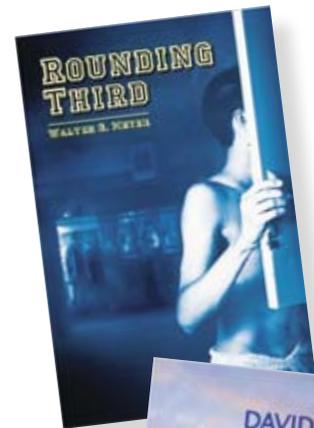# book rage
by mark hernandez

Who Killed Amanda Palmer

In this month's "something completely different" department I want to bring your attention to Amanda Palmer and the Dresden Dolls. Amanda's world is one big amazing mixture of music, art and theatre all mashed up together. Singer and pianist Amanda Palmer and her drummer Brian Viglione make up the Dresden Dolls often along with many others in their concert performances given worldwide. Their latest offering is a set of things—an album, videos and a book all titled *Who Killed Amanda Palmer*. The beautiful companion art book features amazing and lavish photos, all of which are offered as pictorial clues as to who killed Amanda Palmer. The pictures are stunning and make you think of the art of Pierre et Gilles or David LaChapelle. Amanda herself likes it all, singing, performing, dressing up, performance art and sleeping with both guys and girls, too! You can sample her music on iTunes and learn more about Amanda and the Dolls from a variety of websites starting with dresdendolls.com.
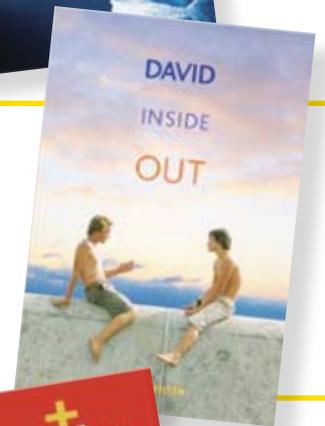
Rounding Third

Local resident and accomplished writer Walter "Max" Meyer has gotten his first gay novel published, and it's received fantastic reviews from several other well-known authors in the genre. *Rounding Third* is a coming-of-age tale set in high school, and Rob is the typical teen who feels like he's a misfit just about everywhere, especially on the baseball team. He's particularly drawn to Josh, the team's pitcher, and the two hit it off and develop a friendship off the field. But as they get closer, Rob notices bruises on Josh that aren't sports-related and starts to wonder if it has anything to do with things Josh hasn't been completely forthcoming about. When things start to get out of control with the physical abuse, Rob gets pushed to the point of having to do something. What follows are a lot of intense events involving their families and the world around them, along with their deepening feelings for each other. While the story is fictional, it's drawn from many very real experiences that are just one or two degrees of separation from the author's own life. It's an excellent well-written must-read story for everyone, especially someone who is struggling with him/herself or someone they care about.

David Inside Out

If you like the coming-of-age genre and are looking for something lighter, pick up *David Inside Out* by Lee Bantle. Just looking at the sweet cover tells you so much about the book. But that doesn't mean life is any less difficult for David, who's becoming acutely aware of himself and his unexpected feelings. Getting conflicting messages from his mom, who encourages him to simply be himself, and the world around him, which tells him the opposite, isn't helping him sort things out. But thankfully his friendship with Sean, not surprisingly a teammate on the track team, leads him first into major conflict with the entire universe, and finds his way full-circle back to a more settled and intimate place.

Hate Thy Neighbor

The current health care debate has certainly reminded us of the fact that spreading misinformation and preying on people who "hear what they want to hear" is still a powerful device in preventing progress. Of course, the only way to combat this is to be informed and have your ammunition ready when the opportunity to debunk a myth presents itself. Linda Patterson's book *Hate Thy Neighbor - How the Bible is Misused to Condemn Homosexuality* is an important new resource in that regard. In this book, Linda takes the approach of listing the homosexuality-related Bible myths you might be confronted with, helps you understand what's really being said, how it fits with the modern world and puts it in perspective with the rest of the Bible. The book is thin, easy to read, and very interesting. Regardless of the debate, misinformation is bad. And even if the person you're talking to has their fingers in their ears going "la la la la la" while you're making your point, if we don't try to push back things won't get any better.