

The GayZette



Pharma-Bro Martin Shkreli Was Just Arrested By The FBI

Martin Shkreli's shady past is finally catching up with him.



The 32-year-old douche bag was arrested by the FBI earlier this morning as part of a federal investigation related to his former hedge fund and Retrophin, a biopharmaceutical company he started in 2011.

According to the New York Times, Shkreli was quietly taken out of his midtown Manhattan apartment in handcuffs earlier today.

Federal prosecutors are expected to hold a news conference on the charges, which are believed to be securities fraud, later today. His former lawyer, Evan L. Greebel, was also arrested.

To make a long story short, Shkreli started Retrophin in 2011. At the same time, he was working for the hedge fund MSMB Capital Management.

In 2014, he was ousted from the drug company after being accused of stealing money to pay off clients from the hedge fund.

"Shkreli was the paradigm faithless servant," Retrophin's complaint against Shkreli reads. "Starting sometime in early 2012, and continuing until he left the company, Shkreli used his control over Retrophin to enrich himself and to pay off claims of MSMB investors (who he had defrauded)."

Shkreli has denied any wrongdoing in the matter. When asked about the lawsuit earlier this year, he said: "The \$65 million Retrophin wants from me would not dent me. I feel great. I'm licking my chops over the suits I'm going to file against them."

(There's more about this lovely guy inside..... Editor)

Gay Couple Assaulted by a Homophobic Thug Left Thug "Covered in his Own Blood"

New York — New York Daily News reports that two men shopping in a SoHo bodega were confronted by a homophobic man who began yelling anti-gay slurs before punching one of them in the face.

The men, Daniel Lennox-Choate and Larry Lennox-Choate, happen to be the first homosexual men to be married at West Point Military Academy.



After the 40-year-old man hit Daniel, his husband came to his defense, according to Larry's Facebook page.

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

According to police, no arrests have been made so far, but an investigation is ongoing.

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

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Straight Men Everywhere are Making Out With Each Other to Spite Kim Davis

LGBTQ Nation

#KissesForKim is a new social media movement in which straight guys make out with each other then upload the pictures and videos to social media to show Kim Davis that same-sex lovin' is A-OK.



The movement was started by two men, who uploaded a video to YouTube with a message for Davis.

"Dear Kim Davis,

We want to let you know that no matter what you do, love will always win," the guys said. "What we want you to do is you're watching this video is grab your closest friend, give him a kiss, take a photo or video, and upload it using #KissesForKim, to let Kim know that she cannot win... and that we also love her and think she's beautiful."



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Laramie School District Drafts Policies to Address Needs of Transgender Students

Associated Press

LARAMIE, Wyo. — A Laramie County school district has drafted policies to address the needs of transgender students, including barring the disclosure of a student's gender identity and allowing them to participate in sports.

The Albany County School District No. 1 policies were drafted based on suggestions from a committee of parents of students, district administration, school principals, school board members and students.



Both proposals say the district should be barred from disclosing confidential information related to a student's gender identity. They also say students should be addressed by their preferred name and should generally be able to participate in physical education and sports, according to their gender identity. Both versions also suggest transgender students who wish to have more privacy should be provided with accommodations, like a private restroom or separate changing area.

One version also includes a section on resources for transgender or transitioning students. It recommends that school counseling services be sensitive to gender issues and supportive of students.

A public hearing on the policies is scheduled for Jan. 20, the Laramie Boomerang reported. A board vote could come as early as April.

Jason Tangeman, School Board clerk and chair of the committee, said committee members had a difficult task.

"All views on this issue were represented at the committee level, and I thought that all views on this topic were reflected in one way or another in one of the versions," he said.

Superintendent Jubal Yennie said he thinks the policy recommendations address concerns surrounding transgender students. He said he doesn't believe the policies are out of line.

"I think there'll be some good discussion from both the community and the board on these policies," he said.

Marco Rubio Complains About Being Called a 'Bigot' Over Antigay Stance

Bil Browning

Florida Senator Marco Rubio, once considered a moderate Republican, complained to "Face The Nation" host John Dickerson on Sunday that he is being portrayed as a "bigot and hater" for his stance against marriage equality. The presidential hopeful has recently tacked to the right in an attempt to woo religious right voters.



"People who hold traditional values are often described as bigots and haters," Rubio told Dickerson. When pressed by the host to say who was calling him a bigot, Rubio tried to generalize his answer and escape naming anyone specific. "Everybody on the left if you do not support their definition of marriage."

Dickerson continued his line of questioning though, asking Rubio to further clarify his assertion. Did President Obama call him a bigot?

"Certainly the President has on occasion said that people who don't support same-sex marriage are wrong... but I've been called a bigot for not supporting the definition of marriage," Rubio replied.

The senator has recently swung to the more extreme side of the political spectrum when it comes to LGBT issues.

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Over the past month, he has announced he would appoint conservative Supreme Court justices specifically so they would overturn the recent decision legalizing same-sex marriage, said he would repeal an executive order that prevents discrimination against LGBT people, and claimed that “God’s rules” trump the Supreme Court.

Last week Rubio signed a pledge by the nationally recognized hate group Family Research Council to support a bill that would allow people and businesses to cite their religious beliefs as justification to discriminate against LGBT people.

Watch below as Rubio complains on “Face The Nation” that his discriminatory language is coming back to haunt him.

Gay Man Gets 18 Months In Prison After Performing Oral Sex On Sleeping Hetero Guy

Dale Everard has learned the hard way why it’s really not a good idea to perform oral sex on another person without their consent, especially when that person is straight, passed out drunk, with his girlfriend just a few feet away.

The 22-year-old Scottish man was found guilty of sexual assault in a Dunfermline Sheriff Court this week.

The incident happened in May of last year after Everard met the man and his girlfriend at a bar. Everard and the girlfriend

hung out together all night. At some point in the evening, the victim left the pair to go back to he and his girlfriend’s shared apartment. Later that night, the girlfriend invited Everard back to the apartment to keep hanging out. Once there, the girlfriend passed out on the sofa. Meanwhile, Everard and the victim fell asleep in the couple’s bed, fully clothed.



Hours later, the victim awoke to find someone giving him oral sex in the dark. Assuming it was his girlfriend, he kept his eyes closed. When he finally opened them, however, he was “in a state of shock and anger” to see it was actually Everard.

“You liked it,” Everard allegedly taunted him before running out of the apartment. He later sent a message to the girlfriend on Facebook telling her: “Your boyfriend needs to calm down.”

This week, Everard was sentenced to 18 months in prison for the incident. He has also been placed on the register of sex offenders.

“This was a serious offense carried out with considerable forethought,” Sherrif Craig McSherry told the young man.

“You befriended the victim’s girlfriend, went back to the flat with her, entered the bedroom and carried out the sexual assault.”

Everard’s attorney, Stephen Morrison, said his client was “ashamed” and “appalled” by what he had done and claims it never would have happened had he not been intoxicated.

FDA Eases Restrictions on Blood Donations from Gay Men

WASHINGTON — Federal health officials are lifting the nation’s 32-year-old lifetime ban on blood donations from gay and bisexual men, but major restrictions will continue to limit who can donate.



The Food and Drug Administration announced Monday it will replace the blanket ban with a new policy barring donations from men who have had sex with a man in the previous year. While the one-year-ban has been criticized by activists it matches policies in other countries, including Australia, Japan and the U.K.

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Gay rights activists said the new policy is a “step in the right direction,” but falls short.

“It continues to stigmatize gay and bisexual men,” said David Stacy, of the Human Rights Campaign, the largest U.S. gay rights group. “It simply cannot be justified in light of current scientific research and updated blood screening technology.”

Monday’s policy shift was first announced in late 2014 and followed years of outreach by medical groups and gay rights groups who said the blanket ban no longer made sense. FDA officials signaled their agreement Monday, saying in a statement the change is “backed by sound science and continues to protect our blood supply.”

The lifetime ban was put in place during the early years of the AIDS crisis and was intended to protect the blood supply from what was a then little-understood disease. But many medical groups, including the American Medical Association, argued that the policy was no longer supported by science, given advances in HIV testing.

All U.S. blood donations are screened for HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. But there is a roughly 10-day window between initial infection and when the virus can be detected in the bloodstream. The American Red Cross estimates the risk of getting an HIV-positive blood donation is 1 in 1.5 million for U.S. patients. About 15.7 million blood donations are collected in the U.S. each year.

In 2006 the Red Cross, the American Association of Blood

Banks, and America’s Blood Centers called the ban “medically and scientifically unwarranted.”

The FDA concluded that moving to a one-year abstinence requirement would not change the safety of the U.S. blood supply, based on data from Australia and other sources.

On the current blood donor questionnaire, men are asked if they have ever had sex with another man since 1977– the start of the AIDS epidemic in the U.S. Potential donors who answer positively are barred from donating blood. The new questionnaire, as outlined by the FDA, would ask men if they have had sex with another man in the last 12 months.

More Crappy News For Pharma Bro. His \$750 Drug Just Got a \$1 Competitor

The news just keeps getting worse for greedy pharma bro Martin Shkreli. San Diego-based Imprimis Pharmaceuticals, Inc. announced this week that it will be producing an alternative to Daraprim. The price? \$1 per tablet. That’s \$749 less than Shkreli’s price.



Shkreli is the owner and CEO of Turing Phar-

(Continued on page 6)

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(More Crappy News for Pharma Bro.... Continued from page 5)

maceuticals. He was named “the most hated man in America” by several media outlets last month after he raised the price of Daraprim, a drug used by some HIV patients, from \$13.50 to \$750 per tablet.

“While we respect Turing’s right to charge patients and insurance companies whatever it believes is appropriate, there may be more cost-effective compounded options for medications, such as Daraprim.” Imprimis CEO Mark L. Baum said in a press release.

The press release added that the new drug won’t be exactly the same as Daraprim... it will actually be better:

Daraprim’s active ingredient is pyrimethamine, which has been available since 1953 for the treatment of parasitic diseases ... Imprimis’ alternative also contains pyrimethamine as well as leucovorin, which the company said helps to reverse pyrimethamine’s negative effects on bone marrow.

“Today, some drug prices are simply out of control and we believe we may be able to help control costs by offering compounded alternatives to several sole source legacy generic drugs,” Baum said. “We are here to serve our patients and their physicians. We believe that when we do a great job serving our customers, our shareholders will also benefit.”

So far, Shkreli’s only response to his new competitor has been in a statement to U.S. Uncut, in which he simply said: “LOL.”

Pharma-Bro Believes He’s The Victim Of A Vast Government Conspiracy To Bring Him Down For Being A Douche

Karma’s been a real be-atch to Martin Shkreli this holiday season.

Last Thursday, the 32-year-old price gouger was arrested by the FBI and charged with securities fraud and conspiracy for some alleged shady shenanigans he committed while he was working for the biopharmaceutical company Retrophin. A day later, he was ousted from his job at CEO of Turing Pharmaceuticals, a company he started himself.

Well, now, the most hated man in America claims he’s the victim of a vast government conspiracy to punish him for raising drug prices and for being an obnoxious Twitter troll.

In an interview with The Wall Street Journal, Shkreli insisted that the FBI was going after him because back in August he jacked up the price of Daraprim, a drug used by some HIV patients, by more than 5,000 percent overnight, going from \$13.50 to \$750 per tablet.

““Trying to find anything we could to stop him,” was the atti-

tude of the government,” Shkreli snarled. “Beating the person up and then trying to find the merits to make up for it — I would have hoped the government wouldn’t take that kind of approach.”

He also claimed that he was being punished for his snarky Twitter account and “because of a social experiment and teasing people over the Internet.”

Ever the victim, Shkreli went on to call the whole situation “a real injustice.”

“Quite frankly, it was not something I expected,” he said of his arrest, “and definitely not something I deserve given the facts.”

He maintains that he will be found not guilty of both the securities fraud and the conspiracy charges, for which he could potentially serve 20 years, if convicted. On Saturday he tweeted: “I am confident I will prevail. The allegations against me are baseless and without merit.”

Slovenians Reject Same-Sex Marriage Law

ALI ZERDIN | Associated Press

LJUBLJANA, Slovenia (AP) — Slovenians rejected same-sex marriage by a large margin in a referendum on Sunday, according to near-complete results, in a victory for the conservatives backed by the Catholic Church in the ex-communist EU nation.

The results released by authorities show 63.5 percent voted against a bill that defines marriage as a union of two adults, while 36.5 percent were in favor.

Slovenia’s left-leaning Parliament introduced marriage equality in March, but opponents pushed through a popular vote on the issue. The “Children Are At Stake” group has collected 40,000 signatures to challenge the changes before any gay couples were able to marry.

“This result presents a victory for our children,” said Ales Primc, the group’s leader.

Ljudmila Novak, from New Slovenia, described the outcome as a “clear defeat” of the leftist government, which backed the changes.

Supporters of same-sex marriage have called for Slovenia to join Western European nations that have allowed more gay rights. Conservatives and the right-wing opposition have campaigned on traditional family values, arguing that marriage equality paves the way for gay and lesbian couples to adopt children.

Although Slovenia is considered to be among the most liberal of the ex-communist nations, gay rights remain a contentious topic in the predominantly Roman Catholic nation of 2 million.

Voters in the former Yugoslav republic rejected granting more rights to gay couples in a referendum in 2012.



Violeta Tomic, a lawmaker from the United Left party which initially put forward the bill, said referendum results presented a temporary setback only.

"It's not over yet. Sooner or later the law will be accepted," she said.

The Slovenia vote illustrates a cultural split within the European Union in which more established western members are rapidly granting new rights to gays, while eastern newcomers entrench conservative attitudes toward the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

Igor Zagar, a 55-year-old professor from the capital, Ljubljana, said he voted in favor of marriage equality to "support the secular state and against the interference of the church into political issues."

Gregor Jerovsek, a 40-year-old mechanic from Ljubljana, said he believed that "the family should not be a field for experimentation."

"A traditional family should remain the key value of our society," he said.

Texas Billed \$600,000 for Fighting Marriage Equality

BY ELIZABETH DALEY

A Texas judge ruled this month that the state must pay \$605,000 in attorney's fees on behalf of two couples who had been fighting for marriage equality prior to national recognition, according to the Texas Observer.



Cleopatra DeLeon and her partner Nicole Dimetman joined Mark Phariss and his partner Victor Holmes in suing the state of Texas in 2013 for its ban on same-sex marriage.

The couples could not be considered legally wed until the Supreme Court issued its decision in Obergefell v. Hodges on June 26, allowing for nationwide marriage equality. U.S. District Judge Orlando Garcia sided with the couples on July 7.

according to the Observer.

Under federal law, parties who win civil rights suits are typically eligible to have attorney's fees and costs paid for them. Numerous states fought marriage equality and states such as South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Virginia, Oregon, Colorado and North Dakota have already agreed to pay millions of dollars in fees, according to Al Jazeera.

In Texas, the couples filed a motion in September asking for just over \$740,000 in fees but were granted a lesser amount. "In his 10-page order, Garcia lowered hourly rates for attorneys who worked on the case, but rejected the state's argument that the number of hours billed was excessive. Garcia also praised the plaintiffs' attorneys for "excellent and commendable skill in prosecuting the case," according to the Observer.

Garcia awarded \$585,470 in fees and \$20,203 in costs to Akin Gump Straus Hauer & Feld, the San Antonio firm that represented two same-sex couples, according to the paper.

"It was important, at the end of the day, once we prevailed, to require the state to pay something for having made our clients go through this process," Akin Gump's Neel Lane told the Observer. "You really need to discourage, where you can, violations of constitutional rights, and the way you do that is you hold the state accountable."

Gay Singles Accept Nonsense That Women Would Never Tolerate

By Samuel C. White

I often wonder why same-sex dating is laden with so much more bullshit than straight dating.

I'm not referring to shaving a few pounds off a profile, fudging your height, or sharing an outdated photo from your college days; these examples are annoying, but universal amongst the sexes and



(Continued on next page)

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genders. I'm referring to the BS that can only be found on same-sex dating and mating sites.

Last week, while leisurely chatting on multiple sites and apps, such as Grindr, Scruff, Adam4Adam, and Realjock, I found the BS was larger than the dino droppings in Jurassic World.

Exhibit 1: A handsome jock in Santa Monica wanted to see a pic of my junk. I replied I have never taken such a photo. He demanded that I start now. When I explained it was not in my future (call me old-fashioned), he explained that he refuses to meet anyone without first seeing their penis. "Even when meeting in a bar?" I asked. "Yep," he replied. Ri-i-ight.

Can you imagine the straight equivalent of this conversation? Has any guy on Tinder ever demanded a vagina pic before agreeing to coffee? Most women would laugh and swipe left.

Exhibit 2: An athletically built torso started a conversation with me on another app. I asked for a face pic. He asked for XXX pics. We both said the other was putting the cart before the horse. He argued the XXX pic was more important. My position was firm in the other direction. So he blocked me.

Can you imagine a woman on OKCupid demanding to see a penis pic before a guy's face pic? Neither can I.

Exhibit 3: A tattooed torso was in town from the Midwest. We chatted briefly. I asked for a face pic for trade. I sent mine, and several hours went by without reciprocation. When I followed up, he apologized for not sending one before. Yet he still made no attempt to send one. So I asked again, and he finally sent one. It was low-resolution, with a ball cap pulled down to his eyes. Naturally I asked for a better one, and I sent three more of my own to help grease the reciprocation. He replied that he deletes his regularly and has no more. I asked for a Facebook link instead. But all I received was crickets.

Can you imagine a straight man going silent when a gal asks for a pic that shows his eyes? I didn't think so.

Exhibit 4: I hit up a torso taking a selfie in a gym locker room. He seemed professional and put together. However, as soon as I asked to trade face pics, he explained there were too many flakes online to do that so quickly. I didn't disagree about the flakes, but I asked what his solution was. He had none. I explained that's part of the gamble of Grindr. He said we should meet in person like real men. I explained that a pic is needed to decide if it's worth spending the time and energy in L.A. traffic for that commitment. I proposed chatting on Facebook. Instead, I got blocked.

Can you picture any single woman in 2015 meeting a guy for coffee who didn't have the balls to show his face on a mobile app? Hell no.

Exhibit 5: A guy unlocked his pics, with only one face pic, hidden in a ball cap, sunglasses, and shadow. I asked if he had any other face images. He replied that he did, yet he made no attempt to email or text them. I asked if he planned to add them to his profile. His reply quickly shot back, "I'm no longer interested." Convenient how that happened only after I asked for a clear headshot.

Can you see a straight guy losing interest in a woman simply because she asked to see a photo of him without shades? Neither can I.

Exhibit 6: I chatted with a profile whose main pic was of his groin, albeit in swim trunks (any groin shot prominently displayed as a profile pic is generally a red flag). All three pics of his were low-res thumbnails. The one face pic was blown out from the sun, and his eyes were hidden behind oversized aviators. I asked if he had any shots without shades. He accused me of being a pic collector. Do these even still exist? I haven't encountered a pic collector in ages — only guys who use that as an excuse to remain hidden.

Have you ever known a real-life woman whose main profile pic was of her bikini bottoms, in a higher resolution than her face pic? Neither have I.

Exhibit 7: I chatted with a moderately attractive guy who lived mere blocks from me. When I asked if he'd like to meet, he invited me over to hang out with a couple of naked guys showing up to his apartment (ostensibly, they disrobed after they arrived). I declined.

Do straight guys ever invite non-sex worker women over once they've got two others lined up in the same complex? None that I'm aware of.

Exhibit 8: I chatted with a very handsome Spanish guy who had just moved to Los Angeles from New York. He thought there was a connection and wanted to chat over the phone. We did, and he spent 20 minutes trying to coerce me into having unprotected sex with him.

How often does a female insist her partner not wear a condom? According to most of my straight friends, not very often.

None of these instances are even possible in the dating world of my straight friends. In gay and bi male dating, they're not only common but tolerated. If women do not put up with this BS from men, why in the hell should we?

SAMUEL C. SPITALE is a Los Angeles-based writer and founder of ItGetsWorseBlog.com. Follow him on Twitter @ItGetsWorseBlog.

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By Michael Kimmel

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Fantasy Sex

It's so hard not to compare ourselves to other people. No matter how hard we try, somebody else always seems to have a better life than we do, a better partner, job, car, home or body. This comparison thing also extends to sex. We imagine what other people do and we see – in videos and movies – hundreds of images of how other people have sex.

After seeing so many perfect-looking people having perfect-looking sex, it's awfully hard to come up with our own definition of good sex. Instead, many of us fall into the trap of what I call, "fantasy sex".

Fantasy sex is the kind of sex that we think we SHOULD be having, but aren't. It encourages us to doubt the beauty of the sex lives we have now and wonder if we're doing something wrong.

This damned comparison thing tells us that we should be having amazing sex like people in videos and movies, when, in reality, even THEY can't have that kind of sex off-camera: it's an illusion, a fantasy...and we fall for it.

I'd like to deconstruct some of the basic tenets of fantasy sex in an effort to show that what I call "real sex" (the sex lives that we actually have) are usually just fine, thank you very much.

Fantasy sex: Most people – but not you – are ready and able to have sex whenever they feel horny: it's so easy to just fall into bed with your partner (whether you just met them or have been with them for years) and have effortless, mind-blowing sex.

Real sex: Real people aren't always ready for sex, or ready at the same time as their partner. Us real folks also need to be physically ready to have sex. This is especially true with sex with a new person: if you're a little nervous about having sex with someone and feel rushed or pressured, sex is often mentally and physically uncomfortable.

Fantasy sex: Anything goes. You and your partner are easily comfortable with whatever happens. Nothing is off limits: it's all a big, exciting erotic adventure, isn't it?

Real sex: Real people have specific likes and dislikes that need to be respected. Lots of erotic videos show couples doing all kinds of sexual activities with great enthusiasm. In real life, every couple decides what is exciting and erotic (or not). Instead of trying to FORCE your fantasy onto someone else, why not try instead to make sex an experiment where you each dis-

cover and respect each other's likes and dislikes.

Fantasy sex: The other person intuitively knows what you like; you never have to ask for anything or tell her/him you don't like something; you are both so tuned into each other that everything just unfolds naturally.

Real sex: Mindreading has never been helpful, in sex or in life in general. It sure would be nice if our partner knows what we like, and, over time, a partner probably will get to know some of what you like. But, no matter who you're with, try a bit of "show and tell". Show them where you like it and tell them what you'd like them to do there. Invite them to do the same for you.

Fantasy sex: You will automatically and easily connect with a sex partner.

Real sex: Often, we need to work on establishing and maintaining a connection. Tantric sexual practices encourage us to maintain a gentle, constant eye connection with a partner and to match his/her breathing. There's nothing worse (okay, a lot of things are worse, but bear with me) than having sex with someone where you aren't even with them...you might as well be masturbating by yourself. This kind of sex is usually very unfulfilling. Don't let it happen to you: stay emotionally connected with your sex partner.

Fantasy sex makes for interesting – if totally unrealistic – videos, but real life sex holds the possibility for much more. Don't settle for someone else's fantasy: invent and create (and recreate) your own version of good sex. Since no one else can tell you how to do it, why not make it a life-long adventure? You have nothing to lose but all those (impossible) fantasies.



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WORSHIP SERVICES:

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

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

EPISCOPAL GLBT FELLOWSHIP, St. Andrews Church, 84th & Pacific, 6-7PM, email: EpiscopalGLBT@yahoo.com

FIRST CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST, info at: www.firstcentral.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

RIVER CITY MIXED BOWLING

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

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

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

WIMMIN'S SHOW, KZUM 89.3 12:30pm

Every Monday

A A GLBT "RAINBOW GROUP"

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

GAY/BI/STRAIGHT SUPPORT GROUP

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

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

RIVER CITY MIXED CHORUS RE-

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

Every Tuesday

HASTINGS COLLEGE ALLIANCE

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

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

UNL LESBIAN/BI/QUESTIONING SUPPORT GROUP

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

Every Wednesday

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

FRONTRUNNERS RUN/WALK

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

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

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

Metro Omaha Prime Timers, 4:00-6:00pm Coffee with the Boys at Howlin' Hounds Café, 712 South 16th St. Meet up for coffee and conversation. Many of the guys go out for dinner afterwards. 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

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

MONTHLY EVENTS

1st Monday

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

1st Thursday

GLBT PROFESSIONALS, meeting at 5:30pm in various locations. Email at: GOglbt@cfep-ne.org or see www.GOglbt.org for info

1st Friday

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

1st Sunday

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

SPIRITUAL FRIENDS OF LINCOLN

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

2nd Monday
NAP HIV TESTING

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

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

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

2nd Sunday
Metro Omaha Prime Timers, Monthly 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 Flixx Show Bar, STD testing also available for \$10, call 552-9260 ext. 113 or 142 or visit www.nap.org for more info

IMPERIAL COURT OF NE, Board of 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

ICON Board Openings

The Imperial Court of Nebraska currently has an opening on its board of directors. It is a member at large position with full voting rights. The position is currently up for re election in February.

We also are looking to fill the Event Coordinator position as well. This position is responsible for booking all of the events for the current reign. It requires strong organizational skills and planning ability.

If you have any interest in either of these positions, we are looking to fill them at our regularly scheduled meeting in January. The meeting is on January 18th at 6:30 pm at MCC Church. If you would like any further information, you may email the board at: ICONBoard@imperialcourtofnebraska.com

Blind Cowboy

"An old, blind cowboy wanders into an all-girl biker bar by mistake...

He finds his way to a bar stool and orders a shot of Jack Daniels.

After sitting there for a while, he yells to the bartender, 'Hey, you wanna hear a blonde joke?'

The bar immediately falls absolutely silent.

In a very deep, husky voice, the woman next to him says, 'Before you tell that joke, Cowboy, I think it is only fair, given that you are blind, that you should know five things:

1. The bartender is a blonde girl with a baseball bat.
2. The bouncer is a blonde girl with a 'Billy-Club'.
3. I'm a 6-foot tall, 175-pound blonde woman with a black belt in karate.
4. The woman sitting next to me is blonde and a professional weight lifter.
5. The lady to your right is blonde and a professional wrestler.

'Now, think about it seriously, Cowboy ... do you still wanna tell that blonde joke?'

The blind cowboy thinks for a second, shakes his head and mutters, 'No ... not if I'm gonna have to explain it five times"...

Italian Grandma's Advice!

A young Italian girl was going on a date. Her Nonna said: 'Sit-a here ana leta me tella you about this-a younga boy.

He's agonna try ana kiss you, you are agonna likea dat, but don't let him do dat. He's agonna try ana kiss your breasts, you are agonna likea dat too, but don'ta let him do dat ceda.

But mosta important, he's agonna try ana lay on topa you, you are agonna really likea dat, but don'ta let him do dat for sure. Doing thata willa disgraza our family.

With that bit of advice, the granddaughter went on her date. The next day she told grandma that her date went just like she had predicted:

'And Nonna, I didn't let him disgrace our family as you said. When he tried to lay on top of me, I just rolled him over, took my new dress off so it wouldn't get wrinkled, got on top of him; it felt so good I was tingling inside and I disgraced HIS family instead!'

Nonna fainted!!

Latex Gloves

Next time you use a pair of rubber gloves, you' re going to smile when you think of this:

A dentist noticed that his next patient, a little old lady, was nervous, so he decided to tell her a little joke as he put on his gloves.

'Do you know how they make these gloves?' he asked.

'No, I don't,' she replied.

'Well,' he spoofed, 'there's a building in Canada with a big tank of latex, and workers of all hand sizes walk up to the tank, dip in their hands, let them dry, then peel off the gloves and throw them into boxes of the right size.'

She didn't crack a smile.

'Oh, well. I tried,' he thought.

But five minutes later, during a delicate portion of the procedure, she burst out laughing.

'What's so funny?' he asked.

'I was just envisioning how condoms are made!'

Blonde Genies...

A white guy is walking along a beach when he comes across a lamp partially buried in the sand. He picks up the lamp and gives it a rub. Two blonde genies appear, and they tell him he has been granted three wishes. The guy makes his three wishes and the blonde genies disappear.

The next thing the guy knows, he's in a bedroom, in a mansion surrounded by 50 beautiful women. He makes love to all of them and begins to explore the house. Suddenly he feels something soft under his feet, he looks down and the floor is covered in \$1,000 bills! Then, there's a knock at the door. ..

He answers it and standing there are two persons dressed in Ku Klux Klan outfits. They drag him outside to the nearest tree, throw a rope over a limb and hang him by the neck until he's dead.

As the Klansmen are walking away, they remove their hoods; it's the two blonde genies. One blonde genie says to the other one, 'I can understand the first wish having all these beautiful women in a big mansion to make love to. I can also understand him wanting to be a millionaire, but why he wanted to be hung like a black man is beyond me...

(I know, I know..... It's not politically correct. But.... The Genies are BLONDE, now aren't they?.... The Editor)

GLBT RESOURCE LIST

OMAHA BASED

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

Camp Kindle, Nebraska based summer camp for kids affected by HIV/AIDS, 877.800.CAMP, www.CampKindle.org

Citizens for Equal Protection 1105 Howard St. Suite 2, Omaha NE 68102, 398-3027 www.cfep-ne.org, email to: Michael@cfep-ne.org

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

First Central Congregational Church UCC, 421 South 36th St., 402-345-1533, www.firstcentral.org, GLBT-affirming

First Lutheran Church, 542 So. 31st St., 402-345-7506, GLBT Friendly www.firstlutheranomaha.org

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

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

Flat Water Bears, (group disbanded)

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

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

GayLibrary.com, World Wide Resources

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

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

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

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

Imperial Court of Nebraska, Box 3772, Omaha 68103, www.imperialcourtofnebraska.org

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

Learning to Exchange Power, no current info available

Leather Engineers of Omaha (LEO) not currently meeting

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

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

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

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

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

Nebraska AIDS Project, 250 So. 77th St., HIV testing and counseling
NebraskaEquality.org, Find out everything about Nebraska and the GLBT Community www.NebraskaPrideIDOL.com

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

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

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

Omaha Metro GLBT Sports League, See www.oglbtsports.com for more information

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

Out and About in Nebraska, website: www.travel.to/outabout
Email: NeOutAbout@yahoo.com

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

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

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

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

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

River City Mixed Chorus, Box 3267, Omaha, NE 68103, 402-341-SING
Website: www.rcmc.org

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

-0537, LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation
SNAP Productions, Box 8464, Omaha, NE 68108 www.snapproductions.com

Temple Israel Synagogue, 7023 Cass St., 402-556-6536, member of the Union for Reform Judaism, GLBT inclusive

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

Youth Emergency Services, Inc. (Y.E.S.)
Offices: 2679 Farnam Street, Suite. 205 Omaha, NE 68131, 402-345-5187, email to info@yesomaha.org
Y.E.S. Drop-in Center, 2057 Harney Street Omaha, NE 68102, 402-505-6922

LINCOLN BASED

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Straight Spouse Support Grp 402-429-6094

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

UNL Committee on GLBT Concerns, Contact Pat Tetreault, (402) 472-1752 or email: ptetreault1@unl.edu / www.unl.edu/cglbte

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

Youth Support Group, (402) 434-9880

Iowa Based

Council Bluffs Health Department/Free STD Clinic

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

Council Bluffs Community Alliance

www.councilbluffscommunityalliance.org

Council Bluffs Pride, www.councilbluffspride.org

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

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

Sioux City, Iowa Resource Web Site: www.siouxlandpride.net

Nationally Based

Trevor-24-hour National Suicide Hotline for GLBT and

Questioning Youth 1-800-850-8078 or see web site at <http://www.thetrevorproject.org/helpline.html>

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The Hungry Homo

Corn Tortilla Casserole

Ingredients

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 green bell peppers, chopped
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1 tbsp. chili powder
- 1/2 tsp. oregano
- 1/2 tsp. cumin
- 1 can of no salt added tomatoes
- 8 oz. no salt added tomato sauce
- 1 can of no salt added kidney beans
- 12 corn tortillas
- 3/4 cup Swiss cheese, shredded

Methods/Steps

In a skillet over medium heat, saute the ground beef, onion, pepper and garlic until the beef is done. Drain off excess fat. Add tomato sauce, tomatoes and spices. Simmer mixture for 2 minutes. Place a layer of 4 tortillas in the bottom of a 9x13 inch-baking pan that has been sprayed with non-stick vegetable spray. Place a layer of the beef mixture on top, then 4 more tortillas, the beans, the final 4 tortillas and the rest of the beef mixture. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Sprinkle with cheese and return to oven until cheese has melted.

Ready in 45 minutes.
Makes 6 servings



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

Spinach Lasagna

Ingredients

Sauce

- 2 (14 1/2 oz.) cans diced tomatoes
- 2 (14 1/2 oz.) cans crushed tomatoes
- 1 cup white onions, diced
- 3 tbsp. fresh basil, chopped
- 2 tsp. dried Italian seasoning
- 1 tbsp. fresh oregano, chopped
- 2 tbsp. unbleached cane sugar
- 1 garlic clove, minced

Pasta

- 12 whole wheat lasagna noodles
- 1 tbsp. olive oil
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 15 oz. fat-free ricotta cheese
- 3 cups chopped spinach
- 1/2 cup fresh parmesan cheese, shredded
- 2 tbsp. Kalamata olives, finely chopped (optional)
- 1/2 tsp. crushed red pepper flakes
- 1/4 tsp. sea salt
- 1/4 cup shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese, shredded 1/4 cup fat free mozzarella cheese, shredded



Methods/Steps

Prepare marinara: Sauté onions in saucepan. Add liquid drained from diced tomatoes. Add basil, Italian seasoning, oregano, sugar & red peppers. Simmer 30 minutes or until reduced by half. Add all tomatoes & garlic, and cook 1 minute. Remove from heat & set aside. Prepare Pasta: Cook pasta according to package directions. Drain, rinse, return to pot & cover w/ cold water. Prepare Filling: Heat oil in nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add garlic and cook 20 seconds. Add spinach and cook, stirring often, 3 to 4 minutes. Transfer to bowl. Stir in ricotta, Parmesan, olives, crushed red pepper, salt and 1/2-2/3 cup marinara. Spread 1/3-1/2 cup marinara in bottom of 9x13" baking dish. Line bottom of baking dish with single layer of lasagna noodles. Spoon layer of filling over noodles and spread evenly. Repeat layers. Top with marinara sauce and mozzarella. Bake 20-25 minutes until bubbling & cheese melted.

Ready in 1 1/2 hour. 20 min prep time

After Three Years Jailed With Men, Ashley Diamond Speaks

BY CLEIS ABENI

Just two weeks after she was released from Augusta State Medical Prison in Georgia, Ashley Diamond finally heard some good news from a federal judge. She would be allowed to pursue her legal claim that the Department of Corrections in Georgia unlawfully discriminated against her because she is a transgender woman, not only denying her medically necessary transition-related care but allegedly failing to protect her from repeated rapes and assaults while she spent three years incarcerated with men.



"It was torture. I might be free now, but I am still struggling," Diamond says in a phone interview with *The Advocate*. "Straight out of solitary confinement, but into another confinement on parole. Parole stipulates that I must stay here in Rome [Ga.], and this town can be like a prison too. Yes, it's a town in the Deep South, and down here you feel it even more that the transgender issue is the civil rights issue of our time."

The latest development in Diamond's case, which epitomizes the struggles of transgender inmates nationwide, arrived just days after that call, when U.S. District Judge Marc Thomas Treadwell denied the state's motion to dismiss in *Diamond v. Owens et. al* on September 14. Treadwell's decision, while not a final judgment, does pave the way for Diamond's case to proceed to discovery and trial, according to a court filing provided to *The Advocate* by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Diamond, 37 and originally from Rome, was released from Augusta State Medical Prison August 31 after facing a harrowing three years of incarceration at various Georgia prisons, where, she alleges, she was repeatedly physically and sexually assaulted, interned at men's facilities despite her female gender identity, relocated after receiving threats, denied medically necessary health care, and subjected to pronounced, near-daily verbal harassment.

Originally given an 11-year sentence for a conviction of nonviolent burglary and theft, Diamond explains that her parole could last eight years. Her hometown of Rome is the largest town on the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. But, she explains:

"It's still a small town in the Deep South, a former cotton-port town that has never been right to black or trans people or anybody different. Being raised in the Deep South, I have enough experience with prejudice to know that it still exists. Rome feels a long way from Atlanta. If you can't make it to a big city, then you're spinning your wheels here, and trying to make an income is hard so you get into trouble just to try to make it, and now I am back here on parole."

Diamond's experience of feeling trapped in a small town in the Deep South resembles that of Alena Bradford, another low-to-no income black trans woman whose story of living in Albany, Ga., gained attention following a July 24 article in U.K. newspaper *The Guardian*. Transgender people, be they incarcerated or not, face profound obstacles in Southern states, where there are still few laws that protect them from discrimination in housing and employment, few statutes to address hate crimes, and few avenues to obtain affirming, competent health care, as the Human Rights Campaign's interactive *Maps of State Laws and Policies* makes clear.

Speaking to *The Advocate*, Diamond details the excruciating, multifaceted harm she experienced while continually denied hormone therapy, which she had been on for nearly two decades before she was incarcerated:

"When they denied me [hormone therapy] I felt more than anxiety attacks. I felt physical pain, pain from watching your body morph, withdrawing, and those are medical problems. There were times I felt like I would die, when guards dragged me on pavement to solitary [confinement]."

And Diamond's struggle for humane, adequate care isn't unique to trans women housed in Georgia's correctional system. *The Advocate* continues to follow the case of Ky Peterson, a black trans man from rural Americus, Ga., who is serving a questionably timed sentence for killing his rapist, has been repeatedly denied access to his own medically necessary transition-related care, and was often placed in solitary confinement.

Diamond's early release marked a breakthrough in her struggle against the Georgia Department of Corrections, prison reform advocates noted. Although her claims of discrimination and violations of her Eighth Amendment rights got a helping hand from the Department of Justice in April when the federal agency issued a statement supporting her claims, her early release was nearly unprecedented.

"According to Georgia's State Board of Pardons and Paroles, it is rare for inmates to actually be granted parole at their initial eligibility date, and even less common for inmates to be released early, as is the case with Ms. Diamond, who was released several months before her initial eligibility date in November 2015," explains Chinyere Ezie, an SPLC staff attorney who is representing Diamond. "This date changed inexplicably to July earlier this month."

When asked if Diamond's early parole might be considered a tacit acknowledgment by the Georgia Department of Corrections that it cannot adequately and safely house trans inmates, Ezie is straightforward.

"Although the department has made statements to the contrary, that is precisely what we believe," Ezie says in an email exchange with *The Advocate*. "It hardly seems like a coincidence that Ashley's release came days after we filed papers with the court highlighting the Georgia Department of Corrections' continued failings and unwillingness to provide Ashley and other transgender inmates safe and appropriate housing or adequate medical care, as the Constitution requires."

Now, Ezie expects to take full advantage of Judge Treadwell's rejection of the state's attempt to dismiss Diamond's case, pressing on with the lawsuit vigorously. "SPLC's advocacy on behalf of Ashley Diamond and transgender inmates like her is far from over," Ezie promises *The Advocate*. "Our lawsuit against the Georgia Department of Corrections is still ongoing, and we are monitoring the experiences of other transgender inmates currently incarcerated in Georgia, who woefully remain without care. Because the abuses we are seeing are pursuant to patterns or practices within the department, we have not ruled out seeking further intervention — both from the court and the Department of Justice."

For her part, even while her movement is limited in her small Georgia hometown, Diamond is clear about her mission. "Why is this lawsuit important?" she asks rhetorically. "So what happened to me never happens again."

Fitness Corner

By Ron Blake

Certified Personal Trainer



HOLIDAYS ARE KIDS PLAY

The holidays are a great time to experience for anyone. Now imagine once again seeing this wonderful time of the year through the eyes of a kid.

It's so amazing to just let everything go for the moment and feel the honesty and simplicity that children have inside them. Your gift from me this magical season is to embrace the unique wellness and happiness as written by an eight year old boy. I am today that eight year old boy.

Santa is big and red and happy. He makes me feel happy. He is coming to give me presents. I have to be good or I will not get presents. I have tried to be good this year. My brother has not been so good this year. I will give him one of my presents if Santa does not give him one. Santa comes down the chimney. We do not have a chimney. My dad says he has a key and can come in the door. I am excited.

Rudolph is a reindeer. He has a shiny red nose. He is a magic reindeer. He can fly. Other reindeer did not like him. They laughed at him because he is different. It is OK to be different. Santa needed Rudolph. There was fog and Santa could not see. The red nose of Rudolph helped Santa see and fly his sleigh. Santa was able to give presents. Rudolph is different and he is a hero. I like him. He is cool.

The Grinch was mean. He was mean to his dog. He was mean to people in his city. He took all the presents from people. He started to be nice to people. No one wants to be with a mean person. People like to be with a nice person. The Grinch gave all the presents back to the boys and girls. He liked to be nice now. It made his heart feel happy. I want my heart to feel happy too. I will be nice.

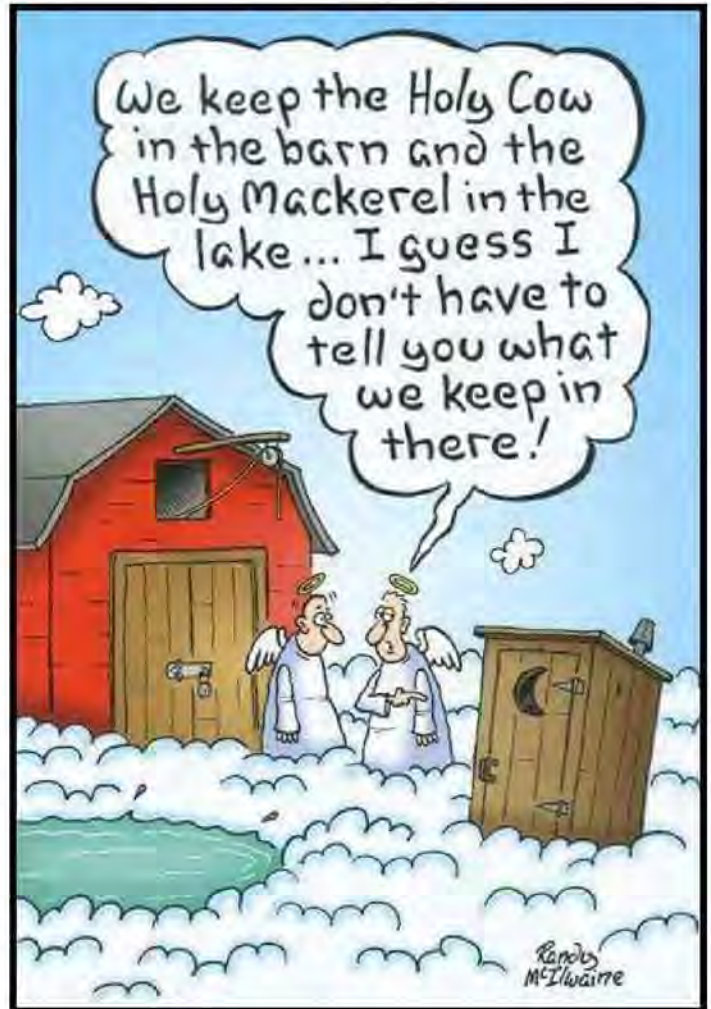
Frosty is a snowman. He is my best friend. He likes to have fun. He has a big smile. He dances and sings. He likes to play in the snow. I like the snow. I like to play in the snow. My mom says I have to wear my hat and gloves out in the snow. Frosty wears a hat. He cannot sleep in my house. He will melt. He sits outside my bedroom window at night. Frosty makes me happy.

Jack Frost makes winter. He makes the ice. I like ice. I go skating and play hockey. He makes snow. I sled on the snow with my friends. We make snow angels. We roll in the snow. It is soft and fluffy. Jack Frost makes it cold. Some days it is very cold. I drink hot chocolate to get warm. I put marshmallows in it. It tastes good. I like Jack Frost.

It can always snow inside the mind of an eight year old. But it's never cold. It's warm and inviting. Everyone is welcome to have a good time and play. There are no limits to what can hap-

pen on any given day. It is magical and full of happiness and wellness. Here's to your holiday season being just that simple... and just that much healthy fun!

This wellness article is brought to you by that guy with a sleigh full of cheer and goodwill. That guy with a candy cane personality is Blake and he can be found hangin' with the elves at rblake5551@hotmail.com.



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