



# THE GAYZETTE

EVENTS OF INTEREST TO METROPOLITAN OMAHA & LINCOLN

## RIVER CITY MIXED CHORUS CONCERTS

### JAN. 19 & 20



Starting its 18<sup>th</sup> season, the River City Mixed Chorus invites you to an evening of music to warm your hearts. The River City Mixed Chorus, under the direction of Mark Kurtz, presents "A Winter Romance" on Saturday, January 19 and Sunday, January 20, at First United Methodist Church, 7020 Cass Street, at 7:05pm both nights. For ticket information, call 402-341-7464. Ticket prices are \$12.50 per person in advance, \$14.00 at the door, \$10 for students/seniors and groups of 10 or more. Season tickets are also still available for both January and June concerts for \$20 per person. This concert will be signed for the hearing impaired.

The first half of the concert will feature classic jazz ballads including "Misty," "Embraceable You," "Someone to Watch Over Me." The program will also include beautiful art songs including excerpts from "Carmen," "Turandot," and "La Traviata." Joining the Chorus again this concert will be soprano Lauren Pickle from Opera Omaha. Who will appear at several points throughout the evening as various characters from the operas.

The second half of the program includes musical theater, pop music, and a little tap dancing by another guest artist, Bryan Heinrich from Central Dance Theater. Also, for those whose love lives always seem to come out comic, there will be a little romp into the ridiculous in the form of PDQ Bach's "Liebeslieder Polka's."

Please call 402-341-7464 for any further information or visit our website at [www.rcmc.org](http://www.rcmc.org).

The River City Mixed Chorus is a 501 © 3 organization, a member of GALA (Gay And Lesbian Association of Choruses) and is funded by the Nebraska Arts Council.

## SOUL FOOD SUNDAY "A DAY AT THE MOVIES" "Chocolate Babies"

On January 20, beginning at 5pm, the men of Onyx Images will gather at Club OLIS, 2801 N. 16 Street, Omaha to present Soul Food Sunday "A Day at the Movies" featuring "Chocolate Babies" by Stephen Winter. The movie portrays an underground band of HIV-positive, queer, urban, transvestite, activists of color is making headlines in New York. In an effort to expose political corruption surrounding the AIDS epidemic, these urban guerrillas stage a series of surprise attacks against conservative politicians whom they believe are collecting secret lists of HIV-positive individuals. The masterminds behind the action include "to-the-death!" diva Max Mo-Freak; his determined sister, Jamela; Larva, a sex-crazed crossdresser with attitude; Lady Marmalade, a junkie transvestite songstress; and Sam, an idealistic young Asian militant and Max Mo's lover. Caught up in their extreme methods of activism and self-destructive drug and alcohol binges, the group becomes torn by infighting and begins to lose sight of their mission and loyalty to each other. Will they find the peace and justice they seek? Between fantasy, tragedy and comedy, **Chocolate Babies** is a roller-coaster ride that is sure to provoke laughter and dialogue.

Cost is \$3 at the door which includes an all-you-can-eat buffet in addition to the movie. The members of Onyx Images invite the community to join them for this event.

January 11 — January 25, 2002

Published every two weeks by the Rainbow Outreach GLBT Resource Center  
1719 Leavenworth St., P.O. Box 8583, Omaha 68108 (402) 341-0330  
[www.rocc.org](http://www.rocc.org) [news@rocc.org](mailto:news@rocc.org)



## BOWLING RESULTS

### RAINBOW BOWLERS Maplewood Lanes

TEAM NAME	W	L	PINS
Over Our Heads	50	30	14213
Taking Up the Rear	50	22	14204
Man Hole	48	32	14282
Moustache Riders	42	38	13706
Team Seven	38	34	11767
It's All Good	36	44	13236
X-Men	26	46	13686
Back Alley Boys	24	48	12493

High Scratch Game	High Scratch Series
255 - S Delp	683 - D Cohen
254 - D Cohen	638 - R Hollendieck
244 - JR Brown	609 - S Delp

High Team Scratch Game	High Team Scratch Series
597 - Taking Up the Rear	1622 - Team Seven
595 - Team Seven	1561 - Over Our Heads
577 - Over Our Heads	1521 - Taking Up the Rear

High Average	
203 - D Cohen	177 - JR Brown
174 - B Andresen	173 - R Hollendieck

Weekly High Scratch Game	High Scratch Series
243 - D Cohen	622 - D Cohen
215 - S Delp	587 - S Delp

Bowling scores provided courtesy of Jerry Sanders

## CITIZENS FOR EQUAL PROTECTION DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE

Citizens for Equal Protection will host a Day at the Legislature on Thursday, January 17, 2002, from 9:00 a.m. to Noon in room 1126 at the State Capitol in Lincoln.

The day's activities will include information on the current legislative issues impacting Nebraska's GLBT community and strategies for communicating on GLBT issues. In addition, participants are encouraged to visit their senator to discuss these important issues following the meeting.

"Nebraskans support equal rights for all of its citizens. CFEP is poised to make the 2002 legislative session one of the most successful for GLBT civil rights in Nebraska," said Michael Gordon, CFEP board president. "Our focus is on enacting legislation that includes sexual orientation in anti-discrimination laws with regard to housing, employment, hospital visitation and funeral visitation."

In November, CFEP received the Equality Fund grant from the Human Rights Campaign to go toward efforts to further advance GLBT equality. A portion of the grant will support the CFEP Day at the Legislature. "We appreciate the HRC's support of our efforts to promote equality in Nebraska," said Gordon. To register for the CFEP Day at the Legislature please contact CFEP at 402.398.3027 or e-mail [info@jetf.org](mailto:info@jetf.org).

## "A NIGHT OF ROMANCE" THE RIVER CITY MIXED CHORUS

Help support The River City Mixed Chorus by attending the benefit show, "A Night of Romance" on Sunday, February 17, 8:00 p.m. at The MAX. Your hosts for the evening will be River City Chorus members Joe Reed and Inga (aka Stan Brown). Join the Chorus and members of the community as we celebrate and sing about many aspects of love and romance.

The show is sure to be a fun and entertaining evening as Joe and Inga present outstanding live performances from the Chorus, as well as other community members, plus performances from The MAX titleholders and ICON Royalty. Mark your calendars now and help The River City Mixed Chorus raise money for the Pride Concert in June by attending the show on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February at The MAX.

## RAINBOW OUTREACH GLBT RESOURCE CENTER

NOW OFFERS GAYZETTE SUBSCRIPTIONS MAILED TO YOUR HOME EVERY TWO WEEKS

FOR YOUR \$20 SUBSCRIPTION YOU WILL RECEIVE THE GAYZETTE  
And FREE Membership in Rainbow Outreach Resource Center  
FREE Check-Out Privileges for GLBT Library

Please complete this form and return it with the \$20 subscription fee to:

Rainbow Outreach GLBT Resource Center 1719 Leavenworth, Omaha, NE 68102

(Please Print ALL Information) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (optional) : \_\_\_\_\_ Email (optional) : \_\_\_\_\_

# MCC-OMAHA SAYS THANKS TO COMMUNITY



Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha has been richly blessed during this past year and is taking the opportunity to thank the community for its generous support. On Sunday, January 20, MCC will host a "no cover" benefit show at The MAX. There will be free food before the show beginning at 5pm. The Show will begin

promptly at 8pm and will end at 10pm so there will be plenty of time to be ready for work Monday morning. The cast of performers will include community favorites along with newcomers and members of the MCC congregation. Confirmed performers include Empress 21 And More, Tippy Deville, Justine St James, Ericka DeLeon, Michael Lyons & Laura Lee, Sharon Van Butsel, a special mystery performer, and many others.

This will be a "family" show, so bring all your friends and family as MCC says "thank you."



**Tim Reeder**  
Realtor  
415-6595



PROUDLY SERVING  
OMAHA'S GAY COMMUNITY

[www.timreeder.com](http://www.timreeder.com)  
E-mail: [timreeder@home.com](mailto:timreeder@home.com)



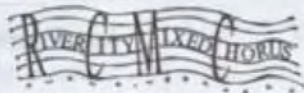
Sales • Rentals • Management • Investments



**Scott R. Winkler**  
Agent

*The Company You Keep®*  
[www.newyorklife.com](http://www.newyorklife.com)

**New York Life Insurance Company**  
One Valmont Plaza, Suite 100  
Omaha, NE 68154  
Bus. 402 496-6400 Fax 402 496-7722



Member of GALA - Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses



## A Winter Romance

Saturday, January 19th & Sunday, January 20th, 2002  
at 7:05 p.m.

First United Methodist Church  
7020 Cass Street - Omaha, Nebraska

Tickets: \$12.50 Advance, \$10.00 Seniors & Students  
\$14.00 at the door.

Phone: 341-SING (7464) to place your order.



# DISABILITY AND QUEERNESS:

## The First International Conference

June 2-3, 2002 San Francisco State University

In the last three decades disabled people and lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgendered people have taken to the streets and entered the academy. We've built movements for social change, created culture and community, and shaped our own theory and analysis. But the issues, concerns, and experiences of queer disabled people have rarely been placed front and center. The Queer/Disability Conference aims to bring together artists, activists, and scholars to explore the matrix formed by queerness and disability.

### INTERESTED? COME JOIN IN:

#### Call for Papers, Workshops, Performances, and Art of All Kinds: Due February 1, 2002

- Disability activists engaging in issues concerning queer identities
- Queer activists grappling with disability issues
- Artists pulling together strands of crip and queer cultures
- Scholars making connections between Disability Studies and Queer Studies
- Queers/crips looking for community
- Advocates and allies invested in these intersections

We are looking for papers, panels, performances, videos, paintings, workshops, readings, and more to create three concurrent tracks:

- 1) scholar/theory,
- 2) activist/community, and
- 3) artist/cultural.

#### Possible topics include:

- Histories of disability, homosexuality, and transidentities
- HIV/AIDS, cancer, and disability
- Genetic testing the notion of a cure, the medicalization of our bodies
- Intertwining of race, class, sexuality, gender identity, and disability
- Sex, sexuality, desire, erotica
- Representations of queerness/disability
- Deaf/Queer issues --Global LGBT disability activism
- Impact of disability on gender identity and of gender on disability
- Passing, Pride, and non-apparent disabilities
- Violence, hate crimes, and abuse
- Compulsory heterosexuality and able-bodiedness
- Q/D marginalizations: bi&trans identities, cognitive & psych disabilities
- Ableism, homophobia, and transphobia
- Queers, disability, and services
- Blind/Queer issues
- Connections between intersexed and disabled people

If you'd like to present at the conference, please send the following information to [Qdprogram@hotmail.com](mailto:Qdprogram@hotmail.com) or to:

Alison Kafer,  
310 N. Indian Hill,  
Box 325,  
Claremont CA 91711

All proposals are due by February 1, 2002. Presenters will be notified by March 21, 2002. Sessions are 90 minutes long.

Name:

E-mail address:

Postal Address (optional):

Phone (optional):

Title of Presentation:

If presenting with others, names of co-presenters:

Abstract or Description of Presentation (500 words maximum):  
Brief Description of Presentation for Use in Program (50 words maximum):

Track:  Academic  Community  Cultural

Format:  Panel  Performance  Workshop

For more information:

[QDConference2002@hotmail.com](mailto:QDConference2002@hotmail.com).

Ad Hoc Organizing Committee: Eli Clare, Laura Hershey, Alison Kafer, John Killackey, Samuel Lurie, Corbett O'Toole, Ellen Samuels, Jen Williams. Sponsored by: Disability Studies at U.C. Berkeley, the Disabled Women's Alliance, the Institute on Disability at San Francisco State University, and the Presidential Chair in Undergraduate Education of the University of California.

## BOONDOGGLES - TOOLS & TOYS FOR ACTIVISTS & OTHER SMART PEOPLE

Give us your two cents and we'll give you fifty!

Now when you place an order with Boondoggles you can automatically get 50 cents off your purchase total just by filling out a quick survey! Let us know what you think of the Boondoggles website - we want to hear from you. Catch our screw-ups (so we can fix 'em) and we'll love ya forever.

Boondoggles 120 N. 14 St. (the Ozone) Lincoln, Nebraska  
Shop online at Boondoggles: <http://www.ideviate.net>  
Any questions? Just email [boondoggles@ideviate.net](mailto:boondoggles@ideviate.net)  
Also, if you have not yet done so, be sure to sign up at the Boondoggles website to qualify for special future deals, discounts, and exclusive offers.

<http://endbreastcancer.com>

Help generate donations to programs that work to eliminate environmental causes of breast cancer. Every click is a step to end breast cancer that provides money to fund this worthy cause.

# BEARS CHANGE SITE FOR MONTHLY MEET

Flat Water Bears started 2002 meeting at a (re-)new(ed) site. The group for hairy men and enthusiasts of the hirsute is growing and sought a larger meeting hall. They held their first meeting of the year the usual second Wednesday of the month, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 9, but at the Max. This is much a return to the Max. During its formational period in 1997 the group met weekly in Stosh's Saloon at the Max. After incorporation, the not-for-profit group floated their meeting among the Max, the Diamond bar, Gilligan's Pub,

the former Maggie's Pourhouse, Flying J restaurant, Rainbow Outreach Center and other sites. A member motion approved in 1999 made the Diamond the regular meeting site. The group's growth now, however, required a larger meeting place. Stosh, Bruce and Buddha at the Max readily agreed to the group's inquiry about meeting there.

The annual Bear-B-Q in July 2002 will see its sixth year on the Patio at the Max. It was at a Bear-B-Q on the Patio that the former Wild Kingdom Bears accepted from the GLBT Community suggestions for a new name after a local insurance conglomerate threatened a lawsuit. After several months as [Name Goes Here] Bears, it was in Stosh's Saloon that member's ballots selected Flat Water Bears as the name for the Nebraska/Western Iowa Bear club.

At the Diamond, the Bears' meetings sometimes interfered with customers' playing pool or listening to music. The Bears' meeting site change will give Diamond customers full access without interference. As Flat Water Bears bid the Diamond Bar goodbye as a regular meeting site, they issued Cindy Sechser a "Woof! Award" for her "years of accommodation and hospitality, with genial thanks" from the club.

## E & E BALL

The Imperial Court of Nebraska will host its first E & E Ball "A Flowered Masquerade" on Sat., Jan., 12, at 6 PM in Stosh's Saloon at The MAX. Admission is \$5 and includes free hors d'ouerves. Doors open at 5 PM. Hosting the evening are Emperor & Empress 19 Michael and Laura Lee and the reigning monarchs Emperor & Empress 21 Matt & And More. The evening will begin with a formal crowning of Emperor Matt & Empress And by the Archbishop to the Court, Michael. Royalty from ICON's past and from regional courts will provide the entertainment for the evening. Before the evening ends several new members will be added to the Royal Family and Princess Royale Annette will be invested. The community is invited to attend this celebration of the monarchy and be a part of creating a new tradition for the Imperial Court of Nebraska and Omaha.



# GSA CONFERENCE & DANCE JANUARY 12

Heidi, President of Proud Horizons, announces the second Annual GSYes Conference which will be held on January 12, 2002 from 11-3 at the Rose Theater. The GSYes Conference is for all Gay Straight Alliances in the Metro area. It is a session to give them information and to keep them motivated, along with giving them information on what their rights are related to the law. Proud Horizons will also be sponsoring a dance. The theme is Shining Proudly. It will also be held on January 12th from 7-10pm. It is for ages 13-23. The dance is just a celebration for the start of the new school semester and also a celebration for the end of the previous one. It is a time to dance and let everyone have fun. For more information, contact Proud Horizons at (402) 291-6781 or email proudhorizons@yahoo.com

## LEO MEETS JAN 12

Greetings from the Leather Engineers of Omaha. We will be holding our next meeting at Gilligan's Pub - upstairs Karaoke bar at 7:00 pm on Saturday, January 12, 2002. LEO is an organization made up of gay men, each with a varying degree of leather interest. We welcome those who might be interested in our organization to join us at any of our meetings, or introduce yourself to us when you see us out. Just look for our club colors which are worn on the back of our bar vests.

*You Are Invited To Our Annual  
"THANK YOU" Show!*



MCC-O  
Show  
Jan. 20  
The MAX  
8 PM

**\*\* No Cover \*\***

**FREE Food Starting at 5 PM**

Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha  
819 S. 22nd St., Omaha 402.345.2563

# GAYZETTE EVENTS

## **SATURDAY, JANUARY 12**

**GSYES CONFERENCE** 11am—3pm,  
The Rose Theater, For all Metro Area  
Gay Straight Alliances, contact Proud  
Horizons 291-6781 or email proud-  
horizons@yahoo.com

## **PROUD HORIZONS DANCE**

**"SHINING PROUDLY"** 7-10pm,,  
for ages 13—23; For details contact  
Proud Horizons at (402) 291-6781 or  
email proudhorizons@yahoo.com

## **IMPERIAL COURT OF NEBRASKA EMPEROR AND EMPRESS BALL,**

**"A Flowered Masquerade"** The Offi-  
cial Crowning of Matt & And More  
and the Investiture of the new Princess  
Royale, 6—8:30pm, \$5 admission  
Stosh's Saloon, The MAX

## **SUNDAY, JANUARY 13**

**"IT'S ALL ABOUT AMMEE"** Miss  
MAX Step-Down Show, The MAX

## **THURSDAY, JANUARY 17**

**CFEP "A DAY AT THE LEGISLA-  
TURE"** 9am to Noon room 1126 the  
State Capitol in Lincoln. To register  
please contact CFEP at 402.398.3027  
or e-mail info@jetf.org.

## **FRIDAY, JANUARY 18**

**N'JOY SHOW** 9:30pm JOY

## **JANUARY 19**

**RIVER CITY MIXED CHORUS  
"A WINTER ROMANCE"** 7:05pm,  
First United Methodist Church, 7020  
Cass Street, Omaha

## **JANUARY 20**

**ONYX IMAGES "A DAY AT THE  
MOVIES" SHOWING  
"CHOCOLATE BABIES" CLUB  
OLIS, 2801 N. 16 St, Omaha**

## **RIVER CITY MIXED CHORUS**

**"A WINTER ROMANCE"** 7:05pm,  
First United Methodist Church, 7020  
Cass Street, Omaha

## **MCC-OMAHA BENEFIT** No Cover

Free Food 5pm (while it lasts)  
Show 8pm, The MAX

## **THURSDAY, JANUARY 24**

### **PRIDE 2002 PLANNING**

**MEETING** 7pm Rainbow Outreach  
GLBT Resource Center,  
1719 Leavenworth, 341-0330  
Everyone is welcome.

## **FRIDAY, JANUARY 25**

### **JOY PRESENTS DJ SENSATION**

**BABY ANNE** 18+ over welcome  
9pm—4am \$15 cover

## **SUNDAY, JANUARY 27**

### **METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY**

**CHURCH OF OMAHA  
28TH ANNIVERSARY**

### **MISS MAX PAGEANT "MOULIN**

**ROUGE a la MAX"** 9pm The MAX

## **SATURDAY, FEB. 9**

**MAJESTIC KINGS,** From the Gay  
90's in Minneapolis, Perform at JOY

## **SUNDAY, FEB. 10**

**BLACK HEARTS BASH,** 10pm,  
The MAX, 1417 Jackson, Omaha

## **SUNDAY, FEB. 10**

**A NIGHT OF ROMANCE WITH  
THE RIVER CITY MIXED  
CHORUS,** 8pm,  
The MAX, 1417 Jackson, Omaha

## **SUNDAY, MARCH 3**

**ICON SNOBALL,** 10pm, The MAX

## **SUNDAY, APRIL 14**

**ICON CLOSET BALL**  
9pm The MAX

## **FRIDAY, APRIL 26—**

### **SUNDAY, APRIL 28**

**15TH ANNUAL HEARTLAND AA  
& AL-ANON ROUNDUP,** Park  
Inn, I-680 & Pacific Streets, Contact  
Doug 493-2282 or RJ 346-5308

## **SATURDAY, MAY 4**

**ICON PR BALL,** 6-8:30pm, Stosh's  
Saloon, The MAX

## **JUNE 15 & JUNE 16**

**RIVER CITY MIXED CHORUS  
"Reach for the Rainbow"**

## **SAT. JUNE 22**

**PRIDE PARADE, OMAHA**

## **SAT. JULY 13**

**ICON CORONATION 22,** 6pm, Sokol

## **WEEKLY EVENTS**

**Every Sunday**

### **WORSHIP SERVICES:**

**DIETZ UNITED METHODIST**

1423 S. 10, 11AM

**1ST UNITED METHODIST**

7020 Cass, 8:30 & 10:45am

**METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY**

**CHURCH OF OMAHA**

819 S. 22, 9am & 11am

**HEARTLAND UNITED METH**

Bellevue West High School; 10:30am

**FIRST UNITARIAN**

3114 Harney Street, 11am

**LOWE AVE PRESBYTERIAN,**

1023 N. 40, Omaha 10am

**UNITY CHURCH OF OMAHA,**

3424 N. 90, Omaha, 9am, 11am

**HASTINGS COLLEGE GSA** 8PM

Hastings, NE. FFI: Judy Sandeen  
(402) 461-7372

**LAMBDA TV NETWORK Q.**

Lincoln Cable Channel 13. 12 a.m.

**LINCOLN WEEKLY WOMYN'S**

**POTLUCK VARIOUS HOMES.**

FFI: Cheryl 474-1937 11:30am-4pm

**THE WIMMIN'S SHOW**

KZUM 89.3. 12:30—3 p.m.

**CABARET,** Q, 226 S. 9th St., Lincoln

**RIVER CITY MIXED BOWLING**

Broadway Bowl

**"QUEER AS FOLK"** 9pm,

The MAX, DC's

**Every Monday**

**SAGE POTLUCK DINNER** 6—9pm,

ROCC, 1719 Leavenworth, 341-0330

**HIV TESTING,** 7-9:30pm,

NAP, 139 S. 40<sup>th</sup>, Omaha

# GAYZETTE EVENTS

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS GLBT  
"RAINBOW GROUP" Meeting Place,  
28 & S, Lincoln, 7:30 p.m.

## *Every Tuesday*

UNL LESBIAN/BI/QUESTIONING  
SUPPORT GROUP 7-8:30pm,  
Women's Center, Back Room, Nebr  
Union, 12 & R, Lincoln, 472-9428

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

## *Every Wednesday*

WORSHIP SERVICES  
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY  
CHURCH OF OMAHA, 7pm  
UNITY CHURCH OF OMAHA, 7pm

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

NINTENDO WEDNESDAYS,  
6-9 pm, Rainbow Outreach Center

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

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

KARAOKE W/ STACY 8:30pm DC's

RAINBOW BOWLERS LEAGUE,  
9pm, Maplewood Lanes

## *Every Thursday*

HIV TEST 7- 9:30 pm, NAP, 139 S. 40<sup>th</sup>

KARAOKE 9pm,  
Connections,  
Club OLIS

## *Every Friday*

LAMBDA TELEVISION LOCAL  
EVENTS Lincoln Cable Ch 13. 3pm

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

GLBT FELLOWSHIP Worship 6:30  
pm, Meeting: 7pm, Location varies,  
Fr Doug Knox, St. Andrews 391-1950

RAINBOW BIBLE STUDY 6-7:30pm;  
Lowe Ave Presby Church, 1023 N. 40

FREE FRIDAY MOVIE 7:45PM,  
Rainbow Outreach GLBT Resource Ctr

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

Q DREAM BOYZ, Q, 226 S. 9 Lincoln

## *Every Saturday*

LAMBDA TELEVISION  
Lincoln Cable Channel 13. 3 p.m.

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

KARAOKE 9pm, The Panic, 200 S. 18,  
Lincoln

## MONTHLY EVENTS

### *1st Saturday*

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

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

### *2nd Friday*

FREE, CONFIDENTIAL, ANONY-  
MOUS HIV TESTING UNL campus  
FFI: 476-0355. 1-3:30 p.m.

SUDS RAPID HIV TESTING,  
(2 hour results) 5 - 10 pm, NAP  
Outreach Center, 1723 Leavenworth

### *2nd Saturday*

LEATHER ENGINEERS—OMAHA  
Meeting 7pm, Gilligan's

### *2nd Sunday*

LEARNING TO EXCHANGE  
POWER L2EP@aol.com  
Novice S/M,B/D Group; 1pm; DCs

INTEGRITY GROUP 6-7:30pm, in the  
Lounge of St. Marks on the Campus  
Episcopal Church, 13 & "R" Streets,  
Lincoln

### *2nd Wednesday*

FLAT WATER BEARS 7:30pm  
The MAX, Omaha

### *2nd Thursday*

PFLAG - OMAHA  
7pm 1st United Meth, Mead Hall

### *2nd Saturday*

GLSEN OMAHA, Board Mtg,  
9-11am, South High School

GAY-FRIENDLY FOOD-NET Quaker  
Meeting House, 3319 S. 46, Lincoln  
Free Food, no obligation/paperwork.  
11am-12n

### *3rd Sunday*

SOUL FOOD SUNDAY, Club OLIS,  
2801 N 16, Sponsor: ONYX Images

### *3rd Monday*

IMPERIAL COURT OF NEBR MTG  
MCC-O, 819 S. 22<sup>nd</sup> St., 6:30pm

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

### *4th Tuesday*

PFLAG-CORNHUSKER Unitarian  
Church, 6300 A St., Lincoln, 7 p.m.

YOUTH HIV TESTING Lighthouse,  
2530 N St, Lincoln For ages 13 to 18  
only. FFI: 475-3220. 3-5:30 p.m.

### *4th Friday*

FREE, CONFIDENTIAL, ANONY-  
MOUS HIV TEST Walkins welcome.  
UNL campus. 476-0355. 1-3:30pm

### *4th Saturday*

QUAKERS OFFER GAY-FRIENDLY  
FOOD-NET Quaker Meeting House,

**IS YOUR EVENT  
LISTED HERE?**

**DO YOU WANT THE  
COMMUNITY TO KNOW  
WHAT YOUR  
ORGANIZATION  
IS DOING?**

**EMAIL INFORMATION TO:  
NEWS@ROCC.ORG**

# QUEER AS FOLKS: TWO OPINIONS

*Courtesy of Fenceberry (an on-line distribution of GLBT related news from around the world), we present two differing opinions regarding Queer as Folks. For the full text of these articles, go to:*  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A64853-2002Jan4.html>  
or <http://www.calendarlive.com/top/1,1419,L-LATimes-Calendar-X!ArticleDetail-49443,00.html>

Excerpts from

## 'Queer as Folk':

### Soap Trots Out Its Old Tricks

By Tom Shales, Washington Post Staff Writer

"Queer as Folk," returning for a second season, unfortunately now has the slightly seedy aura of Yesterday's Hot Stuff. The serialized drama about life among gay friends in Pittsburgh (not that you'll believe it's Pittsburgh for a minute) was a breakthrough once but now settles into being a novelty, a rather predictable soap opera generously seasoned with glimpses of human flesh. The program developed a solid following and is likely to hold on to most of those viewers but unlikely to attract many new ones - although it's worth noting that in early episodes of the new season, the two resident and attractive lesbian characters get more screen time than they usually got last year. And female nudity is a bit more evident, too, though bare boys still outnumber naked ladies by a wide margin. If all this sounds shocking to you, then "Queer as Folk" is obviously not your cup of cocoa. Curiously, the show has drawn remarkably little condemnation from conservative or religious groups. That may be because Showtime has a relatively small audience and because it comes into no home uninvited; you have to sign up and pay for it. But it may also be because even those politically inclined to disparage the program are unlikely to claim it makes an effective "recruiting poster" for homosexuality, which is usually their big worry, right? The show doesn't offer a very inviting - or, perhaps, accurate—picture of gay America. Its four main characters, who come up way short on lovable qualities, treat one another with little sensitivity or affection.

The main exception is a fifth main character who crashed the clique: Justin, a lovable 18-year-old lovably played by Randy Harrison. Justin is the least cynical and most innocent character, and he became even more sympathetic in last season's cliff-hanger finale when a rich young creep attacked him with a baseball bat. The weakest aspect of "QAF" is the fact that those four main characters have changed too little since they were first introduced. All of them are irritating to various degrees - especially Ted (Scott Lowell), the mealy-mouthed little mole, and Brian, the preening slut played sulkily by Gale Harold.

The series needs new tricks more than Brian does, but it also deserves the benefit of doubt since it started fairly slowly last year—indeed, even "The Sopranos," though a thousand times better than this, usually starts its seasons slowly. It would be a nice gesture by the penny-pinching producers if, after all this time, they found it in their cold little hearts to put the cast members' names and faces in the opening credits. Actors like Peter Paige as Emmett, Thea Gill as Lindsey and Sherry Miller as Justin's mixed-up mother deserve more credit for their work. So few changes are evident in "Queer as Folk" that one gets the feeling the producers think their show is utterly perfect just as it is.

They are wrong.

Excerpts from

## Return of Showtime's Gay Soap

By Daryl H. Miller, LA Times Staff Writer

It's difficult to understand how a show as wildly uneven as "Queer as Folk" can be so compulsively watchable, yet somehow, it is. A gay soap opera that grooves to a dance-floor beat, the program quickly developed last year into the Showtime cable network's most-watched series and one of television's biggest surprises. It [airs] Sunday shortly after "Sex and the City," the HBO series to which it is often compared, returns with new episodes.

Last season reached a cliffhanger as Michael (Hal Sparks) moved out of town with a partner and his buddy Brian (Gale Harold) raced in too late to prevent an attack on his younger, on-again, off-again boyfriend, Justin (Randy Harrison).

Sunday's episode finds Michael back home in Pittsburgh, as both he and Brian cope with the fallout from those events. Like so many episodes before it, this one-written by series developers Ron Cowen and Daniel Lipman-veers between quietly effective drama and lurid visions of bare, buff men engaged in whatever activities Showtime's "no limits" corporate attitude will allow.

Many questions hover over the series as it moves beyond the story line set down in the British series on which it is based. In particular: Will the show begin to depict the gay and lesbian community in all its diversity? Or will it continue to focus on the dance, drugs and sex crowd?

Promisingly, the series' most stable couple, lesbian moms Lindsay (Thea Gill) and Melanie (Michelle Clunie), seem to be getting more screen time, as is Michael's rainbow-flag-waving, hug-dispensing mom, Debbie (Sharon Gless). Meanwhile, the show remains as confused, conflicted - and improbably entertaining - as ever.

*QUEER AS FOLKS AIRS ON SUNDAYS AT 9PM  
And can be seen at DC's and The MAX*

*If you know of other places where Queer As Folks is being shown, please let us know.*

*Do You Have an Opinion About this Series?  
Email your comments to [news@rocc.org](mailto:news@rocc.org) and we will include them in the next issue. Comments must be received by Friday, January 18.*



## JANUARY JOY

Friday, January 18 N'JOY Show

These fierce and outrageous bitches are back. We're in a New Year and they have a new show to shock your senses, mind, and any other part of your body. Why deprive yourself. It's time to N'JOY them. Show starts at 9:30 p.m. \$5 cover

Friday, January 25

D.J. Baby Anne

JOY, in company with Blue Productions, is bringing you D.J. sensation Baby Anne. She's tore up Orlando and other parts of the country, now it's time to tear up Omaha. If you love music, you'll love her. 18+ over welcome from 9:00 p.m. - 4:00 a.m. \$15 cover

### Coming events:

#### BALLZ

Armed only with a video camera, two teams will battle it out on the streets of Omaha as they compete to see who can finish a hilarious list of obnoxious activities and catch it ALL on tape. Once they compete this scandalous scavenger hunt, they will be invited to step up in front of JOY's audience to air their funny follies. But that's not all...once in the club, our favorite host, *Miss Fortune*, will put our teams to the ultimate test as she and the audience find out if they are truly MAN ENOUGH to play...BALLZ!

Saturday, February 9, 2002

Majestic Kings

No, there will be no swords or crowns, but wouldn't that be fabulous? These Kings and Queens have been entertaining Minneapolis at the Gay 90's and surrounding bars for over 2 years. Now it's your chance to see them take to the stage.

### Weekly events:

#### Touch Thursdays

JOY is cranking it up and bringin you the best in local and national D.J.'s. The only place to be, and we promise, there will be plenty of people to touch. 18+ over welcome Cover

#### Cinema Sundays

Sara wants to show you what she has from 4-8 p.m. We're referring to her movie selection, but I like where your mind was.

## WELCOME

### ADAM (PRINCESS)

AS THE NEW SHOW DIRECTOR FOR JOY

## METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF OMAHA CELEBRATES 28TH ANNIVERSARY ON JANUARY 27

On January 27 Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha will celebrate the 28th Anniversary of its chartering as a member church of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. The day will feature special worship services at 9am and 11am and will feature a guest speaker. Following the second service there will be a dinner served in the social hall. All the events are open to the public. UFMCC was founded by the Rev. Elder Troy Perry in October, 1968. In 1973 a group of gay Christians set out across country in a Winnebago RV, spreading the word that God loves ALL people, including gays and lesbians. Among their stops was Omaha, Nebraska. A year later the "First Metropolitan Community Church of Nebraska" was formed. Today MCC-Omaha is a thriving church under the leadership of the Rev. Barb Sagat, maintaining its position in downtown Omaha as it welcomes all those seeking an inclusive Christian worship experience as part of a welcoming church family.

## Vermont Rejects Civil Unions Challenge

By ROSS SNEYD

In an Associated Press release, Ross Sneyd reported that Vermont's Supreme Court has rejected a challenge to the civil unions law granting gay couples many of the rights and benefits of marriage. In a Dec. 26 order signed by all five justices and released Thursday, the court turned aside claims brought by taxpayers, legislators and town clerks. They had made two main claims: One asserted that the civil unions law is invalid because 14 House members who supported it bet on the outcome of a preliminary House vote. In the other, town clerks argued that the law is unconstitutional because it forces them to violate their religious beliefs that homosexuality is wrong by issuing civil union licenses to couples. The justices did not rule directly on the claim that the law violates town clerks' religious beliefs. But it described as "highly questionable" the "proposition that a public official ... can retain public office while refusing to perform a generally applicable duty of that office on religious grounds."

## REPORT ALL HATE CRIMES

### 444-HATE

ANY Crime is a Hate Crime

IF Motivated because of Race, Religion, or Sexual Orientation

QUESTIONS ABOUT HIV OR AIDS?

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



**METROPOLITAN  
COMMUNITY CHURCH  
OF OMAHA**

***Alive in Christ!***

Worship Sundays 9 & 11 AM  
Wednesdays 7 PM  
819 S. 22nd St., Omaha

402.345.2563  
mccomaha@radiks.net  
www.mccomaha.org  
P.O. Box 3173, Omaha, NE 68103

## BARS

- Connections, 933-3033**  
1901 Leavenworth, Omaha
- Club Olis, 934-4030**  
2801 N 16 St, Omaha
- The Diamond, 342-9595**  
712 S. 16<sup>th</sup> St., Omaha
- Dawg House Sports Cafe, 572-6722**  
8947 Fort St., Omaha
- DC's Saloon, 344-3103**  
610 S. 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Omaha
- Gilligan's Pub, 449-9147**  
1407 Harney, Omaha
- JOY, 341-7337**  
1516 Jones, Omaha
- The MAX, 346-4110**  
1417 Jackson, Omaha
- Omaha Mining Co., 449-8703,**  
1715 Leavenworth, Omaha
- Panic, 435-8764, 200 S. 18<sup>th</sup> Lincoln**  
**Q, 475-2269, 226 S. 9<sup>th</sup> St, Lincoln**

## PRESIDENTS DAY WEEKEND

1) ICE BOWL REGIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT

2) RCMC BENEFIT SHOW AT THE MAX

3) PANCAKE FEED AT RAINBOW OUTREACH GLBT RESOURCE CENTER  
WATCH FOR DETAILS!!

## GAYZETTE AD RATES

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

All ads must be camera ready. !0% Discount for on-going ads of any size. Payment must accompany ad. Checks should be made payable to Rainbow Outreach GLBT Resource Center. Payment and ads should be delivered to the Rainbow Outreach GLBT Resource Center 1719 Leavenworth St. on or before the deadline date. Ads may also be emailed to Advertising@rocc.org. A phone call notifying us that the ad is coming should be made to (402) 341-0330, attention Sharon.

**Ad Deadlines are: Friday, Jan. 18 for Jan. 25 Publication    Friday, Feb 1 for Feb. 8 Publication**

# RAINBOW OUTREACH GLBT RESOURCE LIST

## OMAHA BASED ORGANIZATIONS

- BiChoice Nebraska**, 9504 R, Plz #106, Omaha 68127, 592-4250; QUEST15@juno.com
- Citizens for Equal Protection**  
Box 55548, Omaha 68155, 398-3027 <http://www.geocities.com/~cfep>  
Working for equal rights for all
- Flat Water Bears**, PO Box 3751, Omaha 68103 or [flatwaterbears@geocities.com](mailto:flatwaterbears@geocities.com)  
For hirsute men and admirers,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, The MAX, 7:30pm
- Front Runners/Walkers**, Box 4583, Omaha 68104 (402) 496-3658 Fun Run/Walks 10am Sun, 6pm Wed
- GALO (Gay & Lesbian Org at UNO)**  
[www.angelfire.com/home/GALO](http://www.angelfire.com/home/GALO) contact: [unogalo@hotmail.com](mailto:unogalo@hotmail.com) "Building Bridges Through Education and Acceptance" or SPO (Student Organizations) at 554-2711.
- Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network-Omaha**, Box 641676, Omaha 68164, 596-2596
- Heartland Gay Rodeo Association**  
Box 3354, Omaha 68103 Enjoy rodeo & country ways 800-561-6918
- Ice Bowl Invitational Bowling Tournament (IBIT)** P.O. Box 31838, Omaha, NE 68131, e-mail [icebowlomaha@hotmail.com](mailto:icebowlomaha@hotmail.com)
- Imperial Court of Nebraska**, Box 3772, Omaha 68103 556-9907, Board Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> Mon, 819 S. 22
- Learning to Exchange Power**, L2EP@aol.com; Social, educational group novices in Leather Lifestyle
- Leather Engineers of Omaha (LEO)** Box 8181 Omaha 68108  
Gay men interested in leather lifestyle, Meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat @ Gilligan's 7pm
- LinOma Bares**, PO Box 8493, Omaha 68108  
Nudist/Naturist Club for gay/bi men
- Lutherans Concerned**, c/o Augustana Lutheran, 3647 Lafayette, Omaha, 551-4728
- Mpower**, c/o Nebr AIDS Project, 139 S. 40, Omaha 68131 [www.mpower-nap.org](http://www.mpower-nap.org).  
Men teaching men about HIV
- Men's Support Group-Omaha**, c/o MCC-Omaha, 819 S. 22 St., <http://www.radiks.net/mike2tom/msgomaha> 345-2563; Tuesday 7:30pm
- Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha**, 819 S. 22 St., Omaha 68108 345-2563, [mccomaha@radiks.net](mailto:mccomaha@radiks.net)  
Website: [www.mccomaha.org](http://www.mccomaha.org)  
Sunday Worship 9 & 11am, Wed Eve 7pm
- Nebraska AIDS Project**, 552-9260  
Watanabe Wellness Ctr, 139 S. 40, Omaha 68131, Testing Mon, Thurs Eve, Wed aft
- NAP Outreach Center**, 1723 Leavenworth, Testing & Counseling: Fri Nights

- Nebraska Advocates for Justice & Equality**, PO Box 55548, Omaha 68155, 402.346-5960 [naje\\_now@hotmail.com](mailto:naje_now@hotmail.com)
- Nebraska Gay Dads** group list exchange emails posted to the list for discussion <http://www.radiks.net/mike2tom/nebraskagavdads>
- Omaha Nebr Gay Pride WebPage**  
<http://members.cyberwolves.com/omahanegaypride> PO Box 4154, Omaha, 68104-4154 402-502-9195  
[omahanegaypride@home.com](mailto:omahanegaypride@home.com)
- Onyx Images**, Box 31026, 68132-9998  
[Onyximages@hotmail.com](mailto:Onyximages@hotmail.com) Fraternity for African American Men
- Out and About in Nebraska**, [outabout@worldshare.net](mailto:outabout@worldshare.net) or <http://travel.to/outabout> Social group for those who enjoy the outdoors
- Parents and Friends of Lesbians And Gays (PFLAG) Omaha Chapter** PO Box 390064, Omaha, NE 68139-0064  
Call (402) 291-6781 Website: [www.pflag-omaha.org](http://www.pflag-omaha.org), email [info@pflag-omaha.org](mailto:info@pflag-omaha.org) Meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 1st United Methodist, 7020 Cass, Omaha
- Pride!, Inc. (aka Rainbow Celebrations)**  
Box 8583, Omaha 68108 341-0330  
Pride Parade, National Coming Out Day
- Proud Horizons Youth Group**, Sat Afternoon, info: (402) 291-6781 or email [proudhorizons@yahoo.com](mailto:proudhorizons@yahoo.com)
- Rainbow Outreach GLBT Resource Ctr**, 1719 Leavenworth, Omaha, 341-0330, Web Site: [www.ROCC.org](http://www.ROCC.org), email: [rainbow@rocc.org](mailto:rainbow@rocc.org)  
Info Line, Library, Movies, Gayzette
- Rainbow Bible Study**, Fridays, 6-7:30pm, Lowe Ave Presbyterian, 1023 N. 40 St.
- River City Mixed Chorus**, Box 3267, Omaha, NE 68103, 402-341-SING  
Website: [www.rcmc.org](http://www.rcmc.org)
- River City Gender Alliance**, Box 8076, Omaha 68108, 402-991-8845, email: [rcga@tforum.com](mailto:rcga@tforum.com), Website: [www.genderalliance.com](http://www.genderalliance.com)  
Social/Support Group for transgender/transsexual/cross-dressers and supporters
- River City Mixed Bowling I**, 12:45pm, Sundays, Mockingbird Bowl, Omaha: Michael Jones (689-0534)
- River City Mixed Bowling II** 3pm, Sundays, Broadway Bowl, Council Bluffs, IA: Dan White (402)734-7055
- SNAP Productions**, Box 8464, Omaha, NE 68108 [www.snapproductions.com](http://www.snapproductions.com)
- Unity Church of Omaha** 3424 N. 90, Omaha, Sunday worship: 9am, 11am Wednesday evening worship 7pm; 571-1344; [www.unityomaha.org](http://www.unityomaha.org)
- WomenSpace**, Box 24712, Omaha 68124  
Newsletter, Concerts

## LINCOLN BASED ORGANIZATIONS

- Alias Jane Band**, (402) 435-8764 Kara & Kelly at The Panic
- Boonodgges** 120 N. 14 St. (the Ozone) shop online <http://www.ideviate.net>  
Email [boonodgges@ideviate.net](mailto:boonodgges@ideviate.net)  
Pride merchandise, books & more.
- Gay/Lesbian/Bi/Straight Alliance**  
2229 J St., Lincoln 68510  
(402) 436-1301 ext. 232 Ruth Kupfer
- Gay/Lesbian Film Fest**, Mary Ross Film Theater, Lincoln, Deanna Zaffke, [cea@unlserve.unl.edu](mailto:cea@unlserve.unl.edu)
- Gay Men's Support Group**, UNL Health Center, Counseling & Psychology, Rm. 214, Lincoln 68588-0618 472-7450
- Lesbian, Bisexual and Questioning-Women's Discussion Group**, Women's Resource Ctr, UNL Health Ctr, Rm 340, Lincoln 68558 (402) 472-2597
- Nebraska AIDS Project**, 220 S. 17th St. Lincoln, NE 68508. (402) 476-7000
- Nebraska Coalition for LGBT Civil Rts**, 122 S. 11 St, Ste 200, Lincoln, 68508, Contact: Kris Gandara (402) 438-7810 or email: [kgandar@bigred.unl.edu](mailto:kgandar@bigred.unl.edu)
- Omaha Women's Riverboat Cruise**, 4949 N. 73, Lincoln, 68507 467-5737
- Parents, Friends of Lesbians & Gays, Cornhusker Chapter**, Box 30128, Lincoln 68508, Meet 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, Unitarian Church, 6300 A, Barbara Kimberly [jbkimber@email.msn.com](mailto:jbkimber@email.msn.com)
- Plainsmen**, Support group for FtM's (Female to Male), Drag Kings TV Butches, 402-820-1267
- SAGE**, Box 22043, Lincoln 68542 Coffee House 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat, 6-9pm, Lesbian Videos 7:15pm, 3319 S. 46
- Sexuality Education eXchange**, University Health Ctr, 15th & U, Rm. 12h, 472-7447 or email: [ptetreault1@unl.edu](mailto:ptetreault1@unl.edu) Comprehensive and inclusive sexuality and sexual health information, resources and referrals including sexual orientation, ally and diversity training.
- Straight Spouse Support Grp** 489-9088
- Women In Trades/YWCA**, 1432 N St., Lincoln 68508; 434-3494,
- UNL Committee on GLBT Concerns**, contact: Pat Tetreault, c/o University Health Center, 15th & U Streets, Rm. 12h Lincoln, NE 68588-0618, (402) 472-7447 or email: [ptetreault1@unl.edu](mailto:ptetreault1@unl.edu)
- Youth Support Group**, (402) 434-9880
- Trevor-24-hour National Suicide Hotline for GLBT and Questioning Youth**  
1-800-850-8078

Jan. 27

MISS MAX  
XVIII  
Pageant



1417 Jackson

The MAX

346.4110

# QUEER AS FOLKS: TWO OPINIONS

*Courtesy of Fenceberry (an on-line distribution of GLBT related news from around the world), we present two differing opinions regarding Queer as Folks. For the full text of these articles, go to:*

*<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A64853-2002Jan4.html>*

*or <http://www.calendarlive.com/top/1,1419,L-LATimes-Calendar-X!ArticleDetail-49443,00.html>*

Excerpts from

## 'Queer as Folk':

### Soap Trots Out Its Old Tricks

By Tom Shales, Washington Post Staff Writer

"Queer as Folk," returning for a second season, unfortunately now has the slightly seedy aura of Yesterday's Hot Stuff. The serialized drama about life among gay friends in Pittsburgh (not that you'll believe it's Pittsburgh for a minute) was a breakthrough once but now settles into being a novelty, a rather predictable soap opera generously seasoned with glimpses of human flesh. The program developed a solid following and is likely to hold on to most of those viewers but unlikely to attract many new ones - although it's worth noting that in early episodes of the new season, the two resident and attractive lesbian characters get more screen time than they usually got last year. And female nudity is a bit more evident, too, though bare boys still outnumber naked ladies by a wide margin. If all this sounds shocking to you, then "Queer as Folk" is obviously not your cup of cocoa. Curiously, the show has drawn remarkably little condemnation from conservative or religious groups. That may be because Showtime has a relatively small audience and because it comes into no home uninvited; you have to sign up and pay for it. But it may also be because even those politically inclined to disparage the program are unlikely to claim it makes an effective "recruiting poster" for homosexuality, which is usually their big worry, right? The show doesn't offer a very inviting - or, perhaps, accurate—picture of gay America. Its four main characters, who come up way short on lovable qualities, treat one another with little sensitivity or affection.

The main exception is a fifth main character who crashed the clique: Justin, a lovable 18-year-old lovably played by Randy Harrison. Justin is the least cynical and most innocent character, and he became even more sympathetic in last season's cliff-hanger finale when a rich young creep attacked him with a baseball bat. The weakest aspect of "QAF" is the fact that those four main characters have changed too little since they were first introduced. All of them are irritating to various degrees - especially Ted (Scott Lowell), the mealy-mouthed little mole, and Brian, the preening slut played sulkily by Gale Harold.

The series needs new tricks more than Brian does, but it also deserves the benefit of doubt since it started fairly slowly last year—indeed, even "The Sopranos," though a thousand times better than this, usually starts its seasons slowly. It would be a nice gesture by the penny-pinching producers if, after all this time, they found it in their cold little hearts to put the cast members' names and faces in the opening credits. Actors like Peter Paige as Emmett, Thea Gill as Lindsey and Sherry Miller as Justin's mixed-up mother deserve more credit for their work. So few changes are evident in "Queer as Folk" that one gets the feeling the producers think their show is utterly perfect just as it is.

They are wrong.

Excerpts from

## Return of Showtime's Gay Soap

By Daryl H. Miller, LA Times Staff Writer

It's difficult to understand how a show as wildly uneven as "Queer as Folk" can be so compulsively watchable, yet somehow, it is. A gay soap opera that grooves to a dance-floor beat, the program quickly developed last year into the Showtime cable network's most-watched series and one of television's biggest surprises. It [airs] Sunday shortly after "Sex and the City," the HBO series to which it is often compared, returns with new episodes.

Last season reached a cliffhanger as Michael (Hal Sparks) moved out of town with a partner and his buddy Brian (Gale Harold) raced in too late to prevent an attack on his younger, on-again, off-again boyfriend, Justin (Randy Harrison).

Sunday's episode finds Michael back home in Pittsburgh, as both he and Brian cope with the fallout from those events. Like so many episodes before it, this one-written by series developers Ron Cowen and Daniel Lipman-veers between quietly effective drama and lurid visions of bare, buff men engaged in whatever activities Showtime's "no limits" corporate attitude will allow.

Many questions hover over the series as it moves beyond the story line set down in the British series on which it is based. In particular: Will the show begin to depict the gay and lesbian community in all its diversity? Or will it continue to focus on the dance, drugs and sex crowd?

Promisingly, the series' most stable couple, lesbian moms Lindsay (Thea Gill) and Melanie (Michelle Clunie), seem to be getting more screen time, as is Michael's rainbow-flag-waving, hug-dispensing mom, Debbie (Sharon Gless). Meanwhile, the show remains as confused, conflicted - and improbably entertaining - as ever.

*QUEER AS FOLKS AIRS ON SUNDAYS AT 9PM*

*And can be seen at DC's and The MAX*

*If you know of other places where Queer As Folks is being shown, please let us know.*

*Do You Have an Opinion About this Series?  
Email your comments to [news@rocc.org](mailto:news@rocc.org) and we will include them in the next issue. Comments must be received by Friday, January 18.*