

The GayZette



Published by the Rainbow Outreach Metro Omaha GLBT Community Center

N.J.: No to Marriage, Yes to Marijuana

The New Jersey state legislature voted to legalize medical marijuana just days after it rejected a marriage equality bill.

By Julie Bolcer

Just days after the defeat of a bill to legalize same-sex marriage in the state senate, the New Jersey legislature voted Monday to pass the region's first medical marijuana bill by comfortable margins.



Under the bill, patients with severe illnesses could receive prescriptions to obtain up to two ounces of marijuana per month at one of six state-sponsored locations. Gov. Jon Corzine, who leaves office next Tuesday, will sign the bill.

According to The New York Times, the medical marijuana bill, one of the few on the East Coast, passed the state legislature despite controversy and opposition from Governor-elect Christopher Christie.

"The bill's approval, which comes after years of lobbying by patients' rights groups and advocates of less restrictive drug laws, was nearly derailed at the 11th hour as some Democratic lawmakers wavered and Governor-elect Christopher J. Christie, a Republican, went to the state house and expressed reservations about it," reported the Times.

In the end, the bill passed by 48-14 in the general assembly and 25-13 in the state senate.

Let's Resolve to Accept Transgender People as Equals

By Lynda Myers

The writer, of Omaha, is president of the River City Gender Alliance.

Sixteen years ago, a young Nebraskan, barely 21 years old, was brutally raped and murdered.

At 21, you are at the brink of adulthood — growing into an adult and truly beginning your life. Brandon Teena was a young man who was on the brink of getting his life together in 1993. He had just moved to Richardson County, began to date a girl named Lana and made friends.

However, when his so-called friends, John Lotter, 22, and Marvin "Tom" Nissen, 21, discovered that he was transgender, they violently attacked him. On Christmas Eve 1993, two of these men beat and raped Brandon multiple times and threatened to kill him if he told the police of the attack.

Brandon found the courage to drag himself to his girlfriend Lana's house after the attack. Lana encouraged Brandon to report the assault to the police, who were disrespectful and refused to arrest either of the attackers, despite the fact that Brandon identified the men.

One week later, on New Year's Eve, Lotter and Nissen decided to track Brandon down. Brandon was beaten and shot to death, along with two friends, Lisa Lambert and Phillip DeVine.

Unlike many murderers of transgender people, Brandon's killers were arrested. Lotter is currently on death row, and Nissen is serving life in prison without parole.

Brandon's mother, however, believes that the three lives lost on New Year's Eve and the lives of Lotter and Nissen would have been saved if local law enforcement had acted in a timely manner to protect Brandon. Brandon's mother said that local police enabled Brandon's murder by not taking anti-transgender violence seriously.

Sixteen years ago, I was also a young, transgender-identified Nebraskan in Omaha. Hearing the story of Brandon's death was shocking. To this day, I am still saddened about Brandon Teena. Nothing has changed. I ask myself every day, who has such prejudice and hatred that he can commit such violent acts?

(Continued on page 4)

January 15, 2010 - January 29, 2010

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All ads should be emailed to Gayzette@cox.net. Checks should be made payable to Rainbow Outreach GLBT Resource Center. 10% Discount for on-going ads of any size. Payment and ads may also be delivered to the Rainbow Outreach GLBT Resource Center, P.O. Box 8583, Omaha NE 68108 on or before the deadline. We reserve the right to refuse any ad which we deem to be inappropriate.

Ad Deadlines: Friday, Jan 22nd, for Publication Jan 29th Friday, Feb 5th for Publication Feb

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(Transgender People as Equals, Continued from page 1)

We risk our lives every day going to our jobs, the grocery store or even to the mailbox. We can stay at home afraid to go anywhere, but we somehow have the courage to go out and go about our day like there is nothing wrong.

Transgender people have family, friends, spouses and kids. We have jobs, play sports, are celebrities and teach. We are human beings. We need to stop the hate.

As we gather during the holidays with our friends and family, let us honor Brandon's life and the lives of Lisa and Phillip, who died because of their love for their friend. Let us also remember Lotter and Nissen, who learned to hate and to act with violence against anyone who was different.

As individuals, we have the power to speak to our friends and family about love and understanding. Mention Brandon's story this New Year's Day and talk about the transgender people you know or the stories you have read throughout the year. Educate each other about transgender issues and, as a New Year's resolution, promise to do your part in stopping violence against transgender people in Nebraska through education and legislation.

This will be the last year Nebraska goes without a hatecrimes law that protects all of us. That will give us something more to celebrate in 2010.

I Sing the Body Electric

The River City Mixed Chorus presents a special concert about body image- how we see ourselves, how we see others, and ultimately, accepting who we are and embracing our lives.

I Sing the Body Electric will be more than just a concert: it will be a wonderful, uplifting event that will be touching and humorous; a look at what body image means to us personally, and what it means to each of us as part of the human race.

The concert will feature short, personal stories from RCMC members, who will share their struggles, triumphs and celebrations of their bodies, of who they were, and who they are today.

We have a very special guest that will be a part of the concert: Evelyn Garcia, an Omaha contestant from the national television program *The Biggest Loser*, will tell her story and participate in a musical number- "Big Girl, You Are Beautiful".

I Sing the Body Electric will be performed on Saturday, January 23rd at 7:05p.m. and Sunday, January 24th at 4:05p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 7020 Cass St.

Tickets are \$20 each in advance; \$25 day of the performance. They can be purchased at the door, or go to the

website www.RCMC.org to purchase your tickets.

New Jersey Senate Defeats Same-Sex Marriage Bill

By Vanessa Juarez, CNN

(CNN) -- A bill that would have legalized same-sex marriage in New Jersey was defeated in the state Senate Thursday by a vote 14-20.

New Jersey would have been the sixth state to legalize gay marriage, but advocates of the bill were seven votes shy of what was needed to move the measure on to the other state chamber, the Assembly.



The defeat came despite impassioned speeches during the debate from Democratic Sens. Sandra B. Cunningham and Nia H. Gill, both co-sponsors of the bill. They likened the fight for recognition of same-sex marriage to the struggles African-Americans faced in American history.

"This chamber, this legislature would not be this diverse and this encompassing of the citizens of the United States if someone had not said to my forefathers and mothers that we will fight for the right for our children to be equal participants in this society," Gill said.

Cunningham followed with, "As an African-American, I cannot in good conscious not support anyone's right to fight for the right to be treated with dignity and respect."

Gay right activists had hoped the measure would pass before Democratic Gov. Jon Corzine, a supporter of the bill, turned the office of governor over to Republican successor Chris Christie, who opposes same-sex marriage.

Opponents of the legislation had argued New Jersey's civil union law provided enough protections for same-sex



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couples.

Sen. Raymond J. Lesniak, a Democrat and another sponsor of the bill, told CNN he was disappointed with the outcome, but he said he and other advocates were not deterred.

"I see us going into courts shortly, challenging the ban on same-sex marriage on the basis of equal protection and religious freedom protected under our Constitution, because we have many churches (that) want to perform same-sex marriages, and the state forbids them to," Lesniak told CNN.

"So I'm very confident that shortly we'll be in court, and we'll rectify the wrong that was done today."

Spectators on both sides of the issue were allowed to sit in on the proceedings. As Senate President Richard Codey, standing at the podium, announced the bill had been defeated, a chorus of cheers filled the room.

Iowa Democrats Keep Mum on Marriage

By Julie Bolcer

As Iowa state legislators return to session this week, Democratic leaders are pledging to silence discussion of any potential constitutional amendment to overturn the supreme court's unanimous decision last April to legalize same-sex marriage.

According to WHO TV in Des Moines, senate majority leader Mike Gronstal and house speaker Pat Murphy have promised to block discussions of any such amendment, preferring to concentrate their members' work on the budget.

"We have to keep Iowa equal, and I'm going to do everything in my power to make sure that happens," said Gronstal.

However, Republicans such as Rep. Kevin Koester insist that Iowans deserve a say through a vote on a constitutional amendment. WHO TV reports that Koester may attempt to circulate a petition among colleagues to bolster the effort.



Missing Woman's Case Pursued as Homicide

By Michelle Garcia

Los Angeles County sheriff Lee Baca ordered his department to increase the effort to find missing local woman Mitrice Richardson by investigating the case as a homicide.



A department spokesman told the Malibu Surfside News that the change in definition of the case is only to expand resources, and that authorities do not believe she is dead.

Richardson, a 24-year-old lesbian, was arrested in September when she couldn't cover an \$89 bill at a Malibu restaurant 40 miles from her home. She was eventually released at 12:25 a.m. from the Lost Hills sheriff's station with no money, phone, or mode of transportation (her car was impounded). She has been missing since that morning.

Baca made the announcement after meeting with Richardson's

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CAN YOU BUY HAPPINESS?

Michael Kimmel
[beyondtherapy@cox.net]



Please consider the following question: "Do we see ourselves as people with aspirations of patience and empathy towards our brothers and sisters or - instead - as consumers who are entitled to the best stuff this world has to offer, so we'd better get out there and get as much of it as we can?" I know I've set it up as an either/or proposition here, but bear with me. Whether you're a Buddhist monk or a reality show star, isn't happiness your goal? And, if so, how do you get happiness? Can you buy it? If so, where do you get it and how much will it cost? If you can't buy it, what are your alternatives?

Many of us happiness-seekers have big problems with delayed gratification, especially those of us raised in more recent times where advertising shouts at us, "Get it now, don't wait, only an idiot would be patient." It feels like we're leaving our hearts

and minds behind as we focus instead on accumulating as much cool stuff as we can. That L'Oreal commercial "Because I'm worth it" sums it all up. As an advertising slogan, it's awfully good. It messes with our heads because...of course we're worth it. We're worth whatever we want. Don't we deserve whatever we want? This kind of thinking can suck anyone into a whirlpool of spending, temporary satisfaction, and - ultimately - depression that leads to more spending and eventual debt. Debt does not equal happiness, can we agree on that?

We all want to be happy and being a good consumer looks like an easy path to get there. Really good advertising - and there's a lot of it around these days - tries to manipulate our emotions. As a result, it's no surprise that so many of us feel we're not living up to our (earning/achieving/sexual) potential and are cosmic losers. This doesn't mean we can't enjoy nice things. But, it's wise not to make them the most important thing in your life. If you have money and beautiful objects, great! But if you don't, can you be okay with that too? Or will it suck you down into depression?

Let's ratchet up the consumerism dial and ask another question: are we people or are we brands? I recently read how a young gay man had decided to turn himself into a brand so he could become wealthy and popular. This is not the way to happiness. If it worked, Paris Hilton would be up there with the Dalai Lama and Mother Teresa. This young writer stated that, "typically younger gay males 17-21, use skills they've yet to learn in marketing 101, and turn themselves into a product,

(Continued on page 10)





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complete with brand recognition...branding one's self (sic) is the new way to claim a piece of fame in our local bar and club scene". This could be amusing if it were playful, but it's pretty damned sad to me. Do we want a piece of fame so badly that we're willing to commodify ourselves to get it? So much for having personality, intelligence and social skills. Am I just an old fart who wonders why integrity, honesty and patience don't matter anymore? Maybe so.

Being a big-time consumer and turning yourself into a brand may get you some good stuff, but it usually brings anxiety and depression, NOT happiness. Author Patricia Pearson, in her terrific book, *A Brief History of Anxiety (Yours and Mine)*, found that 28.8% of Americans will suffer anxiety in their lifetime – the highest level in the world – and that \$4.2 Billion is spent annually, in the USA alone, on treating anxiety. I posit that there is a relationship between the crazy anxiety epidemic in this country and the out-of-control consumerism that so many of us get sucked into. As a therapist, I typically see several people a month who have racked up huge debt as a result of the "I'm worth it" school of thought. Believe me, they don't come to me because they're happy...they come to me because they want to find a way out of the low self-worth that comes from thinking you're nothing but your brand, your house, your clothes or your stuff.

As someone who has a comfortable home, nice car and enjoys clothes, music and eating out, I am not recommending that you give up the basic comforts you've worked so hard for. What I AM putting out for your consideration, however, is the idea that you cannot buy happiness, you can only buy things, and the happiness that comes from things is temporary. Even if you become as popular a "brand" as Pepsi, Madonna or L'Oreal, happiness, peace of mind, friendship and a wonderful lover do not come with the package. Those joys typically come to us another way: through patience, humility, honesty, kindness and empathy to others.

The Discussion Group

What does faith mean to you? Do you believe in life after death? How do you feel about the Holy Trinity? Have you read the Bible? What are you most scared of? Can I be gay and be a Christian? Will God love me if I am a lesbian, or bi, or transgender?

Let's face it; there is a lot of information out there. Some say yes, some say no and some don't care. We are about like them. We will say yes and we may say no. But how we differ is because we do care! The Discussion Group meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month to discuss a variety of topics.

No fancy name, just The Discussion Group, we meet in a home, share some food, ideas, thoughts, questions, we explore how each other feels about many topics. Not a counseling group. Not a group that will tell you what to do. But a group who listens, feels and shares a belief that we are worthy, we are beautiful, we are loved and that we ARE all children of God.

If this sounds like a group you would like to join, perhaps both times each month, perhaps only once a month perhaps every other month, or only once please call us or email us for directions. We meet at 7PM in the South Dundee area. Call Royal

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Things My Friends Would Say... (About Life)

ROYAL D. BUSH
[Facebook.com/omaharoyal](https://www.facebook.com/omaharoyal)

I have tried on two separate occasions to begin the process of writing a book. One was going to be on customer service: "Service From Both Sides of The Counter" (using experience from the hospitality and training industry AND that of a seasoned traveler to guide me.) The other was going to be just about my life: "Coming Out, Fitting In." But neither made it past the first chapter.

Technology has certainly changed since I tried those endeavors, as well as the medium used by the world! With the introduction of the computer, hand held smart phones and now devices like the Kindle digital media is booming and growing by volumes each month and year!

For those that follow me on facebook know that I write a "message" each day. They are messages of life, faith, hope, affirmations, re-affirmations, support, courage, strength, truth

b cool...b first...



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Are you part of an organization or know any other newsy events, stories happening?

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(Things My Friends Would Say, Continued from page 10)

and... I have been sending them out for over a year now. Linda, a friend of mine, urged me to get them in order and publish a book. I thought about my last two that didn't go anywhere. Lessons can be learned in failed attempts, as long as you learn never to stop attempting!

Stephen, another friend, (hey who would have thought I would have so many) sent me a message saying that he likes these messages and likes to hear what his friends are saying as they confirm what he is thinking about himself, but sometimes may not share with others.

With all this in mind, I am set to begin work on a digital book that is entitled "Things My Friends Would Say..." I hope to write several. The first will be Life.

In terms of life, I would like to share the following today. Life is what we make it. We are the authors of our own life story's. Life is like a checking account, you get out of it what you put into it. How we spend our days, is of course, how we will spend our life. And life is so much more than just a few good sayings.

I know that living life can be hard. I know that coming out can be dreadful. I know that being GLBT is not fun at times. I know being adopted can hurt at some point. I know that being held accountable for your actions can sometimes take you to places you never want to go back to!

I also know that there are many paths, journeys, ways, styles, abilities that we all use to get through life. Get on with life. Perhaps one lessons that I have most learned is that I surround

myself with people who are authentic, loving, and enjoy living life. I want, no I NEED their positive energy. Yes there are days that just plane suck, I get that AND it is being surround with others whom can lift you up to that place you can feel safe, secure and healthy again that puts that smile back on myface-book. J WHAT DO YOU DO TO GET THROUGH LIFE?

Senator: Revoke Uganda's Duty-Free Status

By Advocate.com Editors

Oregon senator Ron Wyden has a reality check for the Ugandan government.

The new chairman of the International Trade Subcommittee on the Senate Finance Committee asked U.S. trade representative Ron Kirk and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Monday to let Uganda know the country will lose its duty-free status if the proposed "kill the gays" bill passes.

Wyden's request comes days after White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said he'd need to check on whether the United States would consider suspending aid to Uganda if the bill passed.

Wyden writes, "I strongly urge you to communicate immediately to the Ugandan government, and President Yoweri Museveni directly, that Uganda's beneficiary status under AGOA

(Continued on page 17)

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Thursdays	7:30PM - 9:00PM
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The GLBT Center welcomes gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and allied persons; we encourage all to attend GLBT Center events and activities. We celebrate unity and diversity - sexual orientation, gender identity, sex, race, religion, age, ability, ethnic and national origin.

SUNDAY JAN 17TH
HGRA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, 3PM AT DC'S SALOON

WEEKLY EVENTS

Every Sunday

WORSHIP SERVICES:

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BEER BUST, FREE POOL AND WII, 8pm, Connections Bar

DIETZ METHODIST 1423 S.10, Coffee-house casual downstairs at 9am, Traditional Worship at 11am

EPISCOPAL GLBT FELLOWSHIP, St. Andrews Church, 84th & Pacific, 6-7PM, email: EpiscopalGLBT@yahoo.com

FIRST CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST, info at: www.firstcentral.org

FIRST UNITED METHODIST 7020 Cass, 8:30 & 10:45am services

FIRST UNITARIAN 3114 Harney, 11am services

GAY MEN'S ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 4pm, Augustana Lutheran Church 3647 Lafayette Ave., Info call Mark 639-3055

HASTINGS COLLEGE GSA 8PM

FFI: Judy Sandeen (402) 461-7372

HIV+ SUPPORT GROUP 7-8:30 pm at the NAP office located at 1921 South 17th Street in Lincoln, NE.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF OMAHA 819 S. 22nd St., 345-2563 Sunday Worship 9am and 11am & Wednesday Worship at 7pm

ONE PROMISE GROUP, Narcotics Anonymous, every Sunday at 6PM, MCC-Omaha, 819 South 22nd St., for info contact Tamara B. at 714-8552

RIVER CITY II MIXED BOWLING, 3pm, Maplewood Lanes, starting again after Labor Day

SECOND UNITARIAN, 10:30am Sunday service, 3012 South 119th St., Omaha NE

UNITY CHURCH OF OMAHA, 3424 N. 90, Omaha, 10:30am service and Wednesday meditation service at 7pm

WIMMIN'S SHOW, KZUM 89.3 12:30pm

Every Monday

A A GLBT "RAINBOW GROUP"

Meeting Place, 28 & S, Lincoln, 7:30 pm

GAY/BI/STRAIGHT SUPPORT GROUP

HIV+ MEN 7pm every Monday, NAP, 2147 S. 15th St., Lincoln NE, contact Nick or Rick at 402-476-3144

NA RAINBOW GROUP, Narcotics Anonymous, meets Fridays thru Mondays at 10pm, MCC-Omaha Church, 819 South 22nd St

RIVER CITY MIXED CHORUS RE-

HEARSALS, 6:45PM—9:15PM, First United Methodist Church, 7020 Cass St.

Every Tuesday

BEER BUST, FREE POOL AND WII 8:00 pm, at Connections

HASTINGS COLLEGE ALLIANCE, meet Tuesdays at 7PM (when college is in session), Please contact Dr Antje Anderson at aanderson@hastings.edu or Judy Sandeen at jsandeen@hastings.edu for further information.

UNL LESBIAN/BI/QUESTIONING SUPPORT GROUP, 7-8:30PM, Women's Center, Nebraska Union, Lincoln, 472-5644

Every Wednesday

AA FOURTH DIMENSION, 7pm, Open to men and women, 219 North 48th Street

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6:30pm, Elmwood Park Parking Lot by softball field, Omaha

COORS LIGHT COLLEGE NIGHT AT

CONNECTIONS 8:00 pm to close, \$2 COORS LIGHTS, \$4 BOMBS with your Student ID. "Fratty Fun till the Evenings Done!"

HIV TESTING LINCOLN, 4-7 pm, results in

20 minutes, 1921 So. 17th St. 402-476-7000

KARAOKE W/ STACY 9:00 pm, at DC's Saloon

LGBT A A 7:30pm, Alcohol Ctrl., 2116 W. Faidley, Grand Island. Peggy (308) 226-8286, Center (308) 398-5427

NAP HIV TESTING, 1:30pm to 4 pm by appt. ONLY, 139 S. 40 St., same day results, call 402-552-9260 for info

UNITY CHURCH OF OMAHA, 7pm

WORSHIP SERVICES

MCC OMAHA, Bible Study, 7pm

Every Thursday

KARAOKE W/ STACY 9:00 pm, at DC's Saloon

NAP HIV TESTING 5pm- 9pm walk-in, 139 S. 40th Same day results,

CONNECTIONS THIRSTY THURSDAYS

REVERSE HAPPY HOUR, FREE POOL & JUKE BOX from 10 pm-midnight

Every Friday

AA LIVE & LET LIVE, 8:15pm, Open to men and women, at Underwood Hills Presbyterian Church, 851 North 74th Street

OUT & ABOUT SOCIAL CLUB

Open to everyone 21 and over, every Friday 6:30pm (time may vary), for more information call 402-384-8014

DANCE LESSONS WITH GORDON

7-9pm, DC's Saloon

DJ & LIVE ENTERTAINMENT at Connections Bar, theme nights and shows

GLBT CENTER YOUTH NIGHT, 6PM to 11PM, for ages 13 to 23. Youth sponsored and organized activities, under adult supervision. Every Friday, excluding holidays. 1719 Leavenworth Street, snacks, soda's provided

NAP HIV TESTING 5pm-9PM walk-in, NAP, 139 S. 40th Same day results

NAP OUTREACH CENTER HIV TESTING 7 TO 10PM, walk-in, **2202 St. Marv's Ave.**, Same day results

Every Saturday

AA SATURDAY AFTERNOON, 1:30pm, Open to men and women, 219 North 48th Street, call 402-558-0733 for more info

DJ MUSIC AND DANCING 10PM, Connections Bar

GET YOUR GROOVE ON WITH DJ VON, 9pm, Connections

PROUD HORIZON YOUTH GROUP 4-6pm, First United Methodist Church, 291-6781 proudhorizons@yahoo.com

MONTHLY EVENTS

1st Tuesday

LINCOLN MIXED CHORUS 6:30pm,
Unitarian Church, 6300 A, Lincoln

1st Wednesday

FREE RAPID HIV TESTING, 8pm to 10pm
at Flixx Show Bar, STD testing also available
for \$10, call 552-9260 ext. 113 or 142 or visit
www.nap.org for more info

1st Thursday

GLBT PROFESSIONALS, meeting at
5:30pm in various locations. Email at: [GOg-
lbt@cfep-ne.org](mailto:GOg-lbt@cfep-ne.org) or see www.GOglt.org for
info

1st Friday

FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE HOUSE 8pm,
Musicians, poets, open mic, First Unitarian
Church, 3114 Harney, Omaha

1st Saturday

**HEARTLAND GAY RODEO ASSOCIA-
TION**, Meeting days and times may vary,
call 402-505-3331 for info or see www.hgra.net
for meeting schedules etc.

RIVER CITY GENDER LLIANCE, at 7:00
pm . See www.rivercitygenderalliance.org

1st Sunday

GAY GUYS SPAGHETTI NIGHT, at a Lin-
coln restaurant, call 402-483-6183 to reserve a
seat up until the day before

2nd Thursday

PFLAG—OMAHA, 7pm to 9pm, First United
Methodist Church

2nd Saturday

LEARNING TO EXCHANGE POWER
L2EP@aol.com 2pm; DC's Saloon

TOP TRANSGENDER DROP-IN, 6 to 9pm
at Rainbow Outreach GLBT Center, 1719 Leav-
enworth St.

2nd Sunday

INTEGRITY 6-7:30pm, St. Marks,
Lincoln NE

OUUT SECOND SUNDAY SCREENING
(gltb film shown at 7pm followed by discus-
sion) First Unitarian, 3114 Harney

3rd Monday

IMPERIAL COURT OF NE, Board of Gov-
ernors meeting, 6pm, meeting at the Rainbow
Outreach GLBT Community Center,
www.imperialcourtofnebraska.org

**PFLAG SOUTH CENTRAL (HASTINGS,
NE)**, Meeting on 3rd Mondays at First Con-
gregational United Church of Christ, 7th and
Marian St., 7PM, email to
jsandeen@inebraska.com or call 402.462.2961
or 402.460.8696

3rd Thursday

COFFEE HOUSE Unitarian Church, 6300 A,
Lincoln

LINCOLN MIXED CHORUS 6:30pm,
Unitarian Church, 6300 A, Lincoln

4th Tuesday

PFLAG-CORNHUSKER Unitarian Church,
6300 & A, Lincoln, 7 p.m.
YOUTH HIV TEST Lighthouse, 2530 N, Lin-

coln, ages 13 to 18, FFE: 475-3220. 3-
5:30 pm

4th Friday

**LEO LEATHER ENGINEERS—
OMAHA**, Not currently meeting.

Last Saturday of the Month

NAP HIV TESTING, 11AM-3PM,
WALK-IN, 139 SOUTH 40TH ST.

**Email Your Event to:
GAYZETTE@COX.NET**

**See, I have open space
here for your
Event! Send it to me!**

Blessed Nebraska

On the sixth day God turned to the Arch-
angel Gabriel and said: "Today I am going
to create a land called NEBRASKA. It will
be a land of outstanding natural beauty. It
shall have tall majestic landscapes full of
buffalo, tall grass, beautiful skies, forests
full of elk and deer, rich farmland and fair
minded people." God continued, "I shall
make the land rich in resources so as to
make the inhabitants prosper.

I shall call these inhabitants CORNHUSK-
ERS and they shall be known as a most
friendly people."

"But Lord," asked Gabriel, "don't you
think you are being too generous to these
NEBRASKANS?"

"Not really," replied God "just wait and
see the winters I am going to give them!"

WINTER SUCKS!

**IT'S GONNA
TAKE TIL
JULY TO
THAW OUT
MY NUTS!**



**Posted to Craig's List
Personals:**

To the Guy Who Tried to Mug Me in
Downtown Omaha the night before last.

I was the guy with the black Burberry jacket
that you demanded I hand over my wallet,
shortly after you pulled the knife on me and
my girlfriend. You also asked for my girl-
friend's purse and earrings. I hope you some-
how come across this message.

I'd like to apologize. I didn't expect you to crap
in your pants when I drew my pistol after you
took my jacket. Truth is, I was wearing the
jacket for a reason that evening, and it wasn't
that cold outside. You see, my girlfriend had
just bought me that Kimber Model 1911 .45 A
CP pistol for Christmas, and we had just
picked up a shoulder holster for it that even-
ing.

Beautiful pistol, eh? It's a very intimidating
weapon when pointed at your head, isn't it? I
know it probably wasn't a great deal of fun
walking back to wherever you'd come from
with that brown sludge flopping about in your
pants. I'm sure it was even worse since you
also ended up leaving your shoes, cell phone,
and wallet with me. I couldn't have you calling
up any of your buddies to come help you try to
mug us again.

I took the liberty of calling your mother, or
"Momma" as you had her listed in your cell,
and explaining to her your situation. I also
bought myself and four other people in the gas
station this morning, a tank full of gas on your
credit card. The guy with the big motor home
took 150 gallons and was extremely grateful!
I gave your shoes to one of the homeless guys
over by Vinnie Van Go Go's, along with all of
the cash in your wallet.

I threw the wallet in a fancy pink "pimp mo-
bile" parked at the curb after I broke the wind-
shield and side window out and keyed the
drivers side.

I called a bunch of phone sex numbers from
your cell phone. They'll be on your bill in case
you'd like to know which ones. Ma Bell just
shut down the line, and I've only had the
phone for a little over a day now, so I don't
know what's going on with that. I hope they
haven't permanently cut off your service.

I could only get in two threatening phone calls
to the D A 's office and one to the FBI with it..
The FBI guy was really pissed and we had a
long chat (I guess while he traced the number).
I'd also like to apologize for not killing you
and instead making you walk back home hu-
miliated.

I'm hoping that you'll reconsider your choice
of path in life. Next time you might not be so
lucky...

GLBT RESOURCE LIST

OMAHA BASED

Alphabet (ABC) Soup at UNO, http://groups.yahoo.com/group/uno_abcoup, Phone Student Organizations at 554-2711.

BiMenNebraska, Social Support for Bi and BiCurious Men <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BiMenNebraska> and <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Bi-MEN-MIDWEST>

Camp Kindle, Nebraska based summer camp for kids affected by HIV/AIDS, 877.800.CAMP, www.CampKindle.org

Citizens for Equal Protection 1105 Howard St. Suite 2, Omaha NE 68102, 398-3027 www.cfep-ne.org, email to: Michael@cfep-ne.org

Diamond Foundation, making a difference through music and education, call 877-87-DIAMOND/www.diamond-foundation.org

Family Foundations Therapy for individuals, couples or families, for info call 558-3856

First Central Congregational Church UCC, 421 South 36th St., 402-345-1533, www.firstcentral.org, GLBT-affirming

First Lutheran Church, 542 So. 31st St., 402-345-7506, GLBT Friendly www.firstlutheranomaha.org

First United Methodist Church, 7020 Cass St., 402-556-6262, www.fumcomaha.org, GLBT-affirming

Flat Water Bears, (group disbanded)

Front Runners/Walkers, Wednesdays at 6:30pm, Elmwood Park Parking Lot by softball field, Omaha

Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network - Omaha, Box 641676, Omaha 68164, 712-325-0117 <http://www.glsenomaha.org>

GayLibrary.com, World Wide Resources

GLBT PROFESSIONALS, meeting at 5:30PM. Email at: GOglbt@cfep-ne.org or see www.GOglbt.org for info

Heartland Gay Rodeo Association, see www.hgra.net for information

Ice Bowl Invitational Bowling Tournament (IBIT) P.O. Box 31838, Omaha, 68131 R. Hollendieck (402) 556-5556

Imperial Court of Nebraska, Box 3772, Omaha 68103 556-9907, Board Meets 3rd Monday, Rainbow Outreach GLBT Center, www.icon.impcourt.org

Learning to Exchange Power, L2EP@aol.com; Social, educational group novices in Leather, S/M, B/D Lifestyle

Leather Engineers of Omaha (LEO) Box 8101, Omaha, 68108-8101 Gay men in leather lifestyle, not currently meeting

LinOma Bares, for more Info email linomabares@yahoo.com or mail to P.O. Box 24547, Omaha NE 68124

Mpower Program, 139 S. 40, Omaha 68131 email: mpower@nap.org website: www.mpower-nap.org phone: 402.552.9260x20, Holistic Gay Men's Health Program

Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha, 819 S. 22 St., Omaha 68108 345-2563, mccomaha@mccomaha.org Website: www.mccomaha.org Sunday Worship 9am and 11am, Wed. Worship at 7pm

NA Rainbow Group, Narcotics Anonymous, meets Friday thru Monday at 10pm, MCC-Omaha Church, 819 South 22nd St

Nebraska AIDS Project, 552-9260 Watanabe Wellness Ctr, 139 S. 40, Omaha 68131, Testing Wed from 1:30-4PM by appointment only, Thurs 7PM-9PM results in a week, Fri 5PM-10PM with 20 minute results Call 402-552-9255 info

NebraskaEquality.org, Find out everything about Nebraska and the GLBT Community

Nebraska GLBT Events, Community Events Calendar web site, see www.NebraskaGLBTEvents.com

Nebraska Pride IDOL, PO Box 241733, Omaha NE 68124, 866-4-NE-IDOL, www.NebraskaPrideIDOL.com

Nebraska Zen Center, Soto Zen Buddhist, 3625 Lafayette Ave., 402-551-9035, www.prairiewindzen.org GLBT inclusive

Northside Christian Church 5555 Larimore, Sunday worship 9:30am, Contemporary service at 11:00am

The 'Ohana Group, (GLBT / Non-traditional Family group), email to: Theohanagroup@msn.com

Omaha Bi Married Men Yahoo Group <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OmahaBiMarriedMen>

Omaha NE Gay Pride Web Page <http://ONGP.com>; email to: omahanegaypride@cox.net or ongp1@cox.net

Omaha GLBT Professionals, Contact omahaglbtprofessionals@cox.net for more info.

Omaha Metro GLBT Sports League, See www.omahaglbtsportsleague.org for more information

Onyx Images, Box 31026, 68131-0026 Social/Support Organization for African American Males age 21 and over

Out and About in Nebraska, website: www.travel.to/outabout Email: NeOutAboout@yahoo.com

OUUT (Omaha Unitarian Universalists for Tolerance) First Unitarian Church, 3114 Hamey, 68131, 345-3039, www.ouut.org

Parents and Friends of Lesbians And Gays (PFLAG) Omaha Chapter Box 390064, Omaha, 68139-0064 291-6781 Website: www.pflag-omaha.org, email info@pflag-omaha.org, meet at 7pm, 1st United Methodist Church, 7020 Cass

Proud Horizons Youth Group, Sat Afternoon, info: (402) 291-6781 or email proudhorizons@yahoo.com

Prairie Bares, male nudist group, no further info available

Rainbow Outreach GLBT Resource Ctr, 1719 Leavenworth, Omaha, 341-0330

Rainbow Celebrations, PO Box 8488, Omaha, 68108, call 866-NE-PRIDE toll free, sponsors of annual Gay Pride & National Coming Out Day, for complete info see www.rainbowcelebrations.org

River City Gender Alliance, for info see www.rivercitygenderalliance.org

River City Mixed Bowling II 3pm, Sundays, Maplewood Lanes, Omaha Norma Harrison (402) 731-5706

River City Mixed Chorus, Box 3267, Omaha, NE 68103, 402-341-SING Website: www.rcmc.org

SNAP Productions, Box 8464, Omaha, NE 68108 www.snapproductions.com

Temple Israel Synagogue, 7023 Cass St., 402-556-6536, member of the Union for Reform Judaism, GLBT inclusive

TOP, Taking Our Places, meets 2nd Saturdays at 6pm at Rainbow Outreach Center

Unity Church of Omaha 3424 N. 90, Omaha, Sunday worship: 10:30am Wednesday meditation service 7pm; 571-1344; www.unityomaha.org

WomenSpace, no current info is available

Youth Emergency Services, Inc. (Y.E.S.) Offices: 2679 Farnam Street, Suite. 205 Omaha, NE 68131, 402-345-5187, email to info@yesomaha.org

Y.E.S. Drop-in Center, 2057 Harney Street Omaha, NE 68102, 402-505-6922

LINCOLN BASED

LGBTQ and Ally Programs and Services Resource Center, Pat Tetreault, LGBTQ Resource Center Director, <http://involved.unl.edu/lgbtqa> - 402.472.1752 or 402-472-1652 <http://www.unl.edu/health/sexuality>

Queer Student Alliance, UNL, contact unlqsa@yahoo.com for info

GLBT and Allies coffee house, 3rd Fridays, Unitarian Church, 6300 A, 7:30 to 10:30pm

Lincoln Women's Center, Lincoln 402/472-2597.

Nebraska AIDS Project, Lincoln, 1921 S. 17th St. (402) 476-7000

Omaha Women's Riverboat Cruise, 4949 N. 73rd, Lincoln, 68507 467-5737

Parents, Friends of Lesbians & Gays, Cornhusker Chapter, Box 30128, Lincoln 68508, Meet 4th Tues, Unitarian Church, 6300 A, email to Barbara Kimberly, jbkiber@hotmail.com. Website: <http://pflag.ineb.org/>

Planned Parenthood, F2M and Questioning Support group & Partners of FTM Support Group, meet monthly at 10am Saturday, for info call Ryan Sallans at 441-3321 or email sindu.s@gmail.com

SAGE, Box 22043, Lincoln 68542 Coffee House 2nd Sat, 6 - 9pm, Lesbian Videos 7:15pm, 3319 S. 46

Straight Spouse Support Grp 402-429-6094

TriCity GLBT, serving Central Nebraska, web site at <http://www.tri-city-glb.com/>

UNL Committee on GLBT Concerns, Contact Pat Tetreault, (402) 472-1752 or email: ptetreault1@unl.edu / www.unl.edu/cglbtc
 Women In Trades/YWCA, 1432 N St., Lincoln 68508; 434-3494,
 Youth Support Group, (402) 434-9880

Iowa Based

Council Bluffs Community Alliance

www.councilbluffscommunityalliance.org

Council Bluffs Pride, www.councilbluffspride.org

Iowa Equality, GLBT –allied against change to the state and federal
 Constitutions, http://www.IowaEquality.org

Sioux City, Iowa Resource Web Site: www.siouxlandpride.net

Nationally Based

**Trevor-24-hour National Suicide Hotline for GLBT and
 Questioning Youth** 1-800-850-8078 or see web site at
 http://www.thetrevorproject.org/helpline.html

Where Can You Find The Gayzette?

Omaha:

Broadway Joe's Bar, 35th & Broadway	Council Bluffs IA
Connections, 1901 Leavenworth	933-3033
DC's Saloon, 610 South 14th Street	344-3103
Dixie Quick's Restaurant, 1915 Leavenworth	346-3549
Flixxx, 1015 South 10th Street Omaha	408-1020
The Max, 1417 Jackson St.	346-4110
Metropolitan Community Church, 819 South 22nd Street	
Mystery Bookstore, 1422 South 13th St	342-7343
Nebraska AIDS Project, 139 South 40th St	552-9260
Omaha Mining Co., 1715 Leavenworth	449-8703
Rainbow Outreach Metro Omaha GLBT Resource Center, 1719 Leavenworth St. (home of The Gayzette)	341-0330

Lincoln:

Panic Bar, 200 South 18th Street (as available)	435-8764
Q Bar, 226 South 9th Street (as available)	475-2269

**Would you like to have the Gayzette at your
 Place of business? Email your request to:
 news@rainbowoutreach.org**

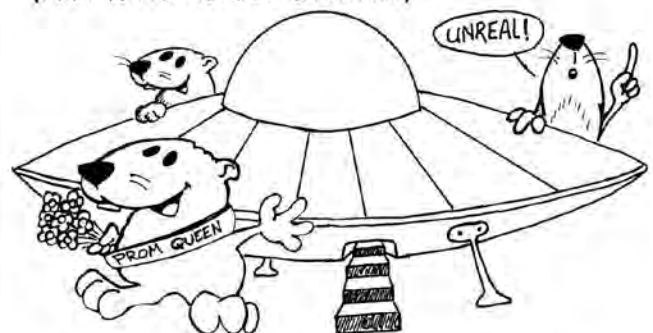
(Uganda's Duty-Free Status, Continued from page 13)

[African Growth and Opportunity Act] will be revoked should the proposed legislation be enacted."



Oregon Senator Ron Wyden

52nd ANNUAL GROUNDHOG ANTI-REALITY COSTUME BALL WEAR SOMETHING UNREAL (TACKY FORMAL--BIZARRE--IRREVERENT) PROM 2010



THE KNIGHTS OF THE GROUNDHOG TAKE AIM
 AT THE REALITY SHOW CRAZE AND
 WILL CROWN THE QUEEN OF UNREALITY

SATURDAY FEB 6, 2010 7:30 PM
 SOKOL HALL 2234 S. 13th ST., OMAHA

UPSTAIRS: SACHEL GRANDE	DOWNSTAIRS: THE BISHOPS
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ADVANCE TICKETS \$8 AT ETIX.COM, \$10 AT THE DOOR
 21 AND OVER CASH BAR

Kyle's Bed & Breakfast by Greg Fox



I PRESENT TO YOU...
 ...THE ALL NEW AND IMPROVED GLORIA!
 WHADDYA' THINK, BREYER?



I'M THINKING YOU PROBABLY CAN'T AFFORD ALL THOSE CLOTHES, GLORIA.
 OH, BREYER... THAT'S WHAT CHARGE CARDS ARE FOR!



SOUND REASONING.
 SHE WOULDN'T LET ME DO ANYTHING WITH THE HAIR, BUT...
 ... GIVE ME A FEW MORE WEEKS AND I'LL WEAR HER DOWN.



RICHARD... WOULD YOU MIND GIVING MY MOTHER AND ME A FEW MINUTES ALONE?
 UH... SURE, BREYER. I'LL BE IN MY ROOM.



YOU LIKE THIS COLOR? I'M THINKING IT'S A LITTLE DULL FOR ME.
 FORGET ABOUT THAT. I WANT TO KNOW WHY YOU'RE HERE, GLORIA.



WHY I'M HERE? TO SEE MY BELOVED SON, BREYER--
 OH, SAVE IT.



WE BOTH KNOW YOU ONLY SHOW UP EVERY FEW YEARS BECAUSE YOU WANT SOMETHING, GLORIA.



SO, WHAT'S IT THIS TIME? YOU NEED MONEY? A PLACE TO CRASH? A CAR?
 BECAUSE... WHATEVER IT IS... LET'S JUST CUT TO THE CHASE, OKAY?



I HAVE A LUMP ON MY BREAST.
 YOU... WHAT?!
 YOU HEARD ME.
 I'M SORRY TO DUMP THIS ON YOU, BUT...



... I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE ELSE TO GO.
 UM... IT'S OKAY. WE...
 ... WE'RE GONNA WORK THIS OUT.
 YOU'RE BEING NICE TO ME NOW? THIS IS WHAT IT TAKES?
 GLORIA...

Fitness Corner

By Ron Blake

The NBC show *The Biggest Loser* is a smash hit with viewers. It is basically a reality show that offers a grand prize to one of about 20 obese contestants who loses the most weight. It is hard to criticize anything that is successful and inspires people to better their lives. However, people need to understand the practicality of the show's premise.



Most people wanting to lose weight have begun a program for intrinsic reasons or because their doctor strongly encouraged it. I have never met anyone that had a \$250,000 carrot dangled in front of their nose to lose a significant amount of weight. The *Biggest Loser* contestants know they have two major cash prizes, various other big ticket rewards, and possible endorsements up for grabs if they are successful with substantial weight loss. It isn't too likely the average Joe or Suzie will have this motivation available to him or her.

The show's participants have a qualified trainer and a state-of-the-art fitness studio at their beck and call. That's a fantastic benefit that is completely free to these men and women. Two of the impediments for people to start an exercise program are the cost of a trainer and a health club membership. Scratch these roadblocks off the list for the reality stars of *The Biggest Loser*. There is a large support group in place for the competitors of this weight loss show. All the participants have the backing of their family and friends when they head to the show. Additionally, they receive the support of their fellow competitors while striving for the ultimate reward. They also realize there will be millions of viewers watching and cheering them on. So many individuals in the real world are just those... individuals. These people just don't have that group base of support and that often thwarts the weight loss plans for them.

The players of this reality show game don't have the normal obligations of the 9 to 5 rat race that all of us common folk are dealing with. These TV stars are put up in some nice room and board setting, taken away from their families, and given a get out of work card. This affords these plump lords and ladies the opportunity to solely focus on weight loss. How perfect would it be to have no distractions to impede the ability to achieve goals in life!

It is understandable that contestants of this show can experience significant weight loss in a short amount of time. They are given all the right ingredients for success. The everyday chunky boy and girl need to be aware of the disclaimer, "The weight loss shown on this program is not typical and might not be experienced by everyone." Losing 30 pounds in one week is very possible for your avatar but highly unlikely for those of us living in the here and now.

God bless *The Biggest Loser* and all that it has helped achieve for so many morbidly obese men and women during its numerous seasons on the air. Continue to watch this show and get excited about the weight loss successes that are showcased. Use it to inspire you to get started with your own journey toward better health. Just know that you will have a better chance of success when you approach your weight loss with a practical

mindset and realistic goals.

This health and fitness column is brought to you by that guy who once burned his boxers and briefs in college to make a point. That guy who wasn't thinking clearly in college one night is Ron Blake and he can be reached at www.myblakefitness.com.

Fewer Divorces in Gay-Friendly States

By Julie Bolcer

Numbers guru Nate Silver checks in at FiveThirtyEight.com with data showing that divorce rates may be lower in states without constitutional bans on same-sex marriage than in states that have such bans.

Basing his observation on data from 43 states reported to the federal government in 2003 and 2008, Silver shows that during the five-year interval, divorce rates rose in places such as Alaska, which was the first state to constitutionally ban same-sex marriage in 1998, compared to divorce rate drops in states such as Massachusetts, the first to legalize same-sex marriage in 2004.

"Overall, the states which had enacted a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage as of 1/1/08 saw their divorce rates rise by 0.9 percent over the five-year interval," reports Silver. "States which had not adopted a constitutional ban, on the other hand, experienced an 8.0 percent decline, on average, in their divorce rates."

Simon Cowell to Leave American Idol

By Julie Bolcer

As *American Idol* returns for its ninth season tonight, judge Simon Cowell says he will leave the popular program next year in order to focus on *The X Factor*, another singing competition set to debut on Fox in 2011.

The move could poise the 50-year-old Cowell to assume more responsibility and receive higher compensation on the new show, according to *The Wall Street Journal*.

"Mr. Cowell will serve as executive producer and judge on the U.S. version of *The X Factor*, the network said," reported the *Journal*. "Mr. Cowell hasn't been an executive producer for *Idol* and the additional title suggested he may reap bigger financial gains with *The X Factor* if the show is a hit in the U.S., as it has been in other parts of the world."



Also on Tuesday, new judge Ellen DeGeneres will make her debut on *American Idol*, following the departure of judge Paula Abdul.



SUNDAY JAN 17TH

**"CAN 'T FIGHT THE
MOONLIGHT"
Miss Max Chanel's
Step-down
10pm**

SATURDAY JAN 23RD

**Susie Brenner's Pre-Prom Benefit
6pm Door / 7pm Show**

SUNDAY JAN 24TH

**Rainbow Celebrations Benefit
10pm**

SUNDAY JAN 31ST

The Miss Max Pageant - 9pm

THE MAX