# The GayZette



# Dave Matthews Band to Donate Proceeds of N.C. Show to LGBT Organizations

BY YEZMIN VILLARREAL

The Dave Matthews
Band will not be canceling its concert set for Friday in Charlotte,
N.C., but will be donating part of the proceeds to LGBT-supportive organizations



to protest House Bill 2.

In a statement posted to their website on Tuesday, band members announced that they worked with NC Needs You, an organization that encourages artists to donate show proceeds to local organizations instead of boycotting the state because of HB 2, to locate groups that could benefit from the concert.

HB 2 prohibits transgender people from using public restrooms or locker rooms (in government buildings) that match their gender identity. HB 2, introduced and signed into law in less than 12 hours during a special legislative session on March 23, also rescinds all existing LGBT-inclusive nondiscrimination ordinances, prohibits new ones, bars residents from suing for discrimination in state court, and bars cities from setting a minimum wage higher than the state's.

The rock group will be donating a portion of its proceeds from the show to local and national organizations: the American Civil Liberties Union, Lambda Legal, ACLU of North Carolina, Equality North Carolina, and Time Out Youth.

The San Francisco 49ers called for a repeal of HB 2 earlier today. HB 2 has created a loss in business for the state, and the federal government recently filed a lawsuit against the state because the measure discriminates against LGBT people. Entertainers such as Bruce Springsteen, Ringo Starr, and Demi Lovato have canceled shows in North Carolina to protest the anti-LGBT law.

## Last Ban on Gay, Bi Blood Donors Falls in U.K.

By Neal Boverman

Nearly five years after England, Scotland, and Wales lifted their lifetime ban on gay and bisexual men donating blood, the British region of Northern Ireland has followed suit.

The new policy ditches the lifetime ban on gay and bi men in exchange for a "deferral" system, which permits blood donations from men who haven't had gay sex in a year or longer.

The new policy, now in line with the rest of the United Kingdom, takes effect September 1, the BBC reports. Some British leaders want to scrap the entire deferral system for gay and bi men.

Like many Western municipalities, Northern Ireland banned blood donations from men in the early 1980s as the AIDS crisis was exploding.

The United States ended their 32-year-old ban on gay and bi men donating blood in December, but maintain a similar oneyear abstinence requirement like the U.K. The Food and Drug Administration's policy on transgender donors remains backwards, with transgender women still grouped with gay men.

## **Egypt Doctor Jailed for Gay Sex**

by Darren Wee

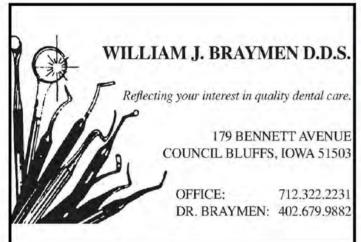
The man, who has not been named, was sentenced to one year in prison with labor by a Cairo court on the accusation of 'practicing homosexual activity,' reported local newspaper Youm7.

Homosexuality is not specifically outlawed in Egypt, but gay men are often charged under vague public morality laws with punishments of up to 17 years imprisonment with or without hard labor.

At least 150 LGBTI people have been arrested in the Muslimmajority country since the military government took power in 2013, and there have been reports of police 'hunting' gay men on hookup apps such as Grindr.

June 10th, 2016 - June 24th, 2016









# River City Mixed Chorus presents: "On With the Show"

Omaha, Neb.- The River City Mixed Chorus will present "On With the Show," a concert featuring modern pop and Broadway hits on Saturday, June 18, 7 p.m. at the Holland Performing Arts Center. This is the chorus's second performance at the center, following their successful debut there in 2015.

The concert will be a celebration of perseverance in spite of setbacks and challenges, according to Dr. Barron Breland, RCMC artistic director.

"As performers, we know that sometimes things go wrong," he

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said. "The spirit that the show must go on regardless is a parallel to the same resiliency in the movement for equality and social justice.

Whenever we get knocked down or encounter setbacks in our quest for a better community or in our own personal journey. we must pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and keep pressing forward. What hope there is in knowing that we have these reserves of determination and toughness within us!"

Songs include the upbeat "Come So Far (Got So Far To Go)" from "Hairspray," the inspirational "The Impossible Dream" from "The Man of LaMancha," and the unfaltering "You Haven't Seen the Last of Me" from "Burlesque," plus a dozen other pop and Broadway hits.

The River City Mixed Chorus is in its 32st season and includes nearly 100 singers. RCMC is one of the longest-running gay. lesbian, bisexual, transgender and ally (GLBTA) mixed choruses in the United States.

In July, the chorus will participate in the GALA (Gay and Lesbian Association) Festival in Denver with thousands of singers from across the United States and around the world.

Reserved seating starts at \$25 and can be purchased through TicketOmaha.com or by calling the Ticket Omaha box office at 402-345-0606.

For more information about the River City Mixed Chorus, including future performances, visit www.RCMC.org.

# No Matter What Happens Next, **Supreme Court Set for Major** Trans Ruling

By Sunnivie Brydum

Amid a nationwide debate about which bathroom transgender people should be allowed to use, a school board in Virginia is planning to ask the U.S. Supreme Court to settle the issue once and for all. And no matter what the court does - even if it takes no action — the case will have sweeping implications.

Last month, the U.S. District Court for the Fourth Circuit declined to reconsider its own ruling in favor of Gavin Grimm, a 16-year-old high school junior who was abruptly barred from using the boy's bathroom at his Virginia school. Although Grimm had been using the facilities



that matched his gender identity for some time without incident (with the support of school faculty and classmates), the Gloucester County School Board barred him from the boy's bathroom and locker room, segregating him to a separate, unisex bathroom. A federal district judge originally ruled in favor of the school district's policy, which claims to regulate bathroom access according to "biological sex," but that decision was overturned on appeal.

Now, as anticipated, the school board formally disclosed its plan to take its defense of the discriminatory policy all the way to the Supreme Court.

BuzzFeed News legal editor Chris Geidner reports that the Gloucester County School Board filed notice today of its intention to seek a review by the nation's high court. He also notes that, due to the court's scheduled summer recess, the earliest the case could be heard would be late this year or early next year.

The case has already reached landmark status — which is sure to be solidified, no matter how the court responds to this latest petition. If the court declines to grant the case a writ of certiorari, the lower court's ruling will be cited by lawyers and judges as the defining precedent for the entire Fourth Circuit. which includes Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Maryland.

When the Fourth Circuit found in Grimm's favor last April, it marked the first time a federal appeals court had affirmed that Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, extends to discrimination on the basis of gender identity, as well. Throughout the course of litigation, both the Department of Justice and Department of Education clarified their legal interpretations of the trans-inclusive nature of existing civil rights law, and the DOJ directly filed a "friend of the court" brief on Grimm's behalf.

(Continued on page 4)





If the Supreme Court decides to hear the case, then any decision will set a nationwide precedent — and could settle the question of whether Title IX does indeed protect trans students, as the Obama administration has argued.

If the court were to hear the case with its current composition of just eight justices, any multiple of outcomes could be reached. In the event of a 4-4 tie, the lower court's ruling would stand — creating essentially the same result as if the court denies review outright. Of course, a majority decision — either in favor of or against the civil rights of Grimm and, by extension, all transgender students — would have a ripple effect nationwide. Such a decision would set the tone for Title IX battles for decades.

Regardless of which path the Supreme Court takes, the fact that this case is headed to the highest legal arena in the country is history-making in itself. The case marks the first time the Supreme Court has been asked to contend directly with the rights and privileges afforded to transgender students, and may be the first time the high court has ever considered a case explicitly dealing with transgender rights and an out transgender plaintiff.



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### Safer-Sex Without a Condom

OK, guys, the truth is out. We're not using condoms. A recent report indicates that gay and bisexual men have been having more and more condomless sex since 2008. By 2014, over 40 percent of both HIV-negative and HIV-positive gay and bi men reported having sex without condoms. Clearly, it's time to admit that the condom-only focus isn't working.

Sure condoms are still an excellent way to practice safer sex. When worn correctly, a condom is extremely effective in preventing the transmission of HIV. For gay men, the consistent use of condoms is 76 percent effective in preventing new HIV infections during anal sex. But that cavet says it all, "consistent use" is essential for condoms to prevent HIV (unless combined with other prevention methods like PrEP).

How long are we going to deny that we're having sex without condoms? How long are we going to pretend that the only guys who go bareback are sluts, party boys, or young men who don't care about their sexual health?

Researchers found that the condom decline wasn't reflective of increases in other, non-condom-based prevention strategies like PrEP or serosorting. For the most part, we aren't replacing condoms with other HIV-preventative alternatives.

So let's look at the options that are available for condomless safer sex.

Being Healthy

What does being healthy have to do with safer sex? A lot. We're not talking about whether you or your partner have HIV, we're talking about your overall physical and mental health. Numerous studies have shown that those dealing with mental health issues like anxiety or depression have greater risk of becoming HIV-positive. Using substances — from alcohol to injection drugs — or having an active sexually transmitted infection can also raise your risks. If you want to have safer sex without a condom, it starts with you and your partner being healthy.

**Getting Tested** 

Getting tested and knowing your status is another element that's critical to having safer sex without a condom. Face it, without knowing your status you don't know how to protect yourself or your partner. You can't start HIV treatment without knowing your status, you can't get on PrEP without an HIV test, and even avoiding sexual partners of another status requires you know your own. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people at high risk for HIV infection (including gay and bi men and transgender women) be screened for HIV at least annually. But the virus can be present for up to three months before it's detectable in a blood test; so to really be certain of your HIV status, you need to test more frequently.

Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)

Getting a prescription for pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP, isn't as easy as buying condoms. But if you weren't going to use one anyway, the one-a-day HIV prevention pill is a great way to play safe, regardless of what your partner's status is. PrEP requires you (or your partner if you're a magnetic couple) to take responsibility for your sexual health, a step with its own advantages. Plus, taken correctly, PrEP has been proven more



effective than committed condom use. In studies of couples where one is HIV-positive and one is not, PrEP has reduced the risk of HIV transmission by 99 percent, when taken daily by the HIV-negative partner. Even if someone misses a dose, PrEP's efficacy remains high. The key difference between PrEP and condoms is timing: PrEP is taken daily, with your morning breakfast or right before bedtime. Although it directly impacts sexual health, taking PrEP is separate from the sexual experience (unlike condoms) because you aren't fumbling for a pill at the height of passion.

#### Treatment as Prevention (TasP)

Treatment as prevention, or TasP, is the best safer sex method for people living with HIV. It takes advantage of the fact that reducing your viral load decreases a poz person's chances of transmitting HIV. When the virus has been controlled and is no longer detectable in a blood test, you have very little chance of transmitting HIV, even without using a condom. There are numerous reasons for you to get on treatment early and stay compliant with your medication; like that little benefit of keeping you alive and healthy. Being healthy enough for sex is a great side effect, but adherence to your antiretroviral meds also has an HIV-prevention bonus for your dating life. When you achieve an undetectable viral load through treatment - which, for many people, is just one pill a day now — you reduce your risk of transmitting the virus by 96 percent. But don't let that four percent risk trip you up. To date, in multiple studies, there has never been a confirmed case of someone with an undetectable viral load transmitting HIV.

**Being Honest** 

Out of all of the tools in the safer-sex toolbox, honesty is the most effective when it comes to preventing HIV. Whether it is being honest with yourself or with your sexual partners, telling the truth about your HIV status, the date of your last HIV test, or your desire to stay HIV-negative or keep your partner from contracting the virus; honesty can have up to a 100 percent efficacy ratio when used correctly. Honesty is also an essential component to intimacy. So share how you really feel, say no when you want to, and share what turns you on. It doesn't matter whether you are a top or a bottom, HIV-positive or HIV-negative, using honesty will allow you to combine other methods of prevention to ensure your safety without taking away from your ability to have a good time in the sack.

[Editor's note: In the name of honesty, we should add that most

of these safer sex options won't prevent other STIs like condoms would.)

Sero-Sorting

Serosorting is the act of choosing your sexual partners based on their HIV-status, and many experts say it's an outdated, antiquated, and ineffective way to prevent HIV. A study presented at the 2012 Conference of Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections found that restricting sex to partners who think they are HIV-negative isn't an effective prevention strategy, because many people just assume that they are HIV-negative even if they aren't.? The rates of those currently living with HIV who are unaware of their status is going down, but at least 13 percent of poz people don't know it still. Dating only other people with the same HIV status may be a safer sex option, but it's one that adds quite a limitation on your own sex — and dating — life.

Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)

Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) is a multidose pill that's given after potential exposure to HIV through sex or occupational means. PEP should absolutely not be used as your first line of defense in preventing HIV — it's the female equivalent of taking Plan B after every sexual encounter instead of just getting on regular birth control — but it is a good secondary option if you or your partner may have been exposed to HIV unexpectedly (for example, if the condom you were using broke, one of you is poz and the other isn't on PrEP, you're an injection drug user, or someone with HIV isn't virally suppressed). You have up to 72 hours after possible exposure to get on PEP (which requires a prescription), but it's ideal to start the regimen within 24 hours of possible exposure.

The treatment consists of a 28-day course of antiretroviral medication, administered by a doctor or medical facility (most emergency rooms are outfitted with it as well). PEP has a reported efficacy rate of reducing HIV transmission by 83 percent. PEP can come with some unpleasant, but temporary, side effects such as vomiting, nausea, and fatigue. Still, PEP is an excellent option if sex or injection drug use has potentially exposed you to HIV. ?

# Dolly Parton's Trans-Supportive Message: Be Who You Are, Pee Where You Need

By Trudy Ring

Although Dolly Parton, unlike some other performers, didn't cancel her North Carolina show over the state's anti-LGBT House Bill 2, the longtime LGBT ally is still on our side.

"I think everybody should be treated with respect," Parton said in a video posted on CNN Money's Facebook page Friday. "I

don't judge people. I try not to get too caught up in the controversy of things. I hope that everybody gets a chance to be who

and what they are. I just know if I have to pee, I'm going to pee, I don't care where it's going to be."

Parton performed in Greensboro Friday night, kicking off her Pure & Simple tour. Several other music stars, including Bruce Springsteen and Ringo Starr, canceled concerts in the state after the passage of HB 2, which among other things bars transgender people from using the public restrooms and locker rooms that comport with their gender identity, when those are located in government or public school buildings. It also negates LGBT-inclusive municipal nondiscrimination ordinances in the state and prevents the enactment of others.

Parton, by the way, wrote and performed the song "Travelin' Thru" for the 2005 movie Transamerica, which starred Felicity Huffman as a transgender woman meeting up with the son she never knew. The tune brought Parton an Oscar nomination for Best Original Song.

# James Dobson: Be a Man, Shoot a Trans Woman in the Bathroom

By Trudy Ring

James Dobson, a conservative Christian leader who helped found two anti-LGBT groups, has a suggestion for those who object to transgender women's presence in women's restrooms: Shoot them.

"If you are a married man with any gumption, surely you will defend your wife's privacy and security in restroom facilities," Dobson writes in a column published this week on the farright site WND. He imagines such scenarios as "a strangelooking man, dressed like a



woman ... peering over toilet cubicles to watch your wife in a private moment" and "men who walk in unannounced, unzip their pants and urinate in front of [little girls]."

"If this had happened 100 years ago, someone might have been shot," he continues. "Where is today's manhood? God help us!"

The lewd behaviors Dobson describes are certainly not associated with transgender women, and they would be a crime no matter what any law says about restroom access for trans people. And he appears to be encouraging, or at least condoning, violence against trans people — trans women, in particular; his column says almost nothing about trans men.

"It is not clear if Dobson is aware that he is using the language of protecting a woman's honor by killing those who might violate it, but his language is reminiscent of the ways that mobs were whipped up to hang black men and boys for perceived slights to white women," Lorraine Berry writes at Raw Story. And The New Civil Rights Movement's David Badash notes, "It's really not much of a stretch to say Dobson is telegraphing

a call to violent action to those who read between the lines."

The fears expressed by Dobson — and other right-wingers who suggest taking up arms against restroom "predators" — are wholly unfounded. In the more than 200 localities across the country that allow trans folks to use the bathroom that most closely corresponds with their gender identity, there's never been a single case of a transgender person attacking someone else. There have also been no reports of a cisgender person pretending to be trans to enter the bathroom of the opposite sex. Similarly, law enforcement officials nationwide have rejected the claim that trans-inclusive policies lead to an uptick in harassment against women.

Here's the truth: Trans people are generally at much greater risk of harassment and violence in sex-segregated spaces than their cisgender (nontrans) peers, and that risk increases markedly when trans people are forced to use restrooms that do not match their gender identity.

Dobson also decries the Obama administration's recent recommendation that public schools allow trans students to use the restrooms, locker rooms, and so forth that match their gender identity. He calls Barack Obama "a tyrant" and "one of the worst presidents in American history," adding, "He is determined to change the way males and females relate to one another."

Dobson's view of how men and women should relate to each other is a patriarchal one, with rigid gender roles — man as protector, woman in need of protection. And the idea of being anything other than heterosexual or cisgender is anathema to him.

These views are reflected in the organizations Dobson had a hand in founding. Focus on the Family and the Family Research Council. Both are mainstays of the Christian right, and the latter is classified as a hate group by the progressive Southern Poverty Law Center because of the damaging lies it spreads about LGBT people (Focus, while still anti-LGBT, has moderated its rhetoric somewhat, according to the SPLC). Dobson also supported the famously antigay Sen. Ted Cruz in his ultimately unsuccessful run for the Republican presidential nomination.

In the column, Dobson urges parents to "shield [children] from gender feminism and from those who would confuse their sexuality" and closes by saying, "We must fight to protect our homes and families from politically correct politicians who would create new entitlements that take away our liberties. There is no time to lose, Our children hang in the balance."

# George Takei Says 'You Can Pee Next to Me'

By Sunnivie Brydum

Out actor George Takei is taking on North Carolina's anti-LGBT law known as House Bill 2 by releasing a T-shirt that takes aim at the transphobic "bathroom bill," which (among other injustices) bars trans residents from using the bathroom that corresponds with their gender identity in public schools and government buildings.

In a Facebook Live video, the actor best known for playing Hikaru Sulu interviews two transgender people — a woman who identifies herself as Dana, and a man who identifies himself as Lane.

Wearing a black T-shirt that says "You Can Pee Next to Me," Takei interviews Dana and Lane about their child-



hoods, how they came out to their families, and what their dayto-day existence looks like now that they're able to live authentically.

Even in kindergarten, Dana says, she was already aware that she was "different," and had been ostracized by her peers. The Long Island native shared a story of when her parents wouldn't allow her to dress as Pocahontas for Halloween, though she eventually convinced them to let her dress up as the famed Native American's father, which meant she could still wear the long wig she had hoped to.

"It was less about shaming my gender identity at that age, and it was more about concerns that I would be bullied, or targeted," Dana says. "Which I already was, a target for both."

Dana says she came out as gay at age 11, because she knew she was attracted to boys, and she "just assumed all gay men wanted to be women." She eventually came out as trans to her parents, who struggled to accept her at first but are now proud parents of a transgender daughter, she says.

Lane echoes Dana's sentiment of feeling "different" from an early age in his small hometown in Connecticut.

"But I was always so strange that I didn't necessarily understand that it was about gender," Lane says. "I knew that I didn't fit in with the girls, but I also didn't really fit in with the boys."

Lane relates a story from his preschool days, when the Italian Catholic nuns at his school asked him what he wanted to be when he grew up.

"I said [I wanted to be] a fireman with a brown mustache," Lane recalls. "And they all laughed hysterically. ... Because here was this little girl, with this long hair and a dress, saying she wanted a mustache."

Noting that he had long been a "tomboy," Lane says his parents were unfazed when he initially came out as a lesbian in eighth grade. His peers, however, were intent on making him a "spectacle," and he was severely bullied. He didn't tell his parents about the harassment he endured at school until years later.

"I thought I could put off transitioning until after college," Lane says. "Which is laughable, because here I was at 16 like, no, I've got to do it now."

About a year later, Lane came out to his parents as trans, expecting a warm reception, similar to when he came out as a lesbian. But that wasn't the case.

"It did not go well," Lane says. "It was really hard for a while there. ... They had trouble understanding it and thought it was a phase or that I wasn't sure, but their biggest concern was that I was going to be a target, and that I would be bullied, and that I would never find anybody who would love me for who I was, that it would affect my career."

Lane has since been volunteering at LGBT and HIV service organizations, and he hopes to go on to be a "professional queer," ultimately becoming a licensed clinical social worker and gender therapist who works to support trans youth.

Takei closes the video with a brief summary of the North Carolina law, explaining that "the issue was manufactured by right-wing politicians.

Takei is no stranger to calling attention to issues of LGBT equality through social media — often doing so with puns, quips, and his trademark catchphrase, "Oh my!" In February he posted a parody video aimed at the anti-LGBT Westboro Baptist Church that channeled the hit song "Let It Go" from Disney's animated blockbuster Frozen. He's also responsible for pun-filled statements of affirmation that have been floating around the internet since at least 2014, declaring "It's OK to be Takei."

The shirt Takei wears in the video can be purchased through Omaze for \$25, and sales benefit LGBT organization Equality North Carolina.



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# House Passes Defense Bill Allowing Discrimination Against LGBT Workers

BY ELIZABETH DALEY

The U.S. House of Representatives passed a billion defense bill which allows government contractors to discriminate against LGBT workers on religious grounds, overturning an executive order issued by President Obama in 2014 that protects LGBT people from discrimination in the workplace.

House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer stated that he voted against the defense bill because it allows discrimination against LGBT Americans and women, who would not be required to register for selective service under the bill. "We shouldn't allow taxpayer-funded contractors to dismiss employees simply because of sexual orientation or gender identity, and we shouldn't denigrate the service and contributions women make to our national defense," said the Democratic congressman in a statement.



The amendment, introduced by Rep. Steve Russell in April, could be compared to

the "religious freedom" laws that caused outrage in Indiana, Arizona, Georgia and elsewhere. In this case, it would limit the federal government to protecting only those groups now named in the Civil Rights

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MAMBO	TWO STEP					
MAZURKA	WALTZ					
MODERN	WAVE					

Can you find all of the words?

Answer key on Page 15

Act of 1964 and the American with Disabilities act, reports the Washington Blade. Neither of those laws protect LGBT people from discrimination, therefore Russell's amendment would allow religious organizations doing business with the U.S. government to fire or punish any employee based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.

The LGBT advocacy group Human Rights Campaign condemned the legislation, calling it "taxpayer funded discrimination."

"The anti-LGBT provision, offered as an amendment by Rep. Steve Russell in the House Armed Services Committee, would allow, under the guise of religious liberty, sweeping anti-LGBT discrimination in all federal agencies, not just the Department of Defense," stated the HRC on its website. "The provision jeopardizes President Obama's executive order prohibiting LGBT discrimination in federal contracting, and could have far-reaching consequences, potentially even undermining existing federal nondiscrimination provisions protecting workers against discrimination on the basis of race, religion, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and more."

However, in order for the bill to become law it needs to be approved by the Senate and then signed by President Obama. The Obama administration issued a 17-page document explaining the many reasons the president would veto the bill in its current state.

Among a laundry list of reasons, the administration said the bill makes it "easier to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation," and that has "nothing to do with national defense."

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# Life Beyond Therapy

#### By Michael Kimmel

Visit Michael's website: www.lifebeyondtherapy.com

### Go to the Mirror

Mirror work is something I first tried about 30 years' ago. I went to a workshop in West Hollywood where author/teacher Louise Hay encouraged people to talk to themselves in the mirror. I thought it was pretty weird and resisted it, at first, But today I frequently use it



in my counseling practice and in my personal life.

For many of us, looking at ourselves in the mirror isn't easy. We often start – automatically – to criticize ourselves: "Oh, I look bad today", "My hair looks awful" or "Boy, I sure am fat, aren't I?"

This is the kind of stuff that encourages us NOT to look in a mirror: who wants to criticize themselves over-and-over again? (Only masochists, and I hope that doesn't describe you).

Why would you look in the mirror and talk to yourself? Because it's one of the best ways I know to help yourself through a bad time and to "be your own therapist". There is something about looking in your own eyes that is very powerful. Perhaps, it's because when we gaze (not stare) at ourselves in the mirror, we cannot avoid dealing with whatever it is that's bothering us.

I've had clients who start crying when they begin to do what I call "mirror work". Many of us are afraid to take a good look at ourselves: we try to avoid it. We're afraid we're going to see some really awful, ugly person meeting our gaze. As a result, we can get very out-of-touch with what we feel and want.

Then we wonder why we're so unhappy.

Mirror work isn't a miracle panacea; but it CAN be very helpful if we're feeling stuck or unhappy and want to get out of it and feel better.

Mirror work helps us not only to SEE ourselves, but to LISTEN to ourselves. Many of us avoid listening to ourselves, thinking that we'll be happier if we don't. It doesn't work. Ignoring how we feel is very unwise. Sure, we don't need to pay attention to every little thing, but, ignoring stuff that continues to bother us just insures that we stay stuck in it.

When should I do "mirror work"? you may ask. Well, it can be really helpful in situations like this:

When things are bad, you could gently make eye contact with yourself in the mirror and say:

- "How can I help you feel better today?"
- "What can I do today to enjoy my life more?"
- "What can I do about (name your problem)?"

When times are good, you can go to the mirror and say:

- "Thank you for this great life/job/car/partner."
- "I am so grateful for my health/house/friends."

When you're having a hard time talking to someone: talk to them in the mirror, as practice:

"I would like us to have sex more often." (said to your girl-friend/boyfriend/whomever).

"I deserve a raise because ——." (said to your boss)

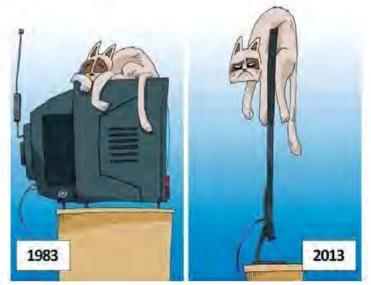
"Mom, I need you to stop calling/texting me so much."

Mirror work doesn't take long. If you have a minute, that's enough. If you have more time and find yourself crying or angry, give yourself as much time as you need to get to the bottom of your emotions. If you're crying, ask the man/woman in the mirror; "Why are you so sad?" and then listen for the answer. You'll get one, and it may not be what you expect.

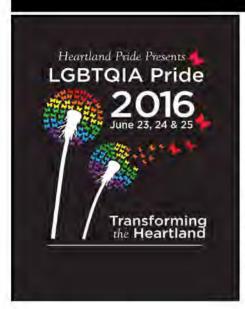
Mirror work "works" because it forces us to really look at and listen to ourselves. It's often hard because what we see and hear is painful. The potential benefits of this kind of work are great: we have a chance to slow down and pay attention to ourselves at a level that we rarely do in this rush-rush, crazy deadline world.

That's why I do it myself and use it with many of my clients.

(I'd like to thank Louise Hay for starting me on this path way back in 1988. She is a VERY wise woman and I have learned a lot from her in the last twenty-eight years. She currently lives in Bankers Hill, and is one of the happiest 89-year-old people I know.)



# **GAYZETTE EVENTS**



### **WEEKLY EVENTS**

Every Sunday
WORSHIP SERVICES:
AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH,
ELCA, 3647 Lafayette Ave., Omaha GLBT
friendly, www.augustanalutheran.com

<u>DIETZ METHODIST</u> 1423 S.10, Coffeehouse 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 ANONY-MOUS 4pm , Augustana Lutheran Church 3647 Lafayette Ave., Info call Mark 639-3055HASTINGS COLLEGE GSA 8PM FFI: Judy Sandeen (402) 461-7372

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

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

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

RIVER CITY MIXED BOWLING

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

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

Every Wednesday

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

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

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

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

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

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

UNITY CHURCH OF OMAHA, 7pm

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

**Every Friday** 

EIVE & 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 Sun day of each month, 10am-11:30am, LGBTQIA Friendly, 1021 N 46th Street, Omaha, NE 68132, call 402-558-6148

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

#### 2nd Monday NAP HIV TESTING

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

2<sup>nd</sup> 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, Countryside Community Church, 8787 Pacific Street *Omaha*, *Nebraska* 

2<sup>nd</sup> 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

#### The Headache

The doctor said, 'Joe, the good news is I can cure your headaches. The bad news is that it will require castration. You have a very rare condition which causes your testicles to press on your spine, and the pressure creates one hell of a headache. The only way to relieve the pressure is to remove the testicles.'

Joe was shocked and depressed. He wondered if he had anything to live for. He had no choice but to go under the knife. When he left the hospital, he was without a headache for the first time in 20 years, but he felt like he was missing an important part of himself.

As he walked down the street, he realized that he felt like a different person. He could make a new beginning and live a new life. He saw a men's clothing store and thought, 'That's what I need... a new suit.' He entered the shop and told the salesman, 'I'd like a new suit.'

The elderly tailor eyed him briefly and said, 'Let's see...size 44 long.'

Joe laughed, 'That's right, how did you know?'

'Been in the business 60 years!' the tailor said.

Joe tried on the suit; it fit perfectly. As Joe admired himself in the mirror, the salesman asked, 'How about a new shirt?'

Joe thought for a moment and then said, 'Sure.'

The salesman eyed Joe and said, 'Let's see, 34 sleeves and 16-1/2 neck.'

Joe was surprised, 'That's right, how did you know?'

'Been in the business 60 years.'

Joe tried on the shirt, and it fit perfectly. Joe walked comfortably around the shop, and the salesman asked, 'How about some new underwear?'

Joe thought for a moment and said, 'Sure.'

The salesman said, 'Let's see...size 36.'

Joe laughed, 'Ah ha! I got you, I've worn a size 34 since I was 18 years old.'

The salesman shook his head, 'You can't wear a size 34. A size 34 would press your testicles up against the base of your spine and give you one hell of a headache'

New suit - \$400

New shirt - \$36

New underwear - \$6

Second opinion - PRICELESS

#### MY FIRST CONDOM

I recall my first time with a condom, I was just 18. I went in to buy a packet of condoms at the pharmacy. There was this beautiful woman assistant behind the counter, and she could see that I was new at it

She handed me the package and asked if I knew how to wear one. I honestly answered, 'No, this is my first time.' So she unwrapped the package, took one out and slipped it over her thumb. She cautioned me to m ake sure it was on tight and secure. I apparently still looked confused. So she looked all around the store to see if it was empty.

'Just a minute,' she said, and walked to the door, and locked it.

Taking my hand, she led me into the back room, unbuttoned her blouse and removed it. She unhooked her bra and laid it aside. 'Do these excite you?' She asked. Well, I was so dumb-struck that all I could do was nod my head. She then said it was time to slip the condom on.

As I was slipping it on, she dropped her skirt, removed her panties and lay down on a desk. 'Well, come on', she said, 'We don't have much time.'

So I climbed on her.. It was so wonderful, that unfortunately, I could no longer hold back and KAPOW, I was done within a few minutes.

She looked at me with a bit of a frown. 'Did you put that condom on?' she asked.

I said, 'I sure did,' and held up my thumb to show her.

She fainted.

#### THE THREE LITTLE PIGS

This is a true story, proving how fascinating the mind of a six year old is. They think so logically.

A teacher was reading the story of the Three Little Pigs to her class. She came to the part of the story where first pig was trying to gather the building materials for his home. She read ... 'and so the pig went up to the man with the wheelbarrow full of straw and said: 'Pardon me sir, but may I have some of that straw to build my house?'

The teacher paused then asked the class: 'And what do you think the man said?'

One little boy raised his hand and said very matter-of-factly ...'I think the man would have said - 'Well, f\*ck me!! A talking pig!'

The teacher was unable to teach for the next 10 minutes.

# **GLBT RESOURCE LIST**

### **OMAHA BASED**

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

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

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

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.firstuuomaha.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.

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

Nebraska Equality.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 / Nontraditional 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 Temple Israel Synagogue, 13111 Sterling Ridge Drive., 402-556-6536, member of the Union for Reform Judaism. GLBT

St., Omaha, www.2uomaha.org, 402-334-

0537, LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation

SNAP Productions, Box 8464, Omaha, NE

68108 www.snapproductions.com

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.) and Y.E.S. Drop-in Center

Offices: 2679 Farnam Street, Suite. 205 Omaha, NE 68131, 402-345-5187, see www.yesomaha.org for information

### LINCOLN BASED

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

LGBTQ and Ally Programs and Services Resource Center, Pat Tetreault, LGBTQ Resource Center Director, http://involved.unl.edu/lgbtqa - 402.472.1752

or 402-472-1652 http://www.unl.edu/health/sexuality

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

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

Nebraska Trans\* Community

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

**OUTLine,** a nonprofit organization that engages in and fosters the well-being and advancement of the LGBT community, www.outline.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

Spiritual Friends of Lincoln.

Offering fellowship and worship for those seeking radical hospitality, openess, 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-glbt.com/

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

Women In Trades/YWCA, 1432 N St., Lincoln 68508: 434-3494, Youth Support Group, (402) 434-9880

Second Unitarian Church, 3012 S 119th

### **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.lowaEquality.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

# **The Hungry Homo**

### The Best French Onion Soup Recipe

What's the difference? A hearty serving of sweet, thinly sliced onions, a rich red wine (optional) and salty broth and fresh baked focaccia bread on top. I love the focaccia bread, since it is denser than crunchy bread, without getting soggy. In my opinion, gruyere cheese is the best pairing for this soup, but if not available, Swiss or mozzarella are also a good choice.

I make this soup in ramekins, but you can also pour the soup onto oven-safe bowls instead. Or you can skip the bread, and simply eat the soup by itself! If you don't want to cook with wine, you can substitute the wine for more beef broth.

What You Need:

For the Soup:

4 large sweet onions

4 tbsp butter

1 tsp salt

1/2 cup red wine

4 cups beef broth

For the Bread:

1 (.25 oz) pack of active dry yeast

1 cup warm water

2 cups flour

2 tbsp olive oil

1 tsp salt

I tsp garlic powder

2 tsp sugar

On top:

Slices of gruyere. Swiss or mozzarella cheese

# 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
Lover Luxuries, 6065 Maple St.

The Max, 1417 Jackson St.

Metropolitan Community Church, 819 South 22nd Street
Mystery Bookstore, 1414 South 13th St.

Nebraska AIDS Project, 250 South 77th St
Omaha Mining Co., 1715 Leavenworth
Rodeo Saloon & BBQ 164 W Broadway

402-408-1020
402-932-3377
402-346-4110
402-342-7343
402-552-9260
402-449-8703
712-256-0510

Would you like to have the Gayzette at your Place of business? Email your request to: Gayzette@cox.net

#### **Bread Preparation:**

Combine yeast and water in a medium-sized bowl and let dissolve for 10 minutes. Add remaining ingredients and mix until incorporated and smooth. Cover bowl with a clean towel and let sit for about 30 minutes, until dough has doubled in size. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

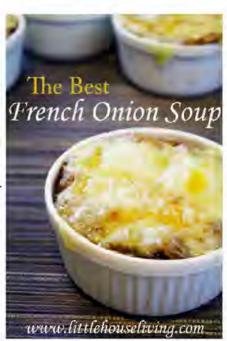
Once dough has risen, turn onto a well floured surface, and roll into a rectangular shape with a rolling pin or a sturdy glass. Place dough on a baking sheet or stone and bake for 20 minutes, or until crust is golden brown. Once baked, cut out circular shaped pieces of bread to fit on top of the ramekin.

#### Soup Preparation:

Slice onions into thin crescent-shaped slices. In a large pan, melt butter over low heat, then add onions and salt, and let caramelize on low, for about 30 minutes. Add wine and broth and cook over medium heat until reduced by a third.

Pour soup into the ramekins, until 2/3rds full. Top with bread, then cheese and bake in preheated oven at 350 for 5-10 minutes, or until cheese has melted.

Enjoy !!!



# Kyle's Bed & Breakfast by Greg Fox



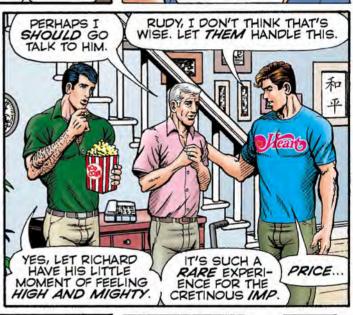






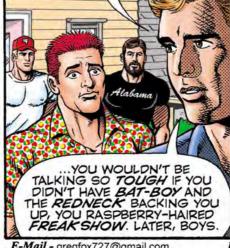




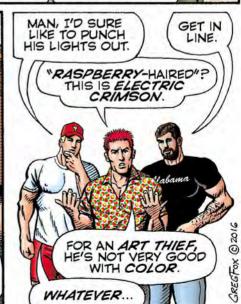




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E-Mail - gregfox727@gmail.com

## A Clinton-Warren ticket gets closer to reality: Progressives just might get their original dream candidate

By Sean Illing

Before Bernie Sanders's launched his political revolution, Elizabeth Warren was the progressive dream candidate. A longtime hero on the left, Warren would



likely have won the Democratic nomination had she pursued it. But she declined to run, clearing a path for Sanders instead. Now that Clinton is the presumptive nominee, the Democrats have a problem: The liberal wing of the party – for very good reasons – isn't sold on Clinton as a credible candidate. Competent? Yes. Qualified? Yes. Progressive? Hardly.

Last month, the Huffington Post's Sam Stein reported that Warren was on the short list of potential VP candidates for Clinton. The Massachusetts senator has made headlines with her spirited attacks on Trump. In March, for instance, she posted a lengthy note on Facebook, calling Trump a "loser" who "kept his father's empire afloat by cheating people with scams like Trump University and by using strategic corporate bankruptcy to skip out on debt."

Warren's jabs caught the attention of the Clinton campaign. According to Stein, "Multiple sources close to the former secretary of state say that her aides took note of the senator's ability to rile the real estate tycoon. And they recognize the value of such dart throwing from, say, someone filling out a presidential ticket."

The Warren speculation was initially muted because it was assumed that nominating her would leave a vacant Senate seat to be filled by a Republican governor. Given the GOP's narrow majority and the potential of down-ballot victories for Democrats this November, losing Warren was a deal-breaker. Indeed, Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid rejected the idea of Clinton choosing a sitting senator as her running mate as recently as two weeks ago: "If we have a Republican governor in any of those states the answer is not only no, but hell no. I would do whatever I can and I think most of my Democratic colleagues here would say the same thing."

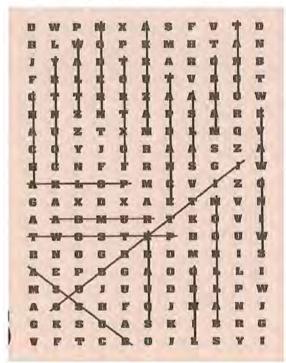
There may be good news for progressives, however. According to The Boston Globe, Reid is exploring ways to fill Warren's Senate seat should she become Clinton's VP pick. Matt Viser writes: "The upshot of Reid's review is that Senate Democrats may have found an avenue to block or at least narrow GOP Governor Charlie Baker's ability to name a temporary replacement and prevent the Senate from flipping to a Democratic majority if Warren were to leave the chamber. That suggests the issue is not a significant an obstacle as Reid previously feared."

Note that even the best-case scenario won't ensure that Democrats keep the seat. Ideally, the law would permit Warren to announce her intention to vacate the seat late enough to allow a special election to be held to replace her, and thus prevent the Republican governor from appointing a temporary replacement. While the Democrats would be favored to retain the seat in that case, there are no guarantees. Still, if true, this certainly mitigates the risks involved.

Although she's remained silent, Warren's public rebukes of Trump suggest she's open to joining the ticket, which would explain why she refused to endorse Sanders despite their obvious ideological kinship. Whether or not a Clinton-Warren ticket makes political sense remains an open question. On the one hand, it would galvanize Sanders supporters and help unite a fractured party. The unification argument may be overstated, but it's hard to imagine a Warren nomination not exciting the liberal base, particularly after such a contested primary process.

Detractors like Howard Dean insist Clinton should find a younger candidate. "I strongly believe we ought to have someone under 50 on the ticket," Dean said. "Ideologically, I think Elizabeth Warren is terrific. I just would like to see a new generation brought into Democratic Party politics." Something about this objection is off-putting. Bernie Sanders is 74-years-old and he's electrified the base of the party. This election, on the Democratic side at least, is about policies, not optics. Not a single Sanders supporter will denounce Warren on account of her age. Voters aren't worried about a "new generation"—they're worried about a shrinking middle class and a corrupt political system. To suggest a fresh face is more important than fresh ideas is to miss the entire point of Sanders' campaign.

Perhaps Warren isn't the most logical pick at this point. But of all the reasons not to pick her, age is the least important.





# **Get Smart, Get Tested**

Heartland Pride Presents





Transforming the Heartland

**Night of the River - June 17**6P at The Verdict, 7P at the River City Star

Royalty Pagent - June 19 8P at the Max

Heartland Youth Pride - June 24 6P at Stinson Park, Aksarben Village

Pride Parade - June 25 10A Stepoff - Downtown Council Bluffs

**Pride Festival - June 25**11A at Stinson Park, Aksarben Village

**Featuring** 



At The Pride Festival

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