

SEATTLE GAY NEWS

50TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

Celebrating a decade of serving the gay community...



50 years

1974

2024

Celebrating 50 years of the SGNWS
We Won!
An Exhibition

SGN's 2024 General Election endorsements
Sec. 2 cover

Seattle Queer Film Festival returns
Sec. 2 pg. 12

Queer nightlife goes "boo-jee!"
Sec 2, pg. 9

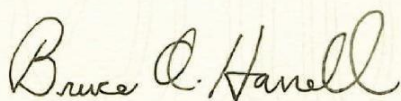
Attempted Raid - Cops Bust Two At Tubs

PROCLAMATION

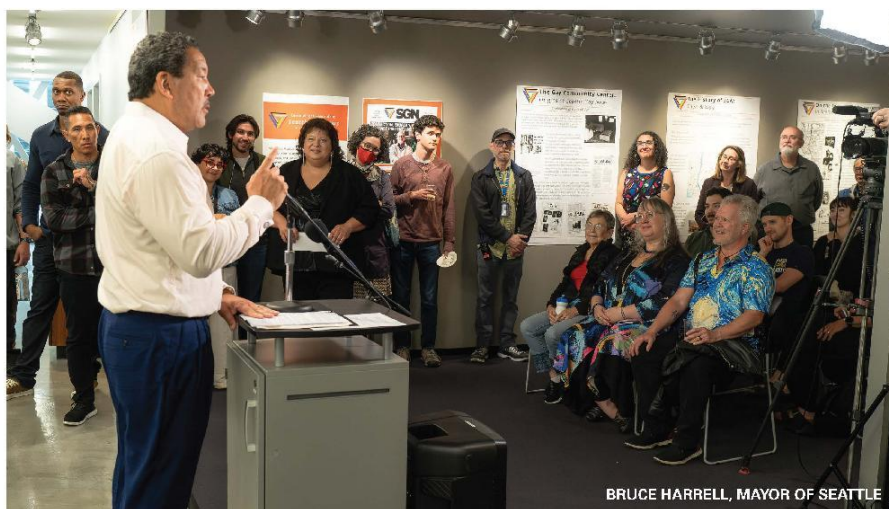
- WHEREAS, the City of Seattle is strengthened by the rich diversity of our communities – acknowledging the significant contributions made by individuals and organizations toward the advancement of equality and justice; and
- WHEREAS, Seattle Gay News has served as a vital voice for the LGBTQ+ community since its founding in 1974 – providing news, advocacy, and a platform for dialogue on issues affecting LGBTQ+ individuals through both the triumphs and adversity, including the AIDS epidemic, the founding of Seattle Pride celebrations, and the recognition of marriage equality; and
- WHEREAS, serving an instrumental role in chronicling the history of the LGBTQ+ community in Seattle and beyond, Seattle Gay News has created one of the largest archives of its kind – with complete sets available at institutions such as the University of Washington, Yale University, and the Stonewall Museum; and
- WHEREAS, George Bakan served as publisher and editor of Seattle Gay News from 1982 until his passing in 2020 – ensuring that the stories and experiences of LGBTQ+ individuals were heard, respected, and valued; and
- WHEREAS, the University of Washington has created an exhibit of Seattle Gay News’s history currently on display at the Seattle Central Library from June 24 to August 26; and
- WHEREAS, during Pride Month – and every month – the City of Seattle stands with the LGBTQ+ community in celebration of the progress we have made in the fight for justice, inclusion, and equity while reaffirming our commitment to support LGBTQ+ rights; and
- WHEREAS, Seattle Gay News has built a legacy advancing the importance of free press and the power of storytelling in the fight for equality – exemplifying the very values of our One Seattle vision’s commitment to inclusivity, understanding, and support for the LGBTQ+ community; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Seattle recognizes the 50th anniversary of Seattle Gay News – celebrating its enduring presence and vast contributions that have and continue to build a city that all neighbors and residents can be proud of.

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRUCE A. HARRELL, MAYOR OF SEATTLE, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM
JUNE 27, 2024 TO BE*

SEATTLE GAY NEWS DAY



Mayor Bruce A. Harrell
City of Seattle



BRUCE HARRELL, MAYOR OF SEATTLE



(LEFT) BRUCE HARRELL, MAYOR OF SEATTLE,
AND, (RIGHT) RENEE RAKETTY, PUBLISHER OF SGN



Celebrating 50 years of the SGN

Mayor Harrell proclaims June 27 "Seattle Gay News Day"

BY KYLIN BROWN

LONGTIME SGN STAFFER RICK MCKINNON AT THE SEATTLE CENTRAL LIBRARY SGN EXHIBIT
ALL PHOTOS BY NATE GOWDY

On June 27, dozens of members of the SGN community, including writers from throughout the paper's history, gathered at the opening reception of the exhibit "Seattle Gay News Celebrates 50 Years!" Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell spoke about the paper's rich and impactful history for the region's LGBTQ+ community over the last five decades, and declared June 27, 2024, "Seattle Gay News Day".

The exhibit, which includes larger-than-life displays of archived SGN pages covering historic and often-overlooked LGBTQ+ news and events, was created by the University of Washington Libraries and originally displayed at Allen Library in March 2024. Highlights include coverage of the AIDS crisis, including memorials and obituaries; the fight for marriage equality and other civil rights; and the digital preservation of SGN archives.

The SGN now stands as one of the longest-running LGBTQ+ newspapers in the world. While ever-evolving, a constant lifeline of care and maintenance has been its beating heart, including long-time reporter and now owner and publisher Renee Raketty.

"Seattle Gay News Celebrates 50 Years!" was a free and open to the public exhibit on display in the eighth floor gallery of the Seattle Central Library from June 24, 2024, through September, 22, 2024.



GROUP PHOTO OF SGN CURRENT AND FORMER STAFF



TOM RASMUSSEN, FORMER SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL MEMBER



JESSICA ALBANO, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON LIBRARIES, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS, MAPS, MICROFORMS & NEWSPAPERS



EMILY GRAYSON, SEATTLE PUBLIC LIBRARY, HUMANITIES LIBRARIAN



Celebrating 50 Years of the
Seattle Gay News

June 24 through September 22, 2024

"Our history helps us understand our past and brings context to our present...Our history helps shape our identity, both collectively and individually. A lot of us lived through the history printed on these pages of SGN. Our history honors those who are with us and those who came before us. We have a long way to go for equality but even so, we stand on the shoulders of a lot of others who sacrificed for many of the gains and freedoms we have. To me, observing our history honors their journey."

Mike Schultz, SGN Owner through June 2024

King 5 News, November 27, 2023

Exhibit Curators: Alisa MacDonald, Jessica Albano, Norah Murphy, Sam Stringer, & Sydney Nguyen



Special thanks to UW Libraries staff: Benny, Cass, Marc-Albert, Theresa, & Sandy
Special thanks to our partners at *Seattle Gay News* (past and present), Seattle Public Library, Washington State Library, Seattle Municipal Archives, and MOHAI.

For questions about this exhibit, please contact Jessica Albano, jalbano@uw.edu



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF THE SEATTLE GAY NEWS EXHIBIT AT UW ALLEN LIBRARY IN MARCH 2024. ALL PHOTOS BY RICHARD ISAAC

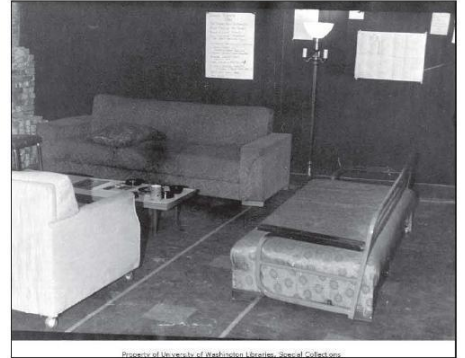




The Gay Community Center: Origins of *Seattle Gay News*

Celebrating 50 Years of SGN

The first version of Seattle's Gay Community Center (GCC), conceptualized as a space where local gay people could gather outside of bars or clubs, was established in Pioneer Square in 1971. This location was forced to close due to rising rents in 1972. In 1974, the GCC re-emerged on 16th Ave in the Capitol Hill neighborhood, which was (and still is) the center of Seattle's LGBTQ+ community.



The living room of the Gay Community Center at their original Pioneer Square location on Cherry Street.



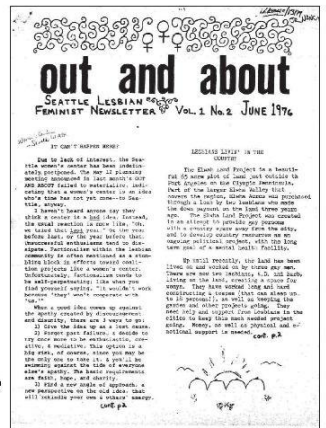
A flyer included in the April 1976 issue of the *Seattle Gay News* asks readers for support in rebuilding the Gay Community Center.

This location burned down in an act of arson in spring 1976; the fire was the second set to the building in two weeks.

The GCC moved to a new Capitol Hill location and remained in this neighborhood until 1980, when the Center moved to the South Lake Union neighborhood before closing in 1981.

The GCC supported many community efforts including publications, one of which became the *Seattle Gay News*. *SGN* began its life in 1974 under the title *News*. This was not the Center's only publication: *Out and About*, a feminist newsletter published by and for the Seattle lesbian community, was headquartered at the GCC beginning in 1976.

The *News* was edited by Jim Tully, who remained the editor as the publication developed into a journalistic pamphlet titled *Seattle Gay News* in 1976, before becoming a tabloid-style newspaper in 1977. The paper was published by the Gay Community Center until 1979, at which point tensions between the GCC board and the paper's editors led to an acrimonious split. A new *GCC newsletter* emerged in the aftermath, and in a long article early in its run, the publication took SGN to task for claims of misogyny.



University Libraries, Special Collections holds issues of *Out and About* spanning 1976 through 1984.





The History of SGN: Then & Now

Celebrating 50 Years of SGN

Originally part of the Gay Community Center (GCC), SGN has moved to various locations throughout Seattle since it was founded in 1973. Here is a brief history of the many places SGN has been and where it is today.

1977: 110 Boylston Ave E

The Gay Community Center moved here after an arson attack in spring 1976 forced them to relocate.

2020: 509 10th Ave E

SGN currently resides here.

1974: 1725 16th Ave

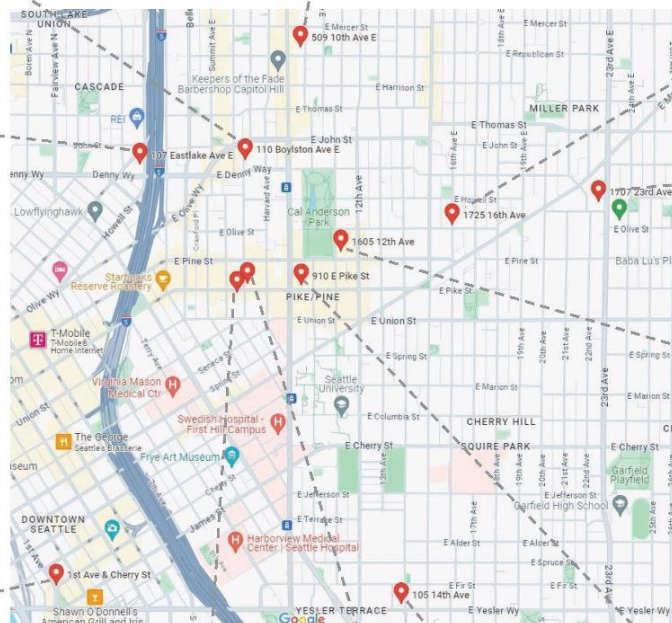
SGN was published by the Gay Community Center, which was located here between 1974 and spring 1976, at which point it was burned down by an arsonist.

1979: 107 Eastlake Ave E

SGN departs from the Gay Community Center and move with other LGBTQ+ organizations to a new location.

Aug. 2015: 1707 23rd Ave

1993: 1605 12th Ave



1971-1972: Cherry St. & 1st Ave

The first official Gay Community Center opens in Pioneer Square. When rent became too expensive, the center was forced to move. Today, the former center is home to the underground history tour Beneath the Streets (right).

June 1981: 621 E Pike St.

1985: 704 E Pike St.

Apr. 1982: 910A E Pike St.



May 1977: 105 14th Ave

This building is now the Urban League Building of Metropolitan Seattle (above)



Early Controversies in the Editorial Pages

Celebrating 50 Years of SGN



In the early days of *SGN*, the paper was coming into its own as an independent voice in the gay community, and not without some controversy, much of which was well-represented within its editorial pages.

In the July 3, 1980 issue, following Seattle's pride celebration and rally, the paper ran a staff editorial and two columns about the event. The editorial discussed inter-community disagreement about anti-capitalism and socialism and disavowed the anti-capitalist sentiments on display at the rally. The authors of the "Speaking Out" columns discussed the way they felt women politicized the event and criticized the male attendees.



These articles, which were misogynistic in tone, received serious pushback from the wider queer community; several heated letters to the editor were published in the following week's issue. This tension came just a year after the paper established itself as independent of the Gay Community Center. (The GCC's new newsletter took *SGN* to task for misogyny in a September 1980 issue, after community discontent mounted.)

A letter to the editor published in the July 1, 1983 issue of *SGN* (right) represents much of the criticism the paper weathered in its early days. As the main

SGN should 'get it together'

Editor:

Don't you realize that as one of the principal gay newspapers in Seattle—the only one now so readily available—and accessible to the general public... that you do have a responsibility to the gay community. You as a media, project an image to the public, be it on the page or straight, from Seattle or visiting from another state.

Your paper, and the image you project, can help us or hurt us by what you show in pictures or articles in words about "what gays are all about".

The last few issues of your paper, I believe, have only served to hurt what is

that the gay community as a whole is trying to build—that we are human beings who can think and behave intelligently. I would be ashamed to have anyone I know read your paper and get the idea that this is what "I'm all about".

Your paper is presenting gay males as sex starved, and not much else? Can't you find more material than just that to fill your paper? Your ads go way beyond the limits of good taste and I mean what is printed in the classified.

SGN—all you people who put this paper together—"get it together!"

Terry McCray
Seattle

gay periodical in Seattle, *SGN* was seen as representative of the wider gay community, so some of their coverage prompted backlash from readers who felt they were representing the community inaccurately.

July 22 - July 28, 1983 Seattle Gay News Page 3

SGN sued for \$1 million

The Seattle Gay News is being sued by the Brass Connection for a controversial story printed on March 26, 1983.

The story concerned Kathy May Skahill and the misstatement that she had attempted to enter the Brass Connection on February 27, 1983. Ms. Skahill was asked to produce identification by the doorman (SK). Skahill complied and produced a current Washington State I.D. card. The doorman said the picture did not resemble Skahill and asked her to sign her name on a piece of paper to use if the signatures matched. She again complied with his request, but was refused entrance because the doorman did not think the signatures matched. Skahill protested and said she wanted to at least be allowed to use the restroom. The doorman denied this request and said he would call the police if she tried to enter. She walked past him and went inside the restroom.

According to Skahill, when she opened the door to the women's restroom, two male police officers were standing inside. They handcuffed her while still in the restroom, expecting to read her name right and then proceeded to take her down the hall and outside.

The police officers said Skahill was drunk and belligerent. Skahill admitted she had been drinking but adamantly denied the officers' claim she was drunk. "I had only had three drinks," she said. "I was just righteously."

The police took Skahill outside the Brass Connection where the fall and was dragged across the pavement to the police car. According to witnesses, the officers made no

attempt to help her up and she received multiple bruises and lacerations during the ordeal.

An SGN reporter contacted Ken Decker, manager of the Brass Connection, for comment. He said he had been informed of the incident and was told by him employees that Skahill was very "drunk and obnoxious... If the police were called she must have been really out of hand," he said.

"We try to treat everyone as fair as we can. But if the SGN reporter came in and someone was acting really crazy, he would ask, 'Why did you hit her?'" he said. "We try to look at it that way."

When asked why the doorman simply didn't ask Skahill to sign a liquor card, he stated that liquor cards do not release the bar from getting busted if the customer is under legal drinking age.

According to witnesses, this incident was not an isolated one. Several said they considered it "pure harassment". One witness stated, "It's been going on for a long time and it's not just against women. It's against blacks, orientals, people who aren't well-dressed and so on."

Skahill was charged with criminal trespassing by the Brass Connection and arrested by the Seattle Police. She informed her Public Defender that she wished to file suit against both the Brass Connection and the City of Seattle for harassment. The Public Defender told her it would cost too much money to file these. Skahill, a member of a social workers' group (womanland) and not affluent, paid guilty to both charges in the Seattle Municipal Court and was sentenced accordingly.

Later in 1983, *SGN* weathered a different type of controversy. In March, the paper reported on an incident at the Brass Connection bar: a woman was denied entry due to insufficient ID but entered to use the bathroom, at which point the police arrived, prompting a more aggressive conflict. In July, the Brass Connection responded to this coverage by suing *SGN* for libel to the tune of one million dollars (article left). In the following weeks, several editorials were published about the lawsuit, including one hardline editorial in the July 29, 1983 issue (right). This editorial addressed the lawsuit but also responded to the wide spectrum of criticism that *SGN* fielded. They asserted that their "aim is to report and cover ALL aspects of our gay community," and that "the *SGN* is not intended to be read or approved by heterosexuals."

EDITORIAL

The *SGN* is not a gay/lesbian features magazine. We are a gay/lesbian newspaper with features. Our aim is to report and cover ALL aspects of our gay community.

Many individuals and factions of our community have taken umbrage with our coverage of the following: The Prom You Never Went To (Oh, now they'll think we're all drug queens, again!); The Knights of Malta (They'll think we're all sex maniacs in leather!); the nudist in Oshkosh; our centerfold series (more sex, sex, sex! Bad and wrong!); the Dignity convention all (public symbols purporting to be the best of the skyline, yet! What will THEY think?); Who is "they" - heterosexuals? Who cares? Let it be stated now: THE SGN WILL NOT PASS JUDGEMENT WITHIN OUR OWN COMMUNITY.

Moralistic arbitration is an engrained practice that heterosexual society has been enforcing for centuries with dangerous results: racial prejudice, Aschowitz, the Moral Majority, etc. etc.

The *SGN* will not follow heterosexual (particularly Jewish/Christian) guidelines. Such self-righteous, holier-than-thou attitudes only alienate one human being from another and causes universal misery. The *SGN* has been called TOO controversial. We believe that when a gay man or lesbian woman steps out of the closet and announces to the world his or her sexual preference, they IMMEDIATELY become controversial (and suspect) in the eyes of heterosexual society and had better be prepared for one helluva uphill climb, even when trying to secure basic civil rights.

The *SGN* is not intended to be read or approved by heterosexuals. When a newspaper tries to please or placate everybody, you end up with a numb-pammy general publication that has no focus, no viewpoint or discernible identity. The *SGN* does not play it SAFE. Gays have nothing to lose. We were never GVN anything. What we have, we have worked and fought for. The fight and the work goes on.

LAWSUIT UPDATE

The *SGN* is in the process of solidifying lawyers to fight the suit and have found several who are quite interested in taking the case "Pro Bono". Several organizations have indicated their support for the cause of a free press in the gay community.

SGN secured pro-bono legal representation, but it was ultimately unnecessary. The Brass Connection dropped the lawsuit in early 1984—and while *SGN* does not stop weathering criticism, future legal threats are few and far between.



George Bakan, 1941-2020: Volunteer to Editor-In-Chief

Celebrating 50 Years of SGN

George Bakan started at SGN in 1983 as a volunteer, became an editor soon after, and within five years was editor-in-chief, a position he held until his death in 2020. Over the course of his nearly forty year tenure with SGN, he and the paper weathered sweeping social change as well as controversy and turmoil.

In Bakan's words, he "kind of got pulled into the paper." His partner at the time got a job at SGN working on the typeset machine, and he encouraged Bakan to volunteer. Bakan continues: "Under some pressure I said, OK, and helped him proofread. And basically I don't remember what I did the first couple of evenings I volunteered. But by the end of the third week I had decided I would get

involved as a staff person and become an editor. And by the end of the first month, I simply was the editor—kind of in charge of the paper."



The closest thing to a mission statement would be simply a declaration that says we're a positive advocate journalism project... That we have a specific mission to basically report news and features of interest to gay and lesbian people and to advocate on their behalf as people who have suffered discrimination and... tangible problems in larger society. And I think that's an understandable definition of what we do and who we are.
George Bakan, 2009

Bakan's leadership at the newspaper was at times challenged, especially when staff went unpaid. Tom Flint worked for SGN on and off from 1989 to 2004 and recalled that during



the first few years at the paper he was paid with "a bag of beans and rice" – sometimes in addition to \$40 per week and sometimes instead of payment. "I was never working for the money. I was just barely surviving," he remembered.

Bakan survived "coup" attempts and staff walkouts alike in the late 1980s, over lack of payment and other discontent. Sally Clark, a former editor at SGN, described Bakan as a "DIY, do-it-yourself, out of the '70s personality. 'It's about the movement. It's about the cause.' And believes in that passionately, and at the same time has some blind spots about... justice and equity for his own workers from time to time."

Source: Gustafson, Kristin L. *Grassroots, Activist Newspapers from Civil Rights to the Twenty-First Century : Balancing Loyalties and Managing Change*. University of Washington, 2010.

Remembering George Bakan

While the panel in this exhibit about George Bakan that reports the financial difficulties at the Seattle Gay News is accurate – the Seattle Gay News struggled financially throughout its history – George wasn't wealthy and George made huge personal sacrifices to keep the paper going – and staff who wanted to be a part of the Seattle Gay News' mission and effort had to deal with that situation. We chose to deal with that or we left. Also, many contributors to the SGN volunteered their talents and skills over the years as well.

Unfortunately, that panel doesn't illuminate George's keen mind and heart, his creative and skillful use of the Seattle Gay News, his love for the LGBTQ+ community and beyond and his unflinching voice and leadership in the community to accomplish everything that he helped accomplish for Seattle's and Washington state's LGBTQ+ community from 1983 to 2020. So here is my tribute to George and a celebration of what he and others helped accomplish for Seattle's and Washington state's LGBTQ+ community as reflected in this exhibit celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Seattle Gay News.

George made HUGE contributions to Seattle's LGBTQ+ community both locally and regionally as well as nationally by using the Seattle Gay News as a platform to build, support and advocate for the community, and move the quest for LGBTQ+ acceptance and equality in our society forward on so many levels. That is one of the reasons George was and is so beloved by so many in the community.

George welcomed, appreciated and published many voices and opinions from the community. George recognized good ideas and good writing and was able to find ways to utilize whatever talents an individual had to offer. George kept readers informed on local, regional, national and international issues related to the LGBTQ+ community with the help, creativity and contributions of a host of talented individuals whose names appear in the staff boxes and in the bylines and photo credits of the SGN over the years who were also committed to the cause. George always appreciated the support of the SGN's advertisers.

Among his many accomplishments as an activist, George was a tireless advocate for people with AIDS. George started the grassroots Seattle AIDS Action Committee, which organized the "Unity Is Our Strength" community forum on AIDS that was held at the Broadway Performance Hall on August 7, 1983. The forum featured national AIDS spokesperson Bobbi Campbell and a panel of local AIDS activists that was widely attended. In October 1983, George and the Seattle AIDS Action Committee launched the first Seattle AIDS Memorial Vigil at Seattle Central Community College which continued annually thereafter on and around the Memorial Day Weekend through 1998 – which was later hosted and organized by several different LGBTQ+ community grassroots organizations over the course of that time period, including Mobilization Against AIDS Seattle, Lavender Magick, and The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. George felt honored to publish the many obituaries families and friends, lovers and partners, husbands and wives submitted to the Seattle Gay News for their loved ones who had died from AIDS or in other circumstances. As part of its recognition and commemoration of people who had died of AIDS, Seattle Gay News published a list of names of people who had died of AIDS in conjunction with the annual Seattle AIDS Memorial Vigil. George was also a strong supporter of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt.

George's contributions to Seattle's and Washington state's LGBTQ community were recognized by many community organizations – including Hands Off Washington, the Imperial Court of Seattle & the Olympic & Rainier Empire, and the Greater Seattle Business Association (GSBA). George tried to recognize and reflect the diversity of Seattle's LGBTQ+ community in all its many facets in the pages of the Seattle Gay News.

George engaged with LGBTQ+ community leaders and public officials in Seattle and around the state working with them tirelessly to create and support positive change for the LGBTQ+ community. George spoke regularly on behalf of Seattle's LGBTQ+ community in response to questions from both print and television media. George served as a board member on the Northwest AIDS Foundation. George served on the Freedom Day Committee (Seattle's grassroots Pride Parade/March and Freedom Rally organizing committee) from 1983 to 1994, serving as FDC co-chair in 1984. George was involved in the Seattle-based United Front

Against Fascism's efforts and with the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment to thwart the Aryan Nations' activities in Washington state. George was an outspoken advocate for Bisexual and Transgender inclusion in the Lesbian & Gay Rights movement. Nations' activities in Washington state. George was an outspoken advocate for Bisexual and Transgender inclusion in the Lesbian & Gay Rights movement.

George supported LGBTQ+ and allied political candidates and elected officials in their efforts to serve in public office. Seattle Gay News supported SEAMEC – the Seattle LGBTQ+ Metropolitan Elections Committee that interviewed and rated political candidates on their knowledge and support of LGBTQ+ issues and people – by publishing their ratings free of charge in the Seattle Gay News twice a year that were appreciated by many candidates for public office and widely used by LGBTQ+ voters.

George was on the national steering committee for the National Marches on Washington, DC (for LGBTQ+ rights) in 1987 and 1993 and was co-chair of the Pacific Northwest Region's National March on Washington, DC's organizing efforts for both events in which Seattle Gay News played an important and at times leading role. George was on the Washington Citizens for Fairness / Hands Off Washington coalition as a board member from 1993 through 1998 in its efforts to defeat anti-LGBTQ+ initiatives in 1993 and in its effort to educate voters and achieve LGBTQ+ equality in Washington state through Initiative 677, which ultimately was unsuccessful at the ballot box in 1998.

George and the Seattle Gay News were actively engaged in the 30+ year lobbying effort in Olympia to pass anti-discrimination legislation on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and expression in Washington state that was finally achieved with the passage of the Anderson-Murray Anti-Discrimination Law in 2006. George was a Grand Marshal at the 2009 Seattle Pride Parade.

George used the Seattle Gay News in concert with Washington state's LGBTQ+ and allied elected officials to educate and mobilize the LGBTQ+ and allied community's support for marriage equality in Washington state. That began with same-sex domestic partnership legislation and Washington state voters' approval of Referendum 71 in 2009. Then careful, thoughtful and strategic work in the state legislature over the next 3 years led to the Washington State Legislature's passing Washington state's Marriage Equality legislation and Gov. Christine Gregoire's signing that legislation on February 14, 2012, which Washington state voters upheld at the ballot box with the approval of Referendum 74 on November 6, 2012. George worked with Seattle Mayor McGinn's office to help shape the same-sex wedding ceremonies held at City Hall on December 9, 2012 and arranged and coordinated free photography services to the wedding couples on that historic occasion.

George's contributions to Greater Seattle's and Washington state's LGBTQ+ community were recognized with a night in his honor at Neighbours Nightclub to celebrate his leadership and contribution to the LGBTQ+ community in 2013.

George was co-chair of the Capitol Hill Community Council in 2014 and helped broker the deal between the Seattle Police Department's East Precinct and Community Roots Housing (formerly Capitol Hill Housing) that turned SPD's surface level parking lot on 12th Ave just north of E Pine St into Community Roots Housing's 12th Ave Arts building featuring two black box theatre spaces, retail, office and community meeting spaces and a multi-story low-income and affordable housing project that moved SPD's parking lot underground.

George took great pride in helping to judge Seattle's La Femme Magnifique pageants and Seattle Pride's Pride Idol singing contests over the course of several years. George was a part of the community conversation about creating an LGBTQ+ community space and housing for LGBTQ+ seniors. George used the Seattle Gay News and his direct connection with it at every turn to advocate for and support the LGBTQ+ community in all its facets - locally, regionally and nationally.

George was knowledgeable about antiques and collectibles. George also liked to buy sacks of potatoes when they were on sale at Safeway and donate them to the Union Gospel Mission.

Rick McKinnon



Marriage Equality & Gay Rights

Celebrating 50 Years of SGN

Seattle Gay News (SGN) has covered the many ups and downs, victories and set-backs, on the long journey to marriage equality and gay rights in Washington State, the United States, and beyond. As a newspaper by and for the gay community, SGN has long advocated for equal rights, doggedly reporting on the issues, keeping their readers informed, and holding opponents to account. While the road is long and the journey continues, we reflect on SGN's coverage of these equality milestones in Washington State.

1978—Initiative 13

Seattle police officers David Estes and Dennis Falk formed Save Our Moral Ethics (SOME) to lobby for what became Initiative 13, an initiative to repeal Seattle's anti-discrimination ordinances. The opposition, led by Citizens to Retain Fair Employment (CRFE), focused on privacy, claiming that the repeal would subject everyone to intrusive background checks by landlords and employers. On November 7, 1978 Initiative 13 was defeated – 37 percent voted in favor of repeal and 63 percent opposed – making Seattle the first city in the United States to vote in favor of gay rights. Tacoma, Spokane, and other Washington localities followed suit in later years.



1996—Defense of Marriage Act

In 1996, Congress passed DOMA, an act that defined marriage as a legal union between a man and a woman, and provided that no state, territory, or Indian tribe should be required to recognize any other state's same-sex marriage. President Clinton signed it into law on September 21, 1996 and in 1997, conservative legislators in Washington State introduced a bill prohibiting same-sex marriage. Governor Gary Locke vetoed the bill and vetoed a similar bill in 1998, only for it to be overridden by both houses in the Washington State legislature.



2006-2007—Domestic Partners

During her two terms as governor of the State of Washington, Christine Gregoire signed four laws that advanced gay rights.

On January 31, 2006 "sexual orientation" was added to existing prohibitions on discrimination in employment, housing, lending, and insurance. In 2007, same-sex domestic partnerships which gave lesbian, gay, and unmarried heterosexual couples with one partner over the age of 62 the right to visit a partner in the hospital, inheritance rights, and authority over autopsies and organ donations.



April 27, 2007

2009—Referendum 71

In November 2009, voters approved R-71, the "everything but marriage" bill, making Washington the first in the nation to ratify domestic partnerships for same-sex couples which granted all the state provided benefits that married couples have.



April 17, 2007



Marriage Equality & Gay Rights

Celebrating 50 Years of SGN

February 2012—Gay Marriage

On February 13, 2012, Governor Gregoire signed a law legalizing gay marriage, making Washington the seventh state plus the District of Columbia to allow same-sex marriage. Opponents gathered enough signatures to block the law's implementation and require a statewide voter referendum, R-74.



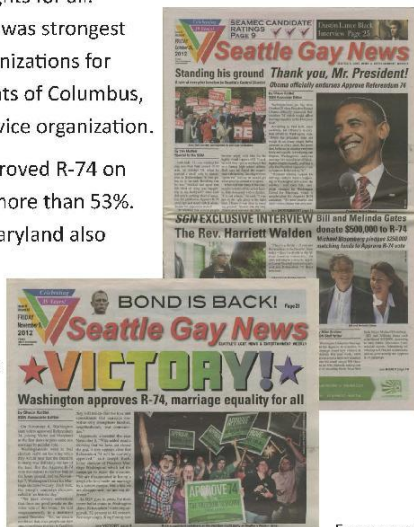
December 2012—Gay Marriage

On December 6, 2012, Washington's marriage equality law took effect, making it the first state in the nation to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. The very first license went to Jane Abbott Lighty and Pete-e Petersen, more than 35 years after they became a couple. Many of the couples receiving the first licenses married on Sunday, December 9, the earliest date following the mandatory waiting period. Lighty and Petersen became the first same-sex couple in the nation to marry under a law enacted by fellow citizens.



2012—Referendum 74

R-74 received support from prominent Washington businesses such as Amazon, Starbucks, Nordstrom, and REI. Support also came from Washington newspapers, celebrities, athletes, and finally then President Barack Obama, the first sitting president to endorse marriage rights for all. Opposition fundraising was strongest from the National Organizations for Marriage and the Knights of Columbus, a Catholic fraternal service organization. Washington voters approved R-74 on November 6, 2012 by more than 53%. Voters in Maine and Maryland also passed same-sex marriage measures, becoming the first three states to approve marriage equality by popular vote.



2013, 2015, 2022—Defense of Marriage Act

After years of lawsuits and repeal efforts, the U.S. Supreme Court declared section 3 of DOMA unconstitutional under the Due Process Clause, thereby requiring the federal government to recognize same-sex marriages. In 2015, the Court ruled that same-sex marriage was a fundamental right also protected by the Equal Protection Clause, leaving Section 2 superseded and unenforceable. In 2022 DOMA was repealed by the passage of the Respect for Marriage Act signed into law by President Joe Biden.



For more information, see "Marriage Equality and Gay Rights in Washington" on HistoryLink.org

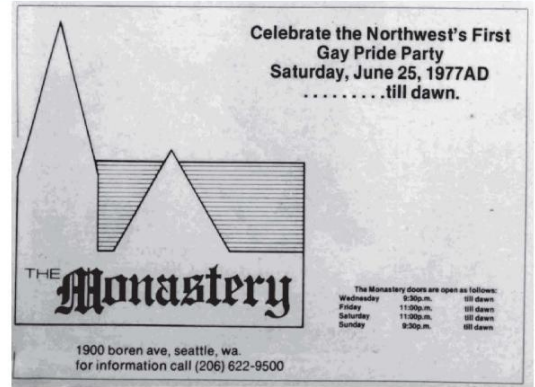


Celebrating Seattle Pride: Then and Now

Celebrating 50 Years of SGN

Although Seattle's then-mayor Wes Uhlman declared the city's first official Gay Pride Week in 1977, the first was actually held June 24-30, 1974 when 200 LGBTQ+ people, encouraged by the Stonewall uprising five years earlier, gathered publicly in collective resistance to expel shame and stand in defiance of those who wished to keep them hidden and disempowered.

The *Seattle Gay News* (SGN) has documented and advertised the events surrounding Pride ever since. From reporting on large events such as Seattle's first official Gay Pride March in 1977 to smaller performances around the city and where to find them, SGN dedicates an issue to Seattle Pride each year.



When Gay Pride Week was officially declared by Mayor Uhlman in 1977, SGN published an article regarding the details of when, where, and how Seattle's first Gay Pride Party would take place. In this way, SGN helped make the events of Gay Pride Week more accessible to the public.



SGN Souvenir Program 1990

SGN Pride issues have special front page designs, usually with a rainbow theme to indicate the beginning of Seattle Pride Month. These issues often include special souvenir programs and/or pride features that act as guides for readers who want to participate in festivities. Pride issues include feature stories, events calendars, and advertisements for LGBTQ+ art shows and performances at Seattle's annual Pridefest (one of the largest pride festivals in the country). SGN showcases pride events anyone can attend, encouraging participation from everyone in the Seattle area. Features and advertisements for queer-owned businesses encourage patronage at local establishments.



An evolution of the front pages of SGN Pride issues from 1990, 2005, 2012, and 2023.



Celebrating Seattle Pride: Do the Puzzle

Celebrating 50 Years of SGN

DOWN

1. TALLEST BUILDING IN SEATTLE
3. PRIDE MONTH IS IN JUNE TO COMMEMORATE WHAT EVENT?
5. NATIONAL PARK ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE STATE
8. WHICH NEIGHBORHOOD IS ALSO KNOWN AS "UPTOWN"?
9. ON WHAT DAY DO NEW WEEKLY SALE ITEMS GO ON SALE?
10. MLB TEAM IN SEATTLE
11. WIDELY POPULAR BOOK SERIES BASED IN FORK, WA
13. WHAT IS THE ORIGINAL SEATTLE NEIGHBORHOOD IN WHICH POT SHOP OPENED?
15. WHAT IS THE CAPITAL OF WASHINGTON?
17. WASHINGTON LEADS ALL OTHER STATES IN THE PRODUCTION OF THIS FRUIT.
20. SEATTLE IS CREDITED AS THE BIRTH OF THIS GENRE OF MUSIC.
21. WHAT STREET IS POT SHOP LOCATED ON?
22. THIS STRUCTURE WAS BUILT FOR THE SEATTLE WORLD'S FAIR IN 1962.
24. TERRIFYING, FLIGHTLESS BIRD
25. NFL TEAM IN SEATTLE
27. POPULAR SYMBOL REPRESENTING THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY
28. WHAT IS THE STATE BIRD OF WASHINGTON?

ACROSS

2. ANOTHER NAME FOR "PRE-ROLL"
4. "ASK NOT WHAT YOUR ... CAN DO FOR YOU, BUT WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR ..."-JFK
6. TACOMA-BORN GLASS SCULPTOR
7. WHAT RIVER DIVIDES WASHINGTON FROM OREGON?
12. STATE THAT BORDERS WASHINGTON
14. WHAT IS THE "HIGHEST" PEAK IN WASHINGTON?
16. NCAA RIVALRY FOOTBALL GAME BETWEEN WSU AND WU IS CALLED ...
17. WHAT KIND OF WEED IS BEST DESCRIBED AS "ENERGETIC, HEAD-HIGH"?
18. WHAT KIND OF WEED IS BEST DESCRIBED AS "RELAXING, EUPHORIC, BODY-HIGH"?
23. WHAT TANNINS ARE TO WINE, ... IS TO CANNABIS
24. WHO WAS THE FIRST GOVERNOR OF WASHINGTON STATE? (FULL NAME)
29. WHO THREW THE FIRST BRICK AT STONEWALL?
30. THE MOST POPULAR NON-PSYCHOACTIVE CANNABINOID FOUND IN CANNABIS.



Answer key available
in store and in next
week's *SGN*

Pot Shop
1628
DEXTER AVE N
Seattle, WA

DAILY
Woke & Bake
special
WEEKLY
SALES

SENIOR/AT RISK
customers only hours
THURSDAY
9AM - 10AM

20% OFF
ONLINE
ORDERS

UNITY
IS
POWER

@POTSHOPSEATTLE

WWW.POTSHOPSEATTLE.CO

@POTSHOPSEATTLE

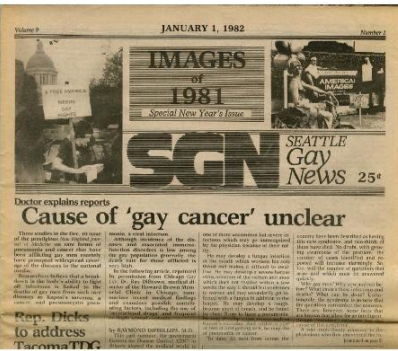
MARIJUANA PRODUCTS MAY HAVE PSYCHOACTIVE EFFECTS AND MAY BE HABIT FORMING. MARIJUANA CAN IMPAIR CONCENTRATION, COORDINATION, AND JUDGMENT. DO NOT OPERATE A VEHICLE OR MACHINERY UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THIS DRUG. THERE MAY BE VARIOUS RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH CONSUMPTION OF THIS PRODUCT. FOR USE ONLY BY ADULTS 21 YEARS AND OLDER. KEEP OUT OF THE REACH OF CHILDREN.



SGN and the AIDS Epidemic

Celebrating 50 Years of SGN

In June 1981, a spike in cases of *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia (PCP) and Kaposi's sarcoma (KS) in healthy, young, gay men alerted health officials to possible outbreaks of rare, deadly diseases. A year later, the CDC identified the cause of these diseases, triggered by immune suppression, as Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).



The *Seattle Gay News* (SGN) was one of the first newspapers in Washington to cover the start of the AIDS epidemic. In SGN's first issue of 1982, the headline "Cause of 'gay cancer' unclear" referred to the alarming rise in deaths of gay men from PCP and Kaposi's sarcoma. SGN tried to explain the possible reasoning behind this trend, providing the gay community with valuable information while other mainstream newspapers ignored the emerging crisis.



Deadly disease that mainly affects gay men surfaces in Seattle
If I were a homosexual male in Seattle, I would certainly be concerned," said Dr. Walter Haislclaus, director of Harborview Medical Center's sexually transmitted disease control program. He said about 50 men seen in the Harborview clinic have had AIDS symptoms — swollen lymph glands, fever, weight loss, unexplained liver and kidney problems or other symptoms. However, he said, only about one-third of the patients that far appear to have a significant chance of survival. Haislclaus said a young man who was diagnosed as having AIDS last summer moved here after living in San Francisco, one of four cases where the disease has been documented. The man also developed the skin cancer. He also has moved back to San Francisco. Haislclaus, also a University of Washington associate professor of medicine, said few other Seattle men may have the disease. They all have common symptoms, including swollen lymph glands, fever, weight loss, unexplained liver and kidney problems or other symptoms. Haislclaus said a young man who was diagnosed as having AIDS last summer moved here after living in San Francisco, one of four cases where the disease has been documented. The man also developed the skin cancer. He also has moved back to San Francisco. Haislclaus, also a University of Washington associate professor of medicine, said few other Seattle men may have the disease. They all have common symptoms, including swollen lymph glands, fever, weight loss, unexplained liver and kidney problems or other symptoms.

On November 12, 1982, *The Seattle Times* printed this story at the bottom of page 1.

In contrast, the article above was one of the first about AIDS published in *The Seattle Times*. The headline "Deadly disease that mainly affects gay men surfaces in Seattle" is consistent with how other mainstream media initially portrayed AIDS—as a "gay men's disease." Such coverage was prompted by the fear AIDS would spread outside of "at-risk" groups. While the mainstream press alienated gay readers, SGN and other publications by and for the gay community provided consistent, in-depth coverage of the epidemic through the 1990s and beyond.

AID syndrome: Clues abound, but cause is still unknown

Compiled by ROBIN EVANS
It has been 15 months since it was first reported that rare diseases associated with a breakdown in the body's ability to fight off infections were occurring with surprising frequency among gay men. Since then, the reported cases of acquired immunological dysfunction have increased dramatically. The disorders have now been reported not only among certain groups of gay men but also in a few non-gay male and female intravenous drug users, a small group of Haitian refugees and, most recently, a few hemophiliacs who depend upon regular blood transfusions.

At a July 27 conference in Washington, DC, representatives of government agencies, gay organizations and hemophilia and blood donor groups met to discuss the growing epidemic. Those attending the conference agreed on a name — Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) — for the related disorders which many medical researchers now regard as a single (if not simple) disease. A number of other titles, including GRID, for gay-related immuno-deficiency, have been applied to the syndrome. At the DC conference, Bruce Voeller, founder of the National Gay Task Force and co-organizer of the Mariposa Education and Research Foundation, said that to suggest the syndrome is exclusively gay-related is inflammatory and inaccurate. "GRID is the most unfortunate term we've come across in a long time," said Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health.

Recognizing that AIDS poses special emotional and even civil rights problems for gay people, participants at the conference discussed research on the syndrome and the public perception of the disease. AIDS syndrome, which is not a great threat to health in itself, disposes its victims to a number of life-threatening diseases associated with or caused by viruses, fungi, protozoa and parasites. The diseases most often observed in the AIDS outbreak, and the primary causes of death so far, are Kaposi's sarcoma (a skin cancer) and *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia.

On August 13, 1982, SGN first used "AID syndrome" to describe the disease, marking the start of their official AIDS coverage.

SGN's article about the first AIDS case in Seattle was published after coverage in *The Seattle Times* because SGN is a weekly newspaper. SGN devoted most of the November 19, 1982 cover to the case.

(Left) The Gay Men's Health Crisis organization educating gay men about how to have safe sex in order to prevent the spread of AIDS. It encourages men to live normal, healthy lives even if they are HIV positive, reducing stigma while providing a valuable health resource.

(Right) In "My trip to the AIDS clinic," the writer details their experience visiting an AIDS clinic.

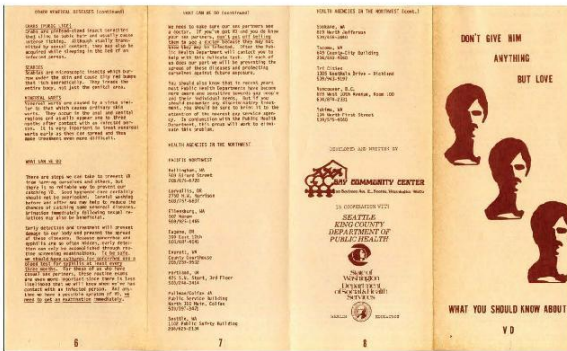
(Far right) Through perspectives of those living with AIDS or at risk for AIDS, SGN humanized those individuals to reduce stigma surrounding the disease.



Public Health Messaging

Celebrating 50 Years of SGN

From SGN's origins as the newsletter of the Gay Community Center, the publication has been concerned with sharing relevant public health information with its readers—whether through original reporting, or by giving page space to specific, eye-catching, health-focused public service advertisements (PSAs).



This pamphlet was included with an SGN issue from late 1974. It educates readers on "V.D.," or venereal disease, and offers health resources. It was created by the Gay Community Center in cooperation with the Seattle King County Department of Public Health and the State of Washington Department of Social & Health Services.

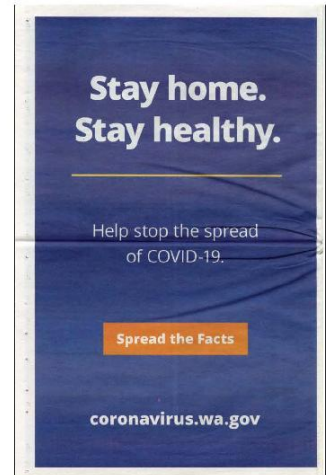
This PSA campaign, created by The Northwest AIDS Foundation and featured in the October 3, 1986 issue of SGN, empowers readers to curb the spread of AIDS by practicing safer sex. The focus of this campaign—the sexual habits of gay and bisexual men—proved controversial with mainstream media. Three Seattle-area TV stations refused to air video PSAs from this same campaign.



The American Liver Foundation favored text-focused PSAs, at least within the pages of SGN. The leftmost example is from the December 3, 1982 issue, and the above right page is from the August 19, 1983 issue.



This full-page ad ran on SGN's back cover on April 10, 2020. The Washington State Department of Health's straightforward PSA links to an official website, and is aimed at a general audience. A similarly straightforward PSA about vaccine development features on another SGN back cover in 2021.



Even though the most likely readers of these ads are gay men and members of the queer community, some ads still tended towards fear mongering as a means of targeting their audience. (The Northwest AIDS Foundation's PSA falls on the opposite end of the spectrum.) Still, amidst changing health advice, medical advancements, and a global pandemic, SGN has remained focused on the health of its readership.



A special section in the January 21, 2022 issue of SGN investigates rising STD rates in Seattle—a potential result of testing centers being closed during the early days of the COVID 19 pandemic.



The Case of Steven Farmer: Forced HIV Testing

Celebrating 50 Years of SGN

Steven Farmer was a Washington native who moved to Seattle proper in the early eighties after graduating from high school. Working as a flight attendant for Alaska Airlines, Farmer resided in the popular Capitol Hill neighborhood, the center of the Seattle LGBTQ+ community at the time.

Farmer was initially arrested on several felony charges including soliciting sex from minors. While in custody, Farmer asked two friends to go to his apartment to retrieve and destroy photos. Farmer eventually pleaded guilty to two misdemeanor counts of communication with a minor for immoral purposes. Farmer expected to be sentenced to 30 days and fined \$200.



Seattle Gay News May 27, 1988



SGN June 3, 1988

Instead, the friends that destroyed the photos told King 5 reporter Julie Blacklow that while in his home, they found textual evidence that Farmer had AIDS. Claims about his positive HIV test were picked up by the media and spread nationwide overnight. Farmer was portrayed as a villain who knowingly infected his partner with AIDS, although a witness statement from a friend is dated to 1983, two years before the first HIV test was approved for use.

Farmer's sentencing was delayed and he was eventually charged with tampering with evidence. Two of Farmer's alleged victims came forward to provide statements, resulting in more charges—two counts of sexual exploitation of a minor and two counts of patronizing a juvenile prostitute, despite inconsistencies between statements.

Farmer's case took an unforeseen turn, when Washington State legislators passed the AIDS Omnibus Act which mandated AIDS education in schools and ensured anonymous HIV testing except in rare cases such as people convicted of certain crimes and only for those committed after March 23, 1988, the day the law was enacted.

While Farmer's trial occurred after that date, the crimes were allegedly committed a year earlier. Despite this, a judge ordered Farmer to take an HIV test, making him the first person in the state of Washington to be mandated to do so. The Farmer case enthralled the public and sparked a national debate concerning the violation of constitutional rights through forced HIV testing.

Ultimately, Farmer was sentenced to 7.5 years in prison—far above the typical range for the severity of his crimes.

Farmer was given clemency in 1994 and passed away in hospice care from AIDS complications in 1995.



Insert from the June 22, 1990 SGN

The Farmer case was complicated, with many twists and turns.

For more information, see the HistoryLink.org article Farmer, Steven George (1956-1995)





SGN Covers... Steven Farmer

Celebrating 50 Years of SGN

The Steven Farmer case became a divisive issue in the local Seattle gay community and nationwide, sparking debate about the mandatory order for Farmer to take the recently approved AIDS test, public health, and privacy rights. Some resented Farmer and were openly critical of his crimes with minors and the shadow he cast on the gay community. Others acknowledged his crimes, but advocated against the violations of his human rights including the maltreatment he experienced at the hands of police and detention officials, as well as the court-mandated HIV test. The *Seattle Gay News* provided readers with up to date information of the case through its entirety. Coverage included reporting, letters to the editor, and exclusive interviews with Steven Farmer and some of his victims.



Through their letters to the editor of the Seattle Gay News, members of the gay community sympathized with Steven Farmer and protested the violations of his privacy and civil rights. Many letter writers vented their frustrations with mass media misrepresentations of Steven Farmer, especially using the case as a supposed exemplifier of the dangers of homosexuality.





The Magic Pill? PrEP, public health, and skepticism

Celebrating 50 Years of SGN

Dr. J: Will a pill a day keep HIV away?

By Dr. Joanne Stalker
Special to the SGN

James Saloner, MD, MPH is deputy chief of community services for the HIV Prevention at Public Health - Seattle and King County. He is also an instructor in medical and infectious disease at Harborview Medical Center, and an associate professor of medicine and epidemiology at the University of Washington.

This is the first of a series of articles in the HIV and other STD prevention and control special section of the new and revamped 50th anniversary issue of SGN.

Last year, a new study showed that HIV acquisition rates and transmission were lower in men who used PrEP than in men who used condoms. This was the first time that PrEP was shown to be more effective than condoms in preventing HIV transmission.

It's important to note that PrEP is not a magic pill. It is a daily pill that must be taken every day. It is not a one-time pill. It is not a pill that you can stop taking when you feel like it. It is a pill that you must take every day, every day, every day.

It's also important to note that PrEP is not a cure for HIV. It is a prevention method. It is not a cure for HIV. It is not a cure for HIV. It is not a cure for HIV.

STIs that aren't prevented by PrEP. The fact is, you can't get PrEP for HIV. PrEP is a prevention method for HIV. It is not a cure for HIV. It is not a cure for HIV. It is not a cure for HIV.

For those who are interested in PrEP, you should talk with your doctor to see if you are a good candidate for PrEP. PrEP is not a magic pill. It is a daily pill that must be taken every day.

It's also important to note that PrEP is not a cure for HIV. It is a prevention method. It is not a cure for HIV. It is not a cure for HIV. It is not a cure for HIV.

While PrEP for HIV prevention is now part of the fabric of public health guidance, it is a relatively new medical development. *SGN's* coverage of its development and approval paints a nuanced story of the local gay community's reaction to the pharmaceutical advancement.

One of the earliest references to PrEP within the pages of *SGN* is in a column by a doctor in the March 4, 2011 issue (left). The author discusses a new study that shows the potential of an HIV prevention method where participants take a daily course of two medicines normally used to treat HIV. This is known as pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP. This initial study is only moderately successful, which sparks skepticism: detractors worry the drug combination will

be falsely hailed as a silver bullet for HIV and discourage condom use.

There is no magic pill.

For more information or to send a letter to Gilead CEO John C. Martin, please visit nomagicpills.org.

HANDS OFF HIV Prevention

There is no magic pill. The only way to prevent HIV is to use condoms and PrEP.

This prompts a full-page ad from the AIDS Healthcare Foundation in the next *SGN* issue (right), appealing to the drug's manufacturer. This ad runs in gay periodicals nationwide. The next *SGN* issue features

The above ads ran in *SGN* in March and May 2011 as part of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation's campaign against Truvada for PrEP—a campaign spurred by fears that the drug was ineffective against the spread of HIV and discouraged condom use.

Truvada: The once daily pill to prevent HIV that no one is taking

Truvada, or PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) can help you remain HIV-negative and lead a sex life with less anxiety. Which is exactly what has Truvada critics up in arms.

coverage of this skepticism. The AIDS Healthcare Foundation goes on to unsuccessfully lobby against the FDA's 2012 approval of Truvada for PrEP. *SGN's* coverage remains wary of potential side effects, even as successive studies show conclusively promising results.

SGN's coverage mirrors what becomes a national conversation about the benefits and drawbacks of PrEP for HIV. Critics of the drug argue that widespread adoption will decrease condom usage—a ubiquitous public health measure hard-won during the height of the AIDS crisis. Proponents argue that an additional layer of protection against HIV will only improve quality of life for at-risk populations.

The Magic Pill?

HOW FAR WOULD YOU GO TO STAY HIV NEGATIVE?

ASSI AMATEUR STRIP SHOW

An article in the December 13, 2013 issue of *SGN* explores the resistance to Truvada.

By 2014, the CDC adopts PrEP as a recommendation for HIV prevention, and *SGN* publishes ads from local clinics that advertise to patients in need of a PrEP prescription.

Today, debates continue about the success of the widespread adoption of PrEP, but the gay community's early skepticism has waned. Even the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, which had initially been highly outspoken against the adoption of PrEP, is now a provider of the drug.

This ad from the November 7, 2014 issue of *SGN* is direct in its approach, encouraging sexually active gay readers to contact the clinic for PrEP.

GAY? SEX? PrEP.

PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST HIV

Seattle Infectious Disease Clinic

Warren Dinges, MD, PhD

206-682-3444

Accepting new PrEP & HIV care patients



Getting Personal: The SGN Classifieds

Celebrating 50 Years of SGN

Before dating apps and online message boards, the SGN Classified section was a popular way for queer people in the Seattle area to connect. The paper included classified ads since its inception and, in response to a request issued in a letter to the editor, began accepting personal ads in April 1977. The letter (left) was written by a reader seeking a safe and private way to meet other queer people. The SGN editors agreed—personal ads began running in the next issue.

To the Editor:

I'm enclosing a check for \$2 for a subscription to the Seattle Gay News.

There is one question I'd like to ask — do you accept "personal advertisements" in your classified ad column and, if so, what is the rate per word. By a personal advertisement I mean one that indicates a desire to meet another "loner" of one's own persuasion. Not all of us find group activities a satisfactory way to meet people (99.9999% are couples!) and not all of us find ourselves able to go alone to a gay bar or restaurant. What is left but a "personal column" — but not the Seattle Times or P.I.!

Surely there must be other "older ones" who feel as I do.

Sincerely,
Jan Rost
18110 36th Place South
Seattle 98188

Editor's note: We agree with you and are therefore opening up our classified section to include the type of ad you describe. The rates are listed on page 14 of this issue, with payment to be made in advance. We will, however, reserve the right to refuse ads deemed offensive to our readers.

In the 1980s, SGN introduced a blind box system so those who placed a personal ad need not list their address or phone number. For an additional \$2, readers could request a blind box to which ad responses could be delivered and then forwarded to ensure safety and privacy.

By the 1990s, SGN personal ads were accompanied by a plethora of ads for escort services, phone lines, and third-party personal ad systems, including an automated system where users could place ads and receive responses over the phone for a fee.

2 SINGLE GUYS
One new to Seattle (8 wks): one 'old' to Seattle (8 yrs). We are 37 & 38. Tall (both 6'3"), slender, bearded, active professionals, each HIV+ more than 10 yrs. We are much more than just long-term survivors. We are looking to meet men who are Stable, emotionally secure & available, humorous, HWP and prefer other HIV+ men. 25-45. Our objective is to make new friends, date, plan summer adventures, date, people watch, date, explore Seattle and area, date, have lots of stimulating conversation - and we'd really like to date. Smoke/drink OK, but no drugs. 343-3190 or PO Box 3042, Seattle, WA 98104. 29/2

June 21, 1996

I AM LOOKING for a longterm relationship with a guy, up to early 40's, who is slim, masculine, with a gentle heart and neg HIV. I'm 39, 6'1", 185 lbs., very youthful in appearance, clean shaven, br hair, bl eyes, neg HIV and warmhearted. I like the outdoors and I'm also interested in finding ensemble players of ethnic music to share my hobbies of Scottish small pipes and Eastern percussion. Your picture or snapshot gets mine. Response assured. Tom, SGN Box 05007 (02/3)

January 8, 1988

PENIS ENLARGEMENT METHODS. Professional vacuum pump equipment and instructions (including scrotum and nipples). Sex and erection enhancement! Dr. Joel Kaplan (415) 739-5847. MC/VISA. 01/9

SO WHERE'S "FATE"? Handsome, black guy, 29, is tired of waiting! Looking for a guy 29-32, similar size/build (tall, muscular hunk, HIV+) for "quality" time. Great ass a plus! POB 29086 Seattle 98118. 01/3

HIV-POSITIVE TEA DANCES
Lushful afternoons of warm vibes, camaraderie and assumed status/risk for HIV+ and their "cool about it" friends. Held the first Sunday afternoon of each month. 3-6 pm. NO COVER. Timberline Tavern, 2015 Boren, 622-6220.

December 25, 1992

LOVER WANTED!
Black musician (beginner), 23, and into safe sex, is looking for a loving, open-minded and sincere Gay or Bisexual man, 18-32, for a long-lasting relationship. SGN Box E0411. (07/4)

February 5, 1988

HOW MAN ARE YOU?
Highly energetic, highly sexual and affectionate, strong and powerful, well-built, well-endowed GWM, 47. HWP. HIV-. enjoys being dominant and showing strength (wanting to also be very passively responsive with a truly virile, muscular, or loving masculine man), ready for safe, hot exploration. Eventual fulfillment of a dream: LTR with loyalty, monogamy, pride as a Gay couple, mutual love and affection. Reply to SGN Box 2903. 30/3=1

INJURED ATHLETE
seeks wealthy friend/benefactor. My nearly complete recovery has left me strapped. I am a sexy GM, 5'11", muscular, piercing blue eyes, military looks, healthy, hard, handsome. Willing to share endowment of rare size & beauty with man seeking finer things in life. Clean, smooth, affectionate, honest & very discreet. Good attitude. Will travel. Reply to SGN Box 2905. 31/3=1

July 26, 1996

I WAS WEARING blue jacket, linen slacks. You were dark-skinned, attractive, carrying some books. We took the escalator at Fredericks Sunday afternoon 3/27. Lot of eye contact. You said hi and so did I, but was with family. Please write with name and telephone number. Like to meet. Bob, SGN Box E1404. (14/1)

April 1, 1988

WOULD LIKE TO MEET other men 28-40 who are serious about fine woodworking. If you know someone who qualifies, please give them my phone: 244-1064. 14/8

February 12, 1993

As the internet became more accessible in the 2000s and dating apps and websites grew in popularity in the 2010s, SGN personal ads started to dwindle, going from a multi-page spread to a half page as demand decreased. Currently, the classified section is no longer active.

YOU ARE THE WOMAN OF MY DREAMS
and I'm dying to know you. You are inclined to bursts of whimsy, like candlelight dinners, and being taken out by a woman who appreciates all of you. I am a new dyke in town, given to bursts of passion, and with a romantic side and cold bed. Let's meet and talk about many things and let me show you how it feels to be loved by a consort of the Great Goddess. Think of it, you, me, leather and magic. Write me, time's wastin'! Reply SGN Box E1308. (16/4)

April 15, 1988

I looked for you in the falling rain. Looking for you when the Bad Lieutenant came. Looked for you when Stevie Nicks sang. Looked for you during the Crying Game. 32 yo., 5'11", 165 lb., Louisiana Passion. Fell w/ degree in looking for GW, mature, intelligent, in shape and well endowed man who enjoys travel and people. First and last ad. Call 781-9840. 02/1

IF YOU'VE NEVER answered an ad, but are seeking a stable, optimistic, humorous, masculine, romantic, non-smoker, write: RLW, 2515, 4th Ave, #1406, Seattle, 98121. Just do it! 11/9

March 5, 1993

FRIENDLY, WELL-LIKED, and very cute, 26 years old, blue eyes, dark blonde hair, 5'11", 160 lbs. Toned body, clean cut and a nice butt. Special day rate 'til 4 p.m. I do massages as well. Call Luke at (206) 903-9891. 22/3



Val - 24 hours
206-871-8258



25 yo
6' 160 lbs.
Josh
(206) 757-2513
pager

May 14, 1999

GRAB THAT PHONE!
HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:
1) To respond to these ads & browse others Call: 1-900-820-4897
2) To record your FREE Seattle personal ad Call: 1-800-546-MENN (We'll print it here)
3) To pick-up messages from your existing ad Call: the 900 number & Press the star key (*)
Due to our large volume of calls, if you can't get thru, simply try your call later.
900 blocked! Try 1-800-863-9200. VISA/MC.
Questions Call: 1-415-281-3183

Vancouver **FULLFILL MY NEEDS** "I'm 5'9, brn/brn mustache hairy chest ISO a man who will fulfill my needs, new to this, leave a message!" #3185

Seattle **NEW KID IN TOWN** "Lee, new to area 30 masculine GWM 5'10 150 short red hair brn eyes, clean shaven, college educated, camping hiking, running outdoors, Prof! interested in Hispanic or oriental males, 23-33 for possible rel." #4160

Wenatchee **REAL PEOPLE** "I'm 28 y/o and I like real people, no games, honest answers and non judgmental attitudes, music, dancing and nature a must, and lots of laughs. I'm looking for people under 30." #3089

Richland **TREKKIE** "I'm a gay guy with no gay friends. If you would like to get together, call me. I like country music and star trek." #3146

Spokane **PARTY TIME** "I'm 1kg 2 meet guy's 21-30 who are straight acting and like to party. I'm 28 y/o and hope to hear from you." #3360

August 4, 1995

WHATEVER HAPPENED to old fashioned courtship and magical love? I believe "happily ever after" takes much hard work but is quite possible. I want a sensible and handsome guy to help me prove this. Write me a letter. Looking forward to it! BJ. POB 25101, Seattle, 98125 (09/4)

February 5, 1988

ED AT THE CUFF, SUN 9/25 I left with Mike. Were you interested? Seven beers clouded my judgment. I think you might be really special. Let's see if it's mutual. Jack. 325-8255. 39/1

September 30, 1994



The Case of Perry Watkins: Gay in the Military

Celebrating 50 Years of SGN

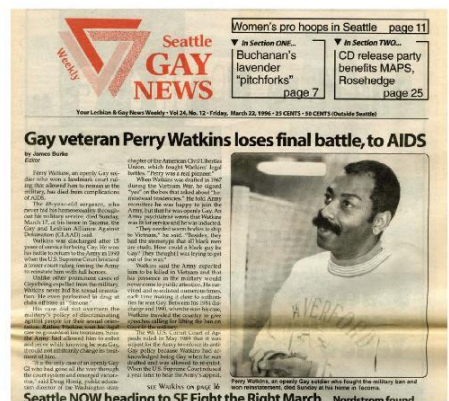
Sergeant Perry Watkins voluntarily acknowledged he was gay when he was drafted into the United States Army in 1967 to fight in Vietnam. He was found "eligible for reentry for active duty" and reenlisted in 1970. While stationed in Germany in 1971 and 1972, Watkins performed at several events in drag, with the permission of his commanding officer. His performance was even reported in *Army Times*. Watkins reenlisted in 1975, and 1979, serving as a chaplain's assistant, personnel specialist, and company clerk.

The Army denied Watkins security clearance several times throughout his 14 year career, despite glowing reviews from his commanders, but clearance was always reinstated upon repeal until 1981 when the Army moved to dismiss him. Watkins was back in his hometown of Tacoma, Washington, stationed at Fort Lewis. With the help of an ACLU-WA lawyer, Watkins' case worked through the courts. In 1989, a federal appeals court issued a groundbreaking ruling, finding that the Army could not change its mind after allowing Watkins to reenlist. Watkins retired with an honorable discharge.



The Seattle Gay News published over 150 articles about Perry Watkins. The newspaper reported on his military career and his fight to stay in the Army until he could retire with benefits after the required twenty years of service. Watkins told reporters: "after 14 years I'm not going to start from scratch again." He told *SGN*: "if it benefits someone else in any way then it is worth doing."

Unfortunately Watkins' success did not lead to acceptance of gays in the military. The "Don't ask, don't tell" policy implemented during the Clinton administration flipped the script by barring openly gay, lesbian, or bisexual persons from military service. *SGN* covered DADT and cases of dishonorable discharges until the policy was repealed during the Obama administration.





Civil Rights in the Military

Celebrating 50 Years of SGN

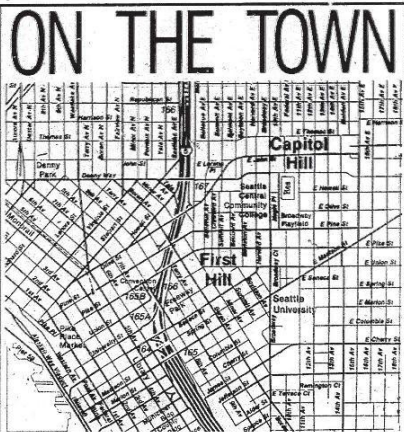
A search for the keyword 'military' in the *Seattle Gay News* (SGN), available through the Washington Digital Newspapers collection, retrieves nearly 4,900 articles, the majority of which were published during the 1990s when the Department of Defense issued Directive 1304.26, commonly known as "Don't ask, don't tell" which prohibited military personnel from discriminating against or harassing closeted homosexual or bisexual service members or applicants, while barring openly gay, lesbian, and bisexual applicants from military service. SGN published many articles about the status of gays in the military, some focused on politics and policy and others featuring service members discriminated against because of their sexual orientation.





On the Town: Local Business in Seattle Gay News

Celebrating 50 Years of SGN



Bellingham
RESTAURANTS & BARS
 Rumors Tavern 516 1st St. (next to Greyhound Bus Depot).

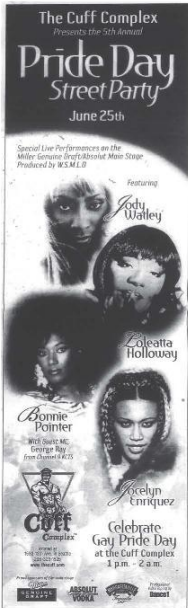
Everett
RESTAURANTS & BARS
 Stage Shop Pacific and Rocker 258-2399 "The home of the burlesque men and the most beautiful women in the Northwest."

Seattle
BATHS
 Club Seattle Baths 1520 Summit Ave., 329-2334. Clean, friendly and safe.
 Club "Z" 1117 Pike St., 622-9958. Private mens club.

BOOKSTORES/RETAIL SHOPS
 Bailey Gay Books 414 Broadway Ave. E., 323-8942. Special bookstores.
 Beyond the Closet Bookstore 1501 Belmont Ave., 324-4893.
 Red & Black Books 430 15th Ave. E., 322-7323.

RESTAURANTS & BARS
 Brass Connection 722 E. Pike, 322-7777. Disco, dining and hard liquor.
 Chaperos 2035 N. 45th, 545-8683.
 Changes Too 1501 E. Olive, 322-6558. Games, daily specials.
 The Crescent 1413 E. Olive Way (no phone). Horseshoe bar, juke box, pool table.
 Double Header 427 2nd Ave., 454-9918. Pool table, dancing, Open-pub band on weekends.
 The Eagle 314 E. Pike, 624-2612. Leather, levis, uniforms, pools, pool table, & more.
 The Elite 822 Broadway E., 324-4400. Craziness and companions.
 Encore 11th between Pike & Pine, 324-8871. Restaurant and Lounge. Breakfast, lunch, dinner & food to go. 11am-2am weekdays, 8am-2am weekends.
 Feet Seattle 726 E. Pike (next to SGN), 329-1155. A La Carte. The City's Finest Rural Country Place.
 George's Bar & Grill 1901 4th Ave. (between Pike & Stewart), 322-3851. Greek and American food. Open 24 hours. Tues-Sun. Monday close at 10pm. Mixed crowd.
 Giugliano's Pizzeria 131 15th Ave. E., 323-8118. Beer, wine, espresso. Daily 11a-11p 11-12.
 Hollywood Underground 323 2nd Ave. S. Gay Sunday nights 10-6.
 Hamburger Mary's 401 Broadway E. (Broadway & Market), 323-2662. Restaurant/Banquet. Serving full menu until 2am.
 Howlers 1413 4th Avenue, 323-2158. Pool, pinball, dance, large selection of imported beers, and live DJ.
 Jule Pappas 506 Broadway E., 322-5900. Lunch, dinner specials, and happy hour.
 Madison Pub 1315 E. Madison, 325-6532. Neighborhood Pub with pool and darts. Large import beer selection.
 Mike's on Madison 1501 E. Madison, 323-4007. Liquor bar, restaurant, breakfast, lunch, dinner. Sunday through Thursday 4pm-10pm, Fri. & Sat. 3pm-10pm.
 Neighbour 1309 Broadway, 324-5356. Restaurant, lounge and disco. Nightly specials. Your music, your friends, your Neighbour.
 Night Marys 401 Broadway E. (next to Hamburger Mary's), 324-6655. Darts, live DJ, patio.
 Off Ramp Cafe 109 Eastlake E., 628-0232. Cabaret at Doris and Stewart streets.
 Olive Way Tavern (open to be really Tavern), 1705 Bellevue Ave., 322-9944.
 RKNDRY 1812 Yale Avenue, 623-0470. Live music Friday and Saturday, Sunday Gay nights.
 R Place 619 E. Pine, 322-8828. A Seattle Pub. Imported Irish beers.
 Re-bar 1114 Howell (at Boren Ave.). Open daily 8pm-2am, 5pm-2am on Fridays. Happy Hour until 10pm. Live Jazz. Min. Bands. Tots, Dancing. Weds-Sun. 10-2. Thurs. Open Night.
 Romper Room 105 First Ave. N., 284-5003. Monday nights - Backdoor 10pm-2am. 2 DJ's named Frank.
 Six-Eleven Tavern 611 2nd Avenue, 345-9430. Friendly sports-bar atmosphere.
 Sonny's 1532 7th Avenue, 624-9377. Small neighborhood hard liquor bar.
 Spagh's 1113 E. Pike, 322-2832. Cold beer, pool table, neighborhood atmosphere.
 Timberline Tavern 2015 Boren, 622-6220. Country western dancing for Gay men and women.
 Taps (The New Taps) 518 E. Pine, 323-1145. Dancing. Video bar.
 Weathered Wall 1921 5th Ave., 445-5688. Gay Wednesday nights. DJ Ramon.
 Wildrose Tavern 1021 E. Pike, 324-9210. Lesbian bar that serves lunch & dinner, beer & wine. Top great jukebox, non-smokers' section and a new dance floor.

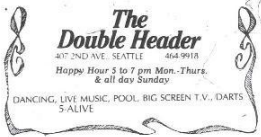
Tacoma
RESTAURANTS & BARS
 Seafood Shack 2902 6th Ave., 572-2858. Caters to lesbians, yet everyone is made to feel welcome and "at home". Great times for all.
 Loop Tavern 2708 8th Ave., 627-9765.
 Patsy Bear 114 Commerce, 627-9438. Restaurant and lounge.
 733 Restaurant & Lounge 733 Commerce St., 627-0723. The biggest disco in Tacoma, restaurant, 2 jukeboxes.
 24th Street Tavern 2465 Pacific Ave., 572-9386.



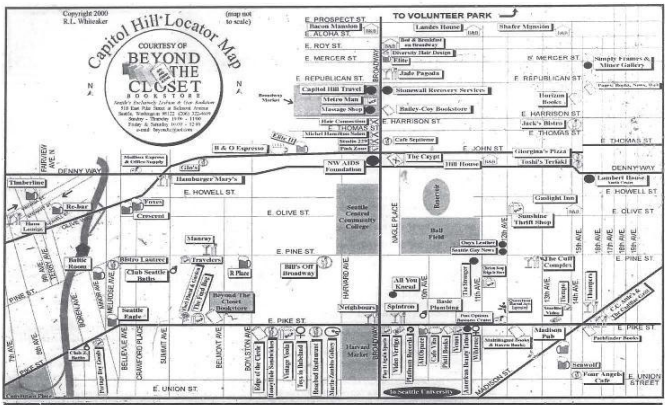
The Cuff, which opened in 1993, ran regular ads in SGN; the ad above is from June 9, 2000 and the ad below from June 27, 1997.



The Crypt July 31, 1992

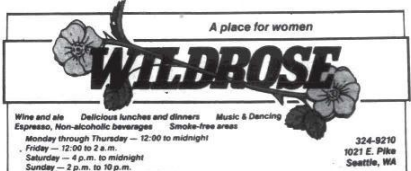


The Double Header (now closed) August 16, 1985

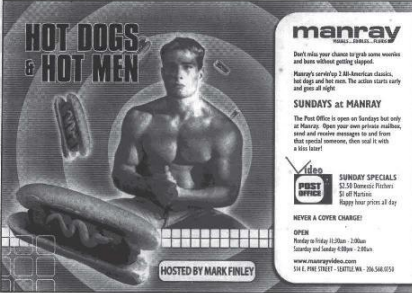


Some maps featured in SGN were sponsored by local businesses. The June 2000 map above was sponsored by Beyond the Closet, a queer Capitol Hill bookstore that closed in 2005.

Seattle Gay News preserves the stories of generations of queer businesses. Some establishments, like the Cuff and Wildrose, are still open and thriving today, continuing to be safe spaces for the queer community. Others, like the Double Header, thought to be the oldest gay bar in the United States, have sadly closed their doors. While they no longer exist physically, the legacy of these havens is preserved in the SGN archives and in the memories of the communities who patronized them.



Wildrose opened as a lesbian bar in 1985. The above ads, two of many published in SGN, are from June 2000 (left) and May 1987 (right). The Seattle Eagle ad below is from January 16, 1987. Both establishments remain open today.



Manray Video (now closed) ad from June 9, 2000

