



THE

GAYZETTE

LINCOLN HIGH CROWNS LESBIAN PROM QUEEN



(From Spectrum, the PFLAG Cornhusker Newsletter)

Another chapter in Nebraska GLBT history was made May 8 when Catherine Balta, an out lesbian, was crowned Lincoln High School Junior-Senior Prom Queen. Balta was chosen from the field by the Lincoln High student body. Catherine received her tiara in front of nearly 700 prom-goers in Pershing Auditorium.

Catherine's election was the first time a GLBT individual has been elected prom queen in the state of Nebraska.... Catherine is the daughter of Pauline Balta, a member of PFLAG Cornhusker Board and active member of PFLAG. Congratulations to Catherine! We are all proud of her and the students of Lincoln High.

FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY!!!!

The Comic Tragedy Variety Show at The Blue Barn

with Hip Hop and Comic Poetry, Performance Art

and a Drag Queen!

Starring Chris Murray! Eric Christiansen! Nick! Chicken Boy!

And Trina Tabloid!

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Doors open at 8:30pm; Show starts at 9pm. All seats \$5.

Reservations not needed, so don't call!

Just Be Brave and Show Up!

Call the Blue Barn at 345-1576 for tickets and more information.



CHECK OUT THESE STORIES

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May 30, 2003—June 6, 2003

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www.rocc.org

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email Resource Center: rainbow@rocc.org



1516 JONES ST. 341-7337
 MON-SUN 4PM-1AM
 WWW.OMAHAJOY.COM
 HAPPY HOUR EVERYDAY 4PM-9PM
 \$1 WELLS & \$1.50 DOMESTICS

JOY: Proud to be an associate sponsor of Nebraska Pride 2003



Friday June 6th:
 JOY Amateur Calendar Strip Off
 featuring Scott Gunz

8pm: Autographs
 9pm: JOY 2004 calendar
 Amateur Strip off
 10pm & Midnight:
 SCOTT GUNZ strip shows!

Saturday June 7th: Exclusive Premiere of
 Sundance Channel: "Out Loud"
 Filmfest Celebration!

The Sundance Channel is going "gay" in June and they picked JOY to kick off the celebration! They will be giving away T-shirts, CD's and a GRAND PRIZE worth \$500! Our monitors will continually be showing the features showcased during Sundances "Out Loud" June programming. 10:00pm



Sunday June 8th: Atlanta or Bust! 9:30pm
 Domonique Divamoore proudly host
 a benefit for the Princess Pageant Fund.

JOY FOAM PARTY

We've made it bigger and better than ever!
 June 13th: 10pm Only at JOY



I'M PROUD TO BE GAY AND YOU SHOULD BE TOO

by George Broadway

I came out late in life. Many of us are slow learners sometimes. The idea of coming out frightened the crap out of me at first but as I came to know the gay community and the lifestyle itself, I became more comfortable with it. Now I would never, could never go back. That closet door is sealed shut for good. I'm active in the GLBT community and loving it and I hope making a difference as well.

So why am I telling you this? Hopefully, so you will be proud of who you are too. So you can be proud to say, "Yes, I'm gay. So what?" if someone should ask.

It's often a rough road being different from most people. We would never likely have chosen to be gay if we had a choice. It would be so much easier being like most people, getting happily married, having 2.4 kids, a house with a white picket fence, a Chevy in the garage and all of the usual "normal" things in life. But that's not exactly how things were destined for some of us.

The debate goes on as to why we are the way we are. Bad childhoods, genetics, bad things that happen as we grew up. But whatever the cause we are what and

who we are. If we feel bad about it and live in a closet we will only make ourselves miserable and probably those close to us as well.

So let's be proud of it and show that pride everywhere. There are support groups available if you want to talk out your problems. I used one of these to help me make the transition and I am forever grateful.

Another way to show that we are proud to be gay is to support gay organizations and businesses. Make a donation, no matter how big or small or become a volunteer. Attend the Pride Festival in Omaha or better yet become a volunteer. It's a lot of fun and you will meet many wonderful people there, some of which may pleasantly surprise you. This year's pride event is going to be bigger than any in the past. The circuit party on Friday night June 20th and the full day Saturday the 21st both promise to be spectacular.

But it takes a lot of effort on the part of a few individuals to make it all happen. Let them know that you appreciate what they are doing; after all, they're doing it for you. And most of all have a good time on this very special weekend.

MAD AS HELL

by George Broadway

I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore!! If you're old enough you may remember that line from a movie titled "Network" a few years back. I sure do and it seems to be becoming more and more appropriate for these times. With recent statements by Rick Santorum, our glorious President of the United States and various other politicians and religious figures, I am getting mad as hell. And I hope you are too.

These people are making policy that governs all Americans. You, me, your family and everyone you know. All of us, straight, gay, black, white, Asian, Native American, Hispanic, all Americans. When they pass legislation that affects us all equally, then it's fair usually. But when they pass legislation that is directed against just a certain segment of the population, then that's a problem. A really big problem. Because when they make a law that invades the privacy or rights of that segment and not the privacy or rights of ALL Americans then they are being unjust and unfair.

Those laws are often based on personal and/or religious beliefs by those politicians. Not necessarily on what their constituents believe. New laws are easier to make than they are to rescind. We must not let them be made in the first place. And when politicians are making such important decisions which are unfair and don't apply to all Americans, then those politicians need to either be removed from office or held accountable for their actions and remarks. Otherwise all Americans suffer from their poor judgments, especially those whom those laws target.

So what can we do about it? There are many options for you. Write your representatives in Washington DC and in your state capital. Let them know your feelings on a particular subject or piece of legislation. Join the HRC, CFEP or other GLBT supportive organization or group. Make your voice heard. It's not that hard to do. But you have to do it because if you don't, then laws that hurt you will easily slide through and will affect you. Simply because we as a GLBT community didn't speak up and take a stand.

There's a story about pre WWII Nazi Germany that comes to mind that goes something like this. When they came for my neighbor, he asked for help and I did nothing. When they came for my friend, he asked for help and I did nothing. When they came for me, there was no one left to ask for help. Let's not become complacent and think that it could never happen to any of us, because it could.

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IEWS &
OPINIONS
OF THE
GAYZETTE
STAFF

GLSEN-OMAHA'S 7TH ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Kevin Jennings, Executive Director of GLSEN—National will be GLSEN – Omaha's featured guest at their 7th Annual Membership meeting on Thursday, June 19, 2003 from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Omaha Women's Club Mansion, 518 South 38th Street. This meeting is a chance to network with other GLSEN members and non-members, snack on some fabulous snacks and to vote for the 2003-2004 Board of Directors. Announcement of the 2003 scholarship/s winners will also be made. Please RSVP by June 14th via glsenomaha@cox.net Hope to see you there!

YOU ARE WANTED.. ICON FOUNDATION BOARD SEEKS MEMBERS

The Imperial Court of Nebraska Foundation is seeking Board Members, individuals with an interest in serving charitable and educational organizations in the GLBT community. If you are interested, call Sharon at 556-9907. The next meeting is Monday, June 2, at the NAP Outreach Center, 1723 Leavenworth St. 5:30 PM.

ICON INTRODUCES EMPRESS 23 CANDIDATE MONROE

Memorial Day Picnic was the kick-off to the campaign efforts of lone Empress 23 candidate Monroe. Known across the state for her elegance and beauty, Monroe has quite a challenge ahead of her. She holds the weighty challenge of creating interest and enthusiasm for a campaign in which she is the only candidate. Those with voting privileges will cast their votes July 12 either "yea" or "nay" for Monroe, but between now and then look for Monroe out and about doing her best to convince you to join ICON and cast a "yea" vote for her.

ICON's 2003 membership is open to residents of Nebraska and counties bordering Nebraska. These individuals cannot be members of another Court in the International Court System. Membership fee is \$20. All \$20 is applicable towards the cost of the Coronation 23 ticket. More details will be printed in the next two issues of The Gayzette or see any member of the ICON Board of Governors to join.

Monroe currently serves as Princess Royale 22 to Empress 22 Lita. She has participated in fund raisers for many groups in Nebraska: NAP, PWA, RCMC, HGRA, MCC-Omaha, ROC—to name just a few. She has traveled regularly across the Midwest to Minneapolis, Des Moines, and Denver—promoting ICON and all of Nebraska.

Two upcoming ICON shows will feature Empress 23 candidate Monroe: Sun., June 1, at The MAX 9:30 pm and Fri., June 27 at JOY 8:30 pm. ICON encourages you to come out and meet the candidate who seeks your vote to become the fund raising leader in Reign 23!





Leather or Knot Omaha

4010 Hamilton Street
Omaha, NE, 68131

Wed — Sat: 11am-9pm Sunday: noon-5pm

leatherorknot@leatherorknotomaha.com
<http://www.leatherorknotomaha.com/>



**Men Helping Men
Live Long, Sexy Lives**

www.mpower-nap.org

MPOWER, Nebraska's only sexual health program for gay and bisexual men, is a part of Nebraska AIDS Project and is funded by a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



GAYZETTE AD RATES

Whole Page	7 ½ X 10	\$100.00	Half Page	7 ½ X 4 ¾	\$ 50.00
Fourth Page	3 ¾ X 4 ¾	\$ 25.00	Business Card		\$ 15.00

All ads must be camera ready. Payment must accompany ad, Checks 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 1719 Leavenworth St. on or before the deadline or emailed to news@rocc.org. Please call ahead to reserve space.

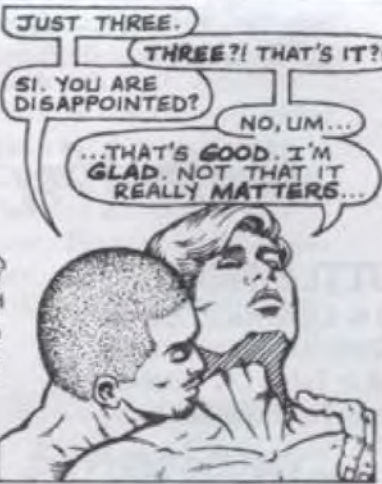
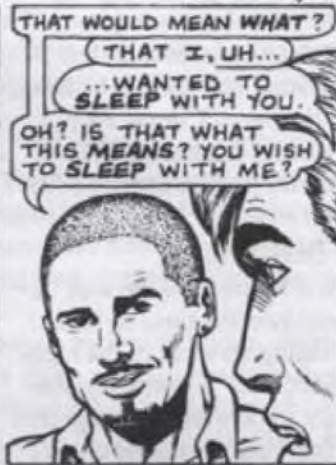
Ad Deadlines

Friday, June 6 for Publication June 13

Friday, June 20 for Publication June 27

Kyle's Bed & Breakfast by Greg Fox

102



Website - www.kylecomics.com

E-Mail - KyleBnB@aol.com

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Contact Store for schedule

HEARTLAND RODEO ANNOUNCES CHARITIES

The Heartland Gay Rodeo Association announces that their 7th Heartland Rodeo with proceeds benefiting charity will be held the weekend of June 27-29, 2003 at the Sarpy County Fairgrounds in Springfield, NE! Child Saving Institute, MCC, Youth Emergency Services, and Merlin's Refuge are the 2003 charities for the 7th Heartland Rodeo.

Child Saving Institute

The Child Saving Institute's mission is to promote the well being of children and their families, empowering them to lead healthy and productive lives by providing services of the highest quality. Some of their programs include: Emergency shelter care for children in crisis, Therapy for abused and neglected children, Therapeutic Foster Care, and Teen parenting classes for pregnant and parenting teens to name a few. More information is available at www.childsaving.org

MCC

MCC Ark of Accessibility Campaign is raising money to make their church Handicap accessible. The projected costs to complete this project are estimated at \$70,000. More information is available at www.mccomaha.org.

Youth Emergency Services

Youth Emergency Service's mission is to serve and protect at-risk youth by providing shelter, programs, and advocacy that educate, and promote personal and family growth. Many of their clients are homeless and street dependent teens. Over the last 3 years they have identified over 600 street dependent youth living on the streets of Omaha. More information is available at www.yesomaha.org

Merlin's Refuge

Merlin's Refuge's mission is to provide long-term care and adoption services for domestic animals in need of a good home. To prevent unnecessary euthanasia of non-terminally ill animals and to provide an alternative to traditional shelters

through a no-kill policy, which specifies that animals never be euthanized except when compassion for a suffering animal demands it and no reasonable alternative, exists. They also work to rehabilitate improperly socialized animals that are usually victims of neglect and abuse. More information is available at www.merlinsrefuge.com

2003 — 7th Heartland Rodeo—Donations made to these organizations are made possible through the Heartland Rodeo. This year's rodeo will be held June 28-29 at the Sarpy County Fairgrounds in Springfield, NE. Rodeo performances will start at 10AM and run until 4:00PM each day. Tickets are \$12.00 for adults with children under 12 admitted free. Last year more than \$10,000 was donated to charities. More information is available at www.hgra.net

HGRA is a charitable and social organization. Our purpose is to promote the country western lifestyle in the Gay and Lesbian community; to encourage member participation in local, national, and international rodeos; and to perform charitable duties. HGRA is one of the 22 member associations of the International Gay Rodeo Association (IGRA). For the past 6 year, HGRA has held rodeos in Fremont and Springfield, Nebraska. The 7th Heartland Rodeo "The Little Rodeo With A Big Heart" will be held June 28-30, 2003 at the Sarpy County Fairgrounds in Springfield, Nebraska.

The specific purpose of the IGRA is the fostering of national and international amateur rodeo and other equestrian competition and related arts, crafts, and activities to develop amateur athletes and activities for such competition and other activities, which encourage the education on or preservation of the "country-western" lifestyle heritage, such as dance.

Heartland Gay Rodeo Association

HGRA MEMBER TAKES FIRST IN LITTLE ROCK

HGRA Team Members competed in the Rodeo in the Rock held in Little Rock, AR the weekend of April 26th-27th, 2003. This is the sixth rodeo for the 2003 IGRA Rodeo Series that ends in October 2003 with the IGRA Finals Rodeo being held in Tulsa, OK October 23rd thru the 26th, 2003. The following is the list of overall weekend Top Eight finishers.

Chute Dogging

- Bryn G. - 2nd Place
- Jennifer E. - 3rd Place

Flag Race

- Jennifer E. - 2nd Place

Calf Roping on Foot

- Bryn G. - 2nd Place
- Kelly T. - 3rd Place

Steer Riding

- Todd T. - 2nd Place

Barrel Racing

- Sam K. - 1st Place
- Jennifer E. - 6th Place
- Todd T. - 2nd Place
- Tim K. - 6th Place

Wild Drag Race

- John J. - 4th Place
- Sam K. - 4th Place
- Todd T. - 4th Place
- Kelly T. - 7th Place

Pole Bending

- Jennifer E. - 3rd Place
- Bryn G. - 6th Place
- Todd T. - 3rd Place

Goat Dressing

- Jeremy K. - 4th Place

All Around Cowgirl

- Jennifer E. - 2nd Runner Up

All Around Cowboy

- Todd T. - 2nd Runner Up

Team Results

- Team Heartland - 4th Place out of 13 teams



HGRA PRESENTS BINGO NIGHT AT JOY CLUB

The Heartland Rodeo will be hosting a bingo party at Joy Club on June 7th from 7:30-9:30 pm. Part of the proceeds will go to NAP and MCC. When you buy your first 3 cards, you will also get some food to enjoy while you're playing bingo. Every winner will receive a great prize with the last 3 winners of the night getting the grand prizes. Come on out and join the fun and support HGRA and Joy Club a 2003 Rodeo Platinum Sponsor.

SNAP!fest 2003: 6th Annual New Works Festival

SNAP! Productions is pleased to present SNAP!fest 2003: 6th Annual New Works Festival, June 12 to June 29, 2003 at SNAP!/Shelterbelt Theatre, 3225 California Street. SNAP!fest is a unique project that showcases new plays and plays new to Omaha in repertory, and invites the playwrights to interact with the audience, cast and directors in post-performance discussions. All tickets are \$10. Reservations are suggested: (402) 341-2757 or at our secure online box office at www.snapproductions.com.

"The post-performance discussions are one of my favorite aspects of SNAP!fest," said SNAP! Co-Producer, Todd Brooks, an actor in SNAP!fest 1 and 5 and the director of this year's **The Matinee Ladies**. "It's very interesting to actually get to talk to the playwrights. They bring to the show their original intent and vision to the project. They also get to see others interpret their material. So, it's a collaborative experience for both playwright and participant. Rarely do you get the opportunity to ask the playwright questions about their material. The question and answer period following the shows are always well received."

This year's offerings include the Midwest premieres of **A Dance Lesson** by David Wiltse, Weston, CT, and Kevin Brofsky's **The Matinee Ladies**, New York, NY. **A Dance Lesson** is about an idyllic middle-class small town family of the 1950's who's lives are forever changed by the visit of the returning boy-next-door who excites and fascinates mother, father and teenage son. **A Dance Lesson** runs June 12 - June 15 and June 28-29. A sign language interpreted performance of **A Dance Lesson** will be presented on June 29th. Kevin Brofsky's **The Matinee Ladies** spans twenty-five years, in the lives of three women who meet every year at a Greenwich Village Cafe, owned by one of the women's son and his ex-lover. Kevin Brofsky's **The Matinee Ladies** runs June 19-22 and June 26-27. A sign language interpreted performance of Kevin Brofsky's **The Matinee Ladies** will be presented on June 27th. SNAP! Productions strives to provide educational and humanistic support of AIDS-related programs and to promote understanding and acceptance of all members of the community through artistic expression.

BLUE BARN PRESENTS HEDWIG AND THE ANGRY INCH

The Blue Barn Theatre proudly presents the transgender rock 'n' roll musical phenomenon, HEDWIG and the Angry Inch June 6—29, performing Fridays through Sundays at 7:30pm. The off-Broadway sensation has become an international cult favorite. HEDWIG and the Angry Inch is the story of an East German girlie boy named Hansel who lives in the hope of finding his "other half," who will make him complete. Hansel agrees to a sex-change operation in order to go to the U.S. with an American G.I. The operation is botched and Hansel, now Hedwig, is left neither man nor woman. His search for love as the "internationally unknown song stylist" Hedwig is both hilarious and heartbreaking. Call the Blue Barn at 345-1576 for tickets and more information.

The Lincoln Continentals Barbershop Chorus

"A Tribute to American Song Writers"

Saturday, June 7th 2:30 & 7pm Shows
Lied Center for the Performing Arts

Matinee tickets are all \$12. Evening performance tickets are \$12-\$15-\$20. You can buy tickets in advance on their web site. <http://www.lincolncontinentals.org> with credit cards and Paypal or contact Scott D. 402-465-0320 or sdorchid@neb.rr.cpm

There will also be several guest Barbershop Quartets.

Harmony Boulevard, Sibling Rivalry, Resound, Ex Animo and Blue Note. Blue Note placed 7th in the Central States District Convention two weeks ago.

Barbershop is all men singing that barbershop style, all acapella singing. Come out and have fun and sing along.

CHICAGO GAY MEN'S CHORUS & HEARTLAND MEN'S CHORUS JOIN FOR CONCERT JUNE 14 & 15 IN KC

The historic Folly theatre in downtown Kansas City will be the site for a gathering of 250 men as they perform the classic *NakedMan!*. *NakedMan!* Was originally performed by the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus in 1996 and is being presented again by the 130 member Heartland Men's Chorus by popular demand. The title *NakedMan!* Refers to the mental state of man as he stands up to tell the stories of the past that have shaped him and made him who he is today.


In places, the music is unabashed raw power, while in other places it is incredibly soft and poignant. And throughout, the message is clear...we all go through life with laughter, anger, regret, and incredible hope. We just need to bare our souls to feel it and share it.

But wait, *NakedMan!* Is just the first half. You can *Double Your Pleasure* as the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus takes the stage to perform their own brand of pop choral music that celebrates both the serious and ridiculous elements of the gay community.

So bring your friends or meet new ones on Saturday, June 14, or Sunday, June 15, at the Folly Theater. Call the Heartland Men's Chorus at 816-931-3338 or log on to www.hmckc.org for more information or to purchase tickets.

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Rendezvous 2003

camp it up in Wyoming!

When:

Wednesday, August 6 through Sunday,
August 10 of 2003

Where:

in Medicine Bow National Forest
between Cheyenne & Laramie

How much:

\$55 entire time

\$45 weekend only

\$10 extra for registration after 7/15

\$10 extra for non-members

For details visit

<http://uglw.org/RenMain.html> or call 307-778-7645

COMPLIMENTARY FINANCIAL REVIEW

Are you working hard?

Making a decent living?

Worrying about the future? Let us help.

Primerica Financial Services is proud to offer a complimentary Financial Needs Analysis (FNA). This confidential financial review puts in your hands a printed analysis of all major areas of your personal household finances, based on information you have provided. It also helps you organize and prioritize your financial goals so you can explore all your options for achieving them.

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We offer this valuable financial review as a complimentary service.

There is no cost to you.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT IVY AT 891-1924**

CAMP IT UP WYOMING RENDEZVOUS

Camp it up in Wyoming at Rendezvous 2003, Wyoming's PRIDE event, hosted by United Gays and Lesbians of Wyoming (UGLW). Held in the beautiful Medicine Bow National Forest between Laramie and Cheyenne, Rendezvous is the place to join several hundred of your closest friends at the Rocky Mountain's premier outdoor LGBT event. This year's Rendezvous will take place from August 6-August 10. Admission for the week is \$55 for UGLW members, \$65 for non-members. Weekend admission (Friday-Sunday) is \$45 for members, \$55 for non-members.

Highlights include a performance by San Francisco singer/songwriter Mark Weigle on Friday evening and a performance by New York comic princess Michele Balan on Saturday evening. Strut your stuff just before Mark's Friday performance when campers show off their artistic sides during No Talent Night. Enjoy a Country Western dance sponsored by Charlie's of Denver after his performance. If you're not still laughing too much after Michele's hilarious act, enjoy Club Dancing sponsored by Choice City Shots of Fort Collins on Saturday.

If competition is your bag, enter our Hinky Contest or decorate your campsite to win the Campiest Camp or the Butchiest Camp award. Put together a team of six for our "Survivor, Rendezvous Style" contest, where your team could win \$300 competing in events such as the dreaded Blanket Stand.

Mornings and afternoons attend one of our singles mixers, nature walks, volleyball games, or workshops, like "Camp Cooking", or just do your own thing. Breakfast and dinner are available on site from Wednesday night through Sunday morning for an additional, reasonable cost. This is an unimproved campsite with no electricity or running water, but showers and porta-potties are available; RV's, tents, pop-up/pull-behind campers are welcome.

Go to the UGLW web site, www.uglw.org for Rendezvous and registration information or email info@uglw.org to receive a Rendezvous 2003 brochure and registration information. You can also call us at 307.778.7645 or write: UGLW, PO Box 6837, Cheyenne, WY 82003.

QUESTIONS ABOUT HIV OR AIDS?

Call the Nebraska AIDS Hotline.

1-800-782-2437

(in Omaha: 552-9255)

Sunday-Friday: 10 am-10 pm

In Celebration of Gay Pride Month

OUUT* presents an all-age gender-free

GLBT Disco Party!

Alcohol-Free and Smoke-Free

Saturday, June 14th at 8pm
First Unitarian Church of Omaha
3114 Harney Street

Admission \$ 5 per person



Boogie! Dance to your favorite disco tunes!

Come dressed in your favorite 70's threads!
Big hair! Big shoes! Beads and gold chains!
John Travolta and Thelma Houston look-a-likes!
Prizes will be awarded!



*Omaha Unitarian Universalists for Tolerance

www.ouut.org

(402) 630-4535 for more information

GAYZETTE EVENTS

SATURDAY, MAY 31

LESBIAN MUSICAL EVANGELISTS
CAROLYN MARSHALL AND PAT GRANT IN CONCERT 7pm, MCC-Omaha, 819 South 22 St.

OMAHA WOMYN'S RIVERBOAT

CRUISE Commonbond in Concert. Info 402-467-5737

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

CANDIDATE SHOW 9:30pm, The MAX

MONDAY, JUNE 1

ICON FOUNDATION BOARD MEETING 5:30pm, NAP Outreach Center, 1723 Leavenworth

SATURDAY, JUNE 7

HGRA RODEO PLANNING MEETING 1pm NAP, 139 s. 40 St.

HGRA BINGO PARTY 7:30—9:30pm
CLUB JOY

SUNDAY, JUNE 8

MISS GAY OMAHA ALEXANDRA STONE 10pm The MAX

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11

CFEP ANNUAL DINNER/MEETING 6:30pm, Unitarian Church, 3114 Harney, Guest Speaker Amy Miller, Nebraska ACLU, Please RSVP by June 5 to 402-398-3027

FRIDAY, JUNE 13

HGRA RODEO TAILGATE PARTY 7-10pm, Panic Bar, Lincoln

SATURDAY, JUNE 14

HGRA FUNDRAISER Connections

SUNDAY, JUNE 15

PRIDE PAGEANT 2003 Club JOY

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18

KICK-OFF FOR MONTHLY LUNCHEON 11:30-1:30pm (Drop By Anytime During that Time) MCC-Omaha, 819 S. 22

UNVEILING OF PRIDE NEBR 20 X 48

FLAG 5pm, South Lawn First Methodist Church, 7020 Cass

THURSDAY, JUNE 19

GLSEN-OMAHA MEMBERSHIP MEETING 4:30-6:30pm, Omaha Women's Club Mansion, 518 S. 38 St., RSVP by June 14 to glsenomaha@cox.net

FRJ. JUNE 20

PRIDE NEBRASKA 2003 CIRCUIT PARTY Flix, 10 & Pacific

SATURDAY, JUNE 21

PRIDE PARADE 10:30am, Step Off 10th & Pacific

PRIDE FESTIVAL 15th & Jackson

SAT. JUNE 21 & SUN. JUNE 22

CHORUS CONCERT 7:05pm, UNO

SUNDAY JUNE 22

POST PRIDE PARTY Q Lincoln

FRIDAY, JUNE 27

CANDIDATE SHOW 8:30pm, CLUB JOY

FRJ. JUNE 27—SUNDAY, JUNE 29

HEARTLAND REGIONAL RODEO

SUNDAY, JUNE 29

EMPRESS' STEP DOWN 9:30pm, MAX

FRIDAY, JULY 4

ICON PICNIC 1-6pm, Location TBA

SATURDAY, JULY 13

ICON CORONATION 6PM, Sokol Hall

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9

ICON INVESTITURE OF REIGN 23
Reception 5pm, Show 6pm, The MAX

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29

RIVER CITY LEAGUE PRE-REGISTRATION DAY 3pm, Maplewood Lanes, Info re: event and fall league, call Norma Harrison (402) 731-5706

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

ICON LABOR DAY PICNIC 1-6pm, Vennelyst Park

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

ICON FOOD 4 THOUGHT 9:30pm MAX

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

NIGHT OF 1000 STARS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

ICON TOYZ 4 TOTZ 9:30pm, The MAX

WEEKLY EVENTS

Every Sunday

WORSHIP SERVICES:

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

1ST METHODIST 7020 Cass, 8:30 & 10:45am
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF OMAHA 819 S. 22, 345-2563 Worship: 9am & 11am Sunday School: 11am

FIRST UNITARIAN 3114 Harney, 11am
LOWE AVE PRESBYTERIAN 1023 N 40 10am

UNITY CHURCH OF OMAHA, 3424 N. 90, Omaha, 9am, 11am

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

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

WIMMIN'S SHOW KZUM 89.3 12:30pm

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

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

Every Monday

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

A A GLBT "RAINBOW GROUP"

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

Every Tuesday

UNL LESBIAN/BI/QUESTIONING SUPPORT GRP 7-8:30pm, Women's Ctr, Nebr Union, Lincoln, 472-5644

OMAHA MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP, MCC-Omaha, 819 S. 22, 7:30pm

Every Wednesday

WORSHIP SERVICES

MCC OMAHA, 7pm

UNITY CHURCH OF OMAHA, 7pm

HIV TESTS, 1-4 pm NAP, 139 S. 40

FRONTRUNNERS RUN/WALK 6:30pm AkSarBen Lot 5, 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

GLBT FELLOWSHIP, 6:30pm, Trinity Cathedral Clarkson Center, 109 N. 18 Info: 391-1950; dknoxsaec@qwest.net.

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

KARAOKE 9pm, Connections

Every Friday

SAGE POTLUCK DINNER 6 - 7:45pm ROCC, 1719 Leavenworth, 341-0330
FREE FRIDAY MOVIE 7:45PM, Rainbow Outreach GLBT Resource Ctr

LAMBDA TV, Lincoln Cable Ch 13. 9pm

HIV TESTING, 5 - 10 pm, NAP Outreach Center, 1723 Leavenworth

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

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

Every Saturday

WOMEN'S SUPPORT GRP, 10am, MCC-Omaha, 819 S. 22 St.

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

1st Saturday

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

GAY/BI SUPPORT GROUP HIV+ MEN. 6-8pm, NAP, 220 S. 17, Lincoln FFI: Mark Giesler 476-7000.

1st Tuesday

PRIDE PLANNING MEETING 7pm, Rainbow Outreach Ctr, 1719 Leavenworth

2nd Wednesday

"OUT AND ABOUT NEBR" 7pm Discussion Group, Rainbow Outreach, 341-0330

FLAT WATER BEARS 7:30pm, The MAX

2nd Thursday

PFLAG- OMAHA, 7pm, 1st Methodist

2nd Friday

FREE, CONFIDENTIAL, ANONYMOUS HIV TEST UNL campus FFI: 476-0355. 1-3:30pm

SUDS RAPID HIV TEST, (2 hr results) 5-10 pm, NAP Outreach, 1723 Leavenworth

2nd Saturday

GLSEN OMAHA Brd 9:30am South High

LEATHER ENGINEERS—OMAHA

Meeting 7pm, Gilligan's

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

LEARNING TO EXCHANGE POWER

L2EP@aol.com 1pm; Leather or Knot,

2nd Sunday

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

3rd Monday

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

3rd Tuesday

PRIDE PLANNING MEETING 7pm, Rainbow Outreach Ctr, 1719 Leavenworth

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

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. 1:30-3:30pm

LAST Sunday

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

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Where Can You Find The Gayzette?

Omaha:

Aces Bar, 1263 South 16th Street
Body Mods, 61st and Military
Club Olis, 2801 North 16th Street
Connections, 1901 Leavenworth
The Diamond, 712 South 16th Street
DC's Saloon, 610 South 14th Street
Dixie Quix, Restaurant 20th Leavenworth
Flixx 1019 South 10th Street Omaha
Gilligan's Pub, 1407 Harney Street
The Joy, 1516 Jones Street
Liquid Courage Custom Tattoo,
2936 South 84th 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 GLBT Resource Center,
1719 Leavenworth
Stage Right Coffee and Tea House,
16th and Harney
Youth Emergency Services, 3910 Harney

Lincoln:

Panic Bar, 200 South 18th Street
Q Bar, 226 South 9th Street

Iowa:

Adult Emporium,
Council Bluffs & Glenwood
Wilson Resource Center, Arnolds Park, IA

OMAHA BARS

CONNECTIONS	1901 Leavenworth	933-3033
CLUB OLIS	2801 N 16 St	934-4030
THE DIAMOND	712 S. 16th St	342-9595
DC'S SALOON	610 S. 14th Street	344-3103
FLIXX	1019 S. 10th St	408-1020
GILLIGAN'S PUB	1407 Harney	449-9147
JOY	1516 Jones,	341-7337
The MAX	1417 Jackson	346-4110
OMAHA MINING CO	1715 Leavenworth	449-8703

LINCOLN BARS

PANIC	200 S. 18th Lincoln	435-8764
Q	226 S. 9th St, Lincoln	475-2269

SIoux CITY BAR

JONES STREET STATION

412 JONES ST, SIOUX CITY 712-258-6922

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
- Flat Water Bears**, Box 3751, Omaha 68103 flatwaterbears@yahoo.com Hirsute men and admirers, 2nd Wed, The MAX, 7:30pm
- Front Runners/Walkers**, Box 4583, Omaha 68104 (402) 496-3658 Fun Run/Walks 10am Sun, 6pm Wed
- 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, 596-2596 <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
- Learning to Exchange Power**, L2EP@aol.com; Social, educational group novices in Leather, S/M, B/D Lifestyle
- Leather Engineers of Omaha (LEO)** Box 8101, Omaha, 68108-8101 Gay men in leather lifestyle, Mt 2nd Sat Gilligan's 7pm
- LinOma Bares**, Box 24547, Omaha 68124 Nudist/Naturist Club for gay/bi men Info: Eric (402) 553-5944; Jerry (402) 553-6626
- MPower**, c/o Nebr AIDS Project, 139 S. 40, Omaha 68131 www.mpower-nap.org. Men teaching men about HIV
- Men's Support Group-Omaha**, 819 S. 22, 345-2563; Tuesday 7:30pm <http://mike2tom.home.radiks.net/msgomaha/>
- Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha**, 819 S. 22 St., Omaha 68108 345-2563, mccomaha@radiks.net Website: www.mccomaha.org Sunday Worship 9 & 11am, Sunday School 11am, Wed Evening Service 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
- 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/>

- Omaha Bi Married Men Yahoo Group** <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OmahaBiMarriedMen>
- Omaha Nebr Gay Pride WebPage** <http://members.cyberwolves.com/omahanebrgaypride> PO Box 4154, Omaha, 68104-4154 402-502-9195 omahanebrgaypride@cox.net
- Onyx Images**, Box 31026, 68132-9998 Onyximages@hotmail.com Fraternity for African American Men
- Out and About in Nebraska**, During the summer meets 2nd Wednesday 7pm, Rainbow Outreach Center, website: www.travel.to/outabout Email: NeOutAbout@yahoo.com
- 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, Web Site: www.ROCC.org, email: rainbow@rocc.org Info Line, Library, Movies, Gayzette
- Rainbow Bible Study**, Fridays, 6-7:30pm, Lowe Ave Presbyterian, 1023 N. 40 St.
- Rainbow Celebrations**, Box 8583, Omaha, 68108 402.502.1577 Pride Parade & Festival, National Coming Out Day (NCOD) Event info@rainbowcelebrations.org
- Pride 2003** Box 8583, Omaha, 68108 pride@rainbowcelebrations.org
- National Coming Out Day** P.O. Box 8583, Omaha, 68108 NCOD@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 MargauxPolo@aol.com
- River City Gender Alliance**, Box 8076, Omaha 68108, 402-991-8845, Website: 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
- Women's Support Group**, Saturday 10am, MCC-Omaha, 819 S. 22, 345-2563
- WomenSpace**, Box 24712, Omaha 68124

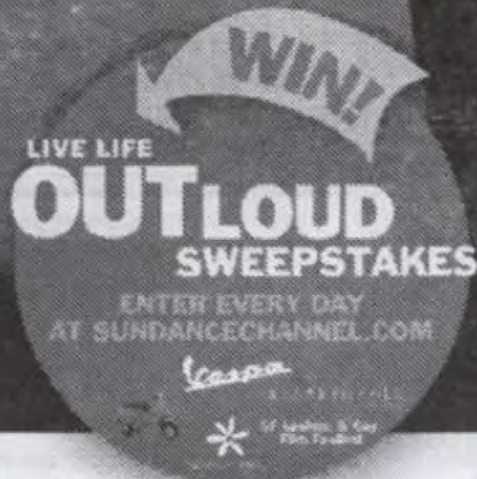
LINCOLN BASED

- Boondoggles** shop online <http://www.ideviate.net>
- 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/Lesbian Film Fest**, Deanna Zaffke, cea@unlserve.unl.edu
- 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**, 220 S. 17th St. Lincoln, NE 68508. (402) 476-7000
- Nebraska Coalition for LGBT Civil Rts**, 122 S. 11 St, Ste 200, Lincoln 68508 474-8923 necoalition@yahoo.com
- 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 FM'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** 483-5592
- 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>

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Who Will Have Sex for Money -

The Sun, an English Print Tabloid, has come under fire from gay rights groups after it restricted an offer of about £50,000 (about \$85,000) for the first Big Brother contestants to have sex on TV to heterosexual couplings.

Pressure group Stonewall said the offer, made in today's newspaper, showed the Sun was "out of touch" and would alienate Big Brother viewers, who had demonstrated their rejection of homophobia by voting an openly gay contestant to win two years ago. "Brian and Anna, two previous gay and lesbian contestants, topped the competition and their subsequent media careers have been strong compared with other straight contestants who have sunk without a trace," said Sacha Deshmukh, Stonewalls director of parliamentary affairs.

The Sun's £50,000 (about \$85,000) offer to the first couple to have sex in the Big Brother house made plain the reward did not extend to homosexuals. "The rules are simple - we will give \$100,000 to the first Big Brother boy-girl bonk," it said. From my perspective; "Has the GLBT community slipped into the gutter so far, that couples would actually consider having sex on a TV show for money? If so, have we no values?"

Students Cancel Red Cross Blood Drive -

Students at Southern Oregon University have cancelled this term's Red Cross blood drive saying the organization discriminates against gay men. The blood drive has been a spring term tradition for a number of years. This semester though students said the Red Cross policy of refusing to allow gay men to be donors is a violation of the university's anti-discrimination policy. Red Cross guidelines say males who have had homosexual encounters even once since 1977 are ineligible. The student government said that the policy continues to label AIDS and HIV as a gay men's disease. Lance Trainor said the guidelines are established by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. "It is a guideline given to the blood donation industry by the FDA and all blood collection industries are required to abide by that rule," Trainor said. "This was in response to the AIDS epidemic in the mid-1980s." Trainor said the purpose is not to discriminate but to reduce risk.

Students Walk Out as Commencement Begins -

More than 100 graduating students at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania walked out before the Jesuit school presented Sen. Rick Santorum with an honorary degree during Sunday ceremonies.

Students urged the university to reconsider its invitation to Santorum after his controversial interview with the Associated Press in which he associated homosexuality to bigamy, polygamy, incest and adultery.

Of course the university refused. However they offered the students who were opposed to Santorum to leave before he was honored. One in 8 left the commencement ceremony. When Santorum was introduced to the podium, the students filed out amid boos and applause. Santorum's commented, "We are all called to love one another, even people we disagree with, even people who hate us for what we believe. Revolution starts at home, in your heart, in your refusal to compromise your beliefs and your values."

Many of the students who walked out were gay, but most were not. Santorum represents homophobia. Homophobia encourages hate crimes and Senator Santorum needs to be held responsible.

Judge dismisses suit against Indiana Marriage Ban -

An Indianapolis judge dismissed a lawsuit challenging Indiana's ban on recognizing same-sex unions, ruling that state law clearly defines marriage as a union between a man and a woman. Marion County Superior Court Judge S. K. Reid ruled that the state is justified in allowing only opposite-sex couples to marry. Reid stated, "Such a law, promotes the state's interest in encouraging procreation to occur in a context where both biological parents are present to raise the child." The Indiana Civil Liberties Union said it would appeal the dismissal. "Same-sex couples in a committed relationship are no different than married couples," said ICLU attorney Ken Falk. Vermont is the only state that allows such unions. Thirty-seven states, including Indiana, have passed laws expressly prohibiting same-sex marriages. There are over 10,000 same-sex households in Indiana, according to the 2000 census.

Could It Happen Here?

In Yorkshire, England for the second time a homophobic gang has forced a lesbian couple from their home in a subsidized housing project. The most recent attack, one of the women was beaten black and blue. A gang member is accused of beating the 42 year old Maxine Nelson with a stick outside the home she shares with her partner Marie Moore. During the attack, a second gang member threw a brick through a window. Moore managed to call police, but when the officer arrived he had to call for backup. The gang members were still banging on windows demanding Moore come out "to face the music". It took nearly a dozen officers to remove the crowd. The women have been together for six years. They said that they no longer feel safe in the housing project and are intending to move. "We have been spat at and shouted at for a year," said Nelson. "A car was driven at high speed then the brakes slammed on at the last minute. Every time we go out we are looking over our shoulders. We have to get out." Earlier this year another lesbian couple Emily Kendall and Donna Logan were driven out of their home in a nearby project by attacks. Could this happen in Nebraska? Hell yes! Because there are so many GLBT people that sit on their chairs while others stick out their necks to fight for what is right.

Get involved people! Some day "they" will come for you.

SUPPORT GROWS FOR OPENING MARRIAGE TO LOVING GAY COUPLES

By Deb Price

—Published 2:15 a.m. PDT Friday, May 16, 2003

Donna Colley and Margaux Towne-Colley of Omaha didn't set out to be gay-rights activists. But their son Grayson had big plans for them: He insisted on being born nine weeks early.

The couple's plan had been for Grayson to be born back in gay-friendly Vermont, where the women had gone the previous year to be legally joined in a civil union. That binding status confers on same-sex couples all the state-level rights and responsibilities of marriage, including automatically making each partner the legal parent of a child born into their relationship.

Grayson instead chose to make his debut in Nebraska, after biological mom Margaux's blood pressure skyrocketed and she had to be rushed to an Omaha hospital. At birth, the influential little guy weighed only 2 pounds, 2 ounces.

"You know when they hand you the baby in the towel? Well, with Grayson, it was, 'I see the towel, but where is the baby?'" recalls Colley, who in Nebraska has zero legal rights as Grayson's second parent and is Towne-Colley's partner. Suddenly, Colley found herself totally dependent on the kindness of the medical staff to let her oversee her son's progress in the neonatal intensive care unit as Towne-Colley recovered from the C-section and a pregnancy-related illness.

Luckily, the family's ties were respected. Yet, as Colley wisely stresses, "You hate to rely on your good luck. A good parent wants certainty rather than just hoping people will be nice."

Their family's vulnerability at the hospital made Grayson's mothers determined to secure legal protections. Because they live in Nebraska, they've had to start a giant step behind where they'd be even in the 35 other states (including Michigan) that overtly ban same-sex marriage.

In 2000, Nebraska amended its state constitution to bar any sort of government recognition of same-sex couples. "This is the most anti-gay family law in the country," says attorney Tamara Lange, who's with the American Civil Liberties Union. "Gay couples are essentially disenfranchised. They can't ask for a city domestic partnership registry or a state law prohibiting discrimination in hospital visitation."

Grayson's moms are among five Nebraska gay couples participating in a federal lawsuit seeking to have their state's clearly unconstitutional prohibition struck down. (The U.S. Supreme Court already told another state — Colorado in 1996 — that it couldn't make it harder for gay citizens than their heterosexual counterparts to pass laws. The Constitution, after all, guarantees all citizens the right to petition our government for redress of grievances.)

Ironically, the Nebraska case is perhaps the best illustration yet of just how unstoppable the movement for full legal equality for gay families has become. Far from keeping gay voices from being heard by making it pointless for gay couples to appeal directly to state and local officials for legal safeguards, the Nebraska amendment has awakened and energized the state's gay community.

The most adamant foes of basic gay civil rights have a very good reason for trying to silence those of us who're gay: When gay people speak up and say to friends, neighbors and lawmakers, "I'm no different from you; I want to protect my family," then fair-minded Americans tend to respond, "That's perfectly reasonable."

The more Grayson's moms tell their story — that their newborn needed his second mom by his incubator — the more their fellow Nebraskans will follow the path public opinion is taking in other states. Recent polls in Massachusetts and a county in New Jersey — states where same-sex marriage is being weighed in the courts — show majority support for opening marriage to loving gay couples. Progress can't come too quickly. "We feel strongly that we have obligations and responsibilities as parents and we want to honor those," Colley says. "We want to take care of our family just like other families."

"We want to take care of our family just like other families."



Tim Reeder

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2003

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PRIDE 2003 MEETINGS

June 3, 10, 16, & 19

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Every Wednesday — 7 PM

CFEP ANNUAL MEETING, DINNER, AND UPDATE ON THE LAWSUIT

Citizens for Equal Protection will hold their annual dinner/meeting on June 11, starting at 6:30pm. The meeting will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church located at 3114 Harney. Dinner will be provided for you, with a free will donation for use of the space. Following dinner they will have a brief business meeting and election of officers. If you would like to be a voting member of CFEP, you must have paid your dues by June 3rd. You can become a member on-line. Check out the website: www.cfep-ne.org Guest speaker will be Amy Miller, staff attorney for the Nebraska ACLU. Amy will lead a discussion regarding the Amendment 29 lawsuit. MJ McBride will report on past accomplishments and future projects. And, Carter Van Pelt will give a wrap-up of legislative activities. CFEP would appreciate if you would RSVP by June 5. You can call the office at 402-398-3027 and leave a message. See you there!

HATE CRIMES BILL UPDATE

There was extended debate in the Nebraska Legislature over a bill that should be of interest to the gay rights community. LB 270, co-sponsored by Sens. Kermit Brashear and Ernie Chambers, would update Nebraska's hate crimes law to comply with a US Supreme Court decision from 2000, *Apprendi v. New Jersey*.

The current Nebraska hate crimes law can elevate the penalty for certain crimes if the underlying offense was committed because of the victim's "race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, or disability."

Nebraska passed its hate crimes law in 1997, but the Supreme Court ruled that such laws are unconstitutional if the jury doesn't know that the increased "hate crime" penalty could be imposed by the judge such is the problem with Nebraska's law. LB 270 offers simple technical changes that would make the 1997 law constitutional again. The hate crimes statute is the only place in Nebraska law where the term "sexual orientation" exists.

Lincoln Senator Mike Foley, a zealous, anti-gay legislator, has decided to engage in extended debate on LB 270, perhaps in an attempt to wear out the Legislature and lead to the bill's defeat. While defeating the bill wouldn't remove the term "sexual orientation" from the statutes, it would be a symbolic victory for Foley.

If you know who your state senator is, please take the time to e-mail him or her and urge his or her support for LB 270 -- the hate crimes bill. You can find e-mail addresses for senators at www.unicam.state.ne.us.

When you e-mail your senator, always include your home street address and let them know you are a constituent, i.e. you live in the district. It is not helpful to contact senators who don't represent your district on this issue.

If you live in Senator Foley's district, please suggest that he quit fighting LB 270.

—CFEP

PHELPS CLAN TARGETS GAY SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

The graduation ceremony of Des Moines, Iowa's Lincoln High School will receive some unusual attention this year, as outspoken anti-gay Rev. Fred Phelps and members of his Westboro Baptist Church protest the graduation of a student who won a scholarship honoring Matthew Shepard.

The scholarship was created as a memorial to Shepard, a gay Wyoming college student who was tortured and killed in 1998. His funeral was also picketed by Phelps.

On May 31, Phelps plans to demonstrate outside Veterans Memorial Auditorium, where the graduation ceremony will take place, to protest this year's scholarship recipient, a gay student named Julius Carter.

"About 15 people will attend," Shirley Phelps-Roper, Phelps' daughter and spokesperson for the church, told the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Network on Wednesday. "The plan is to stand peacefully on the sidewalk like we always do and remind these people that there is a God, that there is a day of judgment and that it's not OK to be gay."

Carter, who is on the football team, the school choir and is senior class president, said he was concerned that the demonstration would disrupt the ceremony for his fellow students. "The last thing I want to do is be someone who hinders their happiness," he told the Associated Press.

As for himself, he said, "I could care less what they say about me because I go through that all the time. By this happening, (Phelps) is going to see that no one in Iowa cares because the way he presents himself is wrong."

Lincoln High School's principal, Al Graziano, told the A.P. that he was dismayed when he read a press release announcing the scheduled protest and condemning Lincoln High School and the local school district. He said he feared protestors would take away from his students' graduation.

"It's their graduation day, and we want to keep the focus on the graduates. We plan to still have the best ceremony we can have," he said.

In response to comments about disrupting the ceremony for other students, Phelps-Roper replied, "They are involved in it -- everyone is involved right up to their eyeballs. If they're not standing up and saying, 'no no no,' then they're not doing their duty to their Lord God."

After graduation Carter, who has been openly gay for about two years, plans to attend the University of Iowa and study pre-medicine. His scholarship will cover tuition, books and fees for four years.

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