



## Dolly Parton to Kick Off Tour in N.C. Despite Anti-LGBT Law

BY YEZMIN VILLARREAL

Dolly Parton announced today that she will not be canceling the kickoff of her 2016 tour in Greensboro, N.C., because she doesn't "like to get caught up in controversial issues."



"I have no plans to cancel the show," Parton told reporters on a conference call when they asked her about North Carolina's anti-LGBT House Bill 2. "I believe that everybody ought to be treated with respect, but I feel we will serve better from the stage. I don't like to get caught up in controversial issues. I will address whatever I need to from the stage."

HB 2 bans local governments from including sexual orientation and gender identity in their antidiscrimination ordinances. The law also specifically targets transgender people by requiring them to use public bathroom and locker room facilities that don't match their gender identity, when these facilities are located in government buildings.

On Monday Time Warner Cable News reported that HB 2 has cost North Carolina 1,750 jobs and more than "\$77 million-worth of investments and visitor spending." House Democrats filed a bill to repeal HB 2 on the same day.

Artists who have canceled shows in North Carolina in protest of HB 2 include Bruce Springsteen, Ringo Starr, Boston, Nick Jonas, and Demi Lovato. Some, such as Cyndi Lauper, Duran Duran, Mumford and Sons, and comedian Joel McHale, have taken a different approach, going on with their performances while speaking out against the law and/or donating proceeds to charity.

At least 160 businesses have voiced opposition to the law, and Deutsche Bank and PayPal both canceled expansion plans in the state. And at least nine cities and four states have banned government-funded employee travel to North Carolina.

## Target Strikes Back at North Carolina Bathroom Law

BY LUCAS GRINDLEY



Target is taking a stand against North Carolina's transphobic bathroom bill, saying its customers and employees can use the bathroom that matches their gender identity.

The company announced the policy on its corporate website today, saying, "Inclusivity is a core belief at Target. It's something we celebrate."

The department store chain even proclaimed its support for the Equality Act that is proposed in Congress.

"We believe that everyone — every team member, every guest, and every community — deserves to be protected from discrimination, and treated equally," the company said in its statement. "Consistent with this belief, Target supports the federal Equality Act, which provides protections to LGBT individuals, and opposes action that enables discrimination."

The bill would revise the 1964 Civil Rights Act to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, making it illegal to discriminate in hiring, housing, and more. The Equality Act is supported by President Obama and the two Democrats running to replace him, but it is stalled in a Republican-led Congress.

*(Continued on page 2)*

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It's the polar opposite of what North Carolina lawmakers passed in House Bill 2, which banned local governments from including sexual orientation and gender identity in their anti-discrimination ordinances. The law also specifically targeted transgender people, who it requires to use the public bathroom and locker room facilities that don't match their gender identity.

Obviously, Target's bathrooms aren't the kind of "public" bathrooms that the law takes aim at — the law applies only to government buildings, not the private sector but the statement is still seen as a rebuke of lawmakers.

Target has come a long way from the days when LGBT activists had threatened a boycott of the company in 2010. The Human Rights Campaign had once even dropped the chain from its annual buyer's guide. That's when Target's political donations ended up supporting an antigay candidate for governor in Minnesota, where it's based.

Now Target not only sells products that celebrate LGBT people and touts the launch of a gender-neutral kids' collection, it's speaking out in defense of LGBT people in the political sphere.

"We regularly assess issues and consider many factors such as impact to our business, guests and team members," the company explained about why it's speaking out. "Given the specific questions these legislative proposals raised about how we manage our fitting rooms and restrooms, we felt it was important to state our position. Everyone deserves to feel like they belong. And you'll always be accepted, respected and welcomed at Target."

## Greetings and God Bless

As we move through the Easter Season we're reminded that we can resurrect aspects of our lives that bring us joy, love, peace, and contentment. Reconnecting with childhood hobbies or fun brings us to a more whole being.



I am collecting action figures, with emphasis on robots, because as a kid they brought me fun times and as an adult I could use active childhood memories to ease the stresses of daily living. What in your life can you resurrect that brings you joy and fun?

We can also resurrect actions of that brought us peace like yoga or meditations. There are numerous parts of our life that can

bring us joy and I encourage you to tap into that inner joy because we all need some fun in the midst of adult responsibilities. Peace to you and yours.

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## Tony Perkins Revives Role as GOP's Hate-Whisperer

BY TRUDY RING

The Republican Party can count on some deeply antigay input at its national convention this year — Family Research Council president Tony Perkins has been elected as a delegate and a member of the platform committee.



Perkins announced his selection in a press release posted this week on the website for Family Research Council Action, the FRC's lobbying arm. Perkins was also a delegate from his home state of Louisiana and a member of the platform committee in 2012, when the party amped up the platform language opposing marriage equality.

Perkins takes much credit for this escalation of official antigay rhetoric. "In 2012, my role as a delegate gave me the opportunity to play a key role in amending the marriage plank, which led to the committee approving a much stronger version than 2008's," he says in the press release. "We also tightened language on obscenity and pornography, protected conscience rights, explained how abortion hurts women, and supported the Second Amendment in D.C."

In 2012, the platform reiterated the party's support for a federal constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, but the antigay language was far more intense than in the 2008 platform. It also added a denunciation of the Obama administra-

tion's decision to cease defending the Defense of Marriage Act in court.

The FRC has been designated a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center, a civil rights organization, because of the damaging misinformation it spreads about LGBT people. Perkins has a long history of anti-LGBT rhetoric, recently claiming that marriage equality has led to "havoc in our homes and blood in our streets." He has predicted that the enforcement of antidiscrimination laws will lead to Christians being sent to "reeducation camps" and claimed that allowing gay men to serve as Boy Scout leaders will endanger children.

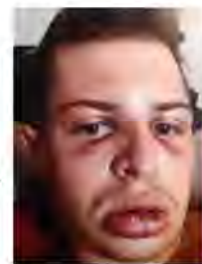
His group also supports the discredited and harmful practice of so-called conversion or ex-gay therapy, has claimed that transgender people are a threat to the safety of women and children, has blamed the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell" for sexual assault in the military, and has asserted that suicides of LGBT teens can be prevented by discouraging them from identifying as LGBT.

Perkins has endorsed Texas Sen. Ted Cruz for the Republican presidential nomination (a personal endorsement, not from FRC) and is a member of Cruz's Religious Liberty Advisory Council. This week, notes the Human Rights Campaign, Perkins briefed Congress on the proposed First Amendment Defense Act, which would protect individuals and institutions from government penalties for violating antidiscrimination laws if they were acting "in accordance with a religious belief or moral conviction" against same-sex marriage.

## L.A. Man Attacked in Florida Burger King: 'It Was Just a Simple Kiss'

BY YEZMIN VILLARREAL

Jordan Schaeffer, the 25-year-old man who was viciously attacked for kissing his boyfriend inside a Florida Burger King last month, is speaking out for the first time.



"Even talking about it makes me uncomfortable," Schaeffer told Florida TV station WTVJ.

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(Continued from page 3)

Schaeffer and his boyfriend, Eric Danko, 25, were visiting Miami Beach from Los Angeles when they were attacked by a man who was waiting for his order behind them in the Burger King Whopper Bar. The couple told the police the man was "offended" by their embrace. He went on to confront the couple and harass them, "using derogatory words," according to Miami TV station WFOR's March report.

The confrontation then turned physical, the station reports. Schaeffer and the harasser were soon wrestling on the floor, and shortly into the fight another man pushed Danko away and blocked other patrons from intervening. Surveillance video shows the assailant continuing to beat Schaeffer, who suffered lacerations to his lip, nose, face, wrist, and back.

It was Schaeffer's first time visiting Miami Beach. The trip was supposed to be a relaxing one for the Los Angeles-based couple, but instead, Schaeffer says, "The biggest injury has been all the emotional trauma."

The incident happened across the street from police headquarters. "We're in 2016 and especially in a city like Miami Beach, where I thought being homosexual would be pretty accepted, it's just not right that anyone should suffer," Schaeffer told WTVJ on Monday.

Schaeffer is currently back in Los Angeles, where he is recovering from his injuries, reports WTVJ. His lawyers say that they plan to file severe charges against the suspects — if and when they are caught.

The Miami Beach police told WFOR in March that they believe the men were attacked because they're gay. "The subjects in this case happen to be gay individuals and that's part of our investigation to see what provoked that attack," said Miami Beach police officer Ernesto Rodriguez.

Schaeffer's attorney, Douglas Ede, is also seeking hate crime charges against the suspects. "We believe this was a hate crime against Jordan because of his sexual orientation," Ede told WTVJ on Monday.

Police said they are pursuing the case as a felony battery, and are coordinating with the state's attorney's office to investigate it as a hate crime. The restaurant released surveillance footage, which the police hope will aid in identifying the suspects.

## Philly Gay-Basher Won't Get Reduced Sentence

BY TRUDY RING

Kathryn Knott, sentenced to five to 10 months in jail for an attack on a gay couple in Philadelphia in 2014, won't receive the reduced sentence she requested.

Philadelphia Common Pleas Court Judge Roxanne Covington ruled today that the sentence is appropriate, the Philadelphia Daily News reports. Knott, 25, is still "in



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need of correction,” the judge said, adding that a shorter sentence would “depreciate the seriousness of the crimes.”

Knott was convicted in December of simple assault, reckless endangerment, and conspiracy to commit simple assault in the attack on Zachary Hesse and his boyfriend, Andrew Haight, in Philadelphia’s Center City neighborhood in September 2014. She was in a large group of people who confronted the couple, with one man in the crowd asking Hesse if he was “a dirty faggot.” The exchange soon escalated into physical violence, leaving Hesse hospitalized with a broken jaw and cheekbones, resulting in his jaw being wired shut. The attack led Philadelphia to pass an LGBT-inclusive hate-crimes law; Pennsylvania lacks such a law statewide.

Two men charged in the attack made a deal with prosecutors, agreeing to plead guilty to assault and conspiracy and receive a sentence of probation and community service, but Knott sought a trial. She was sentenced in early February and began serving time February 8, but shortly thereafter she asked for a reduced sentence.

At today’s hearing, Covington said Knott had a “complete disconnection with the incident itself and a failure to take personal responsibility herself for the crimes she was convicted of,” the Daily News reports. Knott was present at the hearing but did not speak.

During the investigation of the attack, it surfaced that Knott, the daughter of a police chief in suburban Bucks County, had sent antigay messages via Twitter, such as “jazz flute is for little fairy boys” and “this camo song is gay like all the other brad paisley songs.” The tweets were ruled admissible in her trial.

In addition to her jail time, Knott has been sentenced to two years of probation and a \$2,000 fine, and was ordered to attend anger management classes.

## Kansas School Groups Can Now Turn Away the Gays

BY SUNNIVIE BRYDUM

Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback on Tuesday signed into law legislation that allows student groups at public colleges and universities to engage in discrimination without penalty — as long as the discrimination is rooted in “sincerely held religious beliefs.”

Brownback, who has a long history of outspoken opposition to LGBT equality, “didn’t sign the bill quietly,” reports The Washington Blade. “The governor signed the measure during a ceremony surrounded by lawmakers and lobbyists for the Kansas Catholic Conference and the Family Policy Alliance of Kansas.

In his remarks at the signing ceremony for Senate Bill 175, Brownback echoed claims advanced by the bill’s Republican



sponsors, namely that the legislation protects “religious freedom” and ensures “that college students can also enjoy this bedrock American principle.”

The legislation, officially titled the Campus Religious Freedom Bill, prohibits schools from denying funds or space on campus to faith-based groups that make adherence to certain beliefs a condition of membership or leadership.

That means, for example, a Christian group would be allowed to reject a student who is Muslim, Jewish, or gay. A group could also reject someone who does not subscribe to the group’s theological convictions about, for instance, sex outside of marriage. Such rejections, as long as they are justified by “sincerely held religious beliefs,” could not be used as grounds for university officials to disband the group or deny on-campus meeting space, even if these rejections violate the school’s own nondiscrimination policy.

The Human Rights Campaign, which has spoken out against the legislation it calls “reckless and irresponsible,” notes that SB 175 is the first explicitly anti-LGBT bill to become law in any U.S. state this year, when more than 200 such bills have been introduced nationwide.

“The new law jeopardizes nondiscrimination policies that are already in place at many of Kansas’ educational institutions, including the Kansas Board of Regents and the University of Kansas,” an email to HRC supporters Wednesday read. “These policies require that student organizations which receive financial and other support from the school do not discriminate against students based on race, sex, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity. SB 175 blows a hole right through them — and allows discrimination against any of these groups if one cites a ‘religious belief’ as a justification.”

But during today’s signing ceremony, Brownback rejected that characterization, along with claims from opponents that suggest the law will open state-funded schools to costly litigation.

“Critics of the bill believe that it makes it easier for student organizations to discriminate, but that is inaccurate,” Brownback said, according to the Wichita Eagle. “The bill only allows religious organizations to establish religious beliefs as qualification for membership. It does not cover all organizations for any and all membership requirements.”

## Gay 'Cures' Don't Work, Says World Psychiatric Association

BY YEZMIN VILLARREAL

The World Psychiatric Association called “ex-gay” or “conversion” therapy “unscientific, unethical, ineffective, and harmful” in a statement released Monday to BuzzFeed News.

The association released a full report on Wednesday that declares its opposition “to any attempts to turn LGBT people heterosexual,” in reference to the effectiveness of so-called

*(Continued on page 6)*

conversion therapy.

Along with declaring the inefficacy of such therapy, the WPA also calls on governments around the world to decriminalize homosexuality: "WPA supports the need to decriminalize same-sex sexual orientation and behavior and transgender gender identity, and to recognize LGBT rights to include human, civil, and political rights."



"There is no sound scientific evidence that innate sexual orientation can be changed," the WPA wrote in the statement.

Many states such as New York, New Jersey, California, Oregon, and Illinois have banned the use of conversion therapy on minors. However, the ban applies only to state-licensed therapists; unlicensed ones, such as the one Cooper attended, retain the religious freedom to continue their practices.

Conversion therapy — which aims to turn LGBT people straight and cisgender — has been denounced as junk science by every major medical and psychological organization in the country. In addition to the state-level bans mentioned above,

congressional Democrats earlier this year introduced a bill that asks the Federal Trade Commission to ban all conversion therapy practices (for any age) nationwide, labeling the ineffective, harmful "therapy" as fraud.

WPA is the world's largest association for psychiatrists, representing more than 200,000 of them in over 118 countries. Many of these countries continue to criminalize homosexuality or support the idea of conversion therapy.

## Joel Grey Came Out to Mom as Teen

by Greg Hernandez

When Oscar winning actor Joel Grey was a teenager, he was sexually involved with a cantor at his temple — a guy about 10 years older than him.



Grey says it would be called 'abuse' now but at the time he did not see it that way. He fell for the guy who broke his heart when he married a woman in the congregation.

This resulted in Grey coming out to his parents.

When he told his mother about it, Grey recently shared with an audience at the Curran Theatre in San Francisco that her reaction was about as bad as it could be with her saying: 'You disgust me. Don't ever talk to me again.' And then she left the room.

'And that was that beginning of the end of that. I made all kinds of adjustments as the years went by.'

Grey would go on to have a 24-year marriage to a woman and father two children including actress Jennifer Grey who became a star as the female lead in the film Dirty Dancing.

But he forgave his mom: 'She herself was not very sophisticated and had kind of a brutal family that she came from. ... I totally forgave her and think she's kind of marvelous. And she gave me my love of art.'

## Transgender Woman Sexually Assaulted in Restroom of NYC's Historic Gay Bar

By GayStarNews

A transgender woman was sexually assaulted in the restroom of Stonewall Inn, a historic gay bar in New York City last Saturday night.

The incident was reported to have taken place at around 11.40pm when the 25-year-old victim was entering the bar's single occupancy unisex bathroom.

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A man who claimed that he needed to wash his hands had barged in behind the victim, and then proceeded to grope and rape her, before fleeing the scene.

The victim left the bar afterwards, but returned an hour later. After calling 911, she was taken to the nearby Lenox Hill Hospital for treatment.

Police said that the suspect is believed to be Hispanic, in his 30s or 40s.

CBS New York reported that the suspect is known to frequent the bar on Saturdays.

In the snapshots released by the NYPD, the suspect appears to have dark hair, a goatee and is wearing a shiny full grey suit and pointed light-colored dress shoes.

Located at 53 Christopher street in the Greenwich Village neighborhood, Stonewall Inn, where the alleged crime took place, was declared a city landmark last year.

Back in 1969, the gay bar was the site of a police raid which sparked demonstrations that consequently led to modern gay rights movement. Ever since, it has been seen as a historically important site in the city.

NYC's LGBT Caucus said in a statement, reports Gothamist, that they are outraged by the incident and they applaud the NYPD for its swift action in seeking the suspect.

The group also urges anyone with information about this crime to come forward immediately.

City Councilman Corey Johnson commented that 'New York City has zero tolerance for sexual assault, and this crime will not go unanswered.'

On Monday afternoon, NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio also responded to the incident:

'Look, it's a very disturbing incident taking place in a site that is very important historically, and where something good hap-



pened in terms of creating more opportunity for people to live their lives. 'To see a violent incident like this is very, very troubling.'

The mayor continued that he has confidence that the suspect will get apprehended by the police.

Speaking with Gothamist, Stonewall Inn's co-owner Stacy Lentz opened up about the incident:

'We are deeply saddened by the news of an allegation of sexual assault against a member of our community.'

'That violence like this has allegedly happened even in a safe space like Stonewall Inn is upsetting.'

'And we are working closely with the police to investigate this alleged isolated incident at Stonewall, as we continue to work with the greater LGBTQ community to increase visibility, safety and acceptance for all transgender people and all members of our community.'

The NYPD has confirmed with BuzzFeed News that the department's sixth precinct is investigating the incident, and as of Monday morning, no arrests had been made.

## J.J. Abrams: 'Of Course' There Are Gay Star Wars Characters


BY SUNNIVIE BRYDUM

A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away, gay characters still populated the universe, the director of Star Wars: The Force Awakens revealed Thursday.

Blockbuster director J.J. Abrams hosted the annual U.S.-Ireland Alliance's Oscar Wilde Awards at his production company's headquarters Thursday, and weighed in on the growing calls to see openly gay characters in the new installments of the multibillion-dollar Star Wars franchise.



(Continued on next page)



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“When I talk about inclusivity, it’s not excluding gay characters,” Abrams told *The Daily Beast* Thursday. “It’s about inclusivity. So of course [there will be gay characters].”



Asked why fans have never seen an openly LGBT character in the seven movies spanning decades and galaxies, Abrams said he would “love” to change that reality.

“To me, the fun of *Star Wars* is the glory of possibility,” he said. “So it seems insanely narrow-minded and counterintuitive to say that there wouldn’t be a homosexual character in that world.”

Following the runaway success of *The Force Awakens*, which features the first female and black leads in *Star Wars* history, thanks to Daisy Ridley’s Rey and John Boyega’s Finn, respectively, many fans speculated that the universe may have al-

ready seen the beginnings of its first intergalactic gay romance. On screen, lingering embraces and “the lip bite that launched a thousand ships” between Boyega’s former stormtrooper Finn and Oliver Issac’s resistance pilot Poe Dameron has been the topic of endless slash fiction and fan art than has the two men head-over-heels for one another.

While Abrams won’t be directing *Star Wars* Episode VIII, he will stay on as executive producer and creative consultant, according to *Cinema Blend*.

Abrams maintains that the next story in the franchise’s newest trilogy will uphold the groundbreaking diversity featured in Episode VII. He told the *Daily Beast* that conversations about what that diversity will look like are already ongoing, and implied that fans should be optimistic about meeting the galaxy’s first openly gay character.

“It’s in private meetings, it’s in private phone calls, it’s in interviews,” he told the publication Thursday. “I know that this will happen. I know it will. Not just on camera but behind the camera.”

<b>KING AND I</b>	<b>OF V WE SING</b>
<b>KISMET</b>	<b>OH! LOOK</b>
<b>KISS ME KATE</b>	<b>OLD FRIENDS</b>
<b>LADY BE GOOD</b>	<b>ON THE TOWN</b>
<b>LAFF THAT OFF</b>	<b>OUR NELL</b>
<b>LION TAMER</b>	<b>PEGGY ANN</b>
<b>LUANA</b>	<b>ROBIN HOOD</b>
<b>MELODY MAN</b>	<b>SHOW BOAT</b>
<b>MY FAIR LADY</b>	<b>TOM JONES</b>
<b>NO STRINGS</b>	<b>WIZARD OF OZ</b>



**Can you find all of the words?**

**Answer key on Page 14**



# Life Beyond Therapy

By Michael Kimmel

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## Time for a Social Media Vacay?

First it was my 19-year-old goddaughter. Then my 30-year-old niece. Now it's my 45-year-old male client. What do these people have in common? They have each decided it's time for a vacation from social media (or vacay, as my goddaughter calls it). Last week, I went to a student performance at SDSU and the young woman sitting next to me told her friend, "I used to use Facebook for updates on my friends, Instagram to let me know what they ate and Snapchat to know what everyone's weekend was like. I'm so over that. I want a social media vacay."

Have you ever thought about taking a break from social media? There are millions of people who habitually update their Facebook status, check-in with friends on Twitter or post photos on Instagram. Social media can be fun, I admit, but if you find that your social media habits are impinging on your time at work, school or with family, it might be time for a break.

Have you noticed how we're so into Facebook and Twitter, but often we come away from it feeling annoyed. How many times can you read about your followers' workouts, meals or relationship drama?

Quite a few research studies have concluded that social media is bad for your self-esteem. You probably have friends with annoying status updates and others who can't stop bragging about themselves. If you're constantly reading about the fabulous lives of your friends, it can make you feel inadequate. Remember that people only put the best version of themselves online. I call this "the Fake Facebook Life".

It's easy to over-share online because "everyone's doing it". But, the more you share with others online, the more you're putting yourself at risk. Once something is online, it can be stuck there forever. Don't let a Twitter rant or silly Facebook photo mess up your personal or professional life.

Do you personally know all of your Facebook friends? Does the constant stream of status updates and photos from friends make you feel closer to them than you really are? Why not connect with friends through a phone call or time spent in person instead of relying on 140 character updates and statements?

How many times have you made plans with friends or family, only to spend the majority of your time looking at your phone? I encourage you to cultivate and take time out for the real – not

virtual – people in your life. Remember: when the shit hits the fan, who do you call for help? Your REAL friends and family.

As a psychotherapist, I have seen many relationships get messed up because of social media statements that were misunderstood. It's awfully easy for Twitter wars and Facebook drama to unfold when people say things online that they would never say or do in real life.

Ready for a vacay? Consider these first steps:

Stay off social media during meals and when you're in bed.

Before you post a status update or a photo, question your motivation: are you trying to prove that you're having a good time?

Disable all alerts and delete addicting apps.

You might try it for a day or a weekend and see how it goes. Don't panic folks! We're talking vacation here, not forever.

I interviewed a few clients, friends and colleagues about how they feel about social media. Here's a sample of what I got:

"Social media has changed me for the worse. I keep saying I will restrict my time online but before I can even finish, I find myself obsessing over Instagram and retweeting endlessly."

"So much of my time is devoted to social media, my phone's in my hand almost all the time."

"It's hard it is to resist the temptation to go online. "Five more minutes", I tell myself. But, an hour later, I'm tweeting song lyrics."

"There are so many things I could be doing instead: like reading books I've bought but haven't started and developing my friendships with real people."

And this is the most inspiring quote I've seen about taking a vacation from social media:

"I tried it: it feels like rest."



# GAYZETTE EVENTS



## WEEKLY EVENTS

### Every Sunday

#### WORSHIP SERVICES:

**AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH**, ELCA, 3647 Lafayette Ave., Omaha GLBT friendly, [www.augustanalutheran.com](http://www.augustanalutheran.com)

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

**EPISCOPAL GLBT FELLOWSHIP**, St. Andrews Church, 84th & Pacific, 6-7PM, email: [EpiscopalGLBT@yahoo.com](mailto:EpiscopalGLBT@yahoo.com)

**FIRST CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST**, info at: [www.firstcentral.org](http://www.firstcentral.org)

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

**FIRST UNITARIAN** 3114 Harney, 9:30 a.m. "eclectic service" and 11:15 a.m. "traditional service"

**GAY MEN'S ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS** 4pm, Augustana Lutheran Church 3647 Lafayette Ave., Info call Mark 639-3055 **HASTINGS COLLEGE GSA** 8PM FFI: Judy Sandeen (402) 461-7372

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

**METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF OMAHA** 819 S. 22nd St., 345-2563 Sunday Worship 9:30am and 11:15am

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

**RIVER CITY MIXED BOWLING**

**LEAGUE**, 3pm, Maplewood Lanes, at 402-572-9393

**SECOND UNITARIAN**, Sunday morning services, 3012 S 119th St., Omaha, [info@2uomaha.org](mailto:info@2uomaha.org), 402-334-0537

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

**WIMMIN'S SHOW**, KZUM 89.3 12:30pm

### Every Monday

#### A A GLBT "RAINBOW GROUP"

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

#### GAY/BI/STRAIGHT SUPPORT GROUP

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

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

#### RIVER CITY MIXED CHORUS RE-

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

### Every Tuesday

#### HASTINGS COLLEGE ALLIANCE

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

#### METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

#### UNL LESBIAN/BI/QUESTIONING SUPPORT GROUP

7-8:30PM, Women's Center, Nebraska Union, Lincoln, 472-5644

### Every Wednesday

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

#### FRONTRUNNERS RUN/WALK

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

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

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

**Metro Omaha Prime Timers**, 4:00-6:00pm Coffee with the Boys at No More Empty Cups, 1502 So. 10th St., In the Community Room. Meet up for coffee and conversation. Many of the guys go out for dinner afterwards. Everyone welcome to attend.

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

**UNITY CHURCH OF OMAHA**, 7pm

### Every Thursday

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

### Every Friday

#### LIVE & LET LIVE AA Meeting

8:15pm to 9:15pm, Open to men and women, at Underwood Hills Presbyterian Church, 851 North 74th Street

**LIVE & LET LIVE AL-ANON**, a group focused on support and recovery for the friends and relatives of alcoholics, 7pm to 8pm at the Underwood Hills Presbyterian Church, 851 North 74th Street

#### OUT & ABOUT SOCIAL CLUB

Open to everyone 21 and over, every Friday 6:30pm (time may vary), for more info email [outandaboutsocialclub@gmail.com](mailto:outandaboutsocialclub@gmail.com)

### Every Saturday

#### AA SATURDAY AFTERNOON

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

**Metro Omaha Prime Timers**, 9am—11am Coffee with the Boys at Paradise Café, Regency Court. Meet up for coffee and conversation. Good food and good coffee too. Everyone welcome to attend.

#### PROUD HORIZON YOUTH GROUP

4-6pm, First United Methodist Church, 291-6781 [proudhorizons@yahoo.com](mailto:proudhorizons@yahoo.com)

## MONTHLY EVENTS

### 1<sup>st</sup> Monday

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

### 1st Thursday

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

### 1<sup>st</sup> Friday

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

### 1st Sunday

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

#### SPIRITUAL FRIENDS OF LINCOLN

12-1pm Fellowship and 1p-2p worship Meets Lincoln at Bennett Martin Library [info@inclusivelife.org](mailto:info@inclusivelife.org) and on Facebook

**2nd Monday**  
**NAP HIV TESTING**

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

**2nd Thursday**  
**HEARTLAND PRIDE**, Board Meeting- at D Dale Clark Library, 215 S. 15th St. 6:30pm-8pm, Email: info@heartlandpride.org, or find us on Facebook

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

**2nd Sunday**  
**Metro Omaha Prime Timers**, Monthly Meeting, Abrahams Library, 5111 North 90th St, Stop by our monthly get-together to hear about the great upcoming events, and spend time with good friends. 3pm to 4:30pm. Snacks and beverages provided. Everyone Welcome !!

**3rd Monday**  
**FREE RAPID HIV TESTING**, 8pm to 10pm at Flix Show Bar, STD testing also available for \$10, call 552-9260 ext. 113 or 142 or visit www.nap.org for more info

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

**3rd Sunday**  
**CBCA MEETING** 5 PM until about 6:30 PM is our monthly meeting with potluck. We meet at St Paul's Episcopal Church in Council Bluffs – see website for more information at www.councilbluffscommunityalliance.org

**4th Monday**  
**NAP HIV TESTING**  
Respect Clinic, walk-in from 5:00pm to 7pm—50th & Ames Ave.

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

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

## Missouri Musings

If I had a dollar for every girl that found me unattractive, they'd eventually find me attractive.

I find it ironic that the colors red, white, and blue stand for freedom, until they're flashing behind you.

Today a man knocked on my door and asked for a small donation towards the local swimming pool, so I gave him a glass of water.

I changed my password to "incorrect," so whenever I forget it the computer will say,

"Your password is incorrect."

I hate it when people use big words just to make themselves sound perspicacious.

Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity.

Hospitality is the art of making guests feel like they're at home when you wish they were.

Behind every great man is a woman rolling her eyes.

Ever stop to think and forget to start again?

When I married Miss Right, I had no idea her first name was Always.

There may be no excuse for laziness, but I'm still looking for it.

Women spend more time wondering what men are thinking than men spend thinking.

Is it wrong that only one company makes the game Monopoly?

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

The grass may be greener on the other side, but at least you don't have to mow it.

I like long walks, especially when they're taken by people who annoy me.

If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.

Sometimes I wake up grumpy; other times I let her sleep.

## Missing Wife

Husband went to the sheriff's department to report that his wife was missing.

Husband: My wife is missing. She went shopping yesterday and has not come home....

Sergeant: What is her height?

Husband: I'm not sure. A little over five-feet tall.

Sergeant: Weight?

Husband: Don't know. Not slim, not really fat.

Sergeant: Color of eyes?

Husband: Sort of brown I think. Never really noticed.

Sergeant: Color of hair?

Husband: Changes a couple times a year. Maybe dark brown now. I think. Maybe.

Sergeant: What was she wearing?

Husband: Could have been pants, or maybe a skirt or shorts. I don't know exactly.

Sergeant: What kind of car did she go in?

Husband: She went in my truck.

Sergeant: What kind of truck was it?

Husband: A 2015 Ford F150 King Ranch 4X4 with eco-boost 5.0L V8 engine special ordered with manual transmission and climate controlled air conditioning. It has a custom matching white cover for the bed, which has a matching aftermarket bed liner. Custom leather 6-way seats and "Bubba" floor mats. Trailering package with gold hitch and special wiring hook-ups. DVD with full GPS navigation, satellite radio receiver, 23-channel CB radio, six cup holders, a USB port, and four power outlets. I added special alloy wheels and off-road Goodyear Wranglers. It has custom running boards and indirect wheel well lighting.

At this point the husband started choking up.

Sergeant: Take it easy, Buddy, we'll find your truck.

## Senior Breakfast Special

We went to breakfast at a restaurant where the 'seniors' special' was two eggs, bacon, hash browns and toast for \$1.99.

'Sounds good,' my wife said. 'But I don't want the eggs.'

'Then, I'll have to charge you two dollars and forty-nine cents because you're ordering a la carte,' the waitress warned her.

'You mean I'd have to pay for not taking the eggs?' my wife asked incredulously.

'YES!!' stated the waitress.

'I'll take the special then.' my wife said.

'How do you want your eggs?' the waitress asked.

'Raw and in the shell,' my wife replied.

# GLBT RESOURCE LIST

## OMAHA BASED

**Beth El Synagogue**, 14506 California St. A GLBT inclusive synagogue, same-sex marriages performed by their rabbis, provided both persons are Jewish. Call 402-292-8550 for more info.

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

**Camp Kindle**, Nebraska based summer camp for kids affected by HIV/AIDS, 877.800.CAMP, [www.CampKindle.org](http://www.CampKindle.org)

**Citizens for Equal Protection** 1105 Howard St. Suite 2, Omaha NE 68102, 398-3027 [www.cfep-ne.org](http://www.cfep-ne.org), email to: [Michael@cfep-ne.org](mailto:Michael@cfep-ne.org)

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

**First Central Congregational Church UCC**, 421 South 36th St., 402-345-1533, [www.firstcentral.org](http://www.firstcentral.org), GLBT-affirming

**First Lutheran Church**, 542 So. 31st St., 402-345-7506, GLBT Friendly [www.firstlutheranomaaha.org](http://www.firstlutheranomaaha.org)

**First Unitarian Church**, 3114 Harney Street, 402-345-3039, [www.firsttuomaha.org](http://www.firsttuomaha.org), GLBT Welcoming Congregation

**First United Methodist Church**, 7020 Cass St., 402-556-6262, [www.fumcomaha.org](http://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 (402-804-8720)

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

**GayLibrary.com**, World Wide Resources

**GOglbt Professionals**, meeting at 5:30PM. Email at: [GOglbt@cfep-ne.org](mailto:GOglbt@cfep-ne.org) or see [www.GOglbt.org](http://www.GOglbt.org) for info

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

**Heartland Pride** [www.heartlandpride.org](http://www.heartlandpride.org), email: [info@heartlandpride.org](mailto:info@heartlandpride.org); meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 6:30pm to 8pm. @ D. Dale Clark Library

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

**Imperial Court of Nebraska**, Box 3772, Omaha 68103, [www.imperialcourtofnebraska.org](http://www.imperialcourtofnebraska.org)

**Inclusive Life** 402-575-7006 [www.inclusivelife.org](http://www.inclusivelife.org)  
Offering religious and non-religious care and services to all without exception. Weddings, Funerals, Coaching and Pastoral Care.

**Metro Omaha Prime Timers**, provides a

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

**Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha**, 819 S. 22 St., Omaha 68108 345-2563, [mccomaha@mccomaha.org](mailto:mccomaha@mccomaha.org) Website: [www.mccomaha.org](http://www.mccomaha.org) Sunday Worship 9:30am and 11:15am

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

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

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

**NebraskaEquality.org**, Find out everything about Nebraska and the GLBT Community [www.NebraskaPrideIDOL.com](http://www.NebraskaPrideIDOL.com)

**Nebraska Zen Center**, Soto Zen Buddhist, 3625 Lafayette Ave., 402-551-9035, [www.prairiewindzen.org](http://www.prairiewindzen.org) GLBT inclusive

**North Side Christian Church** 5555 Larimore Ave., Sunday service at 9:30am, see [www.NorthSideOmaha.org](http://www.NorthSideOmaha.org)

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

**Omaha Metro GLBT Sports League**, See [www.oglbtsports.com](http://www.oglbtsports.com) for more information

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

**Out and About in Nebraska**, website: [www.travel.to/outabout](http://www.travel.to/outabout) Email: [NeOutAbout@yahoo.com](mailto:NeOutAbout@yahoo.com)

**OUUT (Omaha Unitarian Universalists for Tolerance)** First Unitarian Church, 3114 Harney, 68131, 345-3039, [www.ouut.org](http://www.ouut.org)

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

**Proud Horizons Youth Group**, Sat Afternoon 4pm to 6pm, for info: email [proudhorizons@yahoo.com](mailto:proudhorizons@yahoo.com)

**River City Gender Alliance**, PO Box 284, Boys Town, NE 68010, email [president@rcga.co](mailto:president@rcga.co) or call 402-541-5792, web site [www.rcga.co](http://www.rcga.co)

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

**River City Mixed Chorus**, Box 3267, Omaha, NE 68103, 402-341-SING Website: [www.rcmc.org](http://www.rcmc.org)

**Second Unitarian Church**, 3012 S 119th

St., Omaha, [www.2uomaha.org](http://www.2uomaha.org), 402-334-0537, LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation

**SNAP Productions**, Box 8464, Omaha, NE 68108 [www.snapproductions.com](http://www.snapproductions.com)

**Temple Israel Synagogue**, 13111 Sterling Ridge Drive., 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](http://www.unityomaha.org)

**Youth Emergency Services, Inc. (Y.E.S.) and Y.E.S. Drop-in Center** Offices: 2679 Farnam Street, Suite. 205 Omaha, NE 68131, 402-345-5187, see [www.yesomaha.org](http://www.yesomaha.org) for information

## LINCOLN BASED

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

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

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

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

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

**OUTInc**, a nonprofit organization that engages in and fosters the well-being and advancement of the LGBT community, [www.outinc.org](http://www.outinc.org), Lincoln NE

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

**Queer Student Alliance, UNL**, contact [unlqsa@yahoo.com](mailto:unlqsa@yahoo.com) for info

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

**Straight Spouse Support Grp** 402-429-6094

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

**UNL Committee on GLBT Concerns**, Contact Pat Tetreault, (402) 472-1752 or email: [ptetreault1@unl.edu](mailto:ptetreault1@unl.edu) / [www.unl.edu/cglbtc](http://www.unl.edu/cglbtc)

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

**Youth Support Group**, (402) 434-9880

## Iowa Based

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

[www.councilbluffscommunityalliance.org](http://www.councilbluffscommunityalliance.org)

**Council Bluffs Pride, [www.councilbluffspride.org](http://www.councilbluffspride.org)**  
**First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ.** GLBT friendly, 611 First Avenue, Council Bluffs, IA 51501, 712-322-5324 - <http://www.cbfirstcongregational.org/>

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

**Sioux City, Iowa Resource Web Site:** [www.siouxlandpride.net](http://www.siouxlandpride.net)

## Nationally Based

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

#####

# The Hungry Homo

## SAUSAGE ,PEPPERS & ONIONS

what you need:

2lbs Red Potatoes  
2 Large Bell Peppers  
1.5 Onions  
6 Hot Italian Turkey Sausages (20oz)  
1tsp Garlic Powder  
1tsp Rosemary (dried & crushed)  
1TB Olive Oil  
Salt & Pepper

How to make it:

Clean your veggies and chop the potatoes into a 1/2”-3/4” dice, and the onions and peppers into 1” sections. Toss the vegetables with the Olive Oil, garlic powder, rosemary and generous amounts of salt and pepper. Cut the sausage links into 5-6 pieces each and set to the side in the refrigerator.

Spread on a greased sheet pan and cook on 375° for 20 mins, remove from the oven and put the sausage on top and return to the oven for an additional 35 mins.

Toss the mixture once or twice while cooking.

Remove from the oven, toss together and serve. This is delicious on its own and wonderful with an egg.



## Where Can You Find The Gayzette?

### Omaha:

Dixie Quick's Restaurant, 157 West Broadway 712-256-4140  
First Unitarian Church, 3114 Harney  
Flixx , 1015 South 10th Street Omaha 402-408-1020  
Lover Luxuries, 6065 Maple St. 402-932-3377  
The Max, 1417 Jackson St. 402-346-4110  
Metropolitan Community Church, 819 South 22nd Street  
Mystery Bookstore, 1414 South 13th St. 402-342-7343  
Nebraska AIDS Project, 250 South 77th St 402-552-9260  
Omaha Mining Co., 1715 Leavenworth 402-449-8703  
Rodeo Saloon & BBQ 164 W Broadway 712-256-0510

## Pizza Casserole

Ingredients

1 lb. ground meat  
1 16 oz. box bow tie pasta  
½ teaspoon salt  
½ teaspoon oregano  
½ teaspoon garlic powder  
2 ounces sliced pepperoni  
1 (26 ounce) jar pasta sauce  
1 10 oz. can diced Italian style tomatoes  
¼ cup grated parmesan cheese  
1 (8 ounce) package shredded Italian cheese blend  
Any other pizza toppings, you can add like black olives, sausage, onions, green peppers, etc...

Directions:

Boil water and salt for pasta. Once it starts boiling, add pasta. Brown meat in a separate frying pan. When pasta is cooked, drain.

In a lightly greased 9×13×3 inch pan, pour a small amount of sauce to lightly coat bottom. Add a layer of pasta and add 1/2 of sauce, can of tomatoes, garlic powder, and oregano.

On top of pasta, layer the ground meat, then add a layer of pepperonis. Sprinkle parmesan cheese, and Italian cheese. And layer more pepperoni. Top with bacon bits and anything else you like just like a pizza!

Bake in the oven at 350 degrees for 30 minutes



# Tennessee Needs a Lesson in Separation of Church and Hate

BY ELIEL CRUZ

It would seem that the Tennessee House of Representatives have not read their bibles, nor the constitution, very closely. Or perhaps their vision is blurred and they have begun to see the bible and the constitution as one and the same. Whatever it may be, it's clear that Tennessee is doing everything they can to legislate their particular version of Christianity as the law of the land.



Two bills in Tennessee are of particular concern. First, there was HB2414, another "bathroom bill" fueled by the anti-trans bathroom predator myth. This law would have barred transgender students from using gender-appropriate restrooms, locker rooms, and other public facilities — but was thankfully pulled.

Second is HB1840, which is meant to allow licensed counselors to refuse treatment to LGBT individuals due to their "sincerely held religious beliefs." The bill, still alive, allows Christian counselors to turn away LGBT clients, a community with disproportionate rates of mental illness.

Coupled together, HB1940 and HB2414 are a dynamic duo of anti-LGBT animus disguised as religious beliefs. The group Family Action Council of Tennessee, a proponent of both bills, say that it's their "belief is that healthy families and communities come about when basic values from the Bible are embraced and upheld." Where are those beliefs in scripture? They're not. The individuals at the dubiously acronymed FACT would have to invent scripture to justify turning away LGBT clients or to promote binary-gendered bathrooms.

The issue with these laws, on top of them being blatantly discriminatory in nature, is the complete erosion of the separation of church and state. Indeed, under the same session, Tennessee's Senate introduced legislation which would make the bible the official state book. This move would alienate those who aren't believers of Christianity, and is likely unconstitutional. Thankfully, Governor Bill Haslam acknowledged this truth and vetoed the insane legislation.

These discriminatory bills go against both a Christianity that is centered in the Jesus story — one that stands up for society's most marginalized not criminalizes them — and, of course, the Constitution, which allows for a plurality of religious beliefs.

What is taking place in Tennessee is legislation not of Christianity but a particular version of Christianity. The God-fearing, biblically-literalist, gun-touting Republicans of Tennessee want to see their conservative, rightwing version of Christianity legalized. In reality, it's a bastardization of the Christianity I know and love.

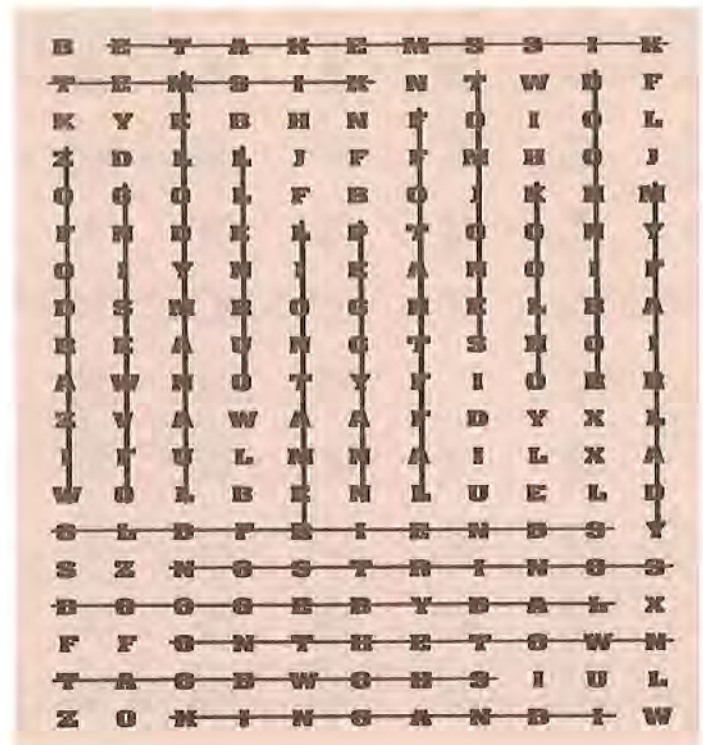
As a bisexual Christian, I recognize these bills have nothing to do with religious freedom. True religious freedom is about defending the right to practice your religion without fear of persecution. These bills do nothing of the sort. They are fueled by ignorance and intolerance.

There's a lack of basic, fundamental understanding on gender identity and sexuality that fuel these bills. These representatives, as do many Christians who occupy the pews once a week, see LGB people as nothing more than sex. They vaguely remember six verses on sexual acts, out of context, that they believe accurately depict sexuality as we understand it today. Thus, anything to do with LGB people — from marriage, public accommodations, and job protections, to bullying and disparate suicide rates — all is reduced to the act of male-male or female-female sex.

As for transgender individuals, very few, if any, Christian denominations have taken the time to actually parse out any theology against transgender identities. Indeed, it would take them inventing scripture that simply isn't there to have such theology. And yet, they haven't taken the time to forge such theological foundation. Their ignorance, and in its manifestation of hate, leads their actions. For these particular type of Christians, their church and hate is one and the same.

In this same fashion, Tennessee's Christian legislators see their religious beliefs and the constitution as one in the same. Since queerphobia is a tenet to their Christianity, it must to be for their state laws. This, of course, ignores a constitutional amendment that provides a separation of church and state — a necessary separation to keep individuals from legislating their faith into law.

ELIEL CRUZ is a proud bisexual and the executive director of Faith in America. Follow him on Twitter [@ElieCruz](https://twitter.com/ElieCruz).



# The Fitness Corner

By Ron Blake

Certified Personal Trainer



## TODAY IS GONNA BE FUNNY...AND HEALTHY

It is always today. And today is tell a joke and laugh day. My best advice is to go ahead and make it a super funny day for yourself. Such an amazing way to get and stay healthy. Laughter is incredible for well-being. Remember...it's not yesterday or tomorrow. It's today. So let me get you laughing with some awesome wellness.

Q: Did you hear about the hungry clock? A: It went back four seconds. The jokes can be so darn simple. Life is complicated enough with bills, traffic, and political fighting. Try this on your colleagues at the morning meeting and relax from your uptight high blood pressure ways.

Did you hear the story about the optimist and the pessimist? The pessimist says, "Everything is terrible; it can't get any worse!" The optimist says, "Oh yes it can!" Sometimes a joke like this one can make you stop and think for a moment. But if it eventually gets you to chuckle then it worked just fine.

A guy walks into a bar with jumper cables around his neck. The bartender says, "You can stay. Just don't try to start anything." This one is likely to spark some hearty heehaws from the tailgating crew at the next football game. Give it the old college try.

A wizard walks into a gay club. And disappears with a poof. In case of emergency and a confused look; break glass and grab a British bloke. He will let you in on that one and the humor in it.

Two antennae met on a roof, fell in love, and got married. Their wedding ceremony wasn't fancy. The reception however was excellent. This is so cool to tell around Valentine's Day. It's got Cupid's holiday Hallmark card potential all over it.

Before I got married I had six theories about bringing up children. Now I have six children. And no theories. Sometimes all you've got left is laughter. It's OK to poke some fun at what life throws at you.

Teacher: The student who answers my next question can go home. (One boy throws his backpack out the window) Teacher: Who just threw that? Boy: I did. And now I'm going home. This joke made me laugh a lot when I first heard it. That's for the smartass in all of us.

Reader's Digest publishes so many jokes and laughter sections each month. I love reading all of their humor. I read this one in a recent edition: Dear Charlie, We've been neighbors for six tumultuous years. When you borrowed my snowblower, you returned it in pieces. When I was sick, you blasted Metallica.

And when your dog decorated my lawn, you laughed. I could go on, but I'm not one to hold grudges. So I am writing this letter to tell you your house is on fire. Cordially, Harry. This one speaks for itself.

The past, present, and future all walk into a room at the same time...it was tense. HaHa! I dedicate this funniness to all the grammar teachers in my K through 12 days.

Today is always the funniest day on the calendar. If you let it be that way. And it will go a long way to doing such amazing things for your health and well-being. Laugh on my friends!

This wellness article is brought to you by that goofy guy with gregarious guffaws galore. That wisecracker with one-liners is Ron Blake and he can be found knee-slapping happy at [rblake5551@hotmail.com](mailto:rblake5551@hotmail.com).



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**Get Smart, Get Tested**

# Kyle's Bed & Breakfast by Greg Fox

SO...WHY EXACTLY ARE WE HAVING A "LEGION PARTY" AT THE B&B?

RICHARD FOUND ONE OF KYLE'S OLD COMIC BOOKS AND FELL IN LOVE WITH THE COSTUMES!

I THINK THE QUESTION IS... JUST BECAUSE RICHARD LIKES MAKING COSTUMES...

...WHY DO WE ALL AGREE TO WEAR THEM?

YOU MUST BE IN HEAVEN, BREYER...GETTING TO DRESS UP AS YOUR FAVORITE SUPER-HERO!

ACTUALLY, KYLE...I'M IN HEAVEN BECAUSE MY BOYFRIEND IS DRESSED UP AS INVISIBLE KID!

I FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT A SUPER-HERO WOULD WEAR A COSTUME LIKE THIS.

I AIN'T COMPLAININ'!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY I ALWAYS GET CHOSEN TO WEAR THE SKIMPIEST COSTUMES AT THESE B&B PARTIES!

YOU WANNA TALK SKIMPY COSTUMES? WHAT THE HELL AM I WEARING?

HEY...AT LEAST YOU DIDN'T GET STUCK BEIN' BOUNCING BOY, PRICE.

BOUNCING BOY. I OUGHTA' WRING RICHARD'S CHICKEN NECK!

I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU DID DRAG, RICHARD.

I DON'T NORMALLY, TERRENCE, BUT...

WITH THE SHORT-AGE OF WOMEN AROUND HERE... ...I COULDN'T LET DELIA BE THE ONLY ONE TO REPRESENT THE LEGION LADIES!

I WAS NEVER A LEGION FAN. THAT BOOK WAS ALWAYS TOO DAMN COMPLICATED.

IT WASN'T ALWAYS LIKE THAT, BRAD. BUT THEN IT GOT REBOOTED. AND REBOOTED AGAIN. AND AGAIN.

RIGHT. I GET IT.

AND YET AGAIN...

GREG FOX © 2016

GROUP PHOTO TIME, PEOPLE!

CAN WE BE THE AVENGERS NEXT TIME?

YOU JUST WANT TO DRESS UP AS CAPTAIN AMERICA, BRAD.

I'D LIKE TO SLEEP WITH CAPTAIN AMERICA.

DOES THAT MEAN YOU WANT TO SLEEP WITH BRAD, PRICE?

I THOUGHT THEY ALREADY SLEPT TOGETHER.

YEAH, BUT THEY DIDN'T HAVE SEX. SUPPOSEDLY.

LONG LIVE THE B&B!!!