



Greg Louganis Will Finally Appear on a Wheaties Box

By Bil Browning



Edwin Moses, Janet Evans and Greg Louganis (pictured right) will appear on Wheaties cereal boxes.

Four-time Olympic gold medalist Greg Louganis was famously shunned from one of the sports world's highest honors during his stellar career – appearing on the front a box of General Mills cereal Wheaties. Hurdler Edwin Moses and swimmer Janet Evans will also be featured on separate boxes.

Louganis was still closeted during the 1984 and 1988 Summer Olympics, but the rumor mill swirled with whispers that he was gay. Supporters claim that the reason the athlete wasn't featured was homophobia.

“The times have changed so drastically and so fast,” told The New York Times. “When I came out to my mom, she feared I'd always be a second-class citizen and never have a chance to be married. But Johnny [Chaillot] and I are married, and we're making a life together.” The two were wed in 2013.

Louganis came out as gay in 1994 and has HIV+ in an autobiography published the next year. He recounted testing positive shortly before the 1988 Olympics, but keeping it a secret so he would not be banned from participating. The swimmer famously hit his head on the springboard during one dive; his decision to come out as HIV+ sparked a nationwide discussion about the disease and led to greater acceptance for people living with HIV.

The former Olympian says he harbors no ill will toward cereal

maker General Mills for their decision in the 1980s, saying it was a different time and acceptance of LGBT people has increased dramatically.

“This means so much more than it would have back then,” he said. “Getting it now means people will see me as a whole person — a flawed person who is gay, HIV+, with all the other things I've been through.”

It's Been 35 Years Since Gay Men's Health Crisis Began in Larry Kramer's Living Room

BY KELSEY LOUIE

August 11, 1981 — 35 years ago to the day — was a day like no other. Fear was spreading rapidly since The New York Times published the first article about AIDS, titled “Rare Cancer Seen in 41 Homosexuals,” July 3 of that year. There is no way to put into words how hard and scary it was to be a gay man during that time. So on August 11, 1981, a group of brave men gathered in Larry Kramer's living room, and together they set a course to change history.



Choosing hope and strength over fear and helplessness, they passed around a hat and collected \$7,000 to fight this rare cancer. Soon Gay Men's Health Crisis, the world's first AIDS service organization, was born with a mission of fighting to

(Continued on page 2)

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end the AIDS epidemic and uplifting the lives of all affected.

The first service provided by the organization was the hotline, which began as an answering machine in the apartment of a volunteer, Rodger McFarlane, who later became the organization's second executive director. On the first night, 100 calls were received. Some of the questions required the help of medical, legal, and other professionals to answer. As there was no social service agency to which GMHC could direct these callers, it created the patient services division to provide further help.

As the current chief executive officer of GMHC, I look at the history of this organization and equate it with the start of the AIDS epidemic, both of which happened 35 years ago. I am still in awe at the time, energy, and dedication activists spent fighting this disease and caring for their loved ones. Going forward, what concerns me most is the current sense of complacency around HIV and AIDS. I fear that with tools like the HIV prevention strategy PrEP and the success of antiretroviral treatment, there is a lackluster willingness to fight in the same way AIDS activists fought at the beginning of the epidemic.

Given the fact that the United States still sees 50,000 new HIV infections every year, and has for the last decade, this is no time for complacency.

Many of the same problems GMHC's founders encountered in the 1980s are still problems today. Stigma and discrimination remain rampant against those living with HIV and AIDS as well as those most affected by the disease, most notably transgender women and young men of color who have sex with men. We still do not have a cure. And not everyone has access to universal, quality, affordable health care that includes mental health care and affordable prescription drug coverage.



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At GMHC, we are doing our part each and every day to help end the epidemic. Last year we served 10,000 clients from across New York City who were living with or affected by HIV and AIDS. We provided 3,000 HIV and sexually transmitted disease tests, maintained a 90 percent viral suppression rate among those who tested positive, served 80,000 hot meals, and opened a newly renovated youth space. We are currently in the process of opening new mental health and substance abuse clinics to stem these major drivers of the epidemic and meet the growing mental health crisis in this country.

Maybe it is because of all the amazing work AIDS service organizations and our partners in government do across the country, but I remain optimistic about finally putting an end to this epidemic, once and for all.

Who would have ever thought that one day we would see the Food and Drug Administration approve an HIV prevention drug? Truvada, approved for use as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in 2012, has been shown to reduce the risk of getting HIV from sex by more than 90 percent when used consistently. In the fall, the seventh major HIV vaccine efficacy trial will begin. And we now know that having an undetectable viral load greatly lowers your chance of transmitting the virus to sexual and drug-using partners who are HIV-negative.

These are all realities that no one could have ever imagined August 11, 1981.

But if we become complacent, our progress will become stagnant. We are nearing the last leg of this epidemic, and we must get ready to sprint to the finish line as a tribute to the 35 million we have lost to the epidemic in the world and the seven men who gathered in Larry Kramer's living room in 1981.

KELSEY LOUIE is the CEO of Gay Men's Health Crisis.

Greg Louganis Goes Fully Nude For ESPN Magazine — At Age 56

Going nude for a major publication is bold at any age. Greg Louganis just went for it at 56.

The Olympic diving dynamo just doffed his speedo for ESPN's annual "Body" issue, and we're way down.

"When I look around at my contemporaries," he says, "I'd say I'm probably in better shape than most of them. It's all about making healthy choices."

While health has obviously always been important to the athlete, it became even more of a priority when he was diagnosed as HIV-positive in 1988.

"HIV taught me that I'm a lot stronger than I ever believed I was," he says. "Also, not to take anything for granted. I didn't think I would see 30, and here I am at 56."

"I look at working out and doing something physically active every day as being as important as taking my meds."

ESPN's "Body" issue will hit stands on July 8.



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Gay and Bi Teens, Sex, Drugs, and HIV: The Latest Numbers

BY DREW KISER

A new study shows equal rates of risky sex between gay and straight male teens — but queer youth are still much more susceptible to HIV infection.

As part of the International AIDS Conference in Durban, South Africa, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention presented a report today analyzing the sexual risk behavior of American males in high school. These risk behaviors included having sex without condoms and having multiple sexual partners. The new study, which compiled data from ninth- through 12th-grade males identifying as gay, bisexual, or heterosexual, found “no significant differences” in the HIV-related risk behaviors between these groups.

But despite the very little difference between the HIV-related risk behaviors of gay youth and that of straight youth, the data show that the rate of HIV transmission is still much higher among men who have sex with men. MSM have an HIV diagnosis rate at 57 times that of heterosexual men. In 2014, for example, MSM represented a full 80 percent of new youth infections.

So why does HIV infection disproportionately affect gay and bisexual men if they don’t engage in risky sexual behavior more often than their heterosexual peers? A huge factor is the increased prevalence of HIV in the sexual networks of gay and bisexual men. And one must also keep in mind that, when it comes to HIV transmission, not all sex acts are created equal. According to Dr. Laura Kann, chief of the CDC’s School-Based Surveillance Branch, MSM are at higher risk because “the transmission risk for receptive anal sex is 17 times higher than [for] vaginal sex.”

Also contributing to this difference is increased drug use among gay and bisexual men, which “compounds their risk for HIV infection.” The study found that young MSM were five times as likely to try injection drugs, with 10 percent reporting having ever tried them. They were also much more likely to have tried heroin, methamphetamines, and cocaine. The use of these drugs — which encourage risky behavior — put them at an increased



risk of HIV compared with their heterosexual counterparts.

Dr. Kann said that simply being gay or bisexual can cause stress that may lead to drug use. “Social isolation, stress from self-concealment and coming out — and even hatred that can occur at home or school or within communities — may all contribute to risk,” she told *The Advocate*. In other words, the act of gay sex is only one factor; simply being gay or bi also increase the risk of infection.

As far as solutions go, the CDC proposes a multipronged approach: increased testing, more comprehensive education, better community support, and continued treatment for those living with HIV. Proper education is paramount. Currently, only 20 states require that their HIV education be medically accurate, and in four states — Alabama, South Carolina, Texas, and Utah — cannot show non-heterosexual orientations in a positive light. If we ever want to create an HIV-free America, our efforts for prevention have to start as early as possible.

LGBT History Classes Are Coming to California Schools

BY NICO LANG

In a groundbreaking move, the California State Board of Education voted to comprehensively expand its LGBT curricula. California is hoping to bring schools into the 21st century.

The California State Board of Education voted on new curriculum for its history and social science courses that expands its teaching on LGBT history, including “a study of the role of contributions” of “lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans.”

The new guidelines will extend to elementary, middle, and high school courses, as the *Associated Press* reports.

“In second grade, California students will learn about families with two moms or two dads,” writes the AP. “Two years later, while studying how immigrants have shaped the Golden State, they will hear how New York native Harvey Milk became a

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pioneering gay politician in San Francisco.”

During their senior year, students will also study the 2015 SCOTUS decision legalizing same-sex marriage, as well as the nationwide fight over public bathroom access for transgender individuals.



The updated guidelines were based in the 2012 passage of the Fair, Accurate, Inclusive and Respectful (FAIR) Education Act. Sponsored by State Sen. Mark Leno, the legislation mandated that California K-12 institutions include marginalized groups often excluded from public school curricula. This includes people of color, religious minorities, and those with disabilities.

Conservative groups have long sought to overturn the bill, with right-wing organizations petitioning to have it struck down at the ballot box. That attempt failed, unable to collect the minimum number of signatures for inclusion.

The FAIR Education Act faced a number of other obstacles to being effectively put into place, according to the AP. “Its implementation was slowed by attempts to overturn it, competing educational priorities and budget cuts that stalled work on drafting recommendations for the school board and textbook purchases,” the AP reports.

LGBT advocates complained that the initial guidelines, passed in 2014, barely broached the subject of equality at all, teaching a handful of important figures.

Tom Torlakson, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, told the AP that resolving these issues by providing inclusive, comprehensive teaching on LGBT lives is of great benefit to both schools and the youth they serve.

“This document will improve the teaching and learning of history and social science,” Torlakson stated in a press release. “It will give our students access to the latest historical research and help them learn about the diversity of our state and the contributions of people and groups who may not have received the appropriate recognition in the past.”

Allyson Chiu, a junior at Cupertino High School in Cupertino, Calif., said this instruction will most crucially impact LGBT students, many of whom don’t know their history. For students seeking to become comfortable in their identity, she said that can be a lifeline.

“My classmates can solve quadratic equations or cite the elements on the periodic table,” Chiu told the AP. “They can’t tell you who Harvey Milk was or the significance of the Stonewall Riots.”

The FAIR Education Act will likely, however, face continued obstacles to implementation, both from conservative groups and parents. Between the December 2015 and the end of February 2016, the California Department of Education received more than 10,000 emails about the bill, as the AP reports.

Many Oppose Gay Marriage Because Of All The Wild Gay Sex They Can’t Stop Picturing, UCLA Study Finds

Dear socially conservative straight people,

We think it’s great you’ve decided to get married and raise a family — it’s a beautiful choice to make! And if you hadn’t noticed, many same-sex couples are taking similar life steps.

But here’s the thing — regardless of your choice to get married or stay single, we really, truly, sincerely don’t give one iota of a damn about your sex life. Unless, of course, you’re thinking of experimenting with your own gender. Then we might be able to figure something out. (Big maybe.)

It’s time you pay us the same courtesy.

Cheers,
Common Sense Gays For a Better Tomorrow

It seems silly that in 2016, straight people are still letting gay rights affect their own lives so directly, but a new UCLA psychology study published in the journal *Psychological Science* concludes that many straight people still oppose same-sex marriage because they fear the sexual promiscuity perceived in LGBTQs will somehow shake the foundation of their own marriages.

“Many people who oppose same-sex marriage are uncomfortable with casual sex and feel threatened by sexual promiscuity,” said David Pinsof, a UCLA graduate student of psychology and lead author of the study.

Which is bizarre on multiple levels.

Gay sex has nothing to do with you. If it was a song it would be called “Gay Sex,” not “Gay Sex (The Straight Sex Remix).”

Pinsof added: “Sexual promiscuity may be threatening to these people because it provides more temptations for spouses to cheat on one another.”

If the ever-present thought of gay sex is hindering your relationship, you have way bigger problems than the institution of marriage being undermined.

“Opposition to same-sex marriage may be strategic by people who are seeking to protect their marriages and the marriages in their communities, and are fearful that changing the definition of marriage is threatening to their way of life,” Pinsof said. “Because they view gay people as promiscuous, they view the idea of same-sex marriage as undermining the institution of marriage.”

The participants who opposed same-sex marriage had a hard time disassociating “gay” and “promiscuous.”

Are all gay married couples monogamous? No. Are some? Yes. But there is nothing promiscuous about getting married (unless you’re one of the straight couples on *Married at First Sight*, the reality show that weds complete strangers).

And then there's another painfully real reason some conservatives are still afraid of their precious institutions being challenged — maintaining power.

"For people who are comfortable with women being more economically independent, marrying at a later age and having more sexual partners, sexual promiscuity is not as much of a threat because women do not depend on men for financial support."

We get it. Rules feel good when you're the one setting them. But how about you just focus on you. We won't interfere — promise.

Defying Doctrine, Methodists Elect Lesbian Bishop

BY TRUDY RING



From left: Rev. Karen Oliveto and Rev. Robin Ridenour; courtesy United Methodist News Service

The Western Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church, defying denominational doctrine against homosexuality, has elected an out lesbian bishop.

Rev. Dr. Karen Oliveto, elected Friday night in Scottsdale, Ariz., becomes the first openly LGBT bishop in the church's history, the Associated Press reports. She has been pastor of Glide Memorial United Methodist Church in San Francisco.

As bishop of the Western Jurisdiction, she will oversee churches in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming.

"Today we took a step closer to embody beloved community and while we may be moving there, we are not there yet," Oliveto said in a statement published on the denomination's website. "We are moving on to perfection." She is married to another clergy member, Rev. Robin Ridenour.

Oliveto was elected even though Methodist doctrine states that "the practice of homosexuality" is "incompatible with Christian

teaching." In spite of this, there are many openly LGBT, partnered clergy members in the denomination. At the church's General Conference this year, delegates decided to delay action on changing this policy, with the hierarchy instead setting up a special commission to study issues of sexuality.

The Reconciling Ministries Network, which advocates for LGBT equality in the church, praised Oliveto's election in an online statement, saying it "celebrates with great joy." It further noted, "A 40-year-movement to end codified discrimination against LGBTQ persons is reaching a tipping point that hardly any rational-minded observer can deny."

Opponents of LGBT equality did not deny that, and they warned that Oliveto's election could lead to schism. Rev. Rob Renfro, president of the conservative Methodist group Good News, said in an online post, "If the Western Jurisdiction wanted to push the church to the brink of schism, they could not have found a more certain way of doing so." Bruce R. Ough, president of the Methodist council of bishops, allowed that Oliveto's election "raises significant concerns and questions of church polity and unity."

Some forces are already trying to undo her election. The church's South Central Jurisdiction passed a resolution Friday night asking a high-ranking Methodist body, the Judicial Council, to review whether the election "of a person who claims to be a 'self-avowed practicing homosexual' or is a spouse in a same-sex marriage" is in keeping with church law, according to the Good News website.

Two gay men were up for election as bishops as regional church bodies met around the nation Friday, but neither succeeded, London's Guardian reports. Rev. Frank Wulf, running in the Western Jurisdiction, withdrew in favor of Oliveto, and Rev. David Meredith lost his election in the North Central Jurisdiction.

A Brief History of Trump's VP Hopeful Mike Pence's Anti-LGBT Nonsense

BY MCKENNA FERGUSON

Throughout the course of his campaign, Donald Trump has made it clear that he is no friend to the LGBT community. And his most recent choice for vice presidential candidate cements it.

Trump's pick, Indiana Governor Mike Pence, has a long history of being anti-LGBT rights and freedoms. It would appear that during his time in Congress and subsequent time as governor, attempting to squash the LGBT community was a top priority.

Here are just a few of Pence's highlights:

1. Last year he made national news by signing a so-called "religious freedom" bill into law in Indiana. The law effectively allowed businesses to deny service to LGBT customers.
2. Pence opposed the Supreme Court's decision to legalize same-sex marriage. After the ruling was announced, Pence told the

Canada Is Apologizing to Its Gay Citizens — Will America Follow Suit?

BY NEAL BROVERMAN

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau wants to help right some of the wrongs of the past. Barack Obama — or Hillary Clinton — could do the same.



Before 1969, gay sex was illegal in Canada; many people were jailed and had their reputations ruined as a result. Similar to the U.S., LGBT people in Canada were also booted from the military and public service positions up until recent decades. Now, Canada's young, liberal prime minister, Justin Trudeau, is planning to apologize for the country's past treatment of LGBT people, expunge the records of those convicted under the homophobic laws, and possibly compensate those affected by them.

The announcement led some LGBT Americans to ponder if such an incredible olive branch could be extended here. The short answer: no.

The most obvious reason to believe America would not follow Canada down the path of atonement is that it has never done anything similar. The nation has yet to apologize for slavery, which wasn't abolished until 1865, or offer financial reparations to the descendants of enslaved African-Americans (even

(Continued on next page)



press, "Like many Hoosiers, I believe marriage is the union between one man and one woman, and I am disappointed that the Supreme Court failed to recognize the historic role of the states in setting marriage policy in this country. "

3. He supported an in-state measure to ban same-sex marriage in Indiana.

4. Pence was also against the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

5. While running for Congress in 2000, he suggested that the government lower resources for HIV treatment and shift focus to conversion therapy.

6. Unsurprisingly, Pence supported DOMA, the Defense of Marriage Act, which was ruled unconstitutional.

7. When asked multiple times by George Stephanopoulos on ABC's This Week with George Stephanopoulos if LGBT discrimination by businesses or citizens should be lawful, Pence could not give a clear answer, even when it was posed as a yes-or-no question.

8. He voted against the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

9. He also voted against the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act and, when it passed, said, "The president has used his position as commander in chief to advance a radical social agenda when he should have used it to advance legislation that would unequivocally support our troops."

Finally, and most recently...

10. When the Obama administration provided guidance for schools saying that transgender students should be allowed to use the restroom that corresponds with their gender identity, Pence stated that "The federal government has no business getting involved in issues of this nature."

What does this all mean?

Basically, when it comes to LGBT issues Mike Pence is... The Woorst !!

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though a United Nations panel suggested such an action). In addition, Barack Obama, visiting Japan in May, didn't apologize for the nuclear bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the end of World War II. "Sorry" isn't really American, we guess.

Another consideration is that an apology usually comes after a wrong is righted. In the U.S., LGBT Americans can still legally be fired and kicked out of their homes in several states. Transgender rights are also still up for debate in many places, and antigay "religious freedom" bills are still proposed and passed regularly. Gay and bisexual men also aren't allowed to donate blood unless they haven't had a same-sex experience in a year. At this point, an apology from the American government would feel very premature.

Bible-Quoting Barbershop Refuses to Cut Trans Veteran's Hair

BY NEAL BROVERMAN

Kendall Oliver, a gender-nonconforming Army reservist and Afghanistan veteran, was just trying to get a haircut in the Los Angeles suburb of Rancho Cucamonga. Instead, Oliver was denied service by the shop's Christian owner, who says the Bible dictates that women shouldn't cut their hair.

Oliver told Los Angeles TV station KNBC that he identifies as male, but that didn't make a difference at The Barbershop.

"They said, 'It doesn't matter ma'am, we still won't cut a woman's hair,'" Oliver recounted to KNBC.

Oliver told KCAL TV he was "very offended" by the shop's refusal of service.

"I don't think that's how someone should be discriminated against, whether they identify as male or female or transgender," Oliver said. "A person is a person."



Oliver returned to the store and was once again refused a haircut.

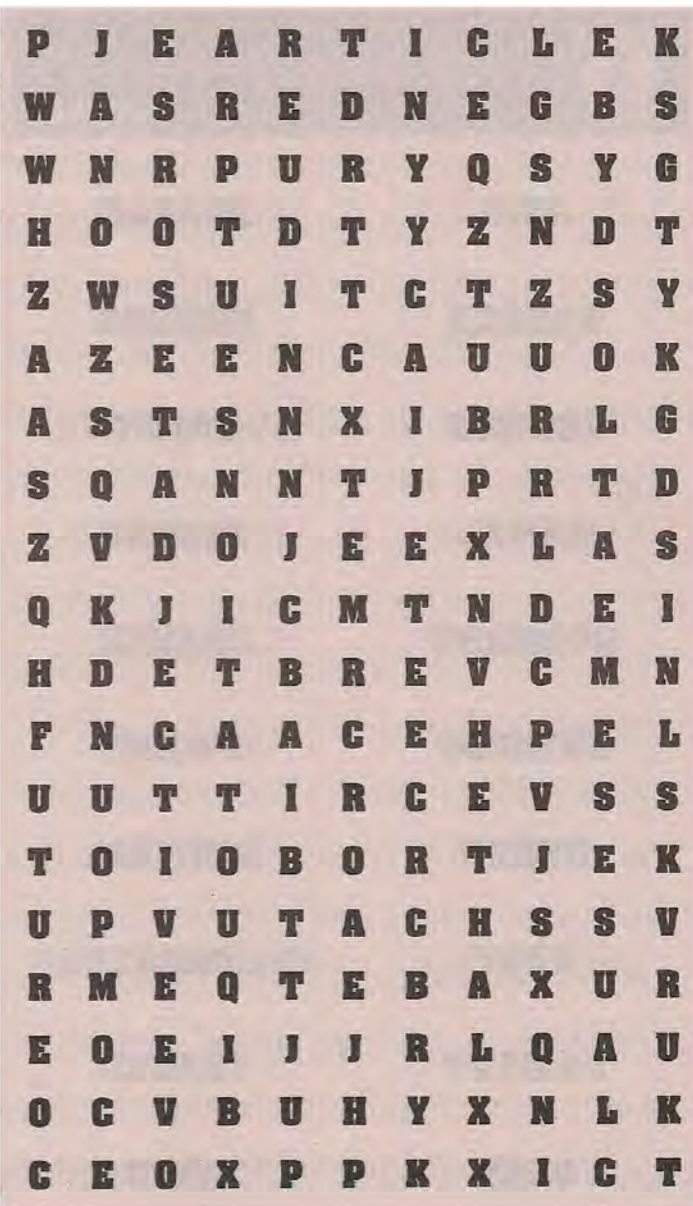
The Barbershop's owner, Richard Hernandez, said he didn't intend to discriminate against LGBT people, but stood by his policy against cutting women's hair.

(Continued on page 14)

ADJECTIVE	PARTICIPLE
ADVERB	PHRASES
ARTICLE	QUOTATIONS
CLAUSES	SENTENCE
COMPOUND	STRUCTURE
FUTURE	SUBJECT
GENDER	SYNTAX
IMPERATIVE	TENSE
NOUN	VERB
OBJECT	VOICE

Can you find all of the words?

Answer key on Page 15



Life Beyond Therapy

By Michael Kimmel

Visit Michael's website:
www.lifebeyondtherapy.com

Top/Bottom/ Versatile

I was recently at a party where I was asked, "As a therapist, can you tell me why there are so many more bottoms than tops?"

Well, some things may be eternal mysteries, but I'll give the question my best shot. I can't assume that this guy's observations are accurate (and who could prove them?), but the question of why people choose to be tops/bottoms/versatile is a fascinating one.

Unfortunately, I haven't seen much research in psychological journals on this matter, so I will have to go with my own observations as a psychotherapist and openly gay man.

At its best, anal intercourse is an act of intimacy, trust and excitement for both parties. Whether it happens between long-term partners at home in their comfy bed or in an alley behind a bar with Mister No Name, anal intercourse between two people is an experience whose pleasures and parameters are defined and experienced by its participants.

It is my observation that a large percent of gay/bi/trans men enjoy both topping and bottoming. Does such versatility indicate a unique psychological makeup or is it just a physical preference? Is it emotionally "healthier" to be able to enjoy being sexually expressive in a variety of ways? What – if anything – lies behind the stereotypes of tops and bottoms? Does being a top represent being active, aggressive, overly masculine or being in control? Could it also represent a fear of vulnerability and being penetrated? Is bottoming about being receptive and secure enough to allow another to enter you and "merge" with you... or is it more about being passive and submissive?

While there may be some truth in stereotypes, being a top or a bottom or versatile may not necessarily mean anything. For example, most of us know men we could consider "power bottoms": men who are very assertive and controlling bottoms, who often orchestrate their sexual encounters down to the last detail. We also know top men who are gentle and even androgynous, busting that hyper-masculine, Marlboro Man image.

In my private practice, I have noticed that many clients – particularly younger men – start out their sexual lives as exclusively tops or bottoms until they eventually find themselves in an intimate relationship with another man. There, they often feel comfortable enough to explore that "other side" of themselves. Top men decide to allow their lovers to penetrate them; bottom guys want to try being inside their man. This doesn't always lead to



versatility, but it allows both men to see what its like to play each part and see how it fits him (pun intended).

The world of tops and bottoms is not one that can simply be explained in these few paragraphs. The BDSM world explores further dimensions and nuances that I will not attempt to address here. Many lesbian and bisexual couples also experiment with these roles, thanks to "strap-on" dildoes and other accoutrements that can make everyone's sex lives more interesting.

Ultimately, I believe that it isn't so important whether you're a top or a bottom. What matters is that you freely and safely express your sexual energies and that your partner enjoys his/hers. Overemphasizing rigid stereotypes and top/bottom roles seems like a stale, leftover paradigm from the 70's and 80's. I suggest that we all continue to explore our sexual and erotic life.

Experiment. Keep an open mind. Try new things. Keep pushing your own envelope (mentally and physically) and let go of the overly simplistic focus on tops or bottoms. If – like the guy at the party – you lament the lack of top men in your life, perhaps it would be more helpful to look at the lack of sexual and emotional fulfillment in your life, rather than to expect a time-worn stereotype to make you happy.

Gay Olympian Tom Bosworth Asks Boyfriend to Marry Him on Beach in Rio

By Bil Browning

British track and field star Tom Bosworth asked his boyfriend, Harry Dineley, to marry him on a beach in Rio de Janeiro – and he said yes!

Bosworth, who came out last year, posted a photo of his proposal on Twitter and Dineley followed up with a peek at the engagement ring.

"It is a big decision, but it's not going to change my life. I'm comfortable and have been in a happy relationship for the last four and a half years," Bosworth said when he came out. "This isn't going to shock anybody that knows me. But to speak out about this, as a sportsperson, it is still news."

"In a few years time, anyone [will be able] to do this. Anyone can succeed in sport. And then hopefully it won't be news anymore."

Bosworth holds three British records and is England's top-ranked race walker. He came in sixth during the competition in Rio.



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

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

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

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

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

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

RIVER CITY MIXED BOWLING

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

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

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

WIMMIN'S SHOW, KZUM 89.3 12:30pm

Every Monday

A A GLBT "RAINBOW GROUP"

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

GAY/BI/STRAIGHT SUPPORT GROUP

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

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

RIVER CITY MIXED CHORUS RE-

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

Every Tuesday

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

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

UNL LESBIAN/BI/QUESTIONING SUPPORT GROUP, 7-8:30PM, Women's Center, Nebraska Union, Lincoln, 472-5644

Every Wednesday

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

FRONTRUNNERS RUN/WALK

6:30pm, Elmwood Park Parking Lot by softball field, Omaha barbqbill@aol.com

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., See www.nap.org for times and locations. Testing is free and you need to know your status.

UNITY CHURCH OF OMAHA, 7pm

Every Thursday

NAP HIV TESTING See www.nap.org for detailed times and locations. Testing is free and you need to know your status.

Every Friday

LIVE & LET LIVE AA Meeting

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

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

OUT & ABOUT SOCIAL CLUB

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

Every Saturday

AA SATURDAY AFTERNOON

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

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

PROUD HORIZON YOUTH GROUP

4-6pm, First United Methodist Church, 291-6781 proudhorizons@yahoo.com

MONTHLY EVENTS

1st Monday

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

1st Thursday

GLBT PROFESSIONALS, meeting at 5:30pm in various locations. See www.GOglbt.org for info

1st Friday

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

1st Sunday

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

SPIRITUAL FRIENDS OF LINCOLN

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

2nd Monday

NAP HIV TESTING

Respect Clinic, walk-in from 5:30pm to 7pm
—50th & Ames Ave.

2nd Thursday

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

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

2nd Sunday

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

3rd Monday

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

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

3rd Sunday

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

4th Monday

NAP HIV TESTING

Respect Clinic, walk-in from 5:30pm 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

Steven Wright Quotes

1. Two antennas meet on a roof, fall in love and get married.
The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.
2. Two hydrogen atoms walk into a bar. One says, "I've lost my electron."
The other says, "Are you sure?"
The first replies, "Yes, I'm positive..."
3. A jumper cable walks into a bar. The bartender says, "I'll serve you, but don't start anything."
4. Two peanuts walk into a bar, and one was a salted.

5. A sandwich walks into a bar. The bartender says, "Sorry, we don't serve food in here."

6. A dyslexic man walks into a bra.

7. A man walks into a bar with a slab of asphalt under his arm and says, "A beer please, and one for the road."

8. Two cannibals are eating a clown. One says to the other, "Does this taste funny to you?"

9. "Doc, I can't stop singing 'The Green, Green Grass of Home.'" "That sounds like Tom Jones Syndrome." "Is it common?" Doc says, "It's Not Unusual."

10. Two cows standing next to each other in a field, Daisy says to Dolly, "I was artificially inseminated this morning."
"I don't believe you," said Dolly.
"It's true," exclaimed Daisy, "No bull!"

11. An invisible man marries an invisible woman. The kids were nothing to look at either.

12. A man takes his Rottweiler to the vet and says, "My dog's cross-eyed, is there anything you can do for him?"
"Well," says the vet, "let's have a look at him." So he picks the dog up and examines his eyes, then checks his teeth. Finally, he says, "I'm going to have to put him down."
"What? Because he's cross-eyed?" "No, because he's really heavy."

13. I went to buy some camouflage trousers the other day but I couldn't find any.

14. I went to the butcher's the other day and I bet him 50 bucks that he couldn't reach the meat off the top shelf. He said, "No, the steaks are too high."

15. I went to a seafood disco last week... and pulled a mussel.

16. What do you call a fish with no eyes? A fish.

17. Two termites walk into a bar. One asks, "Is the bar tender here?"

18. How come that blind guy's right leg is yellow? His dog is blind too.

19. Grasshopper goes into a bar. The bartender says "Hey, we've got a drink named after you!"
The grasshopper says, "That's stupid. Who'd want a drink named Larry?"

Defective Parrot

A guy is browsing in a pet shop and sees a parrot sitting on a little perch. It doesn't have any feet or legs. The guy says aloud, "Jeesh, I wonder what happened to this parrot?"

The parrot says, "I was born this way. I'm a defective parrot."

"Holy crap," the guy replies. "You actually understood and answered me!"
"I got every word," says the parrot. "I happen to be a highly intelligent thoroughly educated bird."

"Oh yeah?" the guy asks, "Then answer this -- how do you hang onto your perch without any feet?"

"Well," the parrot says, "this is very embarrassing but since you asked, I wrap my weenie around this wooden bar like a little hook. You can't see it because of my feathers."

"Wow," says the guy. "You really can understand and speak English can't you?"

"Actually, I speak both Spanish and English, and I can converse with reasonable competence on almost any topic: politics, religion, sports, physics, philosophy. I'm especially good at ornithology. You really ought to buy me. I'd be a great companion."

The guy looks at the \$200.00 price tag. "Sorry, but I just can't afford that."
"Psssssst," says the parrot, "I'm defective, so the truth is, nobody wants me cause I don't have any feet. You can probably get me for \$20; just make the guy an offer!"

The guy offers \$20 and walks out with the parrot. Weeks go by. The parrot is sensational. He has a great sense of humor, he's interesting, he's a great pal, he understands everything, he sympathizes, and he's insightful. The guy is delighted.

One day the guy comes home from work and the parrot goes, "Psssssssst," and motions him over with one wing. "I don't know if I should tell you this or not, but it's about your wife and the UPS man."

"What are you talking about?" asks the guy.

"When the UPS man delivered a package today, your wife greeted him at the door in a sheer black nightie."

"WHAT???" the guy asks incredulously. "THEN what happened?"

"Well, then the UPS man came into the house and lifted up her nightie and began petting her all over," reported the parrot.

"NO!" he exclaims. "And she let him?"

"Yes. Then he continued taking off the nightie, got down on his knees and began to kiss her all over"

Then the frantic guy demands, "THEN WHAT HAPPENED?"

"Damned if I know. I got an erection and fell off my perch!"

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.firstuomaha.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 barbqbill@aol.com

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. See www.GOglbt.org for info

Greater Omaha LGBT Democrats <http://omahalgbltdemocrats.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

NebraskaEquality.org, Find out everything about Nebraska and the GLBT Community www.NebraskaPrideIDOL.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

-0537, LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation

SNAP Productions, Box 8464, Omaha, NE 68108 www.snapproductions.com

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

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

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, Wednesdays 4pm to 7pm. Walk-in ok.

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

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

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

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

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

Straight Spouse Support Grp 402-429-6094

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

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

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

Youth Support Group, (402) 434-9880

Iowa Based

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

www.councilbluffscommunityalliance.org

Council Bluffs Pride, www.councilbluffspride.org

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

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

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

Nationally Based

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

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The Hungry Homo

Cheesy Chili Rice

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup rice
- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 2 tsp. chili powder
- 1/4 lb. cheddar cheese cut in chunks
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 can of tomatoes
- 3/4 cup chopped raw onions
- 1 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 cup rice olives, minced

Methods/Steps

Combine rice and olive oil in skillet. Cook over low heat, stirring constantly until rice is pale gold. Add beef and cook, stirring until meat loses its red color. Stir in tomatoes, water, onion, garlic, salt and chili powder. Cover and cook over low heat for about 40 minutes, or until liquid is absorbed and rice is tender. Stir in olives with chunks of cheese. Cover and heat about 10 minutes or until cheese melts.

Makes 4 - 6 servings



Where Can You Find The Gayzette?

Omaha:

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

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

Waffled Ham and Cheese Sandwiches

Ingredients

- 1 stick (1/2 cup) unsalted butter, softened
- 16 slices firm white sandwich bread
- 8 thin slices boiled ham (1/4 lb.)
- 8 thin slices Swiss cheese (1/4 lb.)

Methods/Steps

Preheat waffle iron on high until just beginning to smoke. Reduce heat to moderate and brush generously with some butter. Spread butter on 1 side of 8 bread slices and turn slices over. Top 4 slices with 1 slice ham and 1 slice cheese, folding in any overhang, and then top with remaining 4 buttered bread slices, buttered sides up.

Cook sandwiches in batches (number of batches will depend on size of your waffle maker) until bread is golden and crisp, 4-6 minutes. Assemble and cook 4 more sandwiches in same manner. Just before serving, cut each sandwich into 2 triangles.

Makes 16 Half sandwiches



(Continued from page 8)

"People go against what God has created, you start getting everything all out of whack," Hernandez told KNBC. "It's a shame for a man to have long hair, but if a woman has long hair, it's her glory and it speaks to being given to her as her covering, and I don't want to be one who is taking away from her glory."

Noting that he is a member of the Church of God, Hernandez told KNBC that his faith does not allow him to cut any woman's hair, "even if they identify themselves as a man."

KNBC reached out to the Hernandez's congregation in Upland, but did not receive a response by press time. A Church of God in Garden Grove, however, did respond to KNBC's inquiries, stating that that particular congregation has no doctrine against cutting women's hair.

It is illegal in California for businesses to discriminate against customers because of their gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

International Olympic Committee Condemns Article Outing Gay Athletes

BY NICO LANG

The International Olympic Committee has strongly condemned journalist Nico Hines, the author of a since-deleted article from The Daily Beast that critics accused of outing gay athletes.

"We understand the organization concerned recalled the journalist after complaints and withdrew the story," said a spokesperson from the IOC in an email to Outsports. "This kind of reporting is simply unacceptable."

This is the first time the IOC has spoken out about the controversy since Hines' article, originally entitled "I Got Three Grindr Dates in an Hour in the Olympic Village," was published last Thursday. Hines, who is straight and married, logged on to dating apps like Tinder and Grindr to report on the availability of casual sex in the Olympic Village. He allegedly received the most responses from men on Grindr, and that is why it became the focus of his story.

John Avlon, the editor in chief for The Daily Beast, claimed in an addendum to the piece that Hines' intent was "to see how dating and hook-up apps were being used in Rio by athletes."

Although it was later amended, the original article included information that could potentially identify the men who made dates with Hines, including the athletes' ranks and the sports in which they are competing. Hudson Taylor, the executive director of Athlete Ally, told NBC News that exposure could put Olympians in danger.

"There are over 200 athletes competing in the Olympics from countries for which being gay is punishable by death," Taylor said.

Out swimmer Amini Fonua hails from one such country — the Polynesian nation of Tonga.



"Imagine the one space you can feel safe, the one space you're able to be yourself, ruined by a straight person who thinks it's all a joke?" Fonua, who is competing in the men's 100 meter breaststroke, wrote on Twitter. "No straight person will ever know the pain of revealing your truth, to take that away is just... can't. It literally brings me to tears."

Hines's piece was eventually removed from the site, and the editors posted a note apologizing for the harm it may have caused.

"Today we did not uphold a deep set of The Daily Beast's values," the message read. "These values — which include standing up to bullies and bigots, and specifically being a proudly, steadfastly supportive voice for LGBT people all over the world—are core to our commitment to journalism and to our commitment to serving our readers."

Its editors further promised that The Daily Beast will take steps in the future to prevent further anti-LGBT gaffes. "We will do better," the site stated.

Injustice: How the Sex Offender Registry Destroys LGBT Rights

BY TOM WAHL AND NICOLE PITTMAN

Queer youth are being disproportionately labeled as sex offenders.

It's hard to believe that until recently, there were still laws on the books that made it illegal to be gay. Our legal system may no longer explicitly prohibit same-sex relationships, but we have found new ways to criminalize queer kids. We label them as sex offenders.

Across the country, children are put on sex-offense registries for behaviors that range from "playing doctor" to streaking to having consensual sex with peers a few years apart in age. The statistics are scary: out of 800,000 people on registries, one out of four — more than 200,000 — are under the age of 18. A child as young as 8 years old can be labeled as a "deviant." Additionally, initial investigations show a disproportionate

number of these youth are queer.

To be clear, kids do commit serious harm. Regardless of the behavior, though, two decades of research have shown that registration does not reduce recidivism or prevent harm in the first place. And the LGBTQ disparity isn't a reflection of justice — or public safety. It's an indication of the implicit and explicit bias woven throughout the legal and welfare systems and all the more reason to make eliminating the practice of registering youth a priority.

A report, called "Give the Kid a Break — But Only if He's Straight," found that LGBTQ young people are given harsher punishments than their straight, gender-conforming counterparts. In the study, participants suggested disciplinary consequences for an older teenager having sex with a 14-year-old. A 16-year-old straight culprit was much less likely to end up on the registry than a gay 16-year-old.

Queer and gender-nonconforming youth are also more likely to get kicked out of their homes, run away, or be funneled into the child welfare system. Once in the welfare system, their lives are more closely watched and normative behavior that might have elicited a talking to from parents ends up reported to authorities. Nicole Pittman's human rights report, "Raised on the Registry," found that 90 percent of the 500 youth on the registry she interviewed were in the child welfare system at the time of their arrest.

Even the laws themselves can be blatantly discriminatory. In the 2003 case *Lawrence v. Texas*, the Supreme Court struck down state bans on same-sex sodomy; however, Justice An-



thony Kennedy's majority opinion included this single negating phrase: "[the] present case does not involve minors, which this comment will refer to as 'the minor exception.'" Kennedy was referring to adult-on-minor sexual conduct, but states have used it as a loophole. Texas law, for example, considers sexual contact with a minor under the age of 17 a felony, unless both participants are under 18, no more than three years apart, and they are of different sexes.

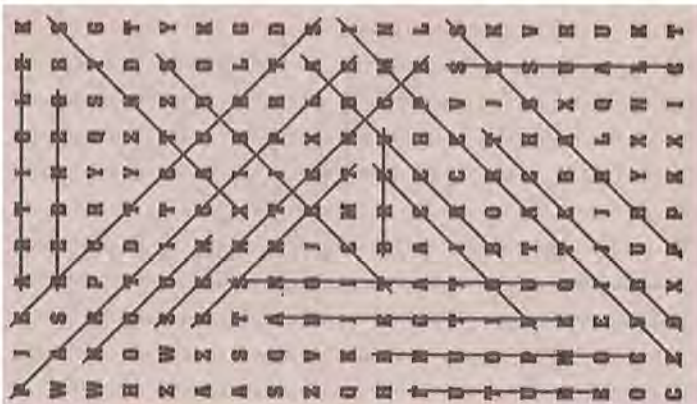
Once young people are on the registry, the trauma grows. Children are ostracized, socially isolated, and often physically banished from their homes and communities by child safety zones. Their life becomes a struggle for employment, and they must regularly check in with law enforcement; if they fail to report even a minor change in their lives, they can be sent to prison with a felony. LGBTQ youth in prison can also be both the targets of sexual abuse and homophobia. One out of five youth on the registry have attempted suicide. Queer youth already have high rates of suicide, so this adds to the risk.

The laws created to protect our children from harm have potential to be very harmful, potentially fatal, and definitely life-altering. Registering youth is contrary to public safety and a costly burden to law enforcement, but it is our LGBTQ youth who are paying the high prices. While they have shown great resilience and courage, this debt is not theirs to pay. As a society, we need to redress this miscalculation and eliminate youth registration laws.

TOM WAHL is chairman of the Liberty Education Forum and NICOLE PITTMAN is vice president of Impact Justice.



NASA FINDS EVIDENCE OF WATER ON MARS.



nap
NEBRASKA AIDS PROJECT

250 South 77th Street, Suite A
Omaha, NE 68114
(Located behind McDonald's at 77th & Dodge Street)

www.nap.org
402-552-9260

Get Smart, Get Tested

Kyle's Bed & Breakfast by Greg Fox

