

# The Gayzette

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## High Court Takes on Gays in Scouts

WASHINGTON (AP) - Taking on emotional issues of free speech and homosexuality, the Supreme Court agreed Friday to decide whether the Boy

Scouts of America can exclude gays as members and troop leaders. The justices said they will decide whether the organization had a constitutional right to oust a young troop leader after learning he is gay.

The court is expected to hear arguments in April and issue a decision by July. New Jersey's highest court ruled last summer that the Boy Scouts' denial of membership to homosexual boys and leaders violated a state law banning discrimination in public accommodations. But the Scouts' lawyer contends that law violated the organization's rights of free speech and free association under the Constitution's First Amendment. But the attorney for James Dale, the former assistant scoutmaster whose leadership role was revoked, said opposition to homosexuality is not one the Scouts' main purposes.

"As gay people we know how important the First Amendment is," said lawyer Evan Wolfson of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. "Their First Amendment rights are not being interfered with. The members did not join the Boy Scouts for bigotry in the first place." The Scouts' Monmouth Council revoked Dale's registration as an adult leader Dale was told the Boy Scouts "does not admit avowed homosexuals to membership in the organization."

Dale sued the Monmouth Council and the national organization in 1992, contending they violated the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination.

A state trial judge threw out the case, ruling that the Boy Scouts is not a place of public accommodation and therefore is not covered by the law.

But an appeals court and the New Jersey Supreme Court ruled for Dale.

The appeal relied on a 1995 decision in which the justices said the sponsor of Boston's St. Patrick's Day Parade should not be forced to let a group of gays and lesbians participate. The court said parades are "a form of expression" and private sponsors cannot be forced to include "a group imparting a message the organizers do not wish to convey."

But Dale's lawyers contend his case should be governed by a series of Supreme

Court decisions dealing with state public accommodations laws. The court ruled in 1984 that states may force the Jaycees, a group dedicated to developing America's future leaders, to admit women as full members. Three years later, the court ruled that states may force Rotary International to admit women as members. In 1988, the court said New York City can bar discrimination against women and minorities by clubs with more than 400 members. None of those decisions dealt with gay rights, however, an issue the court has visited on a few occasions in the last two decades but never seemed eager to tackle. For example, the justices repeatedly have turned away challenges to President Clinton's "don't ask, don't tell" policy on gays in the military.

## Vickie Shaw (lesbian comedian)

Feb. 19 8pm

Joslyn Art Museum

2200 Dodge

Tickets \$15 in advance \$17 at the door

Tickets available at New Realities or by mail from

WomenSpace Productions

PO Box 24712

Omaha, NE 68124-0712

If you need info, Vickie has played in Provincetown for several extended engagements as well as entertaining on L/G cruises and on the women's festival circuit.

More info, e-mail [Wmnspace@aol.com](mailto:Wmnspace@aol.com)



## **NAMES Project of the Heartland/Omaha Local Chapter of the AIDS Memorial Quilt.**

We are a small group of people here in Omaha that have started a local chapter for the NAMES Project, AIDS Memorial Quilt. We have been in existence for a little over 2 years now, and we have had many great successes for such a small group of very hard working people. Our core group consists of 6 Board members and over 25 members sponsoring the organization. We are currently in need of more Board members for the following positions: Treasurer, Volunteer Coordinator, Merchandise Coordinator, Fund Raiser. If you have any experience in any of these fields, please contact us at [AIDSQuiltOmaha@aol.com](mailto:AIDSQuiltOmaha@aol.com). Soon we will also have a homepage at this location where you will be able to check for various events that we will be having during the year. We meet once a month usually on the 4th Tuesday. Contact us at [AIDSQuiltOmaha@aol.com](mailto:AIDSQuiltOmaha@aol.com) about where we will be meeting for that particular month.

Our first display of the quilt was on World AIDS Day, 1998. We had 3 displays at that time: one at Creighton University, one at Peru State College, Peru NE, and one at Camille's Restaurant in the Old Market. In 1999, we participated in National Quilt in the Capitol and EBAH in Lincoln, which was a great success.

We also did displays at Doane College in Crete, Kimball, NE, Memorial Day weekend at Camille's, and Nebraska AIDS Walk in Kearney. We also helped plan National Coming Out Day October 9 and held a display there. For World AIDS Day 1999, we had a total of 8 displays throughout the area. One display was as far south as Frankfort, KS in conjunction with The North East AIDS Task Force and Teen HOPE.

So far this year we have had one display in conjunction with the River City Mixed Chorus, at First United Methodist Church on January 16th. Our first fund raiser of the year is being sponsored by BI Choice Nebraska on the 22nd of January. We also hold Panel Making workshops on a quarterly basis. The first workshop is in Lincoln on January 23rd at the Lincoln Woman's Club on 14th L, then in Omaha on January 29th at Unity Church of Omaha. For more information about the panel making workshops please contact Helen Jordon at [HSJordon@aol.com](mailto:HSJordon@aol.com). Helen has made numerous panels for the quilt and is very knowledgeable and has lots of ideas about making a panel for a loved one.

We are always looking for volunteers to help us at our displays. If you are interested, please contact us at [AIDSQuiltOmaha@aol.com](mailto:AIDSQuiltOmaha@aol.com).

Rick A. Worman, President and Quilt Display Coordinator and Interim Treasurer



## VARIETY SHOW FEATURES RIVER CITY MIXED CHORUS

Special guests at Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha's Variety Show on Sat., Jan. 29, will be the River City Mixed Chorus. Quite a line-up of singers, guitarists, and pianists are lined up for the show. And, of course, there a female impersonator--just one. The entertainers all come from Omaha and Lincoln MCC congregations. You are invited to attend this free show. Dessert will be served at intermission in the Social Hall. A love offering will be taken.

From Lincoln the entertainers include singer Melody K., pianist Burns D., and guitarist Linda Mackie. From Omaha the entertainers include singers R.N. Hedges, Ted, Jesse, Peggy, Stan, Laurence, Nichole, Natalie, and special guests the River City Mixed Chorus; guitarist Cindy; and pianists Bruce and Gary. Emcees for the evening include R.N. Hedges and Rev. Sharon Sloat.

Entertainment starts at 7:30 PM at Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha, 819 S. 22nd St., Omaha. Admission is free; there will be a love offering. Come join us in the celebration of 26 years of ministry to the area's GLBT community.

### Cocktail Party at The Max

The Ice Bowl committee has scheduled a Cocktail Party in conjunction with Annie's Amateur Strip Night at The Max on Friday evening February 4th, 2000. There is a \$3.00 charge per person. Please come and join us and then catch some bodys in the buff.

## NCOD COMMITTEE EXPANDS AND AGREES TO PLAN PRIDE 2000

Tues., Jan. 18, Pride, Inc. Board member Dick Brown met with the committee who planned last year's National Coming Out Day Celebration to see if they were interested in taking on the PRIDE 2000 planning. An enthusiastic group of about 12 said, "Yes!" But before going any further, the group wanted to invite all community organizations to become a part of the planning committee.

So if you or someone you know from one of the community organizations is interested in getting involved in the work of planning and carrying off the PRIDE parade, etc., the organizational meeting will be held at 7 PM, Tuesday, Feb. 8, at the Unitarian Church. Letters of invitation should be arriving any day now for all groups who were not represented at the January meeting. You need not receive a letter to attend. Everyone is welcome, but the committee is specifically looking for those who want to work "hands on!"

## Winners Announced For "One In Ten Screenplay Competition."

Over 100 entries were received from around the world for "The One in Ten Screenplay Competition," which requires that one of the primary characters be gay or lesbian. Winning scripts have just been announced:

1st Place

"Keeping Kosher"

Lani Bari New York, NY

2nd Place

"Relative Danger"

Judith Brigolin, Barbara Newton

Rochester Hills, MI

3rd Place

"Why I Hate My Friends"

Michael A. Buzzelli

Los Angeles, CA

Winners receive cash prizes and agency script submissions. Entry forms are available for the year 2000 competition and may be obtained by visiting our website: <http://members.aol.com/cherubfilm/> or by sending a self addressed stamped envelope to:

Cherub Productions

"One In Ten Screenplay Competition"

Post Office Box 540

Boulder, Colorado 80306

303-629-3072

E-mail: [Cherubfilm@aol.com](mailto:Cherubfilm@aol.com)



# ASSAULT ON GAY AMERICA

PBS airdate: Tuesday, February 15, 2000, 10 P.M., 60 minutes

On February 19, 1999, Billy Jack Gaither, a thirty-nine-year-old computer programmer from Sylacauga, Alabama, was brutally beaten with an axe handle. His throat was cut, and his body was set on fire. Charles Butler, twenty-one, and Steven Mullins, twenty-four, were convicted for the crime. Mullins later testified he killed Billy Jack because Billy Jack was "queer" and had made a pass at him. Jury selection for the trial was difficult - many called for duty said that they didn't know whether they could render a fair verdict, because the Bible tells them that homosexuality is a sin.

In "Assault on Gay America," airing Tuesday, February 15, at 10 P.M. on PBS (check local listings), FRONTLINE producer Claudia Pryor Malis and correspondent Forrest Sawyer explore the nature of homophobia in America, both as a catalyst for hate crimes and as an attitude that permeates public life. "We move from the exploration of the hate crime against Billy Jack Gaither to the larger question of how much homophobia we share as a society," says Pryor. "We examine the possible links between the forces that drove them to kill, and the forces that fuel homophobia in the general law-abiding public."

## MILLENNIUM MARCH ON WASHINGTON ISSUES CALL FOR RALLY SPEAKERS

WASHINGTON, DC, Jan. 10, 2000 - Today, organizers of the Millennium March on Washington for Equality issued a call for nominations of individuals to speak at the Rally, as part of the Millennium March on Washington, scheduled for April 30, 2000. Organizers of the March encourage people to dream big and nominate individuals who will be inspiring, moving and empowering to them personally; and to encourage their friends and family to nominate prospective speakers as well. Nominations can run the gamut - from local heroes to celebrities, parents to poets, athletes to activists or anyone who provides inspiration.

"We are asking the community to assist the

producers, organizers and board of the Millennium March by nominating individuals to speak at the Rally," said Dianne Hardy-Garcia, co-executive director of the Millennium March. "This is another way people from all over the country can provide input and help shape this historic March." "Addressing the thousands and thousands of March-goers is a unique honor and privilege," said Malcolm Lazin, co-executive director. "We are counting on our community to put forth individuals who will provide a powerful message as we gather at our nation's capitol."

Submissions may be made by e-mail to [MMOW2000@aol.com](mailto:MMOW2000@aol.com), by faxing to (202)467-8102 or by mailing nominations to the Millennium March offices at 1000 16th St., NW, Ste. 300, Washington, DC 20036. Nominations should include a brief description of the person and contact information for both the person nominating and the person or persons being nominated. The nominations must include full name, address and phone number for verification.

The Millennium March on Washington, scheduled for April 30, 2000, will be the fourth national GLBT civil rights march to promote equal rights for all gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals. For more information on the March on Washington for Equality, visit the official website at [www.mmow.org](http://www.mmow.org) or write to [MMOW2000@aol.com](mailto:MMOW2000@aol.com).

NEWS FROM THE MILLENNIUM MARCH ON  
WASHINGTON  
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Washington, DC 20036  
(202) 467-8100  
(202) 467-8102 (fax)  
[www.mmow.org](http://www.mmow.org)

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## Annual Miss Ice Bowl Pageant

The Ice Bowl Committee is hosting the Annual Miss Ice Bowl Pageant on Sunday February, 13th, 2000 at 9:00 p.m. at The Max. If anyone is interested in entering the pageant please contact Andrew Blea, Show Director at The Max. Please come out and welcome the new Miss Ice Bowl to the community.

## Ice Bowl 2000 Is Here

The Omaha Ice Bowl committee is hosting the 8th annual Ice Bowl Invitational Bowling Tournament. It is to be held February 18th-20th, 2000. The tournament will be held at Mockingbird Lanes in Omaha. We are expecting approximately 200 to 300 bowlers from the Omaha metro area as well as from Denver, Kansas City, St. Louis, Chicago, Minneapolis, Milwaukee, Los Angeles, San Diego and Seattle.

Registration is held Friday February 18th at Gillian's Pub with the banquet and awards ceremony Sunday night at The Max. Please come out to welcome the out of state bowlers. We also hope that all of you Omaha bowlers sign up to join the fun.

The Ice Bowl is also hosting a Poker Run for Friday, January 28th starting at 7 p.m. at Connections the continuing on to OMC, The Diamond, The Max and ending at D.C.'s. The entry price is \$5.00 per contestant. The best poker hand will split the pot with the Ice Bowl committee. We hope to see you there, so please come out and join the fun.

## GBLT Rainbow Outreach Resource Center Receives Grant

Your local Omaha GBLT community center received a grant from The Gill Foundation of Colorado. The Gill Foundation is a National source of funding for various GBLT endeavors. Everyone on the board for the center is excited and proud to have been selected for this honor. According to The Gill Foundation this grant cycle was a competitive one. So the Omaha GBLT community can be proud that one of our organizations received such national recognition.

Please remember that even though your community center has this grant, that we still need your support to keep growing. So remember that whatever you can give to support us is appreciated, be it your financial backing, books for the library, your time as a volunteer, or any other donated items that will help us to grow. We cannot be a community center without you, our GBLT community.

## We Are Not Old Enough To Play Bingo

Friday the 28th was to be Breakfast and Bingo at Dixie Quicks. Unfortunately the Nebraska Gaming Commission says The Center is not old enough to play Bingo. So we are having Breakfast and a Raffle instead. It will be \$5.00 for breakfast and a dollar per ticket for the raffle. So come on by after the bar closes, try the food and try your luck, you might be surprised by either.

## MCC- Omaha Special Events

MCC-Omaha is having special events to celebrate their 26th year.

Sat., Jan. 29th 6 p.m.

**DINNER IN THE SOCIAL HALL**

\$26 a plate, \$75 a couple

For tickets call 345-2563 by Mon., Jan. 24

Sat., Jan. 29 7:30 p.m.

**VARIETY SHOW & DESSERT**

In Sanctuary Social Hall - Love Offering

Sun., Jan. 30th 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

**SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP**

In the Sanctuary, 819 S. 22nd St., Omaha

**Breakfast and Raffle**

**Dixie Quicks**

**105 S. 15th St.**

**Starting at 12:30 a.m.**

**\$5.00 for Breakfast**

**With \$1.00 Raffle**

**Good Food and Great Fun**



**FEATURING THE MIDWEST'S MOST EXCITING**

# THE MAX

**Proudly Gay Owned & Operated**

**SUNDAY, FEB. 6th**

**ICON ANNUAL SNO BALL**

**Special Guests Direct From The Q**

**“The Dream Girls”**

**SUNDAY, FEB. 13th**

**THE 6th ANNUAL**

**ICE BOWL 2000 PAGEANT**

**SUNDAY, FEB. 20th**

**ICE BOWL 2000 SHOW & AWARDS**

**OPEN DANCING AT THE HOTTEST NITE CLUB**

**Happy Hour Everyday 4-7 pm**

**\$1.25 Wells, Draws, Sodas**

**Mon-Tues-Wed**

**Beer Bust 9 pm—1 am**

**\$2.00 Then 50c refills**

**Thursday**

**\$ 1.00 Margaritas**

**Friday Evening**

**Wild Annie's Amateur Strip-off**

**\$ 2.00 Jager, Gold, Rumple, and Black Haus**

**Saturday**

**Need we say more? Party at the hottest Night Club !**

**Sunday**

**Scotty's Beer Bust (5-9 pm)**

**\$ 4.00**

**GAY NIGHT CLUB & SHOW BARS IN THE NATION**