

The GayZette



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Nebraska Man Helps Push LGBT Non-Discrimination Bill, Says Being Gay Cost Him 3 Jobs

By Joseph Morton / World-Herald bureau

WASHINGTON — Luke Peterson says he was 20 years old the first time he was fired for being gay.

A sophomore at Doane College in Crete, Nebraska, at the time, Peterson was working at a fast food joint. He had just come out.

"The owner of the store found out, pulled me into his office and told me something I'll never forget. He said 'I don't condone your unmoral behavior and I find you to be of questionable character,'" Peterson told The World-Herald. "And it's just like 'I'm making sandwiches here. What's so questionable or what do you not condone?'"



On Thursday, Peterson, 31, joined a group of House and Senate Democrats on Capitol Hill to announce legislation that would add sexual orientation and gender identity to existing protected classes, such as race or religion, covered by federal non-discrimination laws.

"I'm a proud Nebraskan through and through," Peterson said at the press conference. "I'm also a gay man and because of that I've lost three jobs in my life."

The second incident came three years after the first. Peterson had transferred schools and was finishing his last semester of college in Lincoln while working at a local wine store.

He said his boyfriend at the time stopped by the shop. The next day, Peterson was told there were no shifts available for him. He said the store stopped returning his calls and emails.

A couple of years after that, Peterson said, he was working as a substance abuse counselor at a rehab facility in Lincoln. A request for time off to go to a friend's funeral was denied.

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Gay Man Who Was Beaten, Allegedly Called 'Faggot' By NYPD Cops To Sue For \$25 Million

It's the second alleged anti-gay assault by NYPD officers in less than three weeks.

Christopher Mathias, The Huffington Post

A gay Staten Island man is set to file a \$25 million federal lawsuit Tuesday against four New York City police officers who he says beat him in his front yard while calling him homophobic slurs after threatening to kill his dog.



Louis Falcone, 30, says officers called him "fag" and "faggot" during the June 19 assault, which was caught on camera by a neighbor across the street.

Cops had responded to Falcone's Midland Beach house, which he shares with his 66-year-old mother, after he and his brother had gotten into a loud argument. At a press conference Tuesday, Falcone says his brother had showed up at the house intoxicated around 4:30 a.m.

But by the time four NYPD officers showed up an hour later, the argument had ended, and Falcone, who works as a cook, says he was just trying to get to sleep.

"They said, 'Good morning, we're here about a noise complaint,' and I said, 'Me and my brother had an argument about an hour ago. He already left. Everything's OK,'" Falcone told reporters Tuesday.

When officers then asked Falcone, who was standing behind a screen door, to step outside, Falcone says he asked, "For what?"

"They continued to say 'Come outside now,' and my dog, Looch, started barking," Falcone said. "And one of the cops said, 'Shut the dog up or I'll f**king kill it.' And as he did that, he reached for his gun."

Falcone says he then tried to shoo Looch -- a pit bull-terrier mix -- away from the door.

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"That's when they opened the door and tried to yank me out, and they succeeded to pull me out onto the concrete in front of my house," Falcone said.

Falcone, who was wearing a surgical boot during the incident, says he screamed at the officers to be careful because he had recently had corrective surgery on his foot.

"In the video you can see I'm trying to move my leg out of the way," he said. "They picked me up and body-slammed me to the grass in front of the house. That's when they started piling on top of me. One drove his knee into the side of my neck. One tried to restrain me."

"My mother's screaming, 'He just had surgery!' and that's when they started to step on my ankle and my foot, which had the boot on, and then, as they had me on the ground. I was just trying to move my face so I could breathe, 'cause my face was in the mud."

"I had mud and blood on my face, blood gushing from my nose and mouth," Falcone continued. "I tried to clear my airway, spit some mud out, and that's when the officer said, 'Don't let him get it on you. The faggot probably has AIDS.'"

Ironically, in the video Falcone can be heard screaming "Call 911!" -- while the four police officers have him pinned to the ground.

Falcone was taken into custody and says he lapsed in and out of consciousness before waking up in an ambulance. He spent 15 hours at Staten Island University Hospital, where he was treated for a broken nose, two black eyes and multiple cuts. He also needed more foot surgery, and was told by doctors that he might require surgery on his spine as well.



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"I replied, 'Is it because I'm gay?' And that's when I was told, 'You have 24 hours to either resign or be fired,'" he said.

Peterson declined to name any of the businesses that he says fired him. He now works as an administrative assistant at the Nebraska Statewide Independent Living Council, a nonprofit disability advocacy organization in Lincoln.

The U.S. Capitol's ornate LBJ Room, where the press conference was held, features a direct view of the U.S. Supreme Court across the street. Lawmakers and advocates repeatedly cited the court's recent landmark decision in favor of same-sex marriage.

But they also said that same-sex couples who exercise their right to marry — then post their wedding photos on Facebook — could find themselves quickly fired or evicted with no legal recourse in most states.

Congress could take up gay rights in a couple of different forms this session, although it's not clear what might actually pass.

While Democrats are promoting the anti-discrimination legislation, Republicans are looking at bills that would shield private businesses that decline to offer same-sex couples their services, such as baking a wedding cake.


Sen. Ben Sasse, R-Neb., declined to comment on the anti-discrimination bill.

Sen. Deb Fischer, R-Neb., said she'd take a look at the legislation but also stressed the role of local and state governments on the issue.

"Any time the federal government steps in, I want to review that very carefully before making any commitment on that because I believe that our local school districts, our local communities through our city councils, and at the state level were able to make good decisions on every issue, not just this one," Fischer said.

Rep. Brad Ashford, D-Neb., said he has always supported measures aimed at countering discrimination based on sexual orientation and that it's a worthy matter for Congress to take up.

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"I'd like it if the states would do it, but it doesn't appear that that's going to happen," Ashford said.

Peterson said he will continue pushing the issue and plans to fly back to Washington next week to lobby the entire congressional delegation.

"I don't want anyone to ever experience what I've experienced," he said.

First Gay Couple to Wed at West Point Turns Tables on Antigay Attacker

By Daniel Reynolds

Don't mess with former West Point cadets — especially when they're married to each other.

Daniel and Larry Lennox-Choate — who made history by becoming the first male couple to wed at their alma mater, the West Point Military Academy, in 2013 — were assaulted Sunday at a Manhattan newsstand.

The 40-year-old attacker began yelling antigay slurs at the pair in the SoHo neighborhood before punching Daniel in the face, reports the New York Daily News.



That man picked a fight with the wrong couple.

"He left covered in his own blood with his tail between his legs after I handled the situation and tossed him in the street like the coward loser he is," Larry recounted in a Facebook post.

"We refuse to be victims and are thankful we can defend ourselves, but are saddened by the fact that idiots like this guy might not pick two guys who went through Plebe Boxing next time," he added.

The New York Police Department has yet to make an arrest, and detectives are still searching for the attacker, who pedaled away on a bike. He was described as wearing a white T-shirt and carrying a black backpack, according to ABC News.

Daniel, 30, refused medical assistance after the attack. He served in Afghanistan and Iraq after graduating from West Point in 2007. His husband graduated in 2009.

Op-ed: Think NOM Is Dead? Think Again

By Patrick Smith

For anyone not familiar with the National Organization for Marriage, it's a leading anti-gay organization that has been a thorn in the side of marriage equality activists for nearly a decade. A registered political advocacy group, NOM has had a hand in almost every marriage setback our community has faced since 2008. Its mission: to stop the spread of marriage equality in America.



Given this very specific *raison d'être*, it would be logical to assume that after the U.S. Supreme Court decision making marriage equality the law of the land, NOM would be winding down operations, right? Unfortunately, that's not the case; as it turns out, the organization has contorted its mission and expanded its reach into even more troubling areas of discrimination, stretching beyond the borders of the United States.

Many U.S.-based activists are "over" the National Organization for Marriage. NOM's people are blowhards, we say. There will never be a serious movement for a constitutional amendment banning equal marriage. We've won. And having gotten what we wanted, it's easy to turn the page. But to ignore NOM

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now is to imperil our LGBT brothers and sisters around the world. Because perhaps more troubling than anything the group is currently doing here at home is the international political work it's increasingly become involved in.

As it began to suffer more and more domestic defeats, NOM increasingly turned to international activism. Faced with triple losses in the 2012 marriage votes in Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, and Washington, NOM decided to export its message to a new audience, - and what better place than Russia. Testifying before a Russian parliamentary committee just days after the infamous "gay propaganda" legislation had passed, NOM president Brian Brown spoke vigorously against adoption rights for same-sex couples. He used the same talking points on Russian politicians that he had used successfully on Californians, North Carolinians, and Mainers in the heyday of U.S. marriage bans. The Russians listened; days after Brown's testimony, they passed a ban on loving, committed foreign gay couples' adoption of Russian children.

If that fails to surprise, consider NOM's next move in Russia. Brown was a featured speaker at a gathering of international "family values" groups in Moscow, imploring the international audience to resist the spread of gay rights worldwide. The capstone event of the conference? A vote by delegates encouraging more countries to adopt "gay propaganda" bans similar to Russia's -so that everyone from LGBT activists to troubled teenagers coming out of the closet could be thrown in jail not just in Russia, but all over the world.

It gets worse. Just this year, faced with impending defeat at the U.S. Supreme Court, NOM doubled down on its international pivot. In a speech to the equally anti-gay Family Research Council, NOM chairman John Eastman actually had the audacity to speak in support of the heartbreaking Uganda law that carried a sentence of life in -prison for "aggravated homosexuality." He lamented the Uganda Constitutional Court's decision to strike down the law on procedural grounds, saying he "hope[s] it comes back."

The examples go on. So it's time to face facts: The National Organization for Marriage isn't just a domestic pro--"traditional"- marriage group anymore. Its list of causes has expanded to include support for some of the most hateful and damaging anti-gay legislation in the world, and it's time to put a stop to it.

The question then becomes what can be done to curb NOM's growth and hasten the time until it is relegated to the dustbin of history. Awareness is key. An unfortunate by-product of our marriage victory is the frequent assumption that groups such as NOM will simply fade away. But while the folks at NOM may be ignorant, they are not stupid. And if their message is falling on deaf ears at home, they'll simply take their show on the road, supporting the type of hateful laws that would sentence LGBT people to life in prison. People need to know, and it's up to our political allies and opinion leaders to speak up.

We can take small steps first. A useful measure would be getting NOM designated as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center. The SPLC has a positive track record of monitoring and publicizing the activities of U.S.-based groups whose mission is to spread hatred. It has already designated the Family Research Council a hate group. It's difficult to imagine a scenario in which NOM would not also qualify for the dishonor, given its increasing involvement in supporting some of the

most heinous anti-gay legislation in the world. And with a surprisingly large \$13 million in donations reported between its latest two tax filings, something needs to be done to undercut NOM's financing and resources.

At the end of the day, we may be incredibly fortunate to finally have equal marriage, but that does not mean that anti-gay groups like the National Organization for Marriage are going away. They are as active as ever; we just don't see as much of them anymore. That's because they're exporting their hate; it's LGBT Ugandans and Russians, who are some of the most vulnerable sexual minorities in the world, that have to deal with them now. For their sake, isn't it time we helped put a stop to it?

PATRICK SMITH is International Mr. Leather. He started his career and advocacy work in Canada, working as assistant to the chief of staff in the Office of the Prime Minister. He came to the United States to pursue his MBA at the University of California, Los Angeles, Anderson School of Management. Patrick lives in the Silver Lake community of Los Angeles with his husband, Michael.



Santorum Campaign Low on Funds, Losing Staffers

By Trudy Ring

We may not have Rick Santorum to kick around for long, at least in the presidential race.

The antigay former U.S. senator's presidential campaign organization is low on funds, Politico reports, and he's polling so low that he probably won't make the prime-time Republican candidates' debate to be hosted by Fox News Thursday.



Campaign manager Terry Allen, Iowa state coordinator Jon Jones, and digital strategist Steve Hilliard have all left the campaign in the past few weeks, according to Politico. They do, however, plan to start a new pro-Santorum super PAC, which can receive unlimited contributions. There is already one super PAC working on his behalf.

Allen said his departure wasn't necessarily related to the campaign's money troubles but that it made more sense to work through a super PAC. The Santorum campaign has raised only about \$600,000, one of the lowest figures for any presidential candidate, and has spent roughly 60 percent of that in the campaign's first quarter, Politico reports.

"Every campaign, I don't care who it is, is the ultimate underfunded start-up," Allen told the publication. "No matter if you

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have all the money, you never have enough money. There's no campaign that ever has enough money, that's just the nature of campaigns. But my decision to leave was because this is the most efficient and effective way to help the senator, and it became very obvious, and you see more campaigns figuring it out."

Allen likely won't be replaced immediately, and chief of staff John Brabender will take on his duties, Politico notes. Another important campaign worker, Karen Fesler, has left Santorum's Iowa team and is now cochair of former Texas Gov. Rick Perry's presidential campaign in that state. But the Santorum campaign plans to add three staff members in Iowa, officials told Politico.

Still, the campaign's lack of funds raises questions as to whether Santorum can stay in the race until the Iowa caucus in February, according to Politico. Santorum finished first in the caucus in 2012, slightly ahead of the eventual Republican nominee, Mitt Romney.

As for the debate, Fox will announce the participants today (August 4th); the prime-time debate will be limited to the 10 candidates with the highest numbers in an average of five national polls. Santorum has an average of 2 percent support in recent polls, CNN reports, so he probably won't make the cut. Candidates not in the prime-time debate will participate in a forum earlier in the day.

Santorum recently told MSNBC's Rachel Maddow he regrets the "flippant comment" he made in 2003 referring to "man on dog" sex in a discussion of gay rights, but he stood by the point he was trying to make. He remains a staunch opponent of marriage equality and LGBT rights in general.

Antigay Texas Attorney General Surrenders After Indictment

By Neal Broverman

The powerful attorney general of Texas — who stymied marriage in the Lone Star State and called the Supreme Court's decision for marriage equality "lawless" and "flawed" — surrendered to authorities Monday.

Ken Paxton is facing two counts of fraud and one count of failing to register as an investment adviser, the Los Angeles Times reports. Paxton, a former state representative who has only served seven months as AG, allegedly directed investors to a Dallas-area tech company without telling them he was getting a cut for the referrals. Each fraud count carries sentences of five to 99 years.



When marriage equality became the law of the land in late June, Paxton told county clerks that could defy the Supreme Court and withhold marriage licenses for same-sex couples. In his statement to the clerks, Paxton acknowledged that such refusals could result in lawsuits or fines, but he also wrote that "numerous lawyers stand ready to assist clerks defending their religious beliefs, in many cases on a pro-bono basis, and I will do everything I can from this office to be a public voice for those standing in defense of their rights."

Texas's first out legislator, Glen Maxey, later filed an ethics complaint against Paxton because of his directive.

"It's irresponsible for an elected official — and a lawyer — to tell other elected officials to break the law," Maxey said in a prepared statement. "He's misleading county and state officials based on a false premise that they can discriminate against same-sex couples."

'Stonewall' Trailer Brings The 1969 Gay Rights Riots To Life

Matthew Jacobsor, The Huffington Post

The Stonewall riots occurred in 1969, but the first trailer for Roland Emmerich's new film begins with the words of President Obama: "Our nation was founded on a bedrock principle: that we are all created equal." The hunt for equality will give Emmerich the opportunity to spotlight something other than the explosions ("Independence Day," "White House Down") and natural disasters ("The Day After Tomorrow") that we expect from his movies. Starring Jeremy Irvine, Jonathan Rhys Meyers and Ron Perlman, the drama chronicles the lead-up to the

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liberation march that resulted in police brutality and launched the modern LGBT rights movement as we know it.

"Stonewall" will make its world premiere at the Toronto Film Festival in September, with a theatrical release slated for Sept. 25.

Thousands Rally in Israel to Protest Antigay Stabbings

By Bil Browning

Across Israel, thousands of people took to the streets to protest a week of violence that ended in the death of a teenage girl.

Demonstrations were held Sunday to denounce a vicious terror attack in the capital at the annual pride parade -- allegedly by a Jewish man -- that killed a Palestinian infant and wounded three members of the child's family. The pride parade stabbings left five wounded and killed 16-year-old Shira Banki.

Yishai Schlissel, an Orthodox Jew who was previously convicted of stabbing three people at a Jerusalem pride parade in 2005, was recently released from prison after serving 10 years for the previous attack.

After his release, Schlissel returned to his hometown where he began distributing handwritten pamphlets 'all Jews faithful to

God' to risk 'beatings and imprisonment' for the sake of preventing the parade. With the assailant's history of antigay violence and subsequent activities after being released, many Israelis have questioned the police's procedures and policies to protect LGBT citizens.

Thousands attended a previously scheduled rally in Tel Aviv's Meir Park meant to commemorate an attack six years ago on a LGBT youth community center that left two dead and wounded 15 others. Tel Aviv Mayor Ron Huldai and former Israeli president Shimon Peres attended the rally.



"I cannot believe we have reached such an abyss," Peres said in his speech, according to Ynetnews. "I took before this stage six years ago, mere days after the murders at Barnoar. I am finding it difficult to believe that we are standing on that same stage, once again before the same phenomenon. We have gathered this evening for a war of independence -- Israel's independence from insanity and insane people. This is not a disagreement between right and left. This is a profound clash between those with a conscience and those who lack a conscience."

"It is appropriate on this evening to remove the masks. Anyone who calls the pride parade a 'beast parade' should not be surprised when a knife is raised at a 16-year-old old girl. Anyone who incites against Israel's Arab citizens should not be

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with solidarity rallies. Not even with this rally. These flames cannot be extinguished with posts on Facebook and statements in the media. These flames cannot be extinguished with repression, denial and disregard. Incitement, ridicule, frivolity, laxity and arrogance of the heart, cannot extinguish the fire, but only allow it to burn stronger, with fervor, to spread in all directions, and permeate all walks of life."

"In order to put out the flames, we need be a much more determined and decisive. We must be thorough and clear; from the educational system, to those who enforce the law, through to the leadership of the people and the country. We must put out the flames, the incitement, before they destroy us all."

Boy Scouts' Ban on Gay Adults Lifted

By Trudy Ring



As widely expected, the Boy Scouts of America made it official today, lifting the blanket ban on gay and bisexual adults serving as volunteers and employees.

The BSA's national executive board today ratified a resolution, which had received unanimous support from its executive committee July 10, to end the ban, the group's president, Robert Gates, announced in a video (watch below) this afternoon. The resolution, which goes into effect immediately, passed with 79 percent support, according to a BSA statement.

"As I said during our national annual meeting in May, due to the social, political, and legal changes taking place in our country and in our movement, I did not believe the adult leadership policy could be sustained," said Gates, who, as secretary of Defense, oversaw the end of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy. Maintaining the ban, he said, would have resulted in numerous lawsuits at great

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surprised that churches and mosques are set on fire, and that ultimately a baby is burned alive in the middle of the night. We can compromise politically in a democratic country, but we must not compromise morally."

Thousands of citizens also rallied in Jerusalem's Zion Square where Israeli President Reuven Rivlin addressed the crowd. "The flames are spreading in our land, flames of violence, flames of hatred, flames of false, distorted and twisted beliefs. Flames which permit the shedding of blood, in the name of the Torah, in the name of the law, in the name of morality, in the name of a love for the land of Israel," the president said. "Citizens of Israel, a Jewish and democratic Israel, democratic and Jewish Israel, needs a wake-up call today. We will not be zealots. We will not be bullies. We will not become a state of anarchy."

"These flames, which are consuming all of us, cannot be extinguished with weak condemnations," he continued. "These flames cannot be extinguished

Life Beyond Therapy

By Michael Kimmel

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Competition in Same-Sex Couples

Have you ever noticed how much competition there is in same sex couples? It's just beneath the surface, and something I see a lot as a psychotherapist to the San Diego LGBT community.

It seems easier for opposite sex couples to not compete. Perhaps it's because they look at their partner across the breakfast table and that person looks so different from them that they don't feel what I call, that "testosterone grunt" in gay couples.

Even without the testosterone factor, competition often rears its ugly head in many lesbian couples as well. What's a healthy same-sex couple to do when we find ourselves thinking some version of: "You think you can make more money than me?" or "Oh really, you think you do (fill in the blank) better than I do? Watch this."

Why do we compete anyway? What drives us? What is the essence of competition and is it stronger in same-sex couples?

I love this definition of competition: "a rivalry between two or more persons for an object desired in common, usually resulting in a victor and a loser but not necessarily involving the destruction of the latter".

Isn't that great? Not necessarily involving the destruction of the "loser". And yet, in our relationships, where does competition take us?

Must there be a winner and a loser? Is that endemic to competition? In a relationship, what does the loser usually do? In my experience counseling couples, the loser usually exacts some sort of revenge on his/her partner, often through passive aggressive means. "Oh, you got away with ———, well, I'm gonna get you back, just you wait." I see this over-and-over with couples, and no one wants to talk about it because then the gig is up.

And what about the "winner" of the competition? Today's winner is inevitably tomorrow's loser. It may feel good to win, but, if you love your partner, don't you feel bad when they lose? And, in reality, don't you lose too? If both people in the couple don't "win", then the situation is destructive. Winners only get the booby prize: the real prize is when two people work together to find a solution to a problem that they can both live with. It may not be perfect; it may be a major compromise for both parties, but no one "loses" and no one "wins"...both people in the couple are in the same boat: "I gave a little; you gave a little and we both got most of what we wanted."



Competition – whether in a romance or friendship – doesn't lead to happy endings. What else is there? How about cooperation and compromise? Cooperation is about working together to the same end. Compromise is a settlement of differences by mutual concessions.



Some clients tell me that compromise is for cowards and cooperation is for new age types who are afraid to take a stand. That point of view is so 20th century. Modern organizations and modern life aren't set up for competition without cooperation and compromise. Even the most cut-throat businesses cannot survive purely on competition: everyone would burn out and only one person would ultimately "win". There's nothing wrong with a little friendly competition, but when it becomes your main way of getting through life, you're gonna leave an awful lot of unhappy people in your wake.

In relationships – friendships or romance – cooperation and compromise are the building blocks to long-term mutual happiness. Think of the relationships in your life that have stood the test of time and made it through arguments, hurt feelings and anger. There's no way you can make it through the hard stuff if competition is your main coping strategy. In any good, ongoing relationship, both people are bound to piss each other off. It's part of life; no avoiding it. Given that, how to navigate those rough waters?

Competition, like high calorie deserts, isn't a bad thing. In moderation, it gives life a little "pow!" And it's a funny thing about the word "competition". The root of the word is from the Latin *competitionem*, the past participle of *competere*, which means: to meet, to come together. And that, dear readers, is what good relationships are all about.



GAYZETTE EVENTS

**Rainbow Outreach
Metro Omaha GLBT Center**
(mail address: PO Box 8583 Omaha NE 68108)

We closed the Center as of December 2nd, 2013.

The Gayzette will continue to be published and our phone line will be available for Gayzette advertising & info uses only.

We appreciate the past support for the Center but it became clear that it was time to close.

We feel we can accomplish much more for the GLBT community in this way.

**Thanks,
George Broadway
Board Chair and Gayzette editor
Email: Gayzette@cox.net
www.rainbowoutreach.org**

WEEKLY EVENTS

Every Sunday

WORSHIP SERVICES:
AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA, 3647 Lafayette Ave., Omaha GLBT friendly, www.augustanalutheran.com

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, 9:30 a.m. "eclectic service" and 11:15 a.m. "traditional service"

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 9:30am and 11:15am

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 MIXED BOWLING LEAGUE, 3pm, Maplewood Lanes, at 402-572-9393

SECOND UNITARIAN, Sunday morning services, 3012 S 119th St., Omaha, info@2uomaha.org, 402-334-0537

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

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.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF OMAHA 819 S. 22nd St., 345-2563—Bible Study at 7pm

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

FRONTRUNNERS RUN/WALK 6:30pm, Elmwood Park Parking Lot by softball field, Omaha (402-804-8720)

HIV TESTING LINCOLN, 4-7 pm, results in 20 minutes, 1921 So. 17th St. 402-476-7000

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

Metro Omaha Prime Timers, 4:30-6:30pm Coffee with the Boys at Howlin' Hounds Café,

712 South 16th St. Meet up for coffee and conversation. Many of the guys go out for dinner afterwards.

NAP HIV TESTING, 250 South 77th St., by appointment only on Wednesdays from 1:30 to 3:30pm

UNITY CHURCH OF OMAHA, 7pm

Every Thursday

NAP HIV TESTING 250 So. 77th., by appointment from 1:30pm to 3:30pm and Walk-In from 5pm to 8pm

Every Friday

LIVE & LET LIVE AA Meeting, 8:15pm to 9:15pm. Open to men and women, at Underwood Hills Presbyterian Church, 851 North 74th Street

LIVE & LET LIVE AL-ANON, a group focused on support and recovery for the friends and relatives of alcoholics, 7pm to 8pm at the 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 info email outandaboutsocialclub@gmail.com

Every Saturday

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

PROUD HORIZON YOUTH GROUP

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

MONTHLY EVENTS

1st Monday

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: GOglbt@cfep-ne.org or see www.GOglbt.org for info

1st Friday

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

1st Sunday

Soka Gakkai International (SGI-USA), Lay Buddhist organization based on Nichiren Buddhism, World Peace Prayer the First Sunday of each month, 10am-11:30am, LGBTQIA Friendly, 1021 N 46th Street, Omaha, NE 68132, call 402-558-6148

SPIRITUAL FRIENDS OF LINCOLN

12-1pm Fellowship and 1p-2p worship
Meets Lincoln at Bennett Martin Library
info@inclusivelife.org and on Facebook

2nd Monday

NAP HIV TESTING

Respect Clinic, walk-in from 5:00pm to 7pm
—50th & Ames Ave.

2nd Thursday

HEARTLAND PRIDE, Board Meeting- at D
Dale Clark Library, 215 S. 15th St. 6:30pm-
8pm, Email: info@heartlandpride.org, or find
us on Facebook

PFLAG— OMAHA, 6:30pm to 9pm, Country-
side Community Church, 8787 Pacific Street
Omaha, Nebraska

2nd Sunday

Metro Omaha Prime Timers, Monthly Meet-
ing, Abrahams Library, 5111 North 90th St,
Stop by our monthly get-together to hear about
the great upcoming events, and spend time with
good friends. 3pm to 4:30pm. Snacks and bev-
erages provided.

3rd Monday

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

IMPERIAL COURT OF NE, Board of Gov-
ernors meeting, 6:30pm, meeting at the MCC-
Omaha, www.imperialcourtofnebraska.org

3rd Sunday

CBCA MEETING 5 PM until about 6:30 PM
is our monthly meeting with potluck. We meet
at St Paul's Episcopal Church in Council Bluffs
— see website for more information at
www.councilbluffscommunityalliance.org

4th Monday

NAP HIV TESTING

Respect Clinic, walk-in from 5:00pm to 7pm—
50th & Ames Ave.

4th Tuesday

PFLAG-CORNHUSKER Unitarian Church,
6300 & A, Lincoln, 7 p.m.

YOUTH HIV TEST Lighthouse, 2530 N, Lin-
coln, ages 13 to 18, FFI: 475-3220. 3-5:30 pm

Email Your Event to:
GAYZETTE@COX.NET

The Genie

A husband takes his wife to play her first game of golf. Of course, the wife promptly hacked her first shot right through the window of the biggest house adjacent to the course. The husband cringed, "I warned you to be careful! Now we'll have to go up there, find the owner, and see how much your lousy drive is going to cost us."

So the couple walked up to the house and knocked on the door. A warm voice said, "Come on in." When they opened the door they saw the damage that was done. Glass was all over the place, and a broken antique bottle was lying on its side near the broken window. A man reclining on the couch asked, "Are you the people that broke my window?"

"Uh...yeah, sir. We're sure sorry about that," the husband replied. "Oh, no apology is necessary. Actually I want to thank you, You see, I'm a genie, and I've been trapped in that bottle for a thousand years. Now that you've released me. I'm allowed to grant three wishes. I'll give you each one wish, but if you don't mind, I'll keep the last one for myself."

"Wow, that's great!" the husband said. He pondered a moment and blurted out, "I'd like a million dollars a year for the rest of my life."

"No problem," said the genie, "You've got it, it's the least I can do. And I'll guarantee you a long, healthy life! And now you, young lady, what do you want?" the genie asked.

"I'd like to own a gorgeous home complete with servants in every country in the world," she said.

"Consider it done," the genie said. "And your homes will always be safe from fire, burglary and natural disasters!"

"And now," the couple asked in unison, "what's your wish, Genie?"

"Well, since I've been trapped in that bottle and haven't been with a woman in more than a thousand years, my wish is to have sex with your wife."

The husband looked at his wife and said, "Gee, honey, you know we both now have a fortune, and all those houses. What do you think?"

She mulled it over for a few moments and said, "You know, you're right. Considering our good fortune, I guess I wouldn't mind, but what about you, honey?"

"You know I love you sweetheart," said the husband. "I'd do the same for you!"

So the genie and the woman went upstairs where they spent the rest of the afternoon enjoying each other. The genie was insatiable.

ble. After about three hours of nonstop sex, the Genie rolled over and looked directly into her eyes and asked, "How old are you and your husband?"

"We're both 35," she responded breathlessly. "Really?" he says. "Thirty-five years old and both of you still believe in genies?"

Poor Dave

Dave works hard and spends most evenings bowling or playing basketball at the gym. His wife thinks he is pushing himself too hard, so for his birthday she takes him to a local strip club.

The doorman at the club greets them and says, "Hey, Dave! How ya doin?" His wife is puzzled and asks if he's been to this club before. "Oh no," says Dave. "He's on my bowling team."

When they are seated, a waitress asks Dave if he'd like his usual and brings over a Budweiser.

His wife is becoming increasingly uncomfortable and says, "How did she know that you drink Budweiser?"

"I recognize her, she's the waitress from the golf club. I always have a Bud at the end of the first nine, honey."

A stripper then comes over to their table, throws her arms around Dave, starts to rub herself all over him and says, "Hi Davey. Want your usual table dance, sweetie?"

Dave's wife, now furious, grabs her purse and storms out of the club. Dave follows and spots her getting into a cab. Before she can slam the door, he jumps in beside her. Dave tries desperately to explain how the stripper must have mistaken him for someone else, but his wife is having none of it. She is screaming at him at the top of her lungs, calling him every four-letter word in the book.

The cabbie turns around and says, "Geez Dave, you picked up a real bitch this time."

When you are over sixty who gives a crap.....

Cowboy: "Give me 3 packets of condoms, please."

Cashier: "Do you need a paper bag with that, sir?"

Cowboy: "Nah... She's purty good lookin'...."

This a**hole looked at my beer belly last night and sarcastically said, "Is that Corona or Bud?"

I said, "There's a tap underneath; taste it and find out."

GLBT RESOURCE LIST

OMAHA BASED

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

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 Unitarian Church, 3114 Harney Street, 402-345-3039, www.firsttuomaha.org, GLBT Welcoming Congregation

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

Flat Water Bears, (group disbanded)

Front Runners/Walkers, Wednesdays at 6:30pm, Elmwood Park Parking Lot by softball field, Omaha (402-804-8720)

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

GayLibrary.com, World Wide Resources

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

Greater Omaha LGBT Democrats <http://omahalgbtDemocrats.wordpress.com> - contact Ken @ 402-686-6389 See also <http://ProgressiveOasis.com>

Heartland Pride www.heartlandpride.org, email: info@heartlandpride.org; meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 6:30pm to 8pm. @ D. Dale Clark Library

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, www.imperialcourtofnebraska.org

Inclusive Life 402-575-7006 www.inclusivelife.org Offering religious and non-religious care and services to all without exception. Weddings, Funerals, Coaching and Pastoral Care.

Learning to Exchange Power, no current info available

Leather Engineers of Omaha (LEO) not currently meeting

Metro Omaha Prime Timers, provides a welcoming and supportive environment to

mature gay and bi men and their fans to encourage participation in fun, cultural, educational or social activities. Email PrimeTimersEvents@gmail.com for more information & schedule. Also on Facebook as Metro Omaha Prime Timers Also see the Events list on page 10

Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha, 819 S. 22 St., Omaha 68108 345-2563, mccomaha@mccomaha.org Website: www.mccomaha.org Sunday Worship 9:30am and 11:15am

NAMI - Community Mental Health Support for the LGBTIQ community 415 South 25th Ave, Omaha, NE 402-345-8101 or 877-463-6264

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

Nebraska AIDS Project, 250 So. 77th St., HIV testing and counseling

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

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

North Side Christian Church 5555 Larimore Ave., Sunday service at 9:30am, see www.NorthSideOmaha.org

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

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

Omaha Metro GLBT Sports League, See www.oglbtsports.com 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: NeOutAbout@yahoo.com

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

PFLAG Omaha Chapter, For confidential information or support, call: 402-291-6781, meeting at Countryside Community Church, 8787 Pacific Street Omaha, Nebraska

Proud Horizons Youth Group, Sat Afternoon 4pm to 6pm, for info: email proudhorizons@yahoo.com

River City Gender Alliance, PO Box 284, Boys Town, NE 68010, email president@rcga.co or call 402-541-5792, web site www.rcga.co

River City Mixed Bowling Sundays, Maplewood Lanes Omaha, at 3PM call 402-572-9393 for details

River City Mixed Chorus, Box 3267,

Omaha, NE 68103, 402-341-SING Web-site: www.rcmc.org

Second Unitarian Church, 3012 S 119th St., Omaha, www.2uomaha.org, 402-334-0537, LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation

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

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

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

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

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

Nebraska AIDS Project, 1120 K Street Suite 100, Lincoln, NE 68508, (402) 476-7000

Nebraska Trans* Community This group is for individuals that identify with a nontraditional masculine or feminine sense of self (MtF, FtM and anywhere in between) and their Partners. Contact info can be found at : NebraskaTransCommunity.com

OUTline, a nonprofit organization that engages in and fosters the well-being and advancement of the LGBT community, www.outline.org, Lincoln NE

PFLAG Cornhusker Chapter, Box 30128, Lincoln 68508, Meet 4th Tues, Unitarian Church, 6300 A, email to Barbara Kimberly, jbkiber@hotmail.com. Website: <http://pflagcornhusker.org/>

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

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

Spiritual Friends of Lincoln Offering fellowship and worship for those seeking radical hospitality, openness, and inclusiveness. Meets the 1st and 3rd Sunday in Lincoln info@inclusivelife.org and on FaceBook

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 Health Department/Free STD Clinic
209 Pearl Street, Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503, 712-328-4666 – ask for Rachel, Monday – Friday by appointment, call to inquire about extended hours, **FREE testing for HIV, Syphilis, Gonorrhea and Chlamydia**

Council Bluffs Community Alliance

www.councilbluffscommunityalliance.org

Council Bluffs Pride, www.councilbluffspride.org

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, GLBT friendly. 611 First Avenue, Council Bluffs, IA 51501, 712-322-5324 - <http://www.cbfirstcongregational.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>

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The Hungry Homo

Crockpot Beef and Cabbage

Ingredients

2 lb. ground beef
3/4 cup cooked rice
1 egg
1 onion, finely chopped
1/2 tsp. salt & pepper
1 large head of cabbage
1 can condensed tomato soup
1 can (14.5 oz.) tomatoes
1/4 to 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
salt and pepper to taste

Methods/Steps

Remove leaves from head of cabbage without breaking. Add to boiling salt water until leaves wilt. Drain and set on paper towels to cool. Combine meat, rice, onion, egg, salt and pepper; mix well. Place 1/4 cup meat mixture in center of each leaf. Fold in sides and roll ends over meat. Secure with wooden toothpicks. Place rolls in crockpot. Combine tomato soup, tomatoes, cinnamon, salt, and pepper in a bowl. Pour mixture over cabbage rolls. Cover and cook on low for 7 to 9 hours.

Makes 7 to 9 Servings



Where Can You Find The Gayzette?

Omaha:

Dixie Quick's Restaurant, 157 West Broadway 712-256-4140
Flixx , 1015 South 10th Street Omaha 402-408-1020
Lover Luxuries, 6065 Maple St. 402-932-3377
The Max, 1417 Jackson St. 402-346-4110
Metropolitan Community Church, 819 South 22nd Street
Mystery Bookstore, 1414 South 13th St. 402-342-7343
Nebraska AIDS Project, 250 South 77th St 402-552-9260
Omaha Mining Co., 1715 Leavenworth 402-449-8703
Rodeo Saloon & BBQ 164 W Broadway 712-256-0510

**Would you like to have the Gayzette at your
Place of business? Email your request to:
Gayzette@cox.net**

Candy Cookies

Ingredients

2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon salt
1 cup butter or margarine, softened
3/4 cup granulated sugar
3/4 cup packed brown sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 large eggs
12 ounces of your favorite candy bar, broken into small pieces.
Reese's cups and Whoppers may be chopped into small chunks.
M&Ms and similar candies can be used whole.

Methods/Steps

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Combine flour, baking soda and salt in small bowl. Beat butter, granulated sugar, brown sugar and vanilla extract in large mixer bowl until creamy. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Gradually beat in flour mixture. Once mixed, add candy pieces. Place teaspoon-sized drops of dough spaced about 2 inches apart on a cookie sheet. Bake for 9 to 11 minutes until the cookies are golden brown. Cool on baking sheets for 2 minutes; remove to wire racks to cool completely.

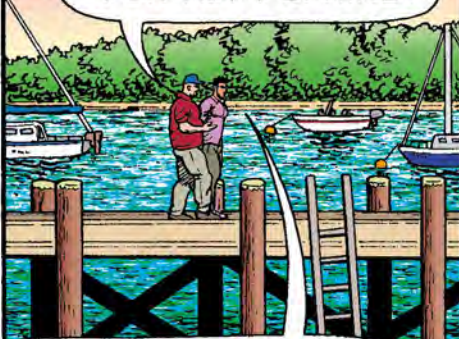


Kyle's Bed & Breakfast by Greg Fox

417

JAKE AND EDUARDO GO FOR A WALK AFTER THEIR DINNER AT IHOP...

SO, NICK AND DAVE ARE THINKING ABOUT SETTING THEIR WEDDING DATE FOR NEXT SPRING.



HMMPH. WONDER IF THEY'LL EVEN INVITE ME.

WHY WOULDN'T THEY?


NICK AND I AREN'T SPEAKING LATELY.



WE HAD A LITTLE... DIFFERENCE OF OPINION.

ABOUT WHAT?

ABOUT YOU, ACTUALLY?



ME? WHAT ABOUT ME?

NICK THINKS I HAVE, LIKE... **DADDY ISSUES**.

OR SOMETHING.



DO YOU? HAVE "DADDY ISSUES"?

I'M NOT EVEN SURE WHAT THAT MEANS.



NICK BROUGHT UP THE SAME CRAP WHEN ME AND HIM WERE...UM...

YOU AND NICK WERE DATING?!



ALMOST. IT DIDN'T REALLY...GET OFF THE GROUND.

MAN. I NEED A **SCORECARD** TO KEEP TRACK OF ALL THESE B&B RELATIONSHIPS.


LOOK, JAKE... I LIKE YOU. BUT IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH YOUR AGE... OR ABOUT ANY OF THIS "DADDY" STUFF.



SO CAN WE FORGET ABOUT THAT... AND JUST ENJOY OUR DATE?

FINE WITH ME. CAN I ASK YOU, THOUGH... HOW OLD IS YOUR FATHER?

UM... 55, I THINK.



AH, GOOD... AT LEAST I'M YOUNGER THAN YOUR FATHER... EVEN IF IT IS ONLY BY A COUPLE OF YEARS.

YOU LOOK OLDER THAN HIM.

OKAY, WE CAN CHANGE THE SUBJECT NOW.

MAYBE 'CAUSE YOU'RE HEAVIER.

GREAT.



OR BALD.

SO GLAD I BROUGHT THIS UP...

Fitness Corner

By Ron Blake

Only the wisest and stupidest of men never change according to Confucius. I did not score a sixteen hundred on my SAT and I did not just fall off the turnip truck. It appears I should have some change left in me old bones before I exit this world. Change can be healthy and can be just what the good doctor ordered.

Change can be eliminating all meat from your diet after years of ordering Big Macs and Whoppers. Change can be exercising each day after your messy divorce from your remote control. Change can be getting that unexpected job promotion and having your subordinates refer to you as Big Daddy.

The greatest change that occurs in life is the one that takes place now. It is the one that will take place tomorrow. It is also the one that took place yesterday. The one constant through all these changes has and will be the perseverance to keep moving on that uncharted journey.

I do not believe that any one moment in life is more important than another. Life is a compilation of moments that would be incomplete if some of those moments were to vanish on the journey through life. Your painting needs every stroke to produce the effect of a complete picture as you make your way through this journey.

This transformative experience is happening every day and all throughout every day. I have found that perseverance squires us through this journey and helps us create our masterpieces. The paint may vary in color and the brush strokes may vary in speed, but we always continue to dapple the canvas through our changes.

Admire the beauty that each stroke adds to your painting and gain a better appreciation for what the finished product will look like. Each step in this process holds a significance that contributes meaningful change and leads toward that fait accompli.

That day in third grade when you learned how to spell mushroom was a great change in your life. It was an amazing change in junior high school when you realized girls weren't so bad after all. There was even that change at twenty-six years of age when you realized your parents were actually right about so many things in life.

Continue with these healthy changes in your life. With each change the world gets to see a better and more complete image of you.

You will know when your portrait is finally ready to hang in the museum. For one moment, you will be the wisest man and you will be ready to exhibit your work of art for all to see... forever.

This wellness article is brought to you by that guy with sporadic strokes of genius. That guy is Ron Blake and he can be found painting the town red at Small Town Big City Radio.com.



(Continued from page 8)

cost to the organization, and lifting it will allow the BSA to continue focusing on its core mission.

This means the organization will no longer discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation or require local troops and councils to do so, but the local groups may still set their own policies for employees and volunteer leaders — meaning, for instance, that a Scout troop sponsored by a conservative church could refuse to let gay people serve. About 70 percent of troops are sponsored by faith-based organizations, many of them with antigay beliefs.

LGBT groups praised the move generally but objected to the religious exemption. "Today's vote by the Boy Scouts of America to allow gay, lesbian, and bisexual adults to work and volunteer is a welcome step toward erasing a stain on this important organization," said a statement issued by Human Rights Campaign president Chad Griffin. "But including an exemption for troops sponsored by religious organizations undermines and diminishes the historic nature of today's decision. Discrimination should have no place in the Boy Scouts, period."

Zach Wahls, the son of two mothers who is executive director of Scouts for Equality, told The Washington Post it's "disconcerting" that many faith-based groups will continue to discriminate against gay adults. "Scouting is a place to hone important life skills and a moral compass," he said. "And that should not be sullied by discrimination. I think that's really self-evident."

Attorney Evan Wolfson noted that the vote shows much has changed since he argued the case of gay Scouting leader James Dale, in which the Supreme Court 15 years ago upheld the BSA's ban on openly gay youth and adults alike. But more must be done, he told BuzzFeed. "I hope that Boy Scouts will finish the job as soon as possible in order to be attractive to parents and young people who only want to participate in an organization that lives up to its own values of respecting all people," he said.

The BSA's executive board lifted the ban on gay youth members in a 2013 vote, with the policy going into effect at the beginning of 2014.



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