



New Year Brings New Unions in N.H.

New Hampshire is becoming the fourth state to legalize civil unions, and about 20 couples have decided to be the first to take advantage of the new law with a late-night ceremony on the statehouse steps in Concord Monday night.

Jennifer Major of Gilmanton, who helped organize the group ceremony, said festivities would begin at about 11 p.m. Monday with poetry readings and live music. The civil unions can take place once the law takes effect at 12:01 a.m. Tuesday.

Major and her partner, Kelley Morris, planned to be among the couples saying "I do."

"Every single night ... I come home from work and say, 'Guess what we're doing on Monday?' She says, 'Getting married,'" Major said last week. "We have to keep pinching ourselves because it's Monday, not next Monday or two weeks from Monday. 'I don't have any winter coats with rhinestones and glitter, so I'm just going to dress warmly,'" she said.

At the bill signing in May, Gov. John Lynch called civil unions for same-sex couples a matter of conscience. "How could any one of us look into the eyes of our neighbors, our friends, or our loved ones if we continued to deny them these basic legal protections?" he said.

New Hampshire joins Vermont, Connecticut, and New Jersey in legalizing civil unions. Massachusetts is the only state that allows same-sex marriage.

The new law says civil unions will provide same-sex couples with the rights, responsibilities, and obligations of marriage, except the name.

It also says New Hampshire will recognize legal same-sex unions from other states, but a group of conservative Republicans in the legislature is working to undo that part of the law. A hearing is scheduled for January 24.

The state estimated 3,500 to 4,000 civil unions will be performed in the first year. (Beverley Wang, AP)

San Diego Mayor Backs Marriage Equality

San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders defied expectations -- and his own stated intention -- Wednesday evening to sign the city's amicus brief urging California's high court to overturn a same-sex marriage ban.

Sanders, a Republican, had said he would veto the resolution passed Tuesday to add California's second-largest city to the growing list urging justices to let same-sex couples marry. He said he supported civil unions when running for mayor in 2005.

Instead, Sanders signed the resolution, and said his lesbian daughter, Lisa, and her partner were a big reason why.

"As I reflected on the choices that I had before me last night, I just could not bring myself to tell an entire group of people in our community that they were less important, less worthy and less deserving of the rights and responsibilities of marriage . . . simply because of their sexual orientation," he said Wednesday in a prepared statement interrupted several times as he fought back tears.

Sanders becomes the first GOP big-city mayor to sign on to the cause. He sends a powerful message not only to the Supreme Court but to fellow Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who has separately been sent by the Legislature a bill for marriage equality.

"I do believe that times have changed," Sanders said Wednesday. "And with changing time, and new life experiences, come different opinions. I think that's natural, and certainly it is true in my case.

"Two years ago, I believed that civil unions were a fair alternative. Those beliefs, in my case, have since changed.

"The concept of a "separate but equal" institution is not something that I can support . . .

"I have close family members and friends who are members of the gay and lesbian community. These folks include my daughter Lisa and her partner, as well as members of my personal staff.

I want for them the same thing that we all want for our loved ones -- for each of them to find a mate whom they love deeply and who loves them back; someone with whom they can grow

(Continued on page 6)

January 4, 2008 - January 18, 2008

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MMM... SAME HERE.

SEE YOU GUYS LATER!

OLSEN?! WHAT ARE YOU...?

WHY ARE YOU WEARIN' THAT COSTUME?!

IT'S NOT A COSTUME, BRAD. I'M GOING OUT TO THE LOCAL LEATHER BAR... THE EAGLE.

"LEATHER BAR"?!!

WHAT? YOU THOUGHT I ONLY DID LEATHER ON HALLOWEEN?

WELL...UH...

Y'ALL OUGHT TO COME ON DOWN SOMETIME.

"DOWN"?

TO THE EAGLE. FRIENDLY BUNCH OF GUYS THERE. THEY HAVE A MENS GROUP CALLED THE RAVENS.

I'M THINKING ABOUT JOINING.

ANYWAY...SEE YOU LATER.

LATER, JEFF.

YEAH, UH... LATER.

CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT?

WHAT?

HIM GOIN' OUT... DRESSED LIKE THAT?!

HE'S A BIG BOY, BRAD. HE CAN TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF.

YEAH, BUT...

...EVERYBODY'S GONNA BE LOOKIN' AT HIM... CHECKIN' OUT HIS BODY IN THAT OUTFIT.

AND WHY DO YOU CARE?

WELL, I JUST... ...I DUNNO'.

BRAD...CAN WE FORGET ABOUT JEFF OLSEN AND WATCH OUR DVD?

YEAH. O.K. SOUNDS GOOD.

DO YOU THINK HE TRIMS THAT CHEST HAIR?

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(San Diego Mayor backs marriage equality story, Continued from page 1)
old together and share life's wondrous adventures.

"And I want their relationships to be protected equally under the law. In the end, I could not look any of them in the face and tell them that their relationships -- their very lives -- were any less meaningful than the marriage that I share with my wife, Rana."

San Diego now joins Los Angeles, San Jose and Oakland, and several smaller cities, in calling for the court to uphold thousands of same-sex marriages officiated in San Francisco in February 2004 at the direction of Mayor Gavin Newsom.

Lisa Sanders was unavailable for comment, the mayor's spokesman, Fred Sainz, told Associated Press. Sainz said she had told her parents four years ago that she is a lesbian and is currently in a committed relationship, but her orientation wasn't public until her father's speech.

The mayor, a former police chief who is up for re-election next year, acknowledged that many voters who supported his earlier stance might disagree with his shift, but said he had to do what he believed was right.

In 2000, 62 percent of San Diego voters, and 61 percent of statewide voters, endorsed a measure to restrict marriage to a union between a man and woman. (Barbara Wilcox, *The Advocate*)

Russian Pride Organizer Faces Slander Charges

Moscow gay Pride organizer Nikolai Alekseev will soon face charges of slander and insult for allegedly outing former parliament member Alexander Chuev on live national television, reports the U.K. *Gay News*.

Speaking on the NTV channel's talk show *K Baryeru!* on June 21, Alekseev reportedly called the state Duma deputy a "gay, coward and hypocrite." It was the first outing of a gay politician in Russia.

The criminal case against the Moscow Pride organizer is expected to arrive in court shortly. The court will have to give the final verdict whether Alekseev committed any crime under Russian law.

Alekseev added that he believes the court has no other choice but to find him innocent, "though in the current condition of pressure from authorities I can not exclude that the decision of the court will not be fair, which is not any more a surprise to us. In any case, we are ready to lead this case up to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg."

Regardless of the outcome, the Pride organizer feels the end justified the means: "We reached the main goal of defeating Mr. Chuev in Duma elections in December."

Chuev failed to get 7 percent of votes for his Fair Russia party in the Khabarovsk region. As of Christmas Eve, he is no longer a deputy of the Duma. (*The Advocate*)

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MOST POWERS OF ATTORNEY ARE OUTDATED WHEN PRESENTED (MANY ARE NOT EVEN AVAILABLE). Your Power of Attorney is used to allow someone to make financial or health care decisions on your behalf when you are unable to. Unfortunately, these documents keep becoming outdated. Assuming your document is current, will it be available in an emergency? Hospitals report in 3 out of 4 cases the Patient's Health Care Power of Attorney is not available when needed (they will always ask if you have one before you are admitted, regardless of your age). Our new program makes this document accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week via the telephone.

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WITHOUT PROPER ESTATE PLANNING YOU ARE LEAVING YOUR FUTURE IN THE HANDS OF THE LEGAL SYSTEM WHICH WILL FOLLOW THE LAWS OF THE STATE YOU LIVE IN. TO MAKE MATTERS EVEN WORSE, THE INTESTACY LAWS OF NEBRASKA HAVE NO DEFAULT PROVISIONS TO ADDRESS SOME OF THE UNIQUE ESTATE PLANNING ISSUES FACING THE GLBT COMMUNITY. THERE IS A SOLUTION BUT YOU MUST HAVE THE PROPER PLANNING IN PLACE BEFORE THE NEED ARISES.

Domestic-Partnership Law Halted in Oregon

A federal judge on Friday placed on hold an Oregon domestic-partnership law that was set to take effect January 1, pending a February hearing.

The law would give some spousal rights to same-sex couples.

Opponents asked U.S. district judge Michael W. Mosman to intercede after the Oregon secretary of state's office ruled in October that they had failed to collect enough valid signatures on petitions to force a referendum on the law.

The Oregon measure covers benefits related to inheritance rights, child-rearing and custody, joint state tax filings, joint health, auto and homeowners' insurance policies, visitation rights at hospitals, and others. It does not affect federal benefits for married couples, including Social Security and joint filing of federal tax returns.

After the legislature approved the domestic-partnership law this year, gay rights opponents launched an effort to collect enough signatures to suspend the law and place it on the November 2008 ballot for a statewide vote.

But state elections officials said this fall that the effort fell 116 valid signatures short of the 55,179 needed to suspend the law.

In court Friday, Austin Nimocks, a lawyer for Alliance Defense Fund, which opposes the measure, said the state's review process was flawed, disenfranchising citizens who had signed petitions.

The state's largest gay rights group, Basic Rights Oregon, criticized the judge's decision.

"It's unfair our families once again are bearing the brunt of this ongoing struggle," said Jeana Frazzini, a spokeswoman for the group.

Eight other states have approved spousal rights in some form for same-sex couples -- Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Maine, California, Washington, and Hawaii. Massachusetts is the only state that allows gay couples to marry. (Sarah Skidmore, AP)

New Jersey Targets HIV Transmissions

HIV testing will soon become part of routine prenatal care and be required for some newborns in New Jersey under a new law that supporters say is putting the state in the forefront of the national fight against HIV transmission to babies.

Acting governor Richard J. Codey signed the measure into law Wednesday at University Hospital in Newark. The law will take effect in six months.

"We can significantly reduce the number of infections to new-

borns and help break down the stigma associated with the disease," Codey said. "For newborns, early detection can be the ultimate lifesaving measure."

Codey, the acting governor while Gov. Jon S. Corzine is out of the country this week for the holidays, sponsored the bill as the senate president.

Meanwhile, a ban in Washington, D.C., against using city money for needle-exchange programs was lifted Wednesday, a move officials say will help reduce the soaring rate of AIDS and HIV there.

A provision allowing the city to fund needle exchanges was included in the \$555 billion spending bill signed by President Bush on Wednesday. Federal spending packages dating back to 1998 had previously blocked such programs.

The New Jersey bill allows women to opt out of the HIV testing, but critics contend the screening will deprive women of their right to make medical decisions.

According to the Kaiser Foundation, a nonprofit research organization focusing on U.S. health care, New Jersey is the first state to push HIV testing for both pregnant women and newborns.

Arkansas, Michigan, Tennessee, and Texas require health care providers to test a mother for HIV, unless the mother asks not to be tested, while Connecticut, Illinois, and New York test all newborns for HIV, according to the foundation.

New Jersey has required providers only to offer HIV testing to pregnant women. Under the new law, HIV testing will be part of routine prenatal care for all pregnant women, and doctors will provide pregnant woman with information about HIV and AIDS. It also requires newborns to be tested when the mother has tested positive or her HIV status is unknown.

Riki E. Jacobs, executive director of the Hyacinth AIDS Foundation in New Brunswick, the state's largest AIDS service agency, said the law won't help the women who don't get prenatal care.

"We need to focus on getting people into care and keeping them in care," Jacobs said. "That is our most potent prevention weapon."

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recommended all pregnant women be tested for HIV, though it has said testing should be voluntary. The CDC also found medical intervention during pregnancy can cut mother-to-child HIV transmission from 25% to 2%.

New Jersey has about 17,600 AIDS cases, according to the Kaiser Foundation. Women represent 32.4% of the cases -- the third highest rate in the nation. The national average is 23.4%. The state has about 115,000 births per year and had seven infants born with HIV in 2005, according to state health department officials.

The American Civil Liberties Union and some women's groups contend the bill deprives women of authority to make medical decisions.

"Women's privacy rights and choices are as constitutionally

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valid as any other citizen, regardless of reproductive status," said Maretta J. Short, New Jersey's National Organization for Women president.

In Washington, Mayor Adrian M. Fenty said in a statement Wednesday that needle exchanges will be included in a larger city program to reduce AIDS and HIV infections. About \$1 million will be devoted to the exchanges.

About 128 of every 100,000 Washington residents have AIDS, compared with 14 cases per 100,000 people nationwide, according to a recent study. (AP)

GAMES DAY AT THE CENTER

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Cheerios

Guest Commentary by Robi Zahrus
(OmahaFag@excite.com)



Have you ever seen that Cheerios commercial where everything in the grocery store is Cheerios. it might be packaged a little different but it's still Cheerios. that sums up most people's relationships.

Once you start dating and if you date a lot of different people you realize they are all similar.

You like Cheerios so you eat it all the time. Then one day you want something else and you buy fruit loops only to open the box and find Cheerios again. You buy another brand and still only cheerios inside.

Finally you give up on cereal and buy stuff in a can only to open it up and see that the can contains Cheerios. You continue on and on only to discover everyone you date is Cheerios. That is there is some common feature or attribute to your relationships or the people you date. No matter how hard you try to find someone different they are all the same or the relationships are alike.

Most times the common feature is you fall in love with someone simply because they are there or maybe you like needy people or possibly you just go from relationship to relationship because your idea of what love is not correct. Real love scares you and making relationships work when you get hurt is harder than bouncing around from one person to the next. These short quick relationships are hurtful but they are safe they are sometimes the Cheerios you are trying to avoid, but at the same time what we don't understand scares us and these relationships are what we understand and are comfortable with.

I suggest taking a break and look at all your past relationships and find what is common. Maybe it simply is you have a need and you are trying to fill it. Whatever you discover is common change yourself before getting into another relationship... or

you'll just end up with Cheerios. If you can't find the common thread you run into all the time go to someone you have known for a long time and knows your past relationships they can help you find it. Get them to be blunt and honest or they can't help you.

People I'm tired of the "gay games"... we need healthy "normal" relations.

Finding a Fit in Area Bookstores

By Nicole Higginbotham

Being a writer, I like to read other peoples' work and ideas. Therefore, it was no surprise that last Thursday, my search started at the Borders on 72 and Dodge. I had already looked at the Borders in Papillion, knowing that they didn't have the new Ronica Black book available, and I was hoping that this store would take me by surprise and show availability. Nevertheless, my search ended quickly and empty-handed. I ended up going to four different stores looking for that one book, knowing how difficult it was to find the perfect lesbian romance novel.

It's been quite noticeable to me upon my many searches for books that the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender sections are not only so small that they have to be put on the same three designated selves, but also, most of that section consists of erotica alone. It seems that ever since Reading Grounds has closed, finding a good book seems like an Indiana Jones quest.

However, through all of this searching, I have found one company that hasn't yet let me down, Bold Strokes Books. This company is one that is primarily dedicated to GLBT fiction and

(Continued on page 14)

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Saturdays	4:00PM - 6:00PM

***Closed Most Major Holidays
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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.

SATURDAY JANUARY 29th

T-BIRDS FLY FREE, a benefit for Fall Harvest 2009, at The Max, \$3 cover, doors open at 6pm, show starts at 7pm, featuring some of the areas best performers

SATURDAY APRIL 26th

NEBRASKA GLBT SUMMIT, Mahoney State Park, more info later

WEEKLY EVENTS

Every Sunday

WORSHIP SERVICES:

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA, 3647 LaFayette Ave., Omaha GLBT friendly, www.augustanalutheran.com

CROSSROADS COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP

Now meeting at the Rainbow Outreach GLBT Community Center, 1719 Leavenworth St., Fellowship starts at 6PM, services begin at 6:30PM, Everyone Welcome! Doors open at 6PM.

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

LOWE AVE PRESBYTERIAN, 1023 N 40 10am service

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF OMAHA 819 S. 22, 345-2563 Sunday Worship: 11am

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

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

GAMES DAY AT THE GLBT CENTER, 1719 Leavenworth, 2PM to 4PM

GAY MEN'S ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 4pm Lowe Avenue Presbyterian, 1023 N. 40 St Info call Mark 639-3055

HASTINGS COLLEGE GSA 8PM FFI: Judy Sandeen (402) 461-7372

RIVER CITY II MIXED BOWLING, 3pm, Maplewood Lanes,

WIMMIN'S SHOW, KZUM 89.3 12:30pm

Every Monday

A A RAINBOW RECOVERY, an AA group meeting at the MCCO Church at 6pm. Call 612-4648 for more info. Starting April 10th 2006

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

RIVER CITY MIXED CHORUS REHEARSALS, 6:45PM—9:15PM, First United Methodist Church, 7020 Cass St.

WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP Confidential, meeting at the MCCO Church, 819 S. 22nd St, call 345-2563 for meeting times, all women are welcome

Every Tuesday

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

UNL LESBIAN/BI/QUESTIONING SUP-

PORT 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

WORSHIP SERVICES

MCC OMAHA, Bible Study, 7pm

UNITY CHURCH OF OMAHA, 7pm

HIV TESTING, 1:30pm to 4 pm walk-in NAP, 139 S. 40 St., results in 20 minutes, call 402-552-9260 for info

HIV TESTING LINCOLN, 4-7 pm, results in 20 minutes, 2147 South 15th 402-476-7000

FRONTRUNNERS RUN/WALK

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

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

KARAOKE W/ STACY 9:00 pm DC's

Every Thursday

DANCE LESSONS WITH GORDON 7-9pm, DC's Saloon

GAY & BISEXUAL MEN'S SUPPORT AND DISCUSSION GROUP

7-8:30pm, Meeting in Lincoln first and third Thursdays of the month. Call 434-9880 / 476-9668, held at the Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, Lincoln

HIV TESTING 7- 9pm walk-in, NAP, 139 S. 40th Same day results,

KARAOKE 9pm, Connections Bar

FREE CONFIDENTIAL ANONYMOUS

HIV TEST, UN-L 472-7447, 2:30 to 4:30pm, University Health Center Room 164 (next to Pharmacy on the first floor), Orasure test, no needles, Lincoln NE, results in one week

Every Friday

AA ALTERNATIVE MEETING, 7pm, open to men and women, at Lowe Avenue Presbyterian Church in the basement, 1023 North 40th Street

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

GLBT CENTER YOUTH NIGHT, 6PM to 10PM, for ages 13 to 23. Youth sponsored and organized activities, under adult supervision. Every Friday, excluding holidays. 1719 Leavenworth Street

GLBT AA 7PM to 8PM, Lowe Avenue Presbyterian, Call 556-8364, ask for Sanford

HIV TESTING 5-7PM 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

FREE CONFIDENTIAL ANONYMOUS HIV TEST, UN-L 472-7447, 2:30 to 4:30pm, University Health Center Room 164 (next to Pharmacy on the first floor), Orasure test, no needles, Lincoln NE, results in one week

RAINBOW BIBLE STUDY, 6 to 7:30PM, Lowe Ave. Presbyterian, 1023 No. 40th St.

Every Saturday

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

GLBT SEXUAL COMPULSIVE ANONYMOUS, (SCA), A program of recovery, 12pm to 1pm, meeting at Rainbow Outreach GLBT Center, 1719 Leavenworth St, (beginning on January 19th, 2008)

OLDER ADULT DROP-IN, 4 TO 6PM, at the GLBT Center, 1719 Leavenworth St., for older adults age 50+, single or partnered, Free

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 Thursday
GAY & BISEXUAL MEN'S SUPPORT AND DISCUSSION GROUP 7 to 8:30pm, Meeting in Lincoln first and third Thursdays of the month. Call 434-9880 / 476 9668 for location and information.

GLBT PROFESSIONALS, meeting at 6PM. Email at: omahaglbtprofessionals@cox.net

1st Friday
FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE HOUSE 8pm, Musicians, poets, open mic, First Unitarian Church, 3114 Harney, Omaha

1st Saturday OR Sunday
HEARTLAND GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION, Meeting days and times may vary, call 402-505-3331 for info or see www.hgra.net for meeting schedules etc.

1st Sunday
GAY GUYS SPAGHETTI NIGHT, at a Lincoln restaurant, call 402-483-6183 to reserve a seat up until the day before

TRANSGENDER DROP-IN, 2 to 4pm at Rainbow Outreach GLBT Center, 1719 Leavenworth St.

2nd Wednesday
ACTS II WORSHIP SERVICE, 7pm, MCC Omaha, 819 S. 22nd Street

2nd Thursday
PFLAG- OMAHA, 7pm, First United Methodist Church

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

2nd Sunday
INTEGRITY 6-7:30pm, St. Marks, Lincoln NE

OUUT SECOND SUNDAY SCREENING (gblt film shown at 7pm followed by discussion) First Unitarian, 3114 Harney

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

3rd Tuesday
IMPERIAL COURT OF NE, Board of Governors meeting, 7:15pm, meeting at the Rainbow Outreach GLBT Community Center, www.imperialcourtofnebraska.org

HIV TESTING AT THE PANIC, Lincoln NE, 7-10PM walk-in, same day results, 200 South 18th Street

3rd Thursday
GAY & BISEXUAL MEN'S SUPPORT AND DISCUSSION GROUP 7-8:30pm, Meeting in Lincoln first and third Thursdays of the month. Call 434-9880 / 476 9668 for location and information.

LES/BI/GAY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP, Village Inn, 78th & Dodge, 7 PM

3rd Friday
GAY/BI SUPPORT GRP FOR HIV+ MEN 6-8pm NAP, 220 S. 17, Lincoln, 476-7000.

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

COFFEE HOUSE Unitarian Church, 6300 A, Lincoln

3rd Saturday
GAY/BI SUPPORT GRP FOR HIV+ MEN 6-8pm NAP, 220 S. 17, Lincoln, 476-7000.

3rd Sunday
TRANSGENDER DROP-IN, 2 to 4pm at Rainbow Outreach GLBT Center, 1719 Leavenworth St.

4th Tuesday
PFLAG-CORNHUSKER Unitarian Church, 6300 A, Lincoln, 7 p.m.

YOUTH HIV TEST Lighthouse, 2530 N, Lincoln, ages 13 to 18, FFI: 475-3220.

3-5:30 pm

4th Friday
LEO LEATHER ENGINEERS—OMAHA
Not currently meeting.

Email Your Event to:
GAYZETTE@COX.NET

Sensible Observations

"Relationships are hard. It's like a full time job, and we should treat it like one. If your boyfriend or girlfriend wants to leave you, they should give you two weeks' notice. There should be severance pay, and the day before they leave you, they should have to find you a temp."

--Bob Ettinger

Question:
What is a man's Ultimate embarrassment?
Answer:
Running into a wall with an erection and breaking his nose.

Did you know that you can see the entire *GAYZETTE* on our web site?

Go to:

www.rainbowoutreach.org

**And click on the Publications link.
George W. Bush reads the Gayzette.
(Ok, he just looks at the pictures.)**

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>

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, GLBT Scholarships, Mentoring and Leadership, call 877-87-DIAMOND or see 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

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

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

GayLibrary.com, World Wide Resources

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, Doubletree Hotel Downtown, 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

Low Avenue Presbyterian Church, 1023 No. 40th St., fully open to GLBT's,

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 11am, Wed Evening Bible Study at 7pm

NA Rainbow Group, Narcotics Anonymous, meets every Sunday at 6pm, 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 Zen Center, Soto Zen Buddhist, 3625 Lafayette Ave., 402-551-9035, www.prairiewindzen.org GLBT inclusive

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 WebPage <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.omahaglbtsports.net for info

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

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 2nd Thurs, 1st United Meth, 7020 Cass

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

Prairie Bares, nudist group, no further info available, ask Dino A. or David F.

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

Rainbow Bible Study, Fridays, 6-7:30pm, Lowe Ave Presbyterian, 1023 N. 40 St.

Rainbow Celebrations, PO Box 8488, Omaha, 68108, 402-212-6302 locally, 866-NE-PRIDE toll free, sponsors of annual Gay Pride & National Coming Out Day, for complete information see www.rainbowcelebrations.org

River City Gender Alliance, P.O. Box 4083

Omaha, NE 68104, or Email: info@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

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

LINCOLN BASED

GLBT and Ally Programs and Services at UNL, Pat Tetreault, Ph.D. Sexuality Education Coordinator University Health Center Health ED Dept. 402.472.7447 for info see <http://www.unl.edu/health/sexuality>

Gay/Lesbian/Bi/Straight Alliance 2229 J St., Lincoln 68510 (402) 436-1301 ext. 232 Ruth Kupfer

Gay & Bi Men's Discussion & Support Group, Tim, P.O. Box 6341, Lincoln 68506-0341 483-6183

Lesbian, Bisexual and Questioning Women's Discussion Group, University of Nebraska, Lincoln Women's Center (sponsor), Room 340, Nebraska Union, Lincoln 68588-0446. 402/472-5644.

Nebraska AIDS Project, 2147 S. 15th St. Lincoln, NE 68502. (402) 476-7000

Mixed Chorus, Rehearse 1st & 3rd Fridays, Unitarian Church, 6300 A, No auditions, Just a desire to sing, info contact Scott at sdorchid@neb.rr.com

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/>

Plainsmen, Support FtM's (Female to Male) Drag Kings TV Butches, 402-820-1267

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

Trevor-24-hour National Suicide Hotline for GLBT and Questioning Youth 1-800-850-8078 or email: <http://www.thetrevorproject.org/helpline.html>

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

UNL Committee on GLBT Concerns, Contact Pat Tetreault, c/o University Health Center, 15th & U Streets, Rm. 12h Lincoln, NE 68588-0618, (402) 472-7447 or email: ptetreau@unlnotes.unl.edu

Women In Trades/YWCA, 1432 N St., Lincoln 68508; 434-3494,

Youth Support Group, (402) 434-9880

Iowa Based

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

Community Announcements

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If you have a life event, birth, death, adoption, anniversary, wedding, graduation, memorial or other special announcement that you would like to see in the Gayzette, send it to Gayzette@cox.net and we'll be happy to publish it here for free.



T-birds Fly Free

A benefit show for Fall Harvest 2009

Hosted by Starla

Saturday January 26th

At The Max - \$3 Cover

Doors open at 6PM, show starts at 7PM

(Finding a Fit, story continued from page 10)

nonfiction. I had accidentally stumbled upon this company after the closing of Reading Grounds.

Being a busy woman, I don't always have time to go out and party after I get off of work, so most of the time, I will just kick back with a good book. It helps me relax, saves me money, and allows me to go to bed at whatever time I please. The Borders in Papillion is a gracious carrier of this publishing company, and the first book that I picked up that was published by Bold Strokes Books was *In Too Deep* by Ronica Black.

This book was amazing. It told the story of a straight FBI agent that got put on the case of Elizabeth Adams, lesbian night club owner and number one suspect in the murders of several male locals. This book was suspenseful and believable, making it easy to read, and the romantic twists kept me up into two in the morning some nights. After a long search, I knew that I was home with this intriguing writer, and now, I have diversified myself in exploring the novels of other writers endorsed by this publication agency. So far, Bold Strokes Books hasn't let me down.

Stopping Homelessness for Omaha Youth

By Nicole Higginbotham

"If you want to see how important families are, then look at homeless youth, because the family has a tremendous impact on their lives," said Ana Marie Cauce, Professor of Psychology at the University of Washington at Seattle. According to the CRS Report for Congress, "gay and lesbian youth appear to be overrepresented in the homeless population, due often to experiencing negative reactions from their parents when they came out about their sexuality". In Omaha specifically, there is a shelter service that is trying to take homeless youth off of the streets. This is the Youth Emergency Services, and in an interview with Bob Storey, the Executive Director of YES, I had the opportunity to find out how this program services the Omaha area.

What is the mission of YES?

We're the only organization that deals with homeless, runaway youth in town. The organization has been around since 1974. When the organization was started it offered short, emergency shelter for teenagers 13 to 18. It stayed as a one program service until about late 1998. That's the time when we developed and implemented the street outreach program. The street outreach program deals more with the homeless, runaway youth than did the original shelter operation. The original shelter operation dealt with kids that were having trouble with their families and it grew across time where we also deal with the juvenile courts and the foster care system. It didn't particularly deal with the homeless, runaway kids until about 1998. That's when the street outreach program started, and we serve anywhere from 500 to 700 kids a year now.

What kind of services do you offer homeless kids?

Well, it depends on the program. If you are a kid that has been caught up in the juvenile court system, the court may rule that there's something going on in your family that precludes you


from going home. They'll order you to be placed in out home placement. That kid may stay with us for a short term of time until a more stable type of situation can be found. We'll probably have that kid for up to 30 to 45 days, and then, they'll move on to a longer term placement. If the kids is in the foster care system and has all of a sudden developed problems with the foster family and needs to be removed and placed into another foster family, they may be placed with us for a period of time until they can be placed in another foster care system. If you're talking about a kid that is not getting along with the parents and there is a lot of behavioral issues and the family is kind of at their wits end, we will have that child anywhere from seven to fourteen days in order to give the family the opportunity to get some services put in place in order to deal with that situation. When you talk about runaways and homeless youth, if they choose to, they can reside in our shelter for a short period of time until we can provide a stable housing situation for them. If they are on the run, then we will allow them to stay in the shelter building until we can make arrangements for them to be returned to where they need to be or negotiate their return to the family.

I understand that you have a drop-in center on Harney. What is that used for?

Now, in addition to the shelter services with the outreach program, we do have a drop-in center that is located at 2057 Harney. That building has a food pantry. It has an inventory of clothing, a shower facility, a laundry facility. We do have meals that we provide at that location. That building is open Monday through Friday from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. We have a visiting nurse association and a public health nurse onsite, two nights a week to take care of their immediate health needs. We also have the visiting nurses taking care of some parenting classes, because a lot of the young ladies that we deal with do have children. We also stock up on baby food, formula, and diapers at that location.

How has the community gotten involved with the YES program?

We do get donations of diapers, formula, clothing, and books on a regular basis. We also have some activities at that location that allow community organizations to come in and present their services so that kids know what's available to them. We maintain a resource manual. We're pretty familiar with about every service in town that these kids may need, and we have referral rights to those programs. The last thing about the program that makes it a little bit unique is a lot of people are familiar with the safe place signs around town, but they don't necessarily know what these signs mean. If you drive into a Kwik Trip for instance, you will see on their light pole a yellow sign that says "Safe Place". There are 50 of these places around town now, and the staff of those particular buildings understand that if a kid comes in and says, "I need help", they will call us and we will respond to it.



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The dictionary is filled with words. Some words are big. Some words are small. Some words can serve as weapons. Some words can make you feel ten feet tall. I will introduce you to five monosyllabic words that you are already familiar with. These words can have a powerful impact on your health and fitness during the next twenty-six fortnights that we call the year 2008.

The first one-syllable word is yes. Yes means you can lose twenty pounds. Yes means you can climb that 3200 foot tall mountain. Yes means you can join the running club on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Yes means you can take that finite mathematics course at the community college and earn an "A". Yes means not saying no. Yes is success!

Next on the short list of power words is now. Now is perfect to discard that pack of Marlboro Reds. Now is the time for a brisk walk to the park and back. Now means biking to work today instead of tomorrow. Now is the ideal opportunity to replace your Big Mac lunches with that large fresh garden salad and low fat dressing. Now means not later. Now is wow!

Two vowels and two consonants join forces to bring you the word move. Move means not being complacent about your position in life. Move means dancing, gardening, jump-roping, and bicycling. Move means meeting in person in lieu of email. Move means abandoning the passivity of the sofa for the activity of the sand volleyball court. Move means moss never grows on a rolling stone. Move is to groove!

Toward the back of the dictionary appears the word will. Will you succeed? Yes, you will! Will you be happy? Yes, you will! Will you feel confident? Yes, you will! Will you finally train for that half-marathon? Yes, you will! Will does not mean won't. Will is to race up that hill!

The final introduction is reserved for the word learn. Learn to cook healthier meals. Learn to play the saxophone. Learn to play water polo. Learn to set goals and manage your time. Learn means to expand your horizons. Learn is to yearn!

"It is not the size of the dog in the fight but rather the size of the fight in the dog." These little words have "a lot of fight" in them. Give them a fighting chance in your life. You utter thousands of words each day. These words chart your journey through time. Choose wisely the vocabulary that spews forth from your mouth. Begin frequently using my five suggestions and behold the power of words.

This health and fitness column is brought to you by that guy who likes to sometimes throw open his sash. This guy is Ron Blake and he can be reached at www.goblakefitness.com.

Where Can You Find The Gayzette?

Omaha:

Connections,	1901 Leavenworth	933-3033
DC's Saloon,	610 South 14th Street	344-3103
Dixie Quick's Restaurant,	1915 Leavenworth	346-3549
Flixix,	1015 South 10th Street Omaha	408-1020
Gnome's Bar,	1951 Saint Marys Ave	991-6470
The Max,	1417 Jackson St.	346-4110
Metropolitan Community Church,	819 South 22nd Street	
Omaha Mining Co.,	1715 Leavenworth	449-8703
Mystery Bookstore,	1422 South 13th St	342-7343
Nebraska AIDS Project,	139 South 40th St	552-9260
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:
Gayzette@cox.net**

Get Involved and Make a Difference in 2008

Nebraska AIDS Project's MPower Program Coordinator is currently recruiting 18 to 29 years old Gay/Bi-Sexual men who want to get involved developing a new social fraternity in 2008. We need 12 to 20 "Core Members" (Big Brothers) who will be making decisions for the group.

Core Members will start in January deciding on the following:
New name that group or fraternity will operate under.
What informal outreach activities the group will do?
What formal "social" outreach activities the group will attempt?
Focus group and summit topics.
M-Group facilitators.
Publicity.
Project space.

Core Members (Big Brothers) will sponsor volunteers (Little Brothers) to assist with all activities carried out by the group. If you are an individual who wants to take an active role in creating something positive within your identifiable population, now is the time to get involved. We will begin building this dynamic and much needed program from the ground up starting in January of 2008.

This new group will operate under the existing philosophy as the original MPower Group. "A program that encourages all gay/bi-sexual men to work together to build a healthy community in which they can thrive, formulate optimistic social connections and support safer sex; using gay-positive and sex-positive approaches."

One of the focus groups that will be starting in January will be a bi-weekly support group for the HIV-Negative Gay Man. As AIDS prevention strategies focus more on psychosocial pressures of gay men who are HIV-negative, group work with this population has proved to be a healing solution to the on-going psychological toll of the AIDS pandemic. In an environment in which the link between sex and survival has been turned upside down, groups of these men offer invaluable forums for normalizing fears, clarifying values, disseminating information, and building a community of concern that mitigates overwhelming feelings of loss and isolation that might otherwise lead to self-destructive behaviors. Of particular importance with this focus group will be stage specific interventions. Recognizing how to utilize an integrative approach may give the group leaders the best opportunity for exploring the multi-issue concerns related to both staying uninfected and maintaining psychological well-being. To be very frank, the group will talk about sex, relationships and concerns about your confidence in staying negative.

As MPower Program Coordinator, I firmly believe that only by celebrating the normality and healthiness of gay men's needs for social, emotional and sexual connections with each other can we begin to help men not place themselves or others at risk of becoming infected. When gay men deeply feel good about themselves, good about what they do sexually and good about their partners, there is a hope and possibility that they will choose not to behave in ways that will continue to transmit HIV. Unsafe sexual behaviors are possibly an expression of low self-esteem or occur solely under the influence of alcohol or party-and-play drugs.

Facilitators of this group will be Jessyca Vandercoy, PLMHP Comprehensive Risk Counseling Coordinator and Gary Wingham, MPower Program Coordinator from Nebraska AIDS Project. Please call Gary at (402) 552-9260 x 122 for details. Dates for this support group will begin January 7th, 2008. Start time will be 6:30 pm at Watanabe Wellness Center.

Schedule for up-coming 2008 meetings:
 Recruitment for "New" Core Group Members
 Place: Watanabe Wellness Center
 Address: ½ block south of 40th and Dodge Street (east side of street)
 Dates: Saturday January 12th Time: 10:30 a.m.
 Monday January 14th Time: 5:30 p.m.

M-Group Workshops (3hours)
 Place: Watanabe Wellness Center
 Address: ½ block south of 40th and Dodge Street (east side of street)
 Dates: Saturday January 12th Time: 11:00 a.m.
 Monday January 14th Time: 6:00 p.m.

Support Group for Gay/Bi-Sexual Men Staying HIV-
 Place: Watanabe Wellness Center
 Address: ½ block south of 40th and Dodge Street (east side of street)
 Dates: Monday January 7th Time: 6:30 p.m.
 Monday January 21st Time: 6:30 p.m.

Free Anonymous/Confidential HIV Testing
 Watanabe Wellness Center
 139 South 40th Street
 Omaha, NE 68131

(402) 552-926
 Wednesday (by appointment only) 1:30 to 4:30
 Thursday 7:00 to 9:00
 Friday 5:00 to 7:00
 NAP Outreach Center (Use to be a tanning business on north-west corner of 22nd and St. Mary's Avenue)
 2202 St. Mary's Avenue
 Omaha, NE 68102
 (402) 614-4801
 Friday 7:00 to 10:00

MPower's "thought provoking" "safe-sex" question(s) of the month:
 Can you infect a partner with HIV if taking medications?
 Do you know where on your body mucous membrane can be found?

Answers:
 HIV has been a threat for 25 years, yet many people believe they are at low risk of becoming infected or infecting their partner. This is especially true of young gay and bisexual men who, unlike older gay and bisexual men, have not experienced the toll of HIV/AIDS. At the same time, the success of new drug treatments may be contributing to increased risky behaviors among some MSM. For example, some MSM may mistakenly believe that they or their partners cannot spread the virus when they take HIV medication or that having HIV is minor condition with no life-threatening consequences. They may not understand that HIV treatment may not work for everyone and that for some, it may work only for a time.

A mucous membrane is wet, thin tissue found in certain openings to the human body. These can include the mouth, eyes, nose, vagina, rectum, and opening of the penis.

Nepal Court Rules for Gay Rights

Nepal's top court ruled last week that the government must create new laws to protect gay rights and change current ones that might be tantamount to discrimination, an official said.

The Supreme Court issued the order in this conservative Himalayan kingdom after hearing a petition filed by four gay activist groups seeking greater rights for homosexuals, said court spokesman Til Prasad Shrestha.

Shrestha indicated it is up to the government to determine how the ruling should be implemented. It was not immediately clear whether the ruling overturns current laws banning homosexuality or whether the government would be compelled to recognize same-sex marriages.

Homosexual acts are punishable in Hindu-majority Nepal by up to two years in prison.

A government representative could not immediately be contacted.

Sunil Pant of the Blue Diamond Society, the country's main gay rights group, said it was a bold decision by the highest court in

Nepal, where gays frequently face harassment, including by police.

"It was an extremely positive decision and a pleasant surprise for us. It would set a precedent for other conservative countries like Nepal," Pant told the Associated Press. (AP)

ACLU Demands That School Stop Censoring Lesbian Student

The American Civil Liberties Union has requested that a Virginia high school remove any mention of discipline from the record of a student who was punished for wearing a T-shirt with a lesbian symbol. Bethany Laccone, a 17-year-old senior, was suspended December 10 when a teacher became offended by a shirt she wore in class that featured two overlapping female symbols.

The assistant principal and the teacher told Laccone that her shirt violated the school's dress code, which bans "bawdy, salacious, or sexually suggestive messages." In a later meeting with Laccone's father, the assistant principal said that the teacher is "very conservative" and that she was so upset by the shirt that it interfered with her ability to teach.

"When my teacher told me she wanted me to turn my shirt inside out or cover it up, I was confused, because I've worn that shirt to school several times before and nobody ever said a word about it," Laccone said in a statement. "I wear that shirt because I want people to know that I'm proud of being a lesbian and comfortable with who I am. And I have the same constitutional right to free speech as any other student."

She attends a different school full-time but goes to I.C. Norcom High each morning for a hotel management class, according to the ACLU. The group is urging the school to remove her suspension from her record and to pledge not to illegally censor students.

"A public school teacher's job is to serve the needs of all the students who go to that school," said Christine Sun, a staff attorney with the ACLU's national Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Project. "If a teacher can't deal with the fact that there are gay students in her classroom, that doesn't mean she gets to violate that student's First Amendment rights." (The Advocate)

It Looks Like Tequila!

A Roberto is strolling down the street and kicks a bottle lying in the street. Suddenly out of the bottle comes a Genie. Roberto is stunned.

The Genie says, "Hello master, I will grant you one wish; anything you want".

Roberto begins thinking, "Well, I really like to drink Tequila," so he says, "I wish to drink tequila whenever I want, so make me pee tequila".

The Genie grants him his Wish.

When Roberto gets home, he gets out a glass and pees in it. He looks at the glass and it's clear. Looks like tequila. He smells the liquid. Smells like tequila. So he takes a taste and it is the best tequila he has ever had.

Excitedly, Roberto yells to his friend, "Jaime, Jaime, come quickly!" Jaime comes running down the hall to see what all the excitement is all about.

Roberto takes another glass and pisses in to it and tells Jaime to take a drink because it is Tequila.

Jaime is reluctant but goes ahead and takes a sip. It is the best tequila he has ever tasted.

Happily, the two partied all night. The next night, Roberto comes home and tells Jaime to get two glasses. He proceeds to fill the two glasses. The tequila is excellent and the couple drinks until the sun comes up.

Finally on Friday night, Roberto comes home and tells Jaime, "Jaime, grab one glass and we will drink tequila". Jaime gets the glass and sets it on the table.

Roberto begins to fill the glass when Jaime asks him, "But Roberto, why do we only need one glass?"

Roberto raises the glass and says, "Because tonight, Mi Amigo, you drink straight from the bottle!"

I SPY.....

Hello there reader. My name is Chris Orr and I am doing an opinion column of just whatever. Sometimes I'll be expressing views or giving a heads up on persons, places, or things that need to be mentioned at all or more of. Remember this is an opinion column and does not reflect the opinions of those who are responsible (staff, owners, persons etc.).

I heard a great quote the other day from a female in general public. "You don't need to be religious to be a good person". I was like wowed with that statement. It's funny to hear and listen about these religious affiliations with what good they do and such. But at home, well folks, it is quite the opposite. Think about it because each of us has that single family mem-



OMAHA GLBT SPORTS

By Chris Orr

Omaha GLBT Sports league is changing up what the sports program does. This requires your help! On their website they are having a logo contest, it's just click and choose. Also, there is a survey of what sport you would like offered. Please visit www.omahaglbsports.net for further info on these two topics and other sport related topics. A dodgeball fundraiser will be happening soon. They tried in the month of December but everyone in the community was also doing a benefit so it got postponed to a later date. This dodgeball tournament will be a fundraiser for the sports league to help keep enrollment costs down and also to upgrade from past playing fields and arenas to sports equipment. The league will resume volleyball play on January 6th from it's holiday break. Come watch and support the league! Games are every Sunday night 6 - 8 P.M. at Westroads Club with free admission to be a spectator or \$3 to be a sub if needed. www.omahaglbsports.net

December 16th

Yellow	13	6	12	Vs.	Blue	21	21	21
Purple	21	21	21	Vs.	Black	8	11	3
White	21	21	21	Vs.	Green	13	17	6
Red	21	21	21	Vs.	Grey	8	12	2
Brown	21	21	21	Vs.	Orange	16	15	15

ber or whole family that just isn't comfortable as they should be with you or co-workers acting the same way perhaps. Is it for show these days? To say you're affiliated with something to make you feel good or a good reputation. Listening to people of all walks of life rambling in public of church affiliations and what they prayed for the evening before bed, when you just want to purchase something or need services rendered. Speaking of show, Boston Legal which is very entertaining and bases their episodes around current events, had a great episode about religion and the workplace. There is a single line out of that episode though that rang clear as a bell. Alan Shore, played by James Spader, in a closing argument says "A constitutional amendment that is overplayed as it is misapplied". Just thinking of that and what goes on here as well as around the world of current events adds another quote "I'm a little tired of this freedom of religion thing. Since when did it get such a good name anyway"? I like to get out of the house, since being imposed in home with T.V. ads and phone calls, just going out in public and shop or get things needed without being victimized at the register! It's great that you have ads and commercials but I have my belief and if I am concerned with yours I will ask if I am interested next time I'm at the register! It's great that we have freedom of religion and be able to choose but wow some days it can just be overplayed and misapplied. One of my new year's resolutions was not to offend so many people this year, but I just broke that one! Okay let's get to the good stuff of what's going on.

ICON Princess 27 Jenn Stark is getting a thank you from me for handling the NAP luncheon that ICON puts on once a month. It was the male side of the family's turn to do so and she stepped up and decided that since her job takes this time away that she would handle it since she was on vacation. Jenn is looking to have a couple of benefits for ICON involving Bingo and an afterhours breakfast. Jenn also can make a mean jello shot! Sounds like a good time so make sure to attend when those events happen.

We all know Trina Tabloid. If you don't well.... She is Miss Heartland Gay Rodeo Association. Her charity that she chose during her reign is Omaha GLBT Sports. Thank you from the league and I. Trina will be having quite a different benefit going on in the future involving roller skates and a rodeo party all in one place. Something different but sounds interesting if I can remember to roller-skate. As Miss HGRA she will be raising \$1,500 by Dec of '08. Join her down at DC's Saloon on January 20th for her Legacy of Drag, a birthday and victory show.

With all that jazz we should go over and say hello to Annie. She is the bartender to see at the Max on Friday nights. Annie's Jazz Club, her own show and night! Every Friday she will be bartending, pouring wine, and mixing martinis. If you sit and enjoy the candlelit bar and enjoy conversation where you can actually hear the person without shouting, you will also enjoy her live vocal talents. Annie makes jazz hot in a bar that is quite diverse.

Websites of the bi-week: www.abcunderwear.com // www.themaxomaha.com // www.rainbowoutreach.org // www.hgra.net

Any comments, gripes, complaints or just want me to check something out? Email me orrrthumper83@yahoo.com.

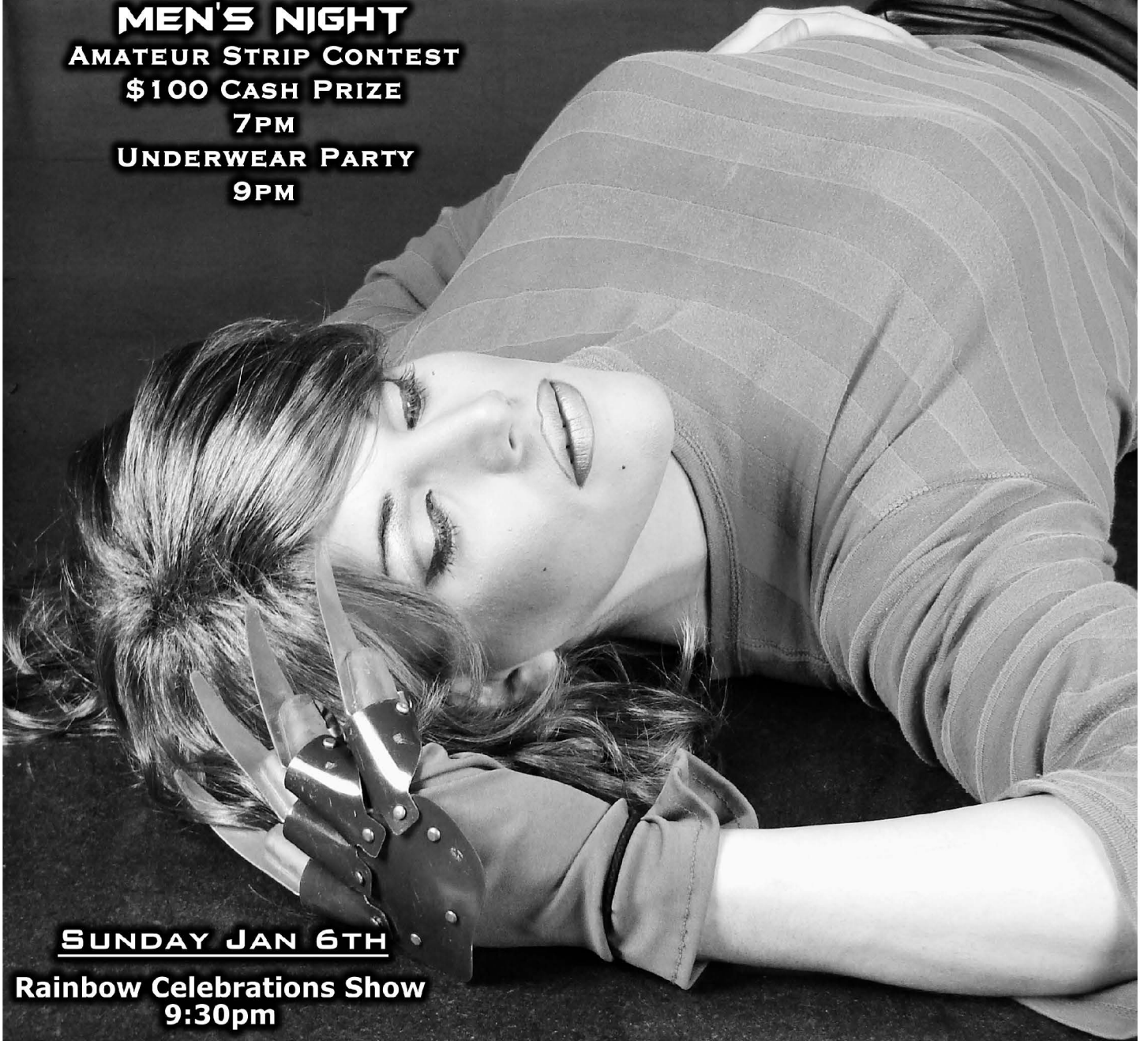


THE MAX

THEMAXOMAHA.COM

FRIDAY, JAN 4TH

MEN'S NIGHT
AMATEUR STRIP CONTEST
\$100 CASH PRIZE
7PM
UNDERWEAR PARTY
9PM



SUNDAY JAN 6TH

Rainbow Celebrations Show
9:30pm

SATURDAY JAN 12TH

ICON's E&E Ball
6pm Doors Open
7pm Show

SUNDAY JAN 13TH

**"A NIGHTMARE ON
DREAM STREET"**
**Miss Max Reyna's
Step-down**
10pm

Background: Miss Max Reyna