clinton Foundation.

He noted that \$30 trillion in wealth had disappeared around the world between September and March, "and a lot of it came out of some of your bank accounts."

"I'm here with people who tell stories for a living," Clinton said.

"You don't need to read many novels or make many movies to realize that everybody has a story. ... Every time a child dies of AIDS somewhere in the world, the light goes out of a story."

Items on the auction blocks included a Fiat 500 car customized by Diesel, which sold for euro 80,000

(\$110,000); tennis lessons from pros Monica Seles and Jelena Jankovic, which raised euro 30,000 (\$42,000); and a handmade Karl Lagerfeld guitar case filled with Dom Perignon champagne, sold for euro 50,000 (\$70,000).

The offer of a special screening of Quentin Tarantino's World War II revenge caper "Inglourious Basterds" raised euro 60,000 (\$84,000).

Amid the auctioneering, Lennox entertained guests with songs including "Sisters Are Doing It For Themselves." The singer dedicated "There Must be an Angel" to amfAR supporter Natasha Richardson, who died after a skiing accident in March.

Stone said amfAR was setting up a fund in Richardson's memory for research on a cure for AIDS and donated \$50,000 to help it along.

"Natasha said that she would go on until a cure was found for AIDS," Stone said. "I believe that she will."

Campus Pride Summer camp in full swing for July

Campus Pride announced the list of national speakers and artists to be featured at its third annual summer leadership camp, affectionately known as "Pride Camp." The camp is the first-ever for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) and ally college students from colleges and universities across the country. The camp will take place from July 21 to 26, 2009 and will be hosted on the campus of Towson University in Towson, Maryland. Registration is available online at <http://www.CampusPride.org>.

Keynote highlights will include Judy Shepard, mother of Matthew Shepard; Mitchell Gold, editor of the new book *CRISIS: Growing Up Gay in America*; Rev. Dr. Jamie Washington, President and Founder of the Washington Consulting Group; Cuc Vu, Human Rights Campaign Chief Diversity Officer; Patrick Davis, Chief Executive Officer of Patrick Davis Partners; Mara Kiessling, National Center for Transgender Equality President; Jessica Pettitt, Social Justice I am Trainer and Consultant; and Shane Windmeyer, Best-Selling Author and Executive Director of Campus Pride. Artists and entertainers booked for camp include national slam master and author Emanuel Xavier, acclaimed singer/songwriter Randi Driscoll, and southern camp drag diva Buff Faye All You Can Eat among others. Wolf Video will also sponsor a special movie night screening of the critically acclaimed, multi-award winning film "Were the World Mine."

"Well, this is definitely a camp like no other. I wish it was around when I was in college. The whole experience is packed full of educational workshops, keynotes, entertainers and tons of fun," said Michael Shutt, the Director of the LGBT Resource Center at Emory University and one of the camp faculty members and planners.

For over six months, Campus Pride has coordinated a faculty team of professional LGBT educators and activists to plan the camp. These individuals will also deliver the five-day curriculum of skill building in leadership development, social justice and civic involvement. In addition, other camp highlights include a Washington, D.C. field trip to meet with congressional leaders as well as LGBT and ally social justice advocates.

Maximum attendance capacity is expected again this year. Any college student 18 years old or above may attend camp. Limited number of scholarships are available until June 1, 2009. If interested in attending the camp or being a sponsor, more information is available online at Campus Pride (www.campuspride.org) or email info@campuspride.org.

FUN WITH GEMINI

by Lady Lioness

Dear Taurus,

This is your month to take action! Mars will help give you the energy to take on all your projects and be productive. Taurus will also find that the right people to help you will seem to appear out of the woodwork after June 6, you won't even have to search! This period after June 6 would be a great time to update your looks with a haircut or a new wardrobe.

Happy birthday Gemini! You are already a gifted story teller, but after June 13 mercury will double your powers of persuasion! You will be the great communicator this month.

In the Age of Pisces (the last 2,000 years) Gemini energy was confined to the home and family. For instance, elementary education which is ruled by Gemini is in the 4th house of home and family for Pisces, which means most early education was done at home. This may explain why so many Christian families wish to home school their children, because Christianity is a Pisces ruled religion. In the Age of Aquarius, elementary education needs to focus on having fun while learning in order to find success in educating young children.

Gemini, your focus during the Age of Aquarius will be to have fun. You will be the center of attention at parties with your story telling and you will seek romantic adventures. Children will adore you and vice versa. Gemini energy indicates that one of the best ways to get a message across to people would be to have a concert. Other great ways for anyone to pass information along is to have a party, picnic, raffle, or any other type of entertaining event that would catch people's attention.

Break out the party hats and noise makers, Gemini. You will make learning fun for everyone!

Love to All,
Lady Lioness

For more horoscopes,
please visit: [http://
groups.yahoo.com/
group/ladylioness/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ladylioness/)



Lady Lioness



WHEN THE STAGE HAS NO CLOSET SPACE

By Aaron Hicklin

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How did a somewhat goofy, family-style talent show on Fox become a bellwether of America's changing attitudes toward sexuality?

Adam Lambert, a gutsy eye-liner-wearing Californian with a big voice, did not triumph in the eighth season of American Idol. Would he have won if he were unequivocally straight? That is a question we'll be debating for a while. But in many ways, Lambert was the unofficial winner long before he took the stage to recap his plaintive version of "Mad World," the Tears for Fears ballad that cemented his reputation as the darling of alternative, androgynous goth-ish tweens. His clean-cut, evangelical Christian rival, Kris Allen, on the other hand, was more "High School Musical" than "Twilight."

One hundred million votes were cast in last week's Idol finale, and though it's premature to interpret Lambert's loss as a referendum on tolerance, his flamboyant persona marked a striking departure from the heterosexual bluffing of 2003 Idol contestant Clay Aiken. While it took Aiken years to come out (he did come out last September), Lambert never felt the need to pander to conservative audiences. Although he never came right out and said "I'm gay," his response to photos of him in drag and kissing other men -- "I have nothing to hide, I am who I am" -- was clear enough, and more eloquent by far.

In the age of "Brokeback Mountain" and Ellen Degeneres, why does Lambert's sexuality make a difference? That's a reasonable question. But pop music, infused with sex and central to adolescence, counts for more than indie films and talk shows. It's among the broadest gauges of popular attitudes. Comparisons between Lambert and Freddie Mercury, the former lead singer of Queen, were premised on his cocksure performance and swooping falsetto, but the pop idols of Mercury's era -- Elton John, George Michael, Mercury himself -- were closeted at the height of their careers for good reason. We might have guessed that they were gay, but we didn't want to be told.

Today, we're increasingly comfortable with homosexuality, yet the closet still retains a surprising hold on Hollywood and Washington that seems out of step with changing attitudes. Gays do very well on reality TV and as affectionate punch lines on sitcoms such as "Will & Grace," but where are the out gay action stars and leading men? British writer Carol Ann Duffy, the first lesbian (and woman) to be anointed the UK's poet laureate had a good sense of the public mood when she told the Times of London, "I think we've all grown up over the past ten years. Sexuality is now celebrated. It is a lovely, ordinary, normal thing." A recent Washington Post/ABC News poll shows a dramatic rise in support for gay marriage. Nearly half of all Americans in the new poll said they favor legal marriage for same-sex couples, an increase of 13 percentage points since June 2006.

Against those shifting attitudes, the resurfacing of Samuel "Joe the Plumber" Wurzelbacher -- who told Christianity Today last month that he won't allow "queers" near his children -- feels comically out of touch rather than menacing. Even his mentor, John McCain, may be softening, to judge from the comments of his daughter Meghan. In an upcoming interview with Out, Ms. McCain draws a solid line between new school Republicans such as herself, who believe in gay marriage, and old schoolers like Wurzelbacher, whom she dismisses as "a dumbass."

With a new president who seems more fair-minded than his predecessors, the miserable practice of using gay equality as a recruitment tool in the conservative heartlands is hopefully coming to an end. A string of victories for gay-marriage proponents in Iowa, Vermont, Maine and New Hampshire has reinforced the momentum and fueled optimism that California and New York will not be too far behind. And while talk of a lesbian nominee for the Supreme Court may be fanciful, the fact that it's even being discussed by court-watchers is a mark of how quickly the landscape is changing. It now seems incredible that as recently as 1986 the Supreme Court could have upheld the right of a state to arrest a man in the privacy of his own home for consenting homosexual conduct.

That was the same year in which President Ronald Reagan first brought himself to use the word "AIDS" -- five years and 11,000 deaths after the virus was first identified in the United States. In "Outrage," Kirby Dick's new documentary on closeted politicians, the Reagan years get critical treatment, as well they should. The 1980s represent a high-water mark of hypocrisy when it comes to discrimination against gay men and women, in which politicians such as Larry

Craig -- who famously "bumped" feet with an undercover officer in a bathroom stall in 2007 -- are portrayed as both victim and perpetrator.

Two years ago, when Out magazine made the decision to launch its Power 50 list of the most influential gay men and women, our cover featured models holding up masks of Anderson Cooper and Jodie Foster above the words "The Glass Closet." The denunciations were loudest and swiftest from gays themselves. "Maybe Jodie Foster wants to be known as the woman who has had four Oscar nominations, rather than as a lesbian actress," said the editor of a rival gay glossy, as if those two things were mutually exclusive. Although nothing we said was new -- the Washington Blade, among others, had been there before us -- we were seen as having crossed a line.

Two years later, however, that line is yielding. This year's Power 50 list has just been published, and while it continues to include several men who take pains to present themselves as straight for mainstream audiences, the reaction to it has changed. Even the addition of blogger Matt Drudge elicited little more than an amused shrug. It's as if with the arrival of a new president -- the first to include gays and lesbians in his inaugural address -- we're finally bored with the whole pantomime of who is and who isn't gay.

And yet, not entirely. When movie critic Nathan Lee filed his review of "Outrage" for NPR recently, he was outraged in turn by the edited version, which removed names of political figures depicted in the movie, including, oddly, Sen. Larry Craig. NPR portrayed its decision as respect for the privacy of public figures, a standard response that highlights the distinction we continue to make between homosexuality, which the media only ever implies, and heterosexuality, which is always assumed. After all, only a culture that considers homosexuality somehow shameful would consider it prurient or slanderous to call someone gay.

Thirty years ago Harvey Milk challenged gay Americans to come out "and let that world know [for] it would do more to end prejudice overnight than anybody would imagine." Yet the closet still retains a dismal hold on Hollywood that contradicts "Milk" star Sean Penn's "You Commie, homo-loving sons of guns" Oscar speech this year. How many publicists and agents in the audience that night -- ones that I have dealt with -- are complicit in keeping that closet shut tight? Or have pitched me straight celebrities with the insulting caveat not to make them "look gay" (special mention for the publicist, who -- as we were putting her actor into a pair of pajamas for a photo shoot -- shrieked, "No sleepwear, not in a gay magazine!").

The continued existence of the closet needs to be challenged, not only by a new generation of Adam Lamberts but also by those still trapped inside. While it's legitimate to fear being pigeonholed by your sexuality, power is only partly about how others see us; it's also about how we see ourselves. Or, as actress Kelly McGillis remarked in a coming-out interview with Shewired earlier this month, "life is a freaking journey, and it's about growing and changing, and coming to terms with who and what you are."



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CALIFORNIA HIGH COURT UPHOLDS PROP. 8

By Maura Dolan
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The California Supreme Court's decision Tuesday to uphold Proposition 8 and existing same-sex marriages left in place all rights for California's gays and lesbians except access to the label "marriage," but it provided little protection from future ballot measures that could cost gays and other minorities more rights, lawyers and scholars said Tuesday, May 25.

In a 6-1 ruling, the court said the November ballot measure that restored a ban on same-sex marriage was a limited constitutional amendment, not a wholesale revision that would have required a two-thirds vote of the Legislature to be placed before voters.

The court was unanimous in deciding that an estimated 18,000 same-sex couples who married before the November election would continue to have their marriages recognized by the state.

Proposition 8 merely "carves out a narrow and limited exception" to the state constitutional protection gays and lesbians now receive, Chief Justice Ronald M. George wrote for the majority.

The court majority said same-sex couples would continue to have the right to choose life partners and enter into "committed, officially recognized and protected family relationships" that enjoy all the benefits of marriage under the state's domestic partnership law.

"Like opposite-sex couples, same-sex couples enjoy this protection not as a matter of legislative grace, but of constitutional right," George wrote.

UC Berkeley constitutional law professor Goodwin Liu said the ruling shows "the court continues to be very deferential to the processes of direct democracy in California."

In a separate, concurring opinion, Associate Justice Kathryn Mickle Werdegar noted some rights married couples have that domestic partners do not, and suggested that the state now has the duty "to eliminate the remaining important differences."

She agreed with the majority that Proposition 8 was not an illegal constitutional revision, but said the ruling's definition of revision was too inflexible.

Describing Proposition 8's "limited effect," the majority said that simply reserving the term "marriage" for opposite-sex couples "does not have a substantial, or, indeed, even a minimal effect on the governmental plan or framework of California that existed prior to the amendment."

In deciding that gay couples who married in California before the November election will remain married, the court said it would be unfair and might even invite chaos to nullify marriages those couples entered into lawfully.

Ending those marriages would be akin to "throwing property rights into disarray, destroying the legal interests and expectations of thousands of couples and their families, and potentially undermining the ability of citizens to plan their lives according to the law as it has been determined by the state's highest court," George wrote.

Portions of the majority ruling read as a lament over the ease with which the California Constitution can be amended.

The 136-page majority decision contained a lengthy history of the state Constitution and the ballot amendment process and distinguished California's amendment process from those of other states and the federal Constitution.

"If the process for amending the constitution is to be restricted," George wrote, "this is an effort that the people themselves may undertake."

It is neither impossible nor improper to limit how voters may change the Constitution, George wrote.

"We have no doubt that an express restriction could be fashioned that would limit the use of the initiative power in the manner proposed by petitioners -- but the California Constitution presently contains no limits of this nature," he said.

By stressing that only the term "marriage" was affected by the November election, the court seemed to signal that a broader ballot measure might not be upheld.

But the court's definition of what would be an impermissible constitutional revision was also narrow and left gay rights activists nervous and several legal scholars skeptical.

"It leaves us to the kindness of strangers," said Jon W. Davidson, legal director of Lambda Legal, a gay rights organization. "They could take away anything."

UC Davis law professor Vikram Amar agreed, saying the court defined an illegal revision as a measure that changes the structure of government, not one that takes away individual rights.

"It is hard to see how any repeal of any person's liberty or property would affect the structure of government" and be deemed an improper revision, Amar said.

Jesse Choper, a professor of constitutional law at UC Berkeley, said the court's ruling means that voters may take away individual rights "in a limited fashion" and that the scope of the measure will determine whether it is permissible.

"The court wasn't happy about this. Proposition 8 changed their opinion" last year that gave gays and lesbians marriage rights, he said. "The justices stood up and said, 'OK, people have the right to do so, and it is not a revision because it is limited in scope.'"

Justice Carlos R. Moreno dissented, calling the ruling "not just a defeat for same-sex couples, but for any minority group that seeks the protection of the equal protection clause of the California Constitution.

"The rule the majority crafts today not only allows same-sex couples to be stripped of the right to marry," Moreno wrote, "it places at risk the state constitutional rights of all disfavored minorities."

Gay rights advocates and several legal scholars said they were surprised that the court did not attempt to rein in constitutional amendments.

"For the court to see only structural changes as those requiring a greater majority is perhaps the worst feature of the opinion today," said Pepperdine University law professor Douglas W. Kmiec, who voted for Proposition 8 on religious grounds. "It makes it much too casual for individual rights to be withdrawn."

Andrew Pugno, a lawyer for the Proposition 8 campaign, said the court simply embraced what had been the law.

"Under this ruling, voters -- no matter what the hypothetical -- the voters can do anything they want with the state Constitution," Pugno said. If interracial marriage were not protected by the federal Constitution, voters could repeal it, he said.

During oral arguments in March, the court appeared to struggle over how to ensure that minority rights would not be

trampled while still upholding Proposition 8.

But instead of curbing the amendment process, the court gave "a blank check to the voters without any limiting principle enunciated," said Kate Kendell, head of the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

Shannon Price Minter, who helped argue the challenge for Kendell's group, said he doubted the ruling would have much influence outside California.

"It is such an internally contradictory ruling that I doubt it will be followed anywhere else," he said.

Ted Olson and David Boies, two prominent lawyers who had been on opposite sides in the Bush vs. Gore case, said they are coming together to challenge Proposition 8 in federal court. Gay rights lawyers have urged supporters to stay out of federal court, fearful of a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that could set the same-sex marriage movement back decades.

In addition to rejecting the gay rights groups' argument that Proposition 8 was an illegal revision, the court flatly discarded Atty. Gen. Jerry Brown's contention that the measure should be overturned because it took away an inalienable right.

"No authority supports the attorney general's claim," the court said.

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FOR GAY COUPLES, MARRIED MATTERS MOST SAY THEY FEEL MORE COMMITTED, ACCEPTED BY PEERS

By Stephen Smith, Globe Staff
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Five years after the first same-sex weddings in Massachusetts, gay and lesbian couples express deeply traditional reasons for deciding to wed and cite equally conventional benefits flowing from marriage, according to a study being released this week.

A significant majority of the 558 gay men and women surveyed said that since marrying, they feel more committed to their spouses, more accepted in their community, and more likely to be open about their sexual orientation at work.

The survey indicates that there is something universal about the legal protections and social advantages afforded by the institution of marriage, said the study's authors from the University of California, Los Angeles as well as independent researchers. And it suggests, they said, that a ritual once scorned even by many same-sex couples has the power to ease discrimination.

"This really helps us confirm and makes us understand why same-sex couples demand marriage - if it's just about the legal rights, why wouldn't they be happy with civil partnerships?" said Stephanie Coontz author of "Marriage, A History."

"They want access to that word that is so highly valued by our society and by other people.

"It is one thing not to invite your child's girlfriend or boyfriend to dinner," said Coontz, a professor at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Wash. "It is quite another thing not to invite the spouse."

Same-sex marriages began in Massachusetts on May 17, 2004, after the Supreme Judicial Court declared that gay and lesbian couples had the right to wed. The ruling ignited a political and social maelstrom in Massachusetts and beyond, but since then four other states - Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, and Vermont - have extended marriage rights to same-sex couples. Lawmakers in New Hampshire are currently debating whether to make their state the next to do so.

The study was prepared and paid for by UCLA's Williams Institute, which examines legal and public policy issues related to sexual orientation and is funded by foundations and individuals, including supporters of gay marriage.

The authors of the survey, which consisted of about 30 questions, said they regarded it as an initial assessment of gay marriage, largely designed to explore issues arising during public debate rather than to delve into more personal aspects of couples' relationships. For example, researchers asked whether respondents' children had faced taunting as a result of their parents' same-sex marriage - only 5 percent had - but did not ask how happily married partners were.

"We've been interested in the impact of marriage for a long time," said Lee Badgett, researcher director of the Williams Institute and senior author of the study. "I've been combing the universe for data, but there just aren't that many places to look

at same-sex couples who are literally married."

The marriage questions were included in a larger online health survey conducted this month by the state Department of Public Health. The agency found potential respondents through a database maintained by the gay rights group MassEquality, which includes donors as well as people identified as being in same-sex marriages, and invitations to participate were e-mailed. About 4 percent responded.

Those surveyed were not a randomly selected population - something that would have been far more costly and difficult to accomplish - so the findings are not representative of the more than 12,000 gay married couples in Massachusetts. But Coontz and a Wellesley College researcher, Michelle Porche, praised it as a robust, well-executed study.

Virtually all of the married men and women who responded - 93 percent - said "love and commitment" were the prime factors in their decision to wed.

Marriage appears to have forged stronger ties between spouses and their families and even colleagues on the job. When asked whether marriage had created a stronger bond with their partners, nearly three-quarters said it had. And families, the gay couples said, reacted with overwhelming acceptance of their marriage: 82 percent said their parents responded positively, while 91 percent indicated siblings were receptive.

Eight of 10 study participants said that being married made them more likely to disclose their sexual orientation to their coworkers and doctors.

"That suggests there's something powerful about that ritual, about that institution," Badgett said. "People feel more accepted by society."

Porche, a senior research scientist at the Wellesley Centers for Women, said the findings mirror those of a smaller, although more intensive, study she conducted by interviewing couples not long after gay marriage was legalized.

"Studies like these help us from afar to get to know people a little bit better," Porche said. "The more people who have reservations about gay marriage can really meet married same-sex couples and get to know them and their experience, the more they would be open to supporting" the right to marry.

Still, advocates on both sides of the gay marriage debate remain starkly divided in their beliefs.

Kris Mineau, a leader of the failed effort to place a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage on the ballot in Massachusetts, said he remained convinced that voters should have the final say on who has the right to marry. And, he said, he has not wavered.

"There's nothing in that poll that suggests to me any reason why marriage should be changed summarily to meet the personal desires of a small segment of the population," said Mineau, president of the Massachusetts Family Institute. "I see no reason to do this unless the entire population

agrees this is in the best interest of our society."

Scott Gortikov, executive director of MassEquality, said the study's findings suggest that the benefits of same-sex marriage extend beyond the couple.

"What the results are saying is that equal marriage makes for a healthier and happier family life and, necessarily, a healthier and happier and more solid society," Gortikov said.

Jonathan Scott and Mike McGuill had been a couple for a decade when, on Aug. 1, 2006, they awakened and headed to the Pilgrim Monument with their young son and two friends, who'd met them for breakfast. "I said, 'Before our scrambled eggs, we're going to get married, I hope that's OK with you,'" Scott recalled.

His mother, Scott said, was married five times, so he'd grown up with a well-honed skepticism. But as his relationship with McGuill deepened and they adopted their son, marriage appeared to provide indispensable legal protection to them as a couple and as parents, said Scott, who participated in the survey.

"And yet, what happened as we were getting married, it was an experience I'd never had before," said Scott, chief executive of Victory Programs, which helps substance abusers in Boston. "I was so moved at just being in the presence of someone I'd been with 10 years, talking about our love together and our commitment to each other."

At family gatherings, McGuill felt a keen sense of difference when he watched his married brothers and sisters - until that August morning three years ago.

"Now, I have what they have," said McGuill, a veterinarian. "I have a marriage. Getting married, there's nothing revolutionary about it - it's something you do with the person you love."

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A GLANCE AT THE PROUD HISTORY OF PRIDE

The month of June is traditionally known as Gay and Lesbian Pride Month. The last Sunday in June is celebrated as Gay Pride Day. On June 2, 2000, President Bill Clinton declared June "Gay & Lesbian Pride Month".

The month was chosen to remember a riot in 1969 at the Stonewall Inn in Manhattan that is thought to be the beginning of the gay liberation movement in the United States. This month is meant to recognize the impact Gay, Lesbian and Transgender individuals have had on the world. Gay and lesbian groups celebrate this special time with pride parades, picnics, parties, memorials for those lost from hate crimes as well as HIV and AIDS, and other group gathering events that attract thousands upon thousands of individuals.

Early on the morning of Saturday, 28 June 1969, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning persons rioted following a police raid on the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar that was heavily patronized by minorities including a high percentage of drag queens.

The Stonewall riots are generally considered to be the beginning of the modern gay rights movement, as it was the first time in modern history that a significant body of LGBT people resisted arrest. Given the population that frequented the establishment, a large percentage of the people who initially fought back were minorities.

On 28 June, 1970, the first anniversary of the riots, the Gay Liberation Front organized a march, coordinated by Conner Weir and Neil Briggs, from Greenwich Village to Central Park in New York City in commemoration of the Stonewall riots. On the same weekend gay activist groups on the West Coast of the United States held a march in Los Angeles and a march and 'Gay-in' in San Francisco.

One day earlier, on Saturday, June 27, 1970, Chicago Gay Liberation organized a march from Washington Square Park to the Water Tower at the intersection of Michigan and Chicago avenues, which was the route originally planned, and then many of the participants extemporaneously marched on to the Civic Center, now known as the Richard J. Daley Plaza. The date was chosen because the Stonewall events began on the last Saturday of June and because organizers wanted to reach the maximum number of Michigan Avenue shoppers. Subsequent Chicago parades have been held on the last Sunday of June, coinciding with the date of many similar parades elsewhere.

The first marches were both serious and fun, and served to inspire the widening activist movement; they were repeated in the following years, and more and more annual marches started up in other cities throughout the world. In New York and Atlanta the marches were called *Gay Liberation Marches*, and the day of celebration was called "Gay Liberation Day"; in San Francisco and Los Angeles they became known as 'Gay Freedom Marches' and the day was called "Gay Freedom Day". As more towns and cities began holding their own celebrations, these names spread.

In the 1980s there was a cultural shift in the gay movement. Activists of a less radical nature began taking over the march committees in different cities, and they dropped "Gay Liberation" and "Gay Freedom" from the names, replacing them with "Gay Pride."

"Gays and lesbians stood up for civil rights in Montgomery, Selma, in Albany, Ga. and St. Augustine, Fla., and many other campaigns of the Civil Rights Movement. Many of these courageous men and women were fighting for my freedom at a time when they could find few voices for their own, and I salute their contributions." - Coretta Scott King

LOUD AND PROUD:

Montana Pride Celebration to bring the flock to Kalispell

For the first time, The Montana Pride Celebration will be hosted by Kalispell this year.

The event, June 19 - 21, is a celebration that honors lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, intersex and questioning families, friends and allies.

Highlights of this year's celebration include the Saturday Night Extravaganza at the Red Lion Hotel. Including a drag show by the Imperial Sovereign Court of the State of Montana, concerts by Alicia Leafgreen, Julie Schurr and Cynova and dance music by Montana-favorite Butte America Music (BAM).

The annual Montana Pride Celebration is an event put on by the Montana Pride Network. A volunteer-run, non-profit, the organization raises funds for a number of grants and events across the state to honor the LGBTIQ Montanans and Two Spirit communities.

The Montana celebration weekend will kick off on Friday, June 19 at 8 p.m. at the Red Lion Hotel with the Welcome Shindig featuring music by BAM. Tickets are \$10 at the door, or can be pre-purchased at montanapride.org.

On Saturday, June 20, the day begins with a breakfast hosted by area churches at Courthouse Park at 8 a.m. Parade line-up begins at 9 a.m. at the Courthouse Park. The parade is open to all allies, friends, and members of the LGBTIQ community. The parade will begin promptly at 10 a.m., moving down Main Street and ending at Depot Park. At 11 a.m. at Depot Park, the Diversity Rally begins, featuring local and state officials and personalities.

At noon, the Festival in the Park begins. Located in Depot Park, the festival will include food and product vendors, exhibitors, artists and music. Musical acts include local talent, Anais Star, Cid Wolstein, Dillion Lindsay and more. The festival is free and open to all allies, friends, families and members of the LGBTIQ community. Vendor and exhibitor booths are still available. A beer garden will be open across Main Street at the Red Lion Hotel. Also

BE SMART, BE SAFE, BE PROUD!

Montana Pride Network has been advised that there will be protesters along the parade route. There have also been some anonymous postings of anti-gay activity during the celebration weekend.

MPN has been keeping the Kalispell Police Department, the Montana Human Rights Network and the ACLU of Montana up to date on this information. The Kalispell Police Department will have extra officers on duty during the celebration. The Kalispell Police Department is taking all information very seriously and has found no evidence of any real threats.

A safety workshop will be offered on Friday, June 19, at 9 p.m. at the Red Lion Hotel. The workshop will focus on how to handle yourself around protesters and staying safe during the celebration.

If you do come across protesters, do not engage them, simply ignore them. Debating with them does no good and only fuels them on, experts advise. When you are walking around Kalispell, make sure you go with a friend, there is always safety in numbers.

at the hotel, beginning at 1 p.m. in their meeting rooms, will be workshops designed for the LGBTIQ community. Workshop details are being finalized and more information will be available at montanapride.org, soon.

Doors open at 7:30 p.m. for the Saturday Night Extravaganza at the Red Lion Hotel. Featuring a drag show by the Imperial Sovereign Court of the State of Montana, concerts by Alicia Leafgreen, Julie Schurr and Cynova and dance music by Montana-favorite Butte America Music (BAM), tickets are \$20 at the door or can be pre-purchased at montanapride.org. All attendees are able to move between the drag show, concerts and dance as they choose.

The Imperial Sovereign Court of the State of Montana (ISCSM) is a human service organization dedicated to providing social networks, monetary assistance and entertainment to the entire state of Montana, but more specifically to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Allied communities at large. Their mission is to raise and donate funds to community service organizations and charities throughout the state of Montana. Their website, www.iscsm.org provides more information.

Alicia Leafgreen from Minneapolis, remembers the "Golden Age" of hip hop and she is taking it back to the roots of hip hop, retro style. As an old-school influenced hip hop emcee, she has gathered followers with her "old-school, new-style" hip hop, and retro linguistic flow. Her style is reminiscent of the golden days of the hip hop era, influenced by both East and West coast styles. Alicia sounds like an emcee rocketed forward in time from 1992 and tactfully preserved. (www.alicialeafgree.com)

Julie Schurr has 10 years of local performance experience in her home-bases of Michigan and Missouri. Since graduating from college in 2006, Julie has been touring full time, rapidly growing her fan base throughout the Southeastern U.S., with Pride Festivals, HCR, and NCLR fundraisers as highlights of her tour. (www.julieschurr.com)

The CYNova duo began as collaboration between CJ (Cynthia) Smith, Nora-Ellen Long, and Valerie Van Zyl. After Valerie's death in the summer of 2005, CJ and Nora-Ellen decided to continue on and kept the name in honor of Val. The group delivers poignant originals with dynamic harmonic arrangements and covers. (www.cynova.info)

The weekend wraps up Sunday morning with an 8:30 Farewell Breakfast at Depot Park. Worship services at various open and affirming churches in Kalispell, follow the breakfast.

For more information about these events, to become a sponsor, vendor, exhibitor, volunteer, or to be in the parade, go to www.montanapride.org or call (406) 756-0050.



MISSISSIPPI QUEEN

Missoula, June 18th 8pm Roxy Theatre

Kalispell, June 20th 12pm Fireside Room-RedLion

On June 18th from 7-10pm at The Roxy Theatre, *Mississippi Queen* will have its Missoula Premiere as a part of pride week festivities. Screening is at 8pm. The film is 63 minutes. The screening party will include live music by Mississippi Queen composer John Floridis and Jenn Adams whose music is also featured in the film. The cost is \$7 and will include appetizers and wine with a talkback following the screening. Proceeds will go to benefit PRIDE 2009. The film will then travel to Kalispell and screen as a part of the PRIDE celebration 12pm at the Red Lion Fireside room.

Mississippi Queen had its world premiere at Delta International Film Festival where it won the Best Documentary award. Since then it has gone on to win The Audience Award at Indie Grits Film Festival, show at Crossroads Film Festival, and will run again at Birmingham Shout! Film Festival.

Film Summary: *Mississippi Queen* charts a woman's mission to find much-needed answers. Paige Williams travels across the country and through the years, as she explores the distance between her upbringing and her current lifestyle. The south stands as the backdrop and her parents as the main characters.

Growing up a good Southern Baptist girl, Paige learned to love God first and then family. However, her senior year in high school would lead to a relationship with a girl, and all that would turn on its head. Over ten years later, she attempts

to find balance in her marriage and commitment to a woman, their newborn and the fact that her parents run Mississippi's only ex-gay ministry.

However, this story goes beyond just the Williams family. It is about the south, where there is a distinct queer culture that manages to thrive despite the religious fervor or, perhaps, because of it. Paige interviews gays who find no incongruity with going to church and loving the Lord and then those who feel they can't be a part of religion without being judged. She talks to former homosexuals who converted due to their commitment to Christ and the wish to no longer sin. She

also meets with the people who want to help them change. At the heart of the film, though, is the middle ground where Paige and her parents attempt to meet. They don't always get there, but the making of *Mississippi Queen* helps them get a little closer-- to God and each other.

Director/Producer Paige Williams completed her Masters of Arts in Fine Arts in and her MFA in Media Arts in 2006 from The University

of Montana. She currently resides in Missoula and runs her production company Porch Productions. She is working on two other documentaries with co-producer Matt Anderson (also of Missoula). *From Place to Place* follows the lives of 6 young adults from Missoula over the course of a year who have recently aged out of the foster care system and the problems they face. She recently returned from Haiti where she shot principal photography for *Bel Batay* (The Beautiful Struggle) a documentary that highlights the impacts of a sustainable reforestation project, HTRIP (Haiti Timber Re-Introduction Program), on the land and lives of Haitians living in the Mountains above the Artibonite River Valley.



JULIE SCHURR

Julie Schurr has 10 years of local performance experience in her home-bases of Michigan and Missouri. Since graduating from college in 2006, Julie has been touring full time, rapidly growing her fan base throughout the Southeastern U.S., with Pride Festivals, HCR, and NCLR fundraisers as highlights of her tour.

Growing up, Julie Schurr never heard music that might

have made life a little bit easier for a lesbian girl being raised in the strictly-proscribed constraints of a religiously conservative community and home. In fact, she wasn't supposed to be listening to music at all. She wasn't supposed to know what a lesbian was. Let alone BE one.

Thankfully, Julie Schurr survived her childhood and eventually escaped the holy land by running off to a hea-

then college for some higher education. Fully committed to exploring the new landscape as she worked her way through college, Julie encountered "lesbian music" for the first time. And after a while Julie realized that yes, the music she listened to in college finally used the right pronouns, but it still wasn't very reflective of her own life. Most of it was just a little too polished, a little too whitewashed, a little too -- nice. Ugh.

Julie has never been one to shy away from a challenge. If she couldn't find the lesbian musical equivalent of gritty street journalism nicely packaged on the music store shelves, she would have to create it herself. Julie Schurr bought a guitar, taught herself how to play it, and drew from a deep bag of creative writing tricks to wrestle twenty years' worth of memoir into critically-insightful yet personable sound-bites of song. With all the right pronouns, of course.

An original creation, Julie Schurr's fusion of musical styling and technique is all her own: Indierockbitchfolk. She's been showcasing it to her fans in St. Louis and Detroit, winning loyal converts. Now that she's finished her degree & produced a full-length album, she just can't imagine any other career path. So it's a good thing that album sales are steadily rising and venues keep opening their doors.

In 2007, track down Julie Schurr on the open road, touring the U.S. as she promotes her first album.

Julie Schurr will be playing as a part of the Saturday Extravaganza on Saturday, June 20 at 8:00pm



ALICIA LEAFGREEN



Do you remember the "Golden Age" of hip hop? Alicia Leafgreen from Minneapolis Minnesota does, and she is taking it back to the roots of hip hop, retro style. As an old school influenced hip hop emcee she has gathered followers with her "old school-new style" hip hop, and retro linguistic flow. Her style is reminiscent of the golden days of the hip hop era, influenced by both East and West

coast styles. Alicia sounds like an emcee who rocketed forward in time from 1992 and tactfully preserved.

Alicia Leafgreen also known as WLR (White Lesbian Rapper) is an American hip hop recording artist from the Midwest USA, emerging in Minneapolis/St. Paul MN.

Alicia is best known for her retro linguistic flow, complicated rhyme styles, double and triple entendre rhymes and club worthy message music.

EARLY CAREER

In 2005 Alicia began working with multi-platinum producer Matt "Doctor Fink", former keyboardist for Prince and The Revolution/NPG. The pair started working together on the "White Lesbian Rapper EP" in late 2005. Searching for a producer, and being a fate believing person, Alicia opened the phone book, closed her eyes and called the name her finger landed on which was Doctor Fink.

In the early portion for Alicia's career, seeking to find an identity as a performing artist, she began performing in a superhero mask under the name "White Lesbian Rapper". The name on occasion got shortened to "WLR" on printed show bills. Alicia performed only a handful of shows in the mask before losing the mask and changing the name back to her given name and original vision. The name was changed back just before the release of "The White Lesbian Rapper EP" in June of 2008. The cover art was not affected by this change as both names are reflected on the cover.

CURRENT PROJECTS

Currently Alicia and Doctor Fink are working on a full length LP to be released in late 2009 to early 2010. The full length LP features production by Alicia Leafgreen, Doctor Fink, Rick Flare, and platinum/gold producer David "D-Funk" Faulk who produced music with rapper Mystikal.

In February of 2009 Alicia's talents were discovered by hip hop legend Shock G of Digital Underground (know by alias Humpty Hump) the man responsible for launching the career of late rapper Tupac Shakur. Shock G was impressed by the playful nature of Alicia's lyrics and fierce delivery style. The two hit it off immediately which resulted in collaboration for Alicia's forthcoming full length LP. (title and release date TBA).

Alicia Leafgreen will be playing as a part of the Saturday Extravaganza on Saturday, June 20 at 8:00pm

THE FIERCE URGENCY OF WHENEVER

Guest opinion by Andrew Sullivan
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I lived through eight years of the Clintons and then eight years of Bush. Through it all, gay people were treated at the federal level like embarrassments or impediments. With Clinton, we were the means to raise money. With Bush, we were the means to leverage votes by exploiting bigotry. Obama seemed in the campaign to promise something else. I listened to him in the early days and found him sincere about ending discrimination by the government; and I came to respect, while vehemently disagreeing with, his position on federal civil unions. He seemed genuinely distressed that gay service members should be treated with contempt and persecution by their commander-in-chief, that gay couples should have to fight for basic human treatment - like entry to hospital rooms, or being able to stay in the same apartment as their late spouse, or forced into cruel separation by immigration laws that treat gay couples as threats, rather than assets, or if you had the temerity to survive HIV, being treated at the US border the way Jesse Helms always wanted people with HIV to be treated - like perverts and pariahs and threats.

It is quite something to have a government stamp in your passport, as I do, that will tell any immigration or police officer with a connection to a government database that I have HIV, that I am therefore a threat and can be arrested and detained and deported at the border if necessary. I'm a big boy with money and a robust self-esteem as an HIV-positive survivor; but I think of thousands of others far less powerful and wealthy than I am who are afraid to enter or leave the US because their HIV status renders them criminals. I think of how the US is the only developed country - and one of only a handful of undeveloped countries - that still tells the world that people with HIV are dangerous pariahs, who need policing at borders and deporting if discovered. And yet this is the current policy of the Obama administration on global HIV and AIDS.

And it's tedious to whine and jump up and down and complain when a wand isn't waved and everything is made right by the first candidate who really seemed to get it, who was even able to address black church congregations about homophobia. And obviously patience is necessary; and legislative work takes time; and there are real challenges on so many fronts, especially the economy and the legacy of war crimes and the permanently restive Iraqi and Afghan regions we are constantly in the process of liberating from themselves. No one expects a president to be grappling with all this early on, or, God help us, actually leading on civil rights. That's our job, not his.

But I have a sickeningly familiar feeling in my stomach, and the feeling deepens with every interaction with the Obama team on these issues. They want them to go away. They want us to go away.

Here we are, in the summer of 2009, with gay service members still being fired for the fact of their orientation. Here we are, with marriage rights spreading through the country and world and a president who cannot bring himself even to acknowledge these breakthroughs in

civil rights, and having no plan in any distant future to do anything about it at a federal level. Here I am, facing a looming deadline to be forced to leave my American husband for good, and relocate abroad because the HIV travel and immigration ban remains in force and I have slowly run out of options (unlike most non-Americans with HIV who have no options at all).

And what is Obama doing about any of these things? What is he even intending at some point to do about these things? So far as I can read the administration, the answer is: nada. We're firing Arab linguists? So sorry. We won't recognize in any way a tiny minority of legally married couples in several states because they're, ugh, gay? We had no idea. There's a ban on HIV-positive tourists and immigrants? Really? Thanks for letting us know. Would you like to join Joe Solmonese and John Berry for cocktails? The inside of the White House is fabulous these days.

Yesterday, Robert Gibbs gave non-answer after non-answer on civil unions and Obama's clear campaign pledge to grant equal federal rights for gay couples; non-answer after non-answer on the military's remaining ban on honest service members. What was once a categorical pledge is now - well let's call it the toilet paper that it is. I spent yesterday trying to get a better idea of what's intended on all fronts, and the overwhelming sense - apart from a terror of saying anything about gay people on the record - is that we are in the same spot as in every Democratic administration: the well-paid leaders of the established groups get jobs and invites, and that's about it. Worse: we will get a purely symbolic, practically useless hate crimes bill that they will then wave in our faces to prove they need do nothing more.

As for the HIV ban, legislatively lifted by overwhelming numbers of Republicans and Democrats almost a year ago, this is the state of play from an Obama HHS spokesman:

"The Department of Health and Human Services has submitted for OMB review a notice of proposed rule-making to implement this change."

Translation: we're doing the bare minimum to make us look no worse than Bush, but we have no real interest in this and are letting the bureaucracy handle it, and we guarantee nothing. On gay service members, the president is writing personal notes to those he has fired and intends to continue firing. Will he write some personal notes to the people with HIV he deports? Will he write personal notes to the gay spouses suddenly without a home or their late spouse's savings or forced by his administration to relocate abroad because he has no intention of actually fulfilling his promises?

I recall my old, now dead, friend Bob Hattoy, who toiled in the Clinton administration. He was going to write a memoir of working with people who thought of homosexual rights as wonderful things to say you support (especially if you're fund raising or at a Hollywood dinner party) but far, far too controversial to ever do anything about, let alone risk anything for. In the end, of course, the Clintons enacted a slew of brutally anti-gay measures - passing DOMA, doubling the rate of gay discharges from the military, signing the ban on HIV-positive tourists and immigrants - and expected standing ovations as pioneers of civil rights. The pathetic gay rights leaders gave it to them, so delighted were they to have their checks cashed. The proposed title of Bob's book was a summary of the priorities of the Clinton years:

"It's The Economy, Faggot!"

I have a feeling he died laughing. What else are you gonna do?

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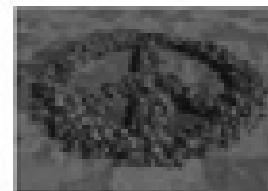
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Dear Friends,

This letter is written on behalf of Michelle Kulstad, who has endured an emotionally difficult and financially draining legal battle. Please take a moment to read about why Michelle and her children are deserving of your financial support.

A LONG LEGAL BATTLE

Michelle and her same-sex partner, Barbara Maniaci, ended their relationship in the fall of 2006. They had lived together, functioning as a family the same as married couples, for a period of eleven years. Two children came to live with them through adoption. Each child was one year of age when Barbara and Michelle began co-parenting them. The children are now 5 and 9.

Same-sex couples may not be recognized as married in Montana and Barbara and Michelle understood that because they were not legally married only one of them could become an adoptive parent. Michelle had a full-time job and Barbara was the one who adopted the children. When their relationship was already ending Michelle learned that she could become an adoptive “step-parent” with

Barbara’s consent. But Barbara, focused on her own wishes, refused to give her consent.

Michelle was forced to go to court so that she could continue her relationship with her children. Once Michelle took this step, Barbara began making one after another baseless and defamatory allegation against Michelle. She also began to assert that Michelle had been nothing more than a “roommate” who occasionally babysat her children. Barbara has engaged in numerous instances of conduct to terminate contact between Michelle and the children, including removing them from the State of Montana in breach of a court order. Barbara obtained legal representation from the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF), an anti-gay organization which espouses that gay and lesbian relationships are wrong and that only heterosexual couples should raise children. Barbara thereafter married a man whom she insists should substitute for Michelle as the children’s second parent.

In September of 2008, Honorable Ed McLean, by a 43-page decision, granted Michelle joint custody of the children on the

basis that she had provided for all of their needs and assumed all responsibilities of parenthood on a continuous basis, that Barbara had intended for Michelle to be a co-parent and had fostered a parent-child relationship between Michelle and the children, and that the children would suffer harm, likely permanent harm, if they could not continue their parent-child relationship with Michelle. The parenting evaluator determined that Barbara indoctrinated the children against Michelle, which was harmful to them, and that Michelle should have primary custody of the children if the indoctrination did not cease. The social workers who prepared the home studies for the adoptions testified that Barbara had described Michelle as a co-parent. The judge rejected Barbara’s “roommate” argument, finding that their relationship had been akin to a marriage. Moreover, the judge rejected suggestions made by ADF and their unqualified expert witnesses that the development of children raised by same-sex partners is adversely affected. He stated that “further discrimination against Michelle in this day and age is like telling her to go to the back of the bus based on her skin color.” The judge also found that Barbara had been unjustly enriched by assets Michelle contributed for her support and construction of a home and he awarded Michelle a share of the property titled in Barbara’s name.

Despite the judge’s decision, Barbara (with the assistance of ADF and her Missoula attorney, Linda St. Peter) continues her efforts to end the relationship between Michelle and the children, even though numerous professionals and the judge have stated that such conduct is harmful to the children.

Barbara filed an appeal of the judge’s decision. The Montana Supreme Court heard oral arguments on April 17, 2009. The questions from the Justices leaned in Michelle’s favor.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS CASE

Barbara and her attorneys have challenged the constitutionality of the “parental interest” statute upon which Michelle was awarded joint custody. This statute was enacted by the Montana Legislature in 1999, after it concluded that our law had failed to protect a child’s interest in maintaining a parent-child relationship developed with a person who is not a biological or an adoptive parent, and had failed to account for a child’s constitutional rights. The

outcome of this case is critical not just for Michelle’s children, but for all children in Montana.

Michelle and her attorneys hope this case will establish a precedent that the “parental interest” statute constitutionally allows a court to prevent a parent (biological or adoptive) from terminating a parent-child relationship that the parent allowed to develop between the parent’s child and another person when it is in the best interests of the child to continue that parent-child relationship.

Indirectly, this case may also establish a precedent that a parent’s sexual orientation is not to be considered in determining parental fitness or custodial rights.

WHY YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS REQUESTED

This case has been incredibly expensive because the law is unsettled regarding the “parental interest” statute, Montana has no law that applies specifically to division of property among domestic partners,

and Barbara and her attorneys have been extremely adversarial. Michelle has exhausted her financial resources. She owes approximately \$28,000 for guardian ad litem fees and other court-related expenses. Her attorneys have provided countless hours of pro bono legal services.

Your contribution of \$20 or more is requested to help pay off Michelle’s guardian ad litem and other court-related expenses. Please write a check to “Susan G. Ridgeway, PLLC, trust account” and mail it

to: Susan G. Ridgeway, PLLC, P.O. Box 8242, Missoula, MT 59807. If it is important for your contribution to be tax deductible, please make your check out to “MHRN Legal Defense Fund” and send it to Susan G. Ridgeway, PLLC, P.O. Box 8242, Missoula, MT 59807. Susan will forward your check to the Montana Human Rights Network and request that the funds be applied to Michelle’s case.

Thank you for helping to achieve justice for Michelle and her children and the many other children who stand to benefit from a favorable outcome in this case.

PROGRAM REACHES OUT TO MALE PROSTITUTES

By The Canadian Press

Used with permission

(Calgary, Alberta) Matthew Taylor is one of the lucky ones. After eight years selling his body on the streets of Vancouver, he was able to find the support he needed to get out of the sex trade and now he runs an outreach program for male prostitutes.

“I decided it was time to be found again. I’d gotten pretty lost. I got out because there were folks there willing to open doors for me when I had decided that I had enough,” says Taylor, who grew up in Ontario but moved to Vancouver in 1996.

Taylor, who is now 40, had been both a male escort and a cross-dressing transsexual worker, both on and off the street. Since then he has helped found HUSTLE: Men on the Move, which provides support for men involved in sex work in Vancouver.

His story is echoed in a new report entitled *Under the Radar: The Sexual Exploitation of Young Men*, which found that men in the sex trade often end up alone and without support.

The report’s author, Sue McIntyre, had previously conducted extensive research into the plight of female sex workers, but realized men had been largely forgotten.

“I’ve had a fair bit of guilt about it - that it was ignored for so long,” she says. “People don’t even see them, they don’t

notice them. Even when there are outreach programs in a lot of different cities that do work with this population, they’re usually geared more for working with young women in the trade.”

Taylor agrees that organizations and services see men as an afterthought. “I don’t think (people) can wrap their head around sex work and that men are vulnerable and can be exploited.”

McIntyre sought input from 157 male sex-trade workers in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba and concluded they have no exit strategy. Her report, which paints a bleak picture for men who work as sex-trade workers, suggests comprehensive changes.

For most of the sex-trade workers it is “survival sex” — having enough money for food, shelter, clothing and often to support addictions. Although many are gay, others are “gay for pay.” More than 99 per cent of their customers are men, and they work for an average of nine years — double the time of their female counterparts.

“Young women can birth a baby, have a desire to have a child and that brings back state and family support. Young men do not have that option... it’s not something people are celebrating,” says McIntyre.

Seventy-five per cent of respondents reported sexual abuse and 85 per cent were physically assaulted before they ran away from home. They reported feeling shame and self-loathing. Even social workers who work with sex-trade workers report being uncomfortable dealing with them.

“That was really alarming for me. There’s an underlying sort of

homophobia that goes with it,” says McIntyre.

Taylor says another reason why men are alone is that society has conditioned them to be strong and silent.

“Men are supposed to ... feel no pain, not show their weaknesses and have greater perceived physical strength,” says Taylor, who got into the sex trade at 31 because he wanted to belong. Addictions followed before he finally left three years ago.

In Alberta, efforts have been made to improve the plight of sexually exploited young men.

“If you look at the ratios of males-to-females that we provide support to, I think they’re equally as successful at exiting,” says Sarita Dighe-Bramwell, with Alberta Children and Youth Services.

“I think the difference is we don’t recognize enough of the males,” she says, adding that help is now being provided to more boys.

McIntyre’s report recommends specialized programs to help male prostitutes get out and says that should include detox and rehabilitation beds, housing and help finding other employment.

It also says there should be mentoring programs and adds that staff working with young men in the sexual exploitation trade should be provided with gender non-conformity training.

“People need to know that this population exists and stop ignoring it,” says McIntyre. I finally saw the light.

TO BE BLACK, INTELLECTUAL AND BUTCH

by Adrienne "Aj" Davis
Conference Co-Chair and Board Member
Used with permission

It took me a long time to decide what to say about being a black butch woman. A great deal has already been said, rivers of ink have flowed and countless electrons sent whizzing around the Internet, in the name of defining and illustrating what it is to be butch. However, there's an image of butchness that is rarely seen or even recognized: what of the butch intellectual?

The TV host, Rachel Maddow, is really the first acknowledged butch intellectual I've ever seen. Leslie Feinberg, whatever other appellations might crown her in glory, isn't referred to as an intellectual. Butches are known to be many things, we all carry an image of a butch in all her glory but amongst those images, I'd wager that very few of them are of a woman sitting at a desk eagerly figuring out some arcane of Linux or Apple Script or lying on a couch, some copious tome on evolutionary biology or string theory in her hands. Yet, we do exist. I know we do because I am one.

(A quick note on pronouns, I am a woman-identified butch and so will use the pronouns I feel comfortable with, these should not be taken as any commentary on how others identify)

I am black, I am butch, and I am an intellectual. I use that term in the classical sense of one who lives for the life of the mind and for ideas. I am happiest when I am either reading something that makes my brain hurt or engaging in a fast-paced discussion about politics or some arcane subject. It took me a long time, over a decade, to become truly comfortable with this fact about myself. In part this is because there were (and still are) precious few depictions of butch intellectuals in lesbian literature or film. We work with our hands, we shower after work, we have callouses and steel-toe boots. What we don't have are jobs where we sit and do mental work all day. For some odd reason that is supposed to be the province of femmes. Yet, here I sit, at a desk where I don't ever touch anything other than my keyboard and mouse. My tools are all electronic. The muscles I use are mostly in my head and hands. That I am a black butch means that I am even more of a strange attractor.

Regardless of what we might think of it, much of being 'butch' gets framed within the context of embracing masculinity. Unfortunately for some of us, this embrace comes along with the baggage 'real men' aren't thinkers. For whatever reasons, we have internalized the idea that to be a 'real butch' means that one is a body-person not a head-person. Yet, here is something we embrace for no good reason that I see. Since we butches already transgress gender rules, we have purchased the freedom to embrace or reject whatever typical gender traits we wish. Why, then, should we reject one of the more pernicious myths of masculinity—namely that to be strong is to be a doer not a thinker.

Now, some of this is obviously class-based and, of course, class is a mind-field at least as fraught with peril as race. I am not working-class nor do I come from a working-class background. The times I have been poor in my life, it has been because of youth or bad decision making not because it was the way I grew up. The image of butchness that most lesbians would recognize as such is working-class.

One could make a fair argument that being an intellectual or an academic is a luxury for the middle-class and that's okay as far as it goes. However, the truth of the statement does not change, in any substantive way, that middle-class butches do exist. We are doctors, professors, lawyers, accountants, etc. I cannot make an even half-decent approximation of a working-class butch and I would not insult my sisters and brothers who genuinely are from the working-class by trying to appropriate something that does not belong to me.

This leaves me with the task of being my own role model, carving out my own space. That task can be difficult and frustrating at times but I have also experienced it as liberating. The frustration has come from the friction of other lesbians expectations of me as a black butch and my own; I am not supposed to be from where I am from, not supposed to love the things I do nor am I supposed to aspire to be a black, butch, Carl Sagan. Yet, here I am, with a background that I not only cannot change but wouldn't change. Here I stand, wanting to fill the void left when Sagan shuffled off this mortal coil.

In writing this, I am reminded of Sojourner Truth's speech "Ain't I a woman?" In closing, and with apologies to the sister's memory, my question isn't am I a woman. Bathroom incidents notwithstanding that question is settled. Rather, the question is 'ain't I a butch?'

Ain't I a butch? I can get out there and work with the best of them. Work myself until my bones hurt. Yet, in my work-a-day life all of my heavy lifting is done with my brain. My hands are for typing or gesturing or fidgeting while I digest the contours of whatever knotty problem I am hacking on. Ain't I a butch?

I can put on my butch cock and give my lady exactly what she needs to sing for me. Yet, I don't identify as a guy, a Daddy, or a fella. Ain't I a butch?

My cycle is pedal powered, not motorized. Ain't I a butch?

You're more likely to find me in the library than on the softball field. Ain't I a butch?

I cry whenever I see The Color Purple and it gets to the point where Shug reconciles with her father. I weep during that scene. Ain't I a butch?

I live for the life of the mind. Ain't I a butch?

I'm as comfortable in a Brooks Brothers suit as I am in jeans and a tee-shirt. Ain't I a butch?

HOW, AND WHY, TO BE OUT TO YOUR DOCTOR

Originally written by Stephen Kelly
Used with permission

If you live in a large, gay-friendly city like San Francisco or New York, you're likely to run into -- and be out to -- "family" wherever you go, including doctors, dentists and health care providers.

But in the rest of the world -- from suburbs to small towns, from people working in unfriendly jobs to people living in oppressive countries -- gay men and women around the world don't reveal their sexual orientation to their doctors.

Many gay people, especially those in smaller, less accepting cities, worry that coming out will subject them to discrimination or inadequate care by doctors who are either homophobic or inexperienced in treating the unique health concerns of the gay community.

Other reasons gay men and women avoid doctors like the plague are:

The fear of talking about sex prevents many from being candid.

Lack of health insurance -- many gay people are self-employed and can't find affordable health care.

Real or perceived homophobia among doctors.

Worry that doctor-patient confidentiality will be breached.

Fear of hearing the truth about their medical conditions.

Past negative medical experiences keep many LGBT people from seeing a doctor until something is obviously wrong. By then, cancer or other illnesses that could have been detected and treated earlier instead get diagnosed in their later stages, greatly reducing the chances of survival.

So by staying in the medical closet, many gay men and women put themselves at even greater health risk -- including missed opportunities for early disease detection or misdiagnosis by doctors who don't have the lowdown on a patient's orientation. If doctors are to fully treat your health needs, they'll need to know your lifestyle, warts and all.

Being gay can open doors to a host of health concerns beyond AIDS, HIV, STDs and the depression and suicide that often go along with those conditions. According to the American Cancer Society, gay men are at higher risk of contracting prostate, skin and colon cancer.

A chief killer in the LGBT community is lung cancer. A recent study shows that 36 percent of gay men and women smoke, as opposed to 25 percent of all adults. 30,000 gay men and women die from lung cancer each year, according to the ACS.

With the landscape littered with all of these potential health landmines, it's easy to see the importance of getting yourself to the doctor's office regularly, and of full disclosure once you're there. But there are ways to keep the doctor experience from being so fearful.

The easiest solution is to find a gay or gay-friendly doctor. This is easier in bigger cities, where the majority of doctors practicing in or near large gay neighborhoods (such as West Hollywood or the Castro in San Francisco) will not only be gay-friendly, but also well-versed in treating the myriad of gay health issues.

In smaller, more rural settings, gay medical practitioners are often harder to find. Your best resource here will be a referral

BULLETIN BOARD

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WALK TO SUPPORT SUICIDE PREVENTION PLANNED FOR SEPT. 12

An event to support suicide prevention, survivor support, depression and mood disorder research is set for Saturday, Sept. 12 at the UM Oval in Missoula.

"Out of the Darkness Community Walk" is a team-based walk, similar to the heart walk and others, where people form teams and individually raise money to support research for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

Montana leads the nation in suicide rates, with the

LGBTIQ population being hit particularly hard. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for Montana youth, ages 15-24. In fact, every two weeks, a Montana youth commits suicide. From the Missoulian: "After a decade of decline, the suicide rate for girls ages 10 to 14 spiked by 76 percent in 2004, and their method of choice changed from firearms to suffocation and hanging, federal officials said."

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth are up to four times more likely to attempt suicide than their heterosexual peers, according to the Massachusetts 2006 Youth Risk Survey. A 2007 San Francisco State University Chavez Center Institute study shows that LGBT and questioning youth who come from a rejecting family are up to nine times more likely to attempt suicide than their heterosexual peers. And for every completed suicide

by a young person, it is estimated that 100 to 200 attempts are made (2003 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey).

Kira Fernandez, one of the event's organizers, is driven by personal reasons. "I will be walking as a member of Team Kolby & Co. in honor of my best friend Kolby that I lost last August," she said.

Those interested in learning more about the walk, or who want to form a team, should go to the website www.outofthedarkness.org for more information. Fernandez also said there is a need for organizations to sponsor walking teams and individuals who would like to help organize the event. She can be reached at (858) 603-5782 or by email: kirafernandez@ymail.com.

Out of the
DARKNESS
COMMUNITY WALKS
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention



American Foundation
for Suicide Prevention

NATIONAL 2006 ACTUAL SUICIDES

1.3% of all deaths are from suicide.

On average, one suicide occurs every 16 minutes.

Suicide is the eleventh leading cause of death for all Americans.

Suicide is the third leading cause of death for young people aged 15-24 year olds. (1st = accidents, 2nd = homicide)

Suicide is the second leading cause of death for 25-34 year olds.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death among college students.

More males die from suicide than females. (4 male deaths by suicide for each female death by suicide.)

More people die from suicide than from homicide. (Suicide ranks as the 11th leading cause of death; Homicide ranks 13th.)

There were over 800,000 suicide attempts in 2005

SEEKING BOARD MEMBERS

The Western Montana Community Center is looking for hard working motivated individuals to serve on the board. If you are interested in being a part of this wonderful organization and serving your community please contact any of the current board members (contact information can be found on page 2) or call The Center at 406-543-2224.

We look forward to hearing from you!

CALL FOR ARTISTS, PHOTOGRAPHERS

Out Words is looking for cover art for upcoming issues. If you are an artist or photographer and would like to see your work featured on the cover of Montana's LGBTIQ newspaper, contact Editor, ken.spencer@gaymontana.org.

We're looking for topical work, reflecting the diversity and beauty of the Big Sky State and her LGBTIQ community.

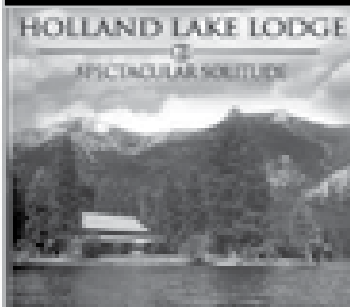
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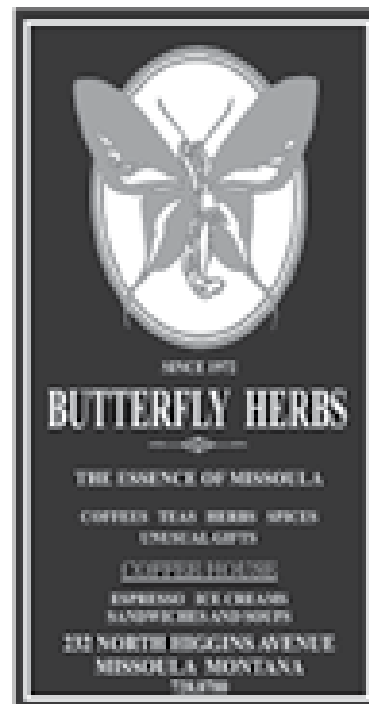
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KISMIF

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 The Center, 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

Missoula PFLAG

seeking board members and volunteers! If interested please contact at pflagmissoula@gmail.com or 406-240-2881.

Officer Nicole Pifari

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

Outfield Alliance

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

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

Bozeman GLBTIQ Resource Center

www.BozemanRC.org, 406-600-3608,
info@BozemanRC.org

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

Flathead Valley Alliance

www.flatheadvalleyalliance.org • 406-758-6707

Gallatin Valley Human Rights Task Force

www.EmbraceDiversity.org

Hamilton PFLAG

Monthly Chapter Meetings. Every 4th Thursday @ 7 P.M. Contact Terry at 406-363-7656 for more information.

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

HIV Positive Support Group - Helena

Meets monthly-Call Greg at 596-2013 for more info

LGBT - Friendly AA Bozeman

406-599-3230

LGBT State-wide Events

www.qnewsmontana.com

Lewis & Clark AIDS Project

530 S. Harris • Helena • 406-447-6030

MCC Montana

Great Falls • montanaboard@bresnan.net

Metropolitan Community Church

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

Montana Department of Public Health & Human Services

www.dphhs.state.mt.us/hpsd

Montana Targeted Prevention

Free and anonymous 20 min rapid HIV testing and free Hepatitis C testing. www.bozemanrc.org/mtap.html for sites around state.

Open Hands Foundation - Great Falls

www.openhandsfoundation.org • 406-868-8382

PFLAG Great Falls/Golden Triangle

Meets on the 3rd Tue. of each month at the MCC Church located at 1220 17th St. So. (406) 868-1064.

QSA - MSU

www.qsamsu.com • 406-994-4636

Seeker's Harbor Faith Community

Billings
www.seekersharbor.org • 406-661-1584

S.H.O.U.T AIDS (Students Helping Others Understand Teen Aids)

meets every Thursday in BILLINGS at the yap office at 4pm ages 15-24. Any questions contact Dustin (406)-591-0169

Tri - State HELP Eastern Region

Becky Taylor • beckyt@yapmt.org

Tri - State HELP Western Region

Short-term and long-term housing assistance is available for HIV+ individuals living in Western MT. Call Annette at 543-4775 for more information.

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

AEGIS: AIDS Education Global Information Systems

www.endAIDSnow.org

Gay Men's Health Crisis

www.gmhc.org

Human Rights Campaign

www.hrc.org

Out Spokane

www.outspokane.com

Pacific Northwest Gay Rodeo Association

www.pacificnwgra.org

Pride Foundation

www.pridefoundation.org

Queer Core

www.queercore.org

Stonewall News Northwest

www.stonewallnews.net

Wyoming Rural AIDS Prevention Project

www.wrapp.net

Do you have LGBTI resources you want listed? Email us by the 20th of each month for the next issue!

Serving the
LGBTIQ
Community
Since 1998

The Center
Western
Montana
Community

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.

Recurring Events Around Montana

Center Board Meeting, 3rd Wednesday,
7 p.m. at the Center [Missoula]

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

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

PFLAG Missoula / Five Valleys meeting, 3rd 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, 3rd Tuesday of every month, 6:30 p.m. at the University
Congregational Church, call Mike or Annette at
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]

Capitol City Gay Men meet every Thursday at 7pm. Location: 80 East Lawrence
Street, Room 105, Helena MT 59601. For more information visit www.capitalcitygaymen.org [Helena]

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]

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@drjudyshmidt.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 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 - 7 p.m., every first, third, and fifth Thursday at International
Coffee Traders, 720 S 10th Ave. [Bozeman]

The Bozeman Resource Center bi-weekly meetings. At International Coffee
Traders, 720 S 10th Ave, the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. Contact John at 600-
3608 or at info@bozemanrc.org [Bozeman]

Bozeman PFLAG Meeting 2nd Thursday of the month. Check out: bozemanpflag.com
for more information. [Bozeman]

Bozeman HIV/AIDS Support Group meets the 1st Monday of each month. Call
Greg at 406-596-2013 for time and location. [Bozeman]

Poz Affected Pot Luck occurs on the 3rd Sunday of each month in
BOZEMAN. Contact AIDS Outreach at 406-551-1016 for details. [Bozeman]

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

Pride Committee meeting every Sunday - Call Dee or DJ at 756-0050 for time and
location - volunteers needed [Kalispell]

JUNE:

Saturday, June 6th: COEUR D'ALENE EMCC annual
PRIDE cruise on Lake Coeur d'Alene 2:00 to 4:00
PM. 20 the day of the cruise. You can get tickets using
PayPal from the EMCC website at www.emccspokane.org,
email way2qt_99@yahoo.com, or call (509) 294-
1831. You must be 21 or older.

Saturday, June 6th: BILLINGS Yellowstone AIDS
Project is hosting a one day retreat for gay/bisexual
men. The retreat will be held at the Mansfield Health
Education Center in Billings from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00
p.m. We will have a variety of speakers, great food, and
incentives. Check out www.myspace.com/msmretreat
for more details or call YAP at 406-245-2029.

Friday, June 12th: MISSOULA Missoula Men's
Chorus Spring Concert "Spring Mix" at 7:30pm in the
Music Recital Hall at The University of Montana. The
concert is a benefit for the Poverello Center. Tickets
are \$10 and can be purchased from any chorus
member and at Morgenroth Music Center.

Sunday, June 14th: KALISPELL Bowling @ the Pin
& Que

Wednesday, June 17th - 18th: MISSOULA 3rd
Annual "Infected! Now What?" Conference

Friday, June 19th - 21st: KALISPELL Montana PRIDE!

Friday, June 19th: KALISPELL Drag Show @ the Red
Lion. 7 PM

Saturday, June 20th: KALISPELL Montana PRIDE
parade down main street 10 AM. Live music, food
and fun in Depot Park at noon. Pride dance and
entertainment at 7 PM at the Red Lion.

Sunday, June 21st: KALISPELL Breakfast and
goodbyes at Flathead Valley United Church of Christ.
9 AM.

Friday, June 26th - 29th: EMERALD LAKE Out
Under The Big Sky 5th annual camping trip!
Email outunderthebigsky@yahoo.com for more
info or check out [http://www.myspace.com/
outunderthebigsky](http://www.myspace.com/outunderthebigsky).

Saturday, June 27th: KALISPELL FVA dance @ 8 PM
Red Lion Fireside Room

Saturday, June 27th: NATIONWIDE National HIV
Testing Day. Know your status!

JULY:

Friday, July 17th - 20th: GREENOUGH Montana Two
Spirit Gathering. For LGBTI native persons and their
family and partners. Visit www.mtgayhealth.org/spirit
for more info or email fdh@mtgayhealth.org or call
406-829-8075.

AUGUST:

Saturday, August 1st - 2nd: HELENA (area) The I-15
Corridor Retreat or IC'R. A retreat for gay/bisexual/
questioning men that have not attended a retreat in
the last 4 years and that live within 50 miles of I-15.
Email Jayce at JCOX@co.lewis-clark.mt.us or call 406-
461-1001.

Saturday, August 8th: BILLINGS Yellowstone AIDS
Project is hosting a one day retreat for gay/bisexual
men. The retreat will be held at the Mansfield Health
Education Center in Billings from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00
p.m. We will have a variety of speakers, great food, and
incentives. Check out www.myspace.com/msmretreat
for more details or call YAP at 406-245-2029.

Friday, August 21st - 23rd: RED LODGE Gay
Summer Camp. A retreat for gay/bisexual men
living in Montana. For more information visit www.mtgayhealth.org/camp,
email fdh@mtgayhealth.org or
call 406-829-8075 to register.

ADVERTISE IN OUT WORDS!

**"Gays and lesbians are fiercely loyal customers to brands they perceive as reaching out
them..."**

—Howard Buford, president and CEO of Prime Access

**"Gays and lesbians have many similarities to straight people, with one pronounced difference:
they're more powerful consumers..."** —Kebyn Aiken, Vice President of Marketing, Media Sales at PlanetOut

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2009 Montana Pride Celebration

Kalispell • June 19-21

Going to the Sun

Friday, June 19

Welcome Party

Saturday, June 20

Welcome Breakfast

Sunday, June 21

Goodbye Breakfast

Parade

Diversity Rally

Festival in the Park

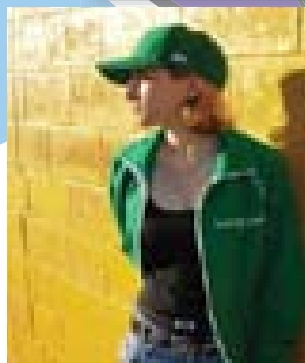
Workshops

Saturday Night Extravaganza

Dance



I.S.C.S.M.



Alicia Leafgreen



Julie Schurr



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Find complete event information, purchase event tickets, buy t-shirts, find hotel specials, and much more at...

www.montanapride.org



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