



The Rainbow Outreach GLBT Resource Center Presents

the

GAYZETTE

News and Events for the GLBTA Communities

416 Wins Two Major Awards at Central Nebraska Film Festival

Jim Fields' documentary, "416," was shown as part of this year's first annual Central Nebraska Film Festival, which was held in Kearney, Nebraska on January 28th and 29th. At the festival's award ceremony, "416" was selected as the "best picture" of the festival by the festival judges, and also won the "Audience Award," selected by all the attendees at the festival.

"416" is a documentary that examines the topic of same sex marriage from both the liberal and conservative points of view, leaving it to each viewer to decide for themselves where they stand on this controversial issue. The title comes from Nebraska's ballot initiative 416, which is considered the most comprehensive and extreme legislation of its kind. Since its premiere in Omaha last July, "416" has received favorable reviews in newspapers across the Midwest, and by the national independent movie websites Film Threat and Microcinema Scene. In addition, the documentary has screened in 7 film festivals throughout the country, including the Central Standard Film Festival in Minneapolis, MN, the Austin GLBT film festival in Austin, Texas, The Indyoutties Film Festival in Kansas City, Missouri, and the Hardacre Film Festival in Tipton, Iowa, where it won the best feature length documentary award. Other festival dates for 2005 are still pending.

A special edition dvd release of the documentary is in preparation, which will include a music video, deleted scenes, and the lively panel discussion held after last Saturday's screening at the Central Nebraska Film Festival. The "416" dvd is expected to be released in April.

"416" was written, directed, and produced by Jim Fields. For more information, contact Jim Fields at: jwomaha@msn.com or call (402) 212-3424. For more information about the documentary "416," visit the official website at: www.416themovie.com.



CENTER "BIRTHDAY PARTY" OPEN HOUSE - MARCH 18

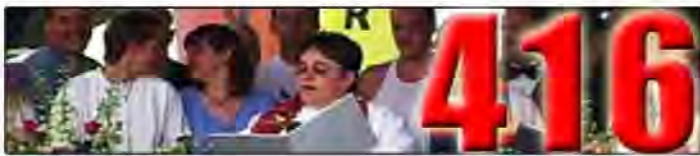
Our birthday is coming up! The Center has been around since 1997 (our switchboard has been around since 1992). Come celebrate the 8th birthday party of the Rainbow Outreach Metro Omaha GLBT Center, on **Friday March 18 from 7-10PM**.

Enjoy free cupcakes, beverages, and other treats at the GLBT Center, 1719 Leavenworth, Old Market area, Omaha. Show up to enter for our **FREE DRAWINGS** for great door prizes (a **First Season DVD set of the L-Word and matching Wall Poster; a Target gift card**). We look forward to seeing you!

It Is Time Again for Dreams to Reality!

Dreams to Reality is a novice introduction to the Leather Community, and much more. It is a great place for new persons who are interested and never been to an event. It is also a fabulous opportunity for those involved in the lifestyle to have a fun weekend of workshops, dungeon play, Leather Fantasy Show and vendors.

(Continued on Page 2)



March 4, 2005—March 18, 2005

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P.O. Box 8583, Omaha, Nebraska 68108 (402) 341-0330
Web Site: www.rainbowoutreach.org email the GAYZETTE: news@rainbowoutreach.org

Continued from Front Page... ..

There will be lots to hold the interest of most anyone, and of course the best thing of all is the chance to spend time with old friends and make new ones.

As always, the Leather Show will be a highlight and the dungeon parties a fitting ending to each evening. Don't miss the Sunday morning brunch and the chance to close out the week-end.

We are looking forward to a full slate of exciting workshops. Everyone is sure to find topics of interest. A few of the workshops being presented include Humor in the dungeon by Paradox and Sassy, Processing Pain: A submissive's Perspective by Lady Shivers, Breaking Through Barriers by Stan & Kathryn, Getting Started in the Lifestyle by Lori & Jamie and several others.

Dreams to Reality is a small, welcoming, friendly event that is especially good for people new to the lifestyle or who have not participated in events before. The staff goes out of its way to ensure that new people are welcomed and not intimidated. Our goal is that everyone find support and friendship and feels part of the community. Whether you have been in the Leather Community for years or if this is your first event we want you to feel you are a part of this wonderful Leather Tribe.

Here is a link to the website:
dreamstoreality.freeservers.com

For further information contact:
L2EP@aol.com



A New Chapter on LDS Gays

Parents recount son's struggle with homosexuality.

By Peggy Fletcher Stack, The Salt Lake Tribune

Like many Mormons, Fred and Marilyn Matis presumed that all homosexuals had abandoned LDS principles for a life of debauchery, selfishness and promiscuity. They were thus stunned by the news that their temple-going, mission-serving, devout, obedient 32-year-old son was gay. How could that be?

It was a secret Stuart Matis had kept for more than 20 years since he first felt the stirring of sexual attraction.

But in months after telling his family in early 1999, Stuart's longtime agony came pouring out - his self-loathing, bargains with God, endless efforts to become perfect so he would miraculously be transformed into a heterosexual as he believed his parents and church would want.

At the time, his home state of California was in the midst of a campaign against same-sex marriage known as Proposition 22 and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was among the ballot's most ardent proponents. In their zeal, some Mormons made hostile and unkind remarks about all gays.

Stuart began having panic attacks about going to church, fearful that others would guess his secret. His LDS bishop, who knew Stuart was gay, suggested he stay away until after the election. On Feb. 22, 2000, he wrote a letter to Brigham Young University's student newspaper.

"I read a recent letter to the editor with great regret," he wrote. "The author compared my friends and me to murderers, Satanists, prostitutes and pedophiles. Imagine having to live with this rhetoric constantly being spewed at you."

Three days later, he shot himself on the steps of his LDS chapel in Los Altos, Calif.

"I was convinced that my desire to change my sexual identity was a divinely inspired desire. As it turns out, God never intended my orientation to change in this lifetime," he wrote in the suicide note he left for his family. "My life was actually killed long ago. Perhaps your action to help others understand the true nature of homosexuality might help to save many young people's lives."

From anguish came action.

The Matises became magnets for gay Mormons eager to share their stories of confusion and misery. Since moving to Lehi three years ago, the couple has befriended nearly 40 such young men.
(Continued on Page 7)



GAYZETTE AD RATES

Whole Page	7 1/2 X 10	\$100.00	Half Page	7 1/2 X 4 3/4	\$ 50.00
Fourth Page	3 3/4 X 4 3/4	\$ 25.00	Business Card		\$ 15.00

All ads must be camera ready. Payment must accompany ad. Checks should be made payable to Rainbow Outreach GLBT Resource Center. 10% Discount for on-going ads of any size. Payment and ads should be delivered to the Rainbow Outreach GLBT Resource Center, P.O. Box 8583, Omaha NE 68102 on or before the deadline or emailed to news@rainbowoutreach.org. Please email or call ahead to reserve space. We reserve the right to refuse any ad which we deem to be inappropriate.

Ad Deadlines: Friday, Mar. 11, for Publication Mar. 18th Friday, Mar 25 for Publication Apr. 1st

CZAR XXIV CHUCK

PRESENTS

SKIN

**A TWINKIE IS A SNACK
A MAN IS A MEAL**



**COME WATCH 'EM TAKE
IT OFF FOR A.D.A.P.**



**SATURDAY, MARCH 19TH
9:00 PM**

DC'S SALOON
"IT'S THE PLACE TO BE"

MARCH 2005 CENTER OUTING

Beauty and the Beast

at the giant-screen
IMAX Theater

Enjoy the fantastic songs of Academy Award winning gay lyricist Howard Ashman. On Saturday, March 26th at 2:30PM, join us for a wonderful Center Outing as we attend the giant-screen version of the animated classic *Beauty and the Beast* at the IMAX Theater. This great event is part of the ongoing outreach of the Rainbow Outreach Metro Omaha GLBT Center. Take advantage of this opportunity to socialize and have fun in a GLBT-affirming atmosphere. The description for this Center Outing is...

Walt Disney *Beauty and the Beast*

Experience this enchanting love story on a screen as tall as eight Beasts and as wide as 1,000 Mrs. Potts teapots. The 90 minute film is sure to delight IMAX viewers old and young alike as the age-old story comes to life as you've never seen it before. The new and improved version embraces the IMAX screen with digitally enhanced artwork, additional animation, special effects and a never before viewed animated sequence and song, "Human Again," written for the original film by Academy Award winning songwriters Howard Ashman and Alan Menken.



Date and Time

Saturday, March 26, 2005. Arrive inside IMAX lobby at 2:30PM. Show starts 3PM. Dress casual.

Venue

IMAX Theater, Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo, 3701 S 10th Street, Omaha. Free parking. You do not have to enter the zoo to access the IMAX Theater.

Purchasing Tickets

Tickets must be purchased in advance by **9PM Wednesday, March 23, 2005** from the GLBT Center in person or online. *Center member* tickets for this Outing are \$9 in person at the GLBT Center, \$11 online, while *non-member* tickets are \$11 in person at the GLBT Center, \$12 online. Sponsor tickets are also available. Here are ways to purchase tickets:

- **Purchase Online:** You can purchase tickets through our website www.rainbowoutreach.org. Get your tickets early. Online tickets must be purchased by 9PM on Wednesday, March 23 - three days before the event on Saturday, March 26. *No last-minute ticket sales.*
- **Purchase In Person at the Center:** Get your tickets early, 9PM on Wednesday, March 23. You can purchase tickets at the GLBT Center, 1719 Leavenworth Street weekdays 7-9PM, Saturdays 3-9PM, Sundays 1-9PM. Please make checks payable to Rainbow Outreach GLBT Center. *No last-minute ticket sales.*

Questions?

Call the GLBT Center Switchboard at (402) 341-0330 or email us at glbtcenter@rainbowoutreach.org



Law Office of Susan Ann Koenig, r.c.
A Link of Liberty Organization

Susan Ann Koenig
Angela Dunne Tiritilli

1266 South 15th Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68108-8302

(402) 346-1132 www.KoenigLaw.com

"Innovative Advocacy"

Attention Walmart Shoppers

Two old guys are moving about in Wal-Mart when their carts collide.

One says to the other, "Excuse me, I'm looking for my wife, and I wasn't paying attention."

"What a coincidence, says the other guy, so am I, and I'm getting a little desperate."

"Well, maybe I can help you. What does your wife look like?"

"She's tall, with dark hair, long legs, firm boobs, and a tight butt. What's your wife look like?"

"Never mind, let's look for yours."

A WELCOMING CONGREGATION

By Paula Beebe

Let's be honest, when most people think of church, "gay-friendly" is not exactly the first thing that comes to mind. In fact, just the opposite may come to mind. But our church, along with several others in Omaha, is breaking the mold.

Second Unitarian Church of Omaha, located at 3012 S. 119th St., was recently designated as a "Welcoming Congregation" by the Unitarian Universalist Association, based in Boston, Mass. The status designates the church as being welcoming to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered individuals. The UUA started the Welcoming Congregation program after it had heard of stories of homophobia in some congregations, even though the UUA has supported GLBT rights since 1970. The movement toward the Welcoming Congregation program falls in line with the Unitarian Universalist church's liberal religious philosophy and tradition. Over the years, the UUA has advocated against sodomy laws and housing discrimination and now in its latest battle, advocated for civil and religious ceremonies of same-gendered couples.

The designation of Second Unitarian as welcoming comes after two years of hard ground-laying work, the first step being the formation of a Welcoming Congregation committee. Past committee chair Vicki Grunwald recalls how this process started. "A few years ago I was talking to our Social Justice Committee and the chair said that they needed someone to head up the Welcoming Congregation project, Grunwald said. "At first I wasn't sure if our open, accepting congregation even needed the program. But as I learned from a dear friend who is a lesbian, people can never overcome prejudices if they stop growing or learning."

The church had to meet several requirements in order to apply for Welcoming Congregation status, which included running advertisements in gay-friendly publications to hosting several



"first hour" sessions focusing on GLBT issues. First-hour sessions are weekly Sunday-school style meetings held before the sermon.

After the initial requirements were met, a vote was then put to the congregation in the spring of 2004 on whether or not the church should apply for Welcoming Congregation status. The vote was met with an overwhelming approval vote of 95 percent.

"I am honored to have participated in this process and to know that the GLBT community can find a religious home in our congregation," Grunwald said.

Since the vote and designation, Second Unitarian has held sermons in support gay marriage. In December, the church hosted its first ever Night of a 1,000 Stars party for the Nebraska AIDS Project's annual fundraiser. The party alone raised close to \$2,000 for NAP through ticket sales. Plans are in store to host another party next year.

In the past, Second Unitarian has also teamed up with the Welcoming Congregation committee of First Unitarian Church for Pride Week events, including the downtown parade.

For more information on Second Unitarian Church and the Welcoming Congregation, visit the church's website, www.secondunitarianomaha.org and look under the "Committees and Groups" link. Also available for reference is the Unitarian Universalist's website, www.uua.org/obgltc.

Queer Pulp

This month's selection for Queer Pulp, a GLBT book club, is **Venus Envy** by Rita Mae Brown. The next meeting is at 7:00 on Thursday March 17th at the Village Inn on 78th & Dodge. For more information please e-mail omaha-bookclub@cox.net New Members Welcome-Hope to see you there!





Omaha's Favorite events are at JOY!

FISHnets Friday March 4th



N'JOY FRIDAY MARCH 18TH



Porn Star Friday March 11th



Also coming in March

* Chi Chi LaRue (pictured)

*N'JOY Audition Show

*return of the FOAM PARTY!

*Porn Star Friday!

If it's gay, it's at JOY!



1516 Jones St.
Omaha, NE
402-341-7337
www.omahajoy.com

—LDS Gays continues... ..

They have sat at the bedside of other gay men who tried to end their lives, wondering, "When will the suicides stop? When will we, as members of Christ's church, begin to realize the pain that so many young men and women experience because of the challenge of same-gender attraction? When will we begin to love and succor them in their time of need?"

They have discussed their experience and views with LDS Church leaders and groups, BYU students and teachers, neighbors and friends. They have received dozens of letters thanking them for giving hope to gay Latter-day Saints, for treating them with dignity and kindness.

And they have been astonished to realize how common same-sex attraction is in the Mormon community. After Marilyn Matis described their experience in an LDS Relief Society in Lehi, 10 women approached her to tell of a brother, son, or cousin who was gay.

Now they have shared Stuart's story in a book, *In Quiet Desperation: Understanding the Challenge of Same-Gender Attraction*, which was published this fall by LDS Church-owned Deseret Book. It also includes chapters by Ty Mansfield, a Mormon man who acknowledges same-sex feelings but is determined to live a celibate life.

Mansfield and the Matises support the church's political opposition to same-sex marriage and its official requirement of celibacy outside heterosexual marriage. But they also believe that homosexual feelings are not chosen, nor can they be changed.

"God is not going to change the moral benchmark," Marilyn Matis said this week. "What has to change is our understanding. When we begin to show compassion and love, the suicides will stop. If we keep our hearts open to our children, fewer will be lost to the gospel of Jesus Christ."

That's quite a different message than what was promoted in an LDS book 10 years ago.

In 1994, Deseret Book published *Born That Way? A True Story of Overcoming Same-Sex Attraction With Insights for Friends, Families and Leaders* by Erin Eldridge. It recounted Eldridge's own experience with homosexuality and promised anyone willing to work could change their orientation.

That is still the view of some LDS groups, especially Evergreen International, a resource group for Mormon gays who want to "overcome homosexuality and diminish same-sex attraction." Though Evergreen is not affiliated with the LDS Church, the group "sustains the doctrines and standards of the church without reservation or exception," according to its mission statement. Two emeritus LDS general authorities, Elders Jack Goaslind and Lionel Kendrik, are on Evergreen's board.

The Matises' book "does not offer much advice to a young man struggling with this issue," said Jeff Robinson, a psychotherapist in Provo who has dealt extensively with LDS gay men for about 15 years. "It says he shouldn't hate himself or be desperate, but doesn't tell what he should do."

Robinson does not expect all LDS gays to try to change, but believes many of those who want to have been successful at "greatly diminishing and even eliminating homosexual thoughts, feelings and behaviors."

According to his research, about a third of men who truly try feel they are completely successful, a third make progress but don't feel completely successful and a third feel they haven't made any progress.

(Continued on Page 17)

What a Girl Needs



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Jeremy & James

Will be hosting Game Day at the Center
1719 Leavenworth St
Sundays: 12:00pm – 3:00pm

Come down and check out the games we have available or bring your favorite game and show us how to play.

Ages 5 – 105.

Parents bring the kids down and play or read some of the books in our Library while they play.

QUESTIONS ABOUT HIV OR AIDS?

Call the Nebraska AIDS Hotline.
1-800-782-2437
(in Omaha, 552-9255)
Sunday-Friday: 10 am-10 pm

GLBT Travel Specialist

Whether you are attending a GLBT event or just want to get away, I can assist in planning a memorable vacation to any destination in the world!

Destinations Travel Center
7919 Blondo St * Omaha NE 68134
Phone: 397-1314 * Fax: 397-2817E
Email: laura.kinney@destravctr.com



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Krista Norton
Trish Olafson
402-399-9300



**Sometimes Our Services
May Be Boring...**

***Our Commitments
Never Are!***

**Low Avenue Presbyterian
Church – 1023 N. 40th, Omaha NE.**

**Sunday Services 10 a.m.
Rainbow Bible Study
6 p.m. Fri.**

**Call the church at 551-5207
or Cleve Evans at 733-1360
for more information**

Omaha's Leading Gay Realtor!

Tim Reeder

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timreeder@cox.net

www.omahagayrealtor.com



Casino Night

At DC's Saloon

Friday, March 18th
6:30—9:00 PM

Blackjack
Texas Hold'em
& More

Minimum Buy-In \$10

A Benefit for MCC-O

Sponsored by the
Imperial Court of Nebraska

Center Wish List

Do you have something that the Center could use? Contact one of our board members. Please call (402) 341-0330 or email wishlist@rainbowoutreach.org.

Some items on our Wish List:

Copy Machine

Items for Raffles (event tickets, etc.)

Games (board games, card games, roleplaying games, chess, puzzles) Laminator (8.5"x11" or larger) Laser Printer (600 dpi or greater resolution, PC compatible) Library Materials (Books, Magazines, Books on Tape, etc.) Overhead Projector Public Address System Slide Projector Tables (three collapsible, 6-8 ft. long) TDD/TTY (Telecommunications Devices for the Deaf/Teletypewriters) TeleBraille (TB) machines for the Blind Toolbox VCR

Wish List Contributors

Anonymous - Books; Bob Ewing at Printing Plus - 2 cases of 6X9 envelopes; Bob Gittins - Cards, DVD Player, Books, Office Supplies; Flat Water Bears - Bookcase; Brian Wyant - Books, Open House Food, Website; George Broadway - Computer Equipment, PO Box Sponsor, Printer Ink Cartridges; James Lunbeck - Vacuum Cleaner, Open House Food; Judy Hancock - Broom & Dust Pan, Bulletin Board, Coat Hooks, Decorations, Fluorescent Ceiling Light Covers, Games, Open House Food & Beverages; Marcus Fender - Original Acrylic Painting, Oscillating Floor Fan, 8 Fluorescent Bulbs, Box of Trash Bags; Monty McClean - Books; Sarah - Coffee Maker, Cleaning Supplies, Magazines; Sharon VanButsel & Carla Petersen - Books

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Please complete this form and return it with the \$35 subscription fee to:
Rainbow Outreach GLBT Resource Center, P.O. Box 8583, Omaha, NE 68102

(Please Print ALL Information)

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone (optional) : _____ Email (optional) : _____

GAYZETTE EVENTS

FRJDAY MARCH 4TH

PRIDE BENEFIT AT THE DIAMOND,
Hosted by Linoma Bares, 8PM

FRJDAY MARCH 11TH

DREAMS TO REALITY, March 11 to 13,
for info, events and registration go to <http://www.dreamstoreality.freesevers.com/>

NEBRASKA PRIDE IDOL 05, Prelim #3,
at DC's Saloon, 8PM

SATURDAY MARCH 12TH

SNO-BALL 2005, opens 6PM and show at
7PM, Stosh's Saloon, at The Max

NEBRASKA PRIDE 2005 RECEPTION,
at the Redick Plaza Hotel, 7PM

SUNDAY MARCH 13TH

CASINO NIGHT AT DC'S, 6:30 to 9PM,
DC's Saloon, Minimum Buy-In is \$10, Partic-
ipant gifts and prizes for winners

NEBRASKA PRIDE 2005 RECEPTION,
at Lazlo's in the Haymarket Square, Lincoln,
2PM

SATURDAY MARCH 19TH

STRIPPER SHOWDOWN, 8PM, at DC's
Saloon

NEBRASKA PRIDE IDOL 2005, Prelim
#4, at The Q, Lincoln, 8PM

SUNDAY MARCH 20TH

NOT-SO GAY STATES, 9PM at The Max

NEBRASKA PRIDE IDOL 04 MISTY,
hosts a Pride Benefit at The Q, Lincoln, 9PM

THURS THRU SAT, MARCH 24-26TH

ICONS: the lesbian and gay history of the
world, Vol. 1 & 2, the Millennium Theater,
601 S. 16th St. Omaha. Info:
www.ICONSinNebraska.org

FRJDAY MARCH 25

LENT FISH FRY, 6pm to 8pm,
at The Max

TUESDAY MARCH 29

DINING OUT FOR LIFE 2005, see
www.nap.org for more information

SUNDAY APRIL 3 (DATE MAY CHANGE)

80'S SHOW, 8PM, DC's Saloon

SATURDAY APRIL 9

ICON vs ICOI, (Nebraska vs Iowa), 6pm,
7pm show, DC's Saloon

OMAHA PEACE & JUSTICE EXPO,
1PM to 6PM, Lewis and Clark Middle
School, 6901 Burt St., Omaha NE

SUNDAY APRIL 10

CLOSET BALL 2005, Camp, 9PM the Max

NEBRASKA PRIDE BENEFIT, at The Q,
Lincoln, 9PM

NEBRASKA PRIDE BENEFIT, hosted by
Miss Fanta Cee, DC's Saloon, 9PM

FRJDAY APRIL 15TH

NEBRASKA PRIDE IDOL 05, Prelim #6, at
FLIXX, 8PM

SATURDAY APRIL 23RD

NEBRASKA PRIDE BENEFIT, hosted by
Jazz, at the Panic, Lincoln, 9PM

SATURDAY APRIL 26TH

ADAP BENEFIT, (AIDS Drug Assistance Pro-
gram), 8PM, DC's Saloon

SATURDAY APRIL 30

TRIBUTE TO STEVE VON SEGGREN, a
benefit for ADAP, Club Joy

SUNDAY MAY 1ST

NEBRASKA PRIDE IDOL 05, Prelim #5, at
Club Joy, 9PM

FRJDAY MAY 6TH

NEBRASKA PRIDE IDOL 05, Prelim #8, at
the MCC Omaha, 8PM

SATURDAY MAY 7

PR BALL, 6pm, 7pm show, at the Max

SUNDAY MAY 8TH

NEBRASKA PRIDE BENEFIT, at DC's Sa-
loon, 9PM

FRJDAY MAY 13

BBQ FOR ADAP, (AIDS Drug Assistance
Program), 6 to 8 pm, at the Max (on the patio)

SATURDAY MAY 14TH

NEBRASKA PRIDE IDOL 05, Prelim #9, at
the Panic, Lincoln, 9PM

SATURDAY MAY 21

**MADELINE FIENSTEIN ONE WOMAN
SHOW**, 7PM, 8PM SHOW, at DC's Saloon

FRJDAY MAY 27TH

NEBRASKA PRIDE IDOL 05, Wild Card
Prelim, at The Max, 8PM

SUNDAY MAY 29TH

NEBRASKA PRIDE IDOL FINALS, at Club
Joy, 9PM

SUNDAY JUNE 5TH

2005 PRIDE PAGEANT, Club Joy, 8PM

THURS—SUN, JUNE 9 THRU 12TH

NEBRASKA PRIDE 2005, 20th Anniversary

Pride Celebration

SAT., & SUN., JUNE 18 & 19

**RCMC PRESENTS FAIRY TALES: THE
MUSICAL**, 7:05PM, Strauss Performing
Arts Center, UNO Campus, 69th and Dodge

WEEKLY EVENTS

Every Sunday

WORSHIP SERVICES:

DIETZ METHODIST 1423 S.10, Heartland
Casual Coffeehouse 9:30am, Traditional
Worship 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 Worship: 9am & 11am
Sunday School: 11am

SECOND UNITARIAN, 10:30am Sunday
service, 3012 South 119th St., Omaha NE
UNITY CHURCH OF OMAHA,
3424 N. 90, Omaha, 9am and 11am services

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

LINCOLN WOMYN'S POTLUCK Cher-
yl 474-1937 11:30am-4pm

WIMMIN'S SHOW KZUM 89.3 12:30pm

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

GAMES DAY AT THE GLBT CENTER,
1719 Leavenworth, Noon to 3PM

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

Every Monday

**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

HIV TESTING, 7- 9:30pm, 139 S. 40th

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

A A GLBT "RAINBOW GROUP"
Meeting Place, 28 & S, Lincoln, 7:30 p

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

Every Wednesday
WORSHIP SERVICES
MCC OMAHA, Bible Study, 7pm

UNITY CHURCH OF OMAHA, 7pm

HIV TESTS, 1-4 pm NAP, 13 9 S. 40

FRONTRUNNERS RUN/WALK
6:30pm, Elmwood Park Parking Lot by softball field, Omaha

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

KARAOKE W/ STACY 8:30pm DC's

Every Thursday
AA MEETING, NON SMOKING, 7PM, MCC -Omaha, 819 So. 22nd St.

GILLIGAN'S PUB OPEN MIC NIGHT,
sing to your hearts content, be a comedian for a night, it's an open mic night

HIV TEST 7- 9:30 pm, NAP, 139 S. 40th

KARAOKE 9pm, Connections

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

GILLIGAN'S PUB KARAOKE NIGHT,
have fun from 9 pm to 1 am

HIV TESTING, RESULTS IN 20 MINUTES,
5 - 10 pm, NAP Outreach Center, 1723 Leavenworth

LAMBDA TV, Lincoln Cable Ch 13. 9pm

LGBT AA 8pm, Boys & Girls Home Sioux City, IA (712) 252-4272,

Every Saturday
GILLIGAN'S PUB KARAOKE NIGHT,
have fun from 9 pm to 1 am

GLBT BICYCLING CLUB OMAHA, For details call Jeri at 614-6145

LAMBDA TV Lincoln Cable Ch 13. 3 pm

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

MONTHLY EVENTS

1st Friday
LINCOLN MIXED CHORUS 6:30pm,
Unitarian Church, 6300 A, Lincoln

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

1st Saturday
CENTER ACTIVITY COMMITTEE,
3-4:30PM at the GLBT Center, 1719 Leavenworth, Omaha. For details, visit rainbowoutreach.org

CENTER WESTERN IOWA COMMITTEE, 4:30-6PM at the GLBT Center, 1719 Leavenworth, Omaha. For details, visit rainbowoutreach.org

RIVER CITY GENDER ALLIANCE Room
Open: 4pm Meeting at 7pm, 991-8845 or email: rcga@tgforum.com

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

CENTER ACTIVITY PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE, Come help plan Center activities, 7PM, GLBT Center, 1719 Leavenworth St.

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

2nd Friday
FREE CONFIDENTIAL ANONYMOUS HIV TEST, UN-L 476-0355, 1-3:30pm

2nd Saturday
LEATHER ENGINEERS—OMAHA
Meeting 7pm, Gilligan's

HIV TESTING UNL campus.
Cornerstone, 16th & U, Lincoln, 476-0355 or 472-7447. 1:30-3:30pm

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

2nd Sunday
INTEGRITY 6-7:30pm, St. Marks, Lincoln
OUUT SECOND SUNDAY SCREENING
(glbt film shown at 6:30pm followed by discussion) First Unitarian, 3114 Harney

3rd Monday
IMPERIAL COURT OF NEBR 6:30pm,
MCC-O, 819 S. 22 St., icon.impcourt.org

3rd Thursday
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

FLAT WATER BEARS 7:30pm, at the Rainbow Outreach GLBT Resource Center

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 Saturday
HIV TESTING Cornerstone, 16th & U, Lincoln, 476-0355 or 472-7447. 1:00-3:00pm

LAST Sunday
REAL FAMILIES Omaha-area families headed by gay/lesbian parents, Margaux at 561-6738 or email MargauxPolo@aol.com

DUI DEFENSE CRIMINAL DEFENSE FAMILY LAW



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RAINBOW OUTREACH 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 1102 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

Flat Water Bears, Box 3751, Omaha 68103 flatwaterbears@yahoo.com Hirsute men and admirers group

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

GALO (Gay & Lesbian Org at UNO) www.angelfire.com/home/GALO contact: unogalo@hotmail.com or SPO (Student Organizations) at 554-2711.

Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network - Omaha, Box 641676, Omaha 68164, 596-2549 <http://www.glsenomaha.org>

GayLibrary.com, World Wide Resources

Heartland Gay Rodeo Association

Box 3354, Omaha 68103 402-203-4680

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, 819 S. 22 www.icon.impcourt.org

Leaning 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, Mt 2nd Sat Gilligan's 7pm

LinOma Bares, Box 24547, Omaha 68124 Nudist/ Naturist Club for gay/bi men Info: Linomabares@yahoo.com or call Eric at (402) 553-5944 or Tim S (712) 527-5887

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 9 & 11am, Sunday School 11am, Wed Evening Bible Study at 7pm

Nebraska AIDS Project, 552-9260

Watanabe Wellness Ctr, 139 S. 40, Omaha 68131, Testing Mon, Thurs Eve, Wed aft

NAP Outreach Center, 1723 Leavenworth, Testing & Counseling: Fri Nights

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

Nebraska Advocates for Justice & Equality, 1102 Howard, Suite 2, Omaha 68102, 402.346-5960 naje_now@hotmail.com

Nebraska Gay Dads group list exchange emails posted to group list for discussion <http://mike2tom.home.radiks.net/nebraskagaydads/>

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

The 'Ohana Group, (GLBT / Non-traditional Family group), theohana-group@cs.com

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

Omaha Nebr Gay Pride WebPage <http://ONGP.com>; email to: omahanegaypride@cox.net or ongp@cox.net

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

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, Box 8583, Omaha, 68108, 402-212-6302 locally, 866-NE-PRIDE toll free, sponsors of annual Gay Pride & National Coming Out Day, see www.rainbowcelebrations.org

Real Families, Omaha-area families headed by gay/lesbian parents, meet last Sunday of every month. Info: Margaux at 561-6738 or email MargauxPol@aol.com

River City Gender Alliance, Box 8076, Omaha 68108, www.genderalliance.com Social/Support Group for transgender/transsexual/cross-dressers and supporters

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

Unity Church of Omaha 3424 N. 90, Omaha, Sunday worship: 9am, 11am Wednesday evening worship 7pm; 571-1344; www.unityomaha.org

WomenSpace, Box 24712, Omaha 68124 Newsletter, Concerts

LINCOLN BASED

GLBT and Ally Programs and Services at UNL, D. Moritz, Assistant Director, 402-472-1752 email: dmoritz2@unl.edu Located in Student Involvement Office of the Nebraska Union, Room 200.

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

Gay Men's Support Group, UNL Health Center, Counseling & Psychology, Rm. 214, Lincoln 68588-0618 472-7450

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. 73, Lincoln, 68507 467-5737

Parents, Friends of Lesbians & Gays, Cornhusker Chapter; Box 30128, Lincoln 68508, Meet 4th Tues, Unitarian Church, 6300 A, Barbara Kimberly jbkimber@msn.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

Sexuality Education eXchange, University Health Ctr, 15th & U, Rm. 12h, 472-7447 or email: ptetreault1@unl.edu Comprehensive, inclusive sexuality/sexual health info, resources/referrals including sexual orientation, ally and diversity training.

Straight Spouse Support Grp 402-429-6094

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

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: ptetreault1@unl.edu

Youth Support Group, (402) 434-9880

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/>

Iowa Based

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

South Dakota Based

Black Hills Pride Committee, for information visit <http://blackhillspride.org>

Black Hills Gay and Lesbian Youth And Resource Center, for more information please visit <http://www.bhgayyouth.org>

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School Board Bans Photo of Lesbian in a Tux

Larry Buhl, PlanetOut Network

Ending weeks of speculation but not controversy, Florida's Clay County School Board upheld a decision to ban a student's picture from the Fleming Island High School yearbook. The reason: Kelli Davis, 18, violated the school's dress code by having her senior class photo taken in a tuxedo provided for the boys.

Davis, a lesbian straight-A student, claimed that she wore the tux because she was uncomfortable wearing the traditional gown-like drape and pearls the school provides for the girls.

"Hey if [a tux was] good enough for Sharon Stone and Sigourney Weaver, it was good enough for me," she said.

Davis denies the decision to ban her photo is based on her sexual orientation, however.

In backing Principal Sam Ward's decision, the school board caused an unexpected firestorm in this affluent and growing suburb of Jacksonville. On Thursday, hundreds of residents showed up at the school board meeting, some to support "traditional female attire," but more came to condemn the board's decision. Some students even showed up in tuxedos as a sign of support for Davis. But Clay County Superintendent David Owens had the final word.

"There's a dress code to follow, a dress code expected for senior pictures in the yearbook and she chose not to follow them. It's just that simple," Owens said. The principal's original claim that the outfit violated yearbook tradition was shot down by students, who pointed out that the 2005 yearbook is the first for the new high school.

While tux-photo supporters call the school's decision narrow-minded, youth advocates suggest that it's also legally questionable.

"Many court opinions state that gender-based dress codes violate students' rights," said Craig Bowman, executive director of the National Youth Advocacy Coalition. "Unless it's clearly vulgar dress or offensive in some way, courts are more often sympathetic to the rights of the student."

Although Davis' parents have decided to skip a drawn-out legal fight -- which likely wouldn't be resolved until long after her graduation -- the picture will appear in the yearbook. Her par-



MCC

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CHURCH OF OMAHA

Sunday 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM
Wednesday 7:00 PM

819 South 22nd Street (Just south of Leavenworth Street)
Omaha, Nebraska 68103 Phone: 402-345-2563
Web site: www.mccomaha.org

ents paid \$700 to publish an ad in the back of the yearbook featuring a picture of Davis in the offending tux.

"Kelli is lucky to have parents that are so supporting," said Joshua Lamont, a spokesman for the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN). "It would be even better if more schools would put policies in place to ensure freedom of expression. Decisions like this serve to marginalize LGBT students, when principals and administrators should be trying to break down those barriers."

Royal Navy Reforms; Recruits Gay Staff

Ben Townley, Gay.com UK

Britain's Royal Navy has announced a new drive toward equality for its lesbian and gay employees, with a host of new initiatives set to modernize and reform the institution.

Besides these projects -- which include partnering with the gay group Stonewall and changing its policy on "married" quarters so it is in line with the new civil partnerships -- the navy has announced it will advertise in the gay press as part of its latest recruitment drive.

(Continued on Next Page)

RIVER CITY MIXED LEAGUE STANDINGS

Maplewood Lanes		Week 21 of 29	
Place	Team Name	Won	Lost
1	Team 15	71	13
2	DC's Saloon	69	15
3	Lords and Ladies	53	31
4	Omaha Hospitality	51	33
5	Old Market Candy Shop	50.5	33.5
6	Chicken & Her Noodles	50.5	33.5
7	I Got 8	49	35
8	About That Dirt...	47.5	36.5
9	Bowling With Antlers	46	38
10	Flixxation	44	40

11	Kumoniwan2layya	44	40
12	Max-A-Millions	43.5	40.5
13	Liksalotagilly's	41.5	42.5
14	Bowler Sister's	41	43
15	Oh Flixx It!	41	43
16	Here 4 Beer	39.5	44.5
17	SPLASH	39	45
18	Frank and Beans	37	47
19	Sausage & Eggs	34	50
20	Omaha Ball Busters	33.5	50.5
21	Myers Electric	33.5	50.5
22	4 The Beer 2	32	52
23	Gilligans CCB	31	53
24	Gino's Bobbleheads	31	53
25	DBL Stuffed Oreoz	27	57
26	Triple BS	4	76

High Average Women

196- R Richardson
181- T Shellenberger
176- H Kovanda

High Series Women

717- R Richardson
667- T Shellenberger
661 - N Rogers

High Game Women

290- R Richardson
259 - T Shellenberger
252 - N Rogers

High Average Men

221 - G Schoenfeld
208 - D Cohen
207- J Schomer

High Series Men

825 - D Cohen
796- G Schoenfeld
770 - J Schomer

High Game Men

299 - G Schoenfeld
298 - D Cohen
278 - J Schomer

High Game Team

880-Lords & Ladies
834-Team #15
826-DC's Saloon
826-Old Market Candy Shop
High Series Team
2465-Lord's & Ladies
2405-Team 15
2349-Old Market Candy Shop

Where Can You Find The Gayzette?

Omaha:

Ace's Only, 1263 South 16th Street (temporarily closed)
Connections, 1901 Leavenworth
The Diamond, 712 South 16th Street
DC's Saloon, 610 South 14th Street
Dixie Quicks, Restaurant 20th Leavenworth
First Unitarian Church, 3114 Harney
Flixx 1019 South 10th Street Omaha
Gilligan's Pub, 1407 Harney Street
The Joy, 1516 Jones Street
The Max, 1417 Jackson
Metropolitan Community Church, 819 South 22nd Street
Omaha Mining Co., 1715 Leavenworth
Mystery Bookstore, 1422 South 13th St
Nebraska AIDS Project, 139 South 40th St
Next Millennium, 2308 North 72nd Street
Rainbow Outreach Metro Omaha GLBT Resource Center, 1719 Leavenworth St.
Stage Right, 16th and Harney (temporarily closed)
Youth Emergency Services, 3910 Harney

Lincoln:

Panic Bar, 200 South 18th Street (as available)
Q Bar, 226 South 9th Street (as available)

Iowa:

Adult Emporium, 1 blk. So. of 32nd & Broadway, Council Bluffs
Wilson Resource Center, Arnolds Park, IA



OMAHA PFLAG

Monthly Meetings: Second Thursday 7:00 P.M.
Location: First United Methodist Church
7020 Cass, Omaha, Nebraska
Web Site: www.pflag-omaha.org

P.O. Box 390064
Omaha, NE 68139-0064

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Kyle's Bed & Breakfast by Greg Fox

MMM-MMM. THESE ARE SOME DAMN GOOD BACON N' EGGS, KYLE.

I DON'T KNOW IF I EVER HAD BACON THAT TASTED QUITE LIKE THIS.

UM... IT'S ACTUALLY NOT BACON, MATT. IT'S A VEGETARIAN SUBSTITUTE.

VEGETARIAN? REALLY?

YOU TRYIN' TO GET ME HEALTHY OR SOMETHIN'?

YOU LOOK PRETTY HEALTHY TO ME, MATT.

LIKEWISE, KYLE.

SO... YOU SINGLE OR WHAT?

HAHA... CUT RIGHT TO THE CHASE, HUH?

US EMT'S GOTTA WORK FAST, KYLE.

BUT DON'T WORRY... I'M NO PLAYER... I'M A ONE MAN KINDA' GUY.

THAT'S... NICE TO KNOW. BUT YOU'RE A FEW MONTHS TOO LATE.

I DO HAVE A BOYFRIEND NOW.

GREG FOX © 2005

DAMN. AS USUAL, ALL THE GOOD ONES ARE TAKEN.

OH, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT.

THERE'S SEVERAL ELIGIBLE GUYS LIVING HERE AT THE B&B.

LIKE ME, FOR INSTANCE.

RICHARD. THIS IS--

MATTHEW. I KNOW.

MATTHEW AND I HAD A DATE LAST YEAR.

AFTER WHICH, APPARENTLY, HE LOST MY PHONE NUMBER.

RICHARD, I...

...DIDN'T REALIZE YOU LIVED HERE.

IF YOU'D HAVE COME HOME WITH ME THAT NIGHT, YOU WOULD'VE KNOWN.

I DON'T SLEEP WITH GUYS ON THE FIRST DATE, RICHARD.

THAT'S WHY I NEVER CALLED YOU BACK. YOU SEEMED LIKE A LOOSE GUY JUST LOOKIN' FOR A QUICK HOOK-UP.

I THOUGHT ALL OF YOU "EMT'S GOTTA WORK FAST"?

NOT THAT FAST. AND HOW'D YOU HEAR THAT? WERE YOU EAVESDROPPING ON KYLE N'ME BEFORE?

OH, GET USED TO THAT IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE LIVING HERE, MATTHEW...



**CELEBRATE ST. PATRICKS DAY
WITH GO GO BOYS AT FLIXX
THURSDAY MARCH 17
9:30PM - 11:30PM**



THE BOYS & THEIR TOOLS ARE BACK
GO GO BOYS

Sunday

*5pm - 9pm Stage & Screen
showing your favorite movies*

*9pm - 1am Retro Replay
playing your favorites from the past*

TUESDAY

*Topless Tuesday
Jerret leads the gang of
Omaha's Hottest Shirtless Men
Rock Music Night
Shed Your Shirt = \$1 Off Your Drink*

WEDNESDAY



*"Papi Chulo"
Latin Night
9-1
Hottest Latin
Dance Music.
Dance Floor
Will Be Open!
\$2 Corona's*

THURSDAY



*9pm - 1am
Retro Night
The Greatest
Hits of the
70', 80'S & 90'S*

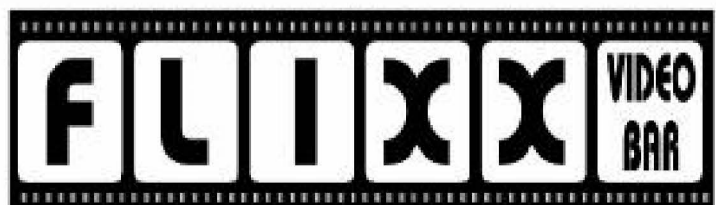
*Come Dressed In Retro
Get \$1 Off Drinks 9pm - 12am*

HAPPY HOUR

*Everyday 5pm - 8pm
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Come Meet Your Friends
and Make New Ones*

**We're Open
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At 5 p.m.**

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“Men Helping Men Live Long Sexy Lives”

MPower

The MPowerment Project is the first documented HIV prevention intervention for gay/bisexual men to succeed in reducing sexual risk behavior. The MPowerment Project is an effort to mobilize gay/bisexual men to work together to build a healthy community in which they can thrive. MPower is currently looking for 10-15 Gay/Bisexual/MSM men to become part of MPower's Core-Group. The Core Group is the decision-making body of the MPower Project. Usually it is comprised of between 10-15 young gay/bisexual men, whose job is to design and carry out all Project activities. The Core Group will consist of Gay/Bisexual/MSM men who want to become more active in Promoting Education and prevention in their community.

Overview:

The composition of the Core Group should reflect the target population of the community. An effective Core Group should include at least one representative from each of the major segments of young gay/bisexual men. Diversity is a key consideration in identifying potential Core Group members. Having a diverse Core Group ensures that the Project represents a broad variety of ideas and perspectives, and a diverse Core Group helps create a broad base of support for the Project within the community. In recruiting Core Group members, we need to try to identify men with leadership qualities and who are popular and connected to different segments of the young gay/bisexual men's community. Men whose behavior and opinions influence other young men and who know lots of other young gay/bisexual men will be extremely helpful as Core Group members. Since the Core Group (including the Coordinators) is the starting point for the diffusion process, it is helpful if its members are respected by others and have a number of friends to whom they can spread the messages of practicing safer sex and creating a supportive community. While it is important to have popular men on the Core Group, it is also important not to exclude anyone who wants to be a part of this group, because more help is always needed, and because to exclude people will cause the Project to be perceived as cliquish.

If interested in becoming a member of MPower's Core-Group, or if you know someone who would be a perfect fit please contact Alex Allan at 402.552.9260 Ext 121; Alexa@Nap.org.

— LDS Gays continues.....

"It has a lot to do with motivation, support, courage and other factors - just like overcoming any of life's problems," Robinson said.

The fact that Deseret Book published *Quiet Desperation* is "confusing," Robinson said. "It's unfortunate that it could create that impression that the church is saying change is impossible."

The LDS Church's position is that "those who desire to be free of same-gender attraction can overcome that attraction and find hope by turning to the Lord and committing themselves to a program of change," said spokesman Dale Bills.

That is not how BYU professor Bill Bradshaw sees it.

In a review of five different studies of more than 1,000 LDS gays and lesbians, Bradshaw and fellow researchers concluded that few, if any, had changed their orientation. For example, Ron Schow reported that of 136 people - more than 70 percent were returned missionaries - at a 1994 conference for LDS gays and lesbians, 113 had continued homosexual feelings after an average of 11 years of effort to change.

But Bradshaw, whose son lives in Oakland with his partner and their daughter, wishes the Matises were willing to endorse same-sex relationships.

"You're 25 and you've been told in every Family Home Evening or Sacrament meeting that love in a family between spouses is one of the highest forms of human relationships and lasts forever and that when you become a husband or wife, you care for someone else and you exhibit all the Christlike quali-

ties that lead you towards godliness. But [gay people] can't have any of that," he said. "That's too hard a message."

Gary Watts echoes Bradshaw's feelings.

"We have got to figure out a way to allow gay people to have moral relationships," said Watts, one of the leaders of Family Fellowship, a support group for relatives of LDS gays. "Am I in favor of sexual morality? Absolutely. Do I think we should value fidelity and trust? Yes. But I don't see any reason why those virtues can't be present in a gay relationship."

He thinks requiring celibacy for Mormon gays is unhealthy and unfair.

"There may be 8 to 10 percent who look at their homosexuality as a cross to bear, but the other 90 percent are going to make another choice," Watts said. "They are going to decide they don't want to be alone; they want intimacy."

Though they oppose same-sex unions, the Matises urge families to remain close to their children who chose to be in one.

"Whatever your son does, don't ever turn your back on him," Fred Matis said. "Your door has to always be open for love, succor and understanding."

In *Quiet Desperation*, left, was published this fall by Deseret Book, owned by the LDS Church. The book describes an LDS man's struggle with same-sex attraction and his family's attempt to understand him. The book suggests that homosexuality is not a choice and cannot be changed. The message is a contrast to that in *Born That Way?* Published by Deseret Book in 1994, the book argues that same-sex attraction can be overcome with therapy.

(Royal Navy Reforms, continues... ..)

The project comes in light of the introduction of legislation that protects lesbian and gay people at work, as well as the civil partnership law, which gives same-sex partners many of the rights of married couples.

Advertisements are set to appear over the coming weeks, urging lesbian and gay people to view the Royal Navy as a viable employer.

However, in a bid to ensure that projected new recruits are welcome into the navy, it has also signed up to Stonewall's Diversity Champions scheme. Already supported by nearly 100 companies, the scheme allows Stonewall to facilitate diversity and equality initiatives.

In a statement, the navy said it would be working with Stonewall "to promote good working conditions for all existing and potential employees, and to ensure equal treatment for those who are lesbian, gay and bisexual."

It is believed that leaflets and training information will be distributed to senior staff members as part of the scheme.

Commander Tim Kingsbury, the Royal Navy's diversity and equality policy officer, said the system will be invaluable in helping target homophobia within the navy, and also ensure lesbian and gay staff are respected and accepted.

"Commanding officers have a key role to play in creating a culture in which gay and lesbian personnel feel confident that they work without being harassed or bullied because of their orientation," Commander Kingsbury told The Times.

Additionally, armed forces, including the navy, have announced they will allow gay couples access to family quarters.

Same-sex couples who sign up to the civil partnerships legislation will be allowed to stay in family quarters.

"We are obliged to give equal treatment to gay and lesbian partnerships under these terms," Naval spokesperson Anton Hanney said today.

The new initiatives have been welcomed by Stonewall, particularly in light of the armed forces perceived reluctance to engage with the gay community.

A ban on gay service members was lifted only in 2000, after public legal challenges. Chief executive Ben Summerskill told the press that the navy is a forerunner in a move that he believed would be taken up by other members of the armed forces.

"I think the navy has been very courageous to engage with this so publicly," the Stonewall boss said.

(Also see the next article on a related subject... Editor)

U.S. Report Shows High Cost of Military Ban

Eric Johnston, PlanetOut Network

A government report due out Friday shows "don't ask, don't tell," the military's ban on lesbian, gay and bisexual personnel, has cost the Pentagon hundreds of millions of dollars to implement, prompting members of Congress to announce new plans to repeal the measure.

"Don't ask, don't tell" (DADT) was adopted by Congress in 1993 and signed into law by President Bill Clinton. Under the law, lesbian, gay and bisexual military personnel cannot reveal their sexual orientations without risking expulsion from the armed forces.

Approximately 10,000 service members have been discharged under the policy, according to the Government Accountability Office (GAO), a non-partisan congressional accounting agency.

Analysis by the GAO found the Pentagon has spent nearly \$200 million to recruit and train replacements of enlisted personnel discharged under the policy.

The cost is likely much higher because the Defense Department does not track specific costs of investigating or discharging gay service members or for handling legal challenges and reviews of dismissals, according to the GAO report.

"DADT is both a waste of human and material resources which any nation can ill afford during a time of war," said Ken Sholes, vice president of American Veterans for Equal Rights. The report also did not include costs associated with discharging officers or trained specialists. Among the nearly 800 specialists with critical skills who were discharged, 322 were linguists, including 54 who specialized in Arabic.

Sholes told the PlanetOut Network that training a linguist can take up to a year or more. The GAO report was done at the request of a bipartisan group of 22 members of Congress.

Rep. Marty Meehan, D-Mass, the ranking Democrat on the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Terrorism, Conventional Threats and Capabilities, has drafted the Military Readiness Enhancement Act, a proposal that would end the ban on gay and lesbian military personnel.

Meehan plans to introduce the measure next week, with support from a coalition of congressional representatives, including Reps. John Conyers, D-Mich. and Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y.

Meehan called DADT "counterproductive." "Now we have the numbers to prove that the policy itself is undermining our military readiness," he told the Boston Globe.

Many U.S. allies have abandoned policies that discriminate against gays in the military, including Britain, which is now actively courting gays as recruits for the Royal Navy.



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