



Gay Penguin Book Tops Most Challenged List

by The Associated Press

(New York City) A children's story about a family of penguins with two fathers once again tops the list of library books the public objects to the most.



"And Tango Makes Three," released in 2005 and co-written by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell, was the most "challenged" book in public schools and libraries for the second straight year, according to the American Library Association.

"The complaints are that young children will believe that homosexuality is a lifestyle that is acceptable. The people complaining, of course, don't agree with that," Judith Krug, director of the ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom, told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

The ALA defines a "challenge" as a "formal, written complaint filed with a library or school requesting that materials be removed because of content or appropriateness."

Other books on the ALA's top 10 list include Maya Angelou's memoir "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," in which the author writes of being raped as a young girl; Mark Twain's "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," long attacked for alleged racism; and Philip Pullman's "The Golden Compass," an anti-religious work in which a former nun says: "The Christian religion is a very powerful and convincing mistake."

Pullman's novel, released in 1996, received new attention last year because of the film version starring Nicole Kidman.

Overall, the number of reported library challenges dropped from 546 in 2006 to 420 last year, well below the mid-1990s, when complaints topped 750. For every challenge listed, about four to five go unreported, the library association estimates.

"The atmosphere is a little better than it used to be," Krug says. "I think some of the pressure has been taken off of books by the Internet, because so much is happening on the Internet."

Our Right to be Proud

On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress of the United States of America, drafted a document, largely penned by Thomas Jefferson, which declared our independence from England. Among the points stated in that Declaration of Independence is the following:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

However, we as members of the GLBT community have not been accorded these same basic rights. We as GLBTQQS people have a very long history in this nation. We have a long history in this world. We as members of the GLBTQQS community have been present as long as humanity has been present. Our struggles have varied, depending upon the culture of the times, but it seems that a country founded upon the principles of freedom has become a country most stifling in its treatment of GLBTQQS peoples. The documentation of our struggle in this country goes back to 1624, in Jamestown, the first recorded execution for sodomy in the new world. In 1642, a woman was whipped and fined for, "unseemly practices with another maid attempting to do that which man and woman do." In 1652, a man in New Hampshire, is fined for "putting on women's apparel" and made to admit his guilt to the community. 1691, In Massachusetts, a woman is fined and publicly humiliated for wearing men's clothes.

In 1704 Lord Cornbury, the royal governor of New York and New Jersey, is accused by his critics of dressing as a woman to hold court. In 1752 "Dr. Charles Hamilton" is arrested in Chester, Pennsylvania, and revealed to be Charlotte Hamilton, who confessed to having lived in disguise as a man for several years. I find it interesting that the man who influenced so much of what democracy and freedom means in this country, tried to change things a bit. In 1779, Thomas Jefferson introduces a bill to change Virginia law to make sodomy (committed by men or women) punishable by mutilation rather than death. The bill read, "Whosoever shall be guilty of rape, polygamy, or sodomy with a man or woman, shall be punished; if a man, by castration, a woman, by boring through the cartilage of her nose a hole of one half inch in diameter at the least." Small consolation, it seems...

In 1779, in a letter to his friend, John Laurens, a young soldier named Alexander Hamilton wrote:

(Continued on page 4)

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(Our Right to be Proud, story Continued from page 1)

"I wish, my dear Laurens, it might be in my power, by actions rather than words, to convince you that I love you." He went on playfully to admonish Laurens because "You should not have taken advantage of my sensibility to steal into my affections without my consent," but assured him that "you will always continue to merit the partiality which you have so artfully instilled into me."

That soldier became an important part of the American Revolution and the first government of this young country. Hamilton served as the first Secretary of the treasury of the United States. Whether or not Alexander Hamilton, whose portrait appears on the ten dollar bill, had a physical relationship with John Laurens is not known. Truthfully, it is not important. What is important is that a love was allowed to develop between two people. Those two people just happened to be men. That is the true struggle. Love. It is no one's business except that of the people involved.

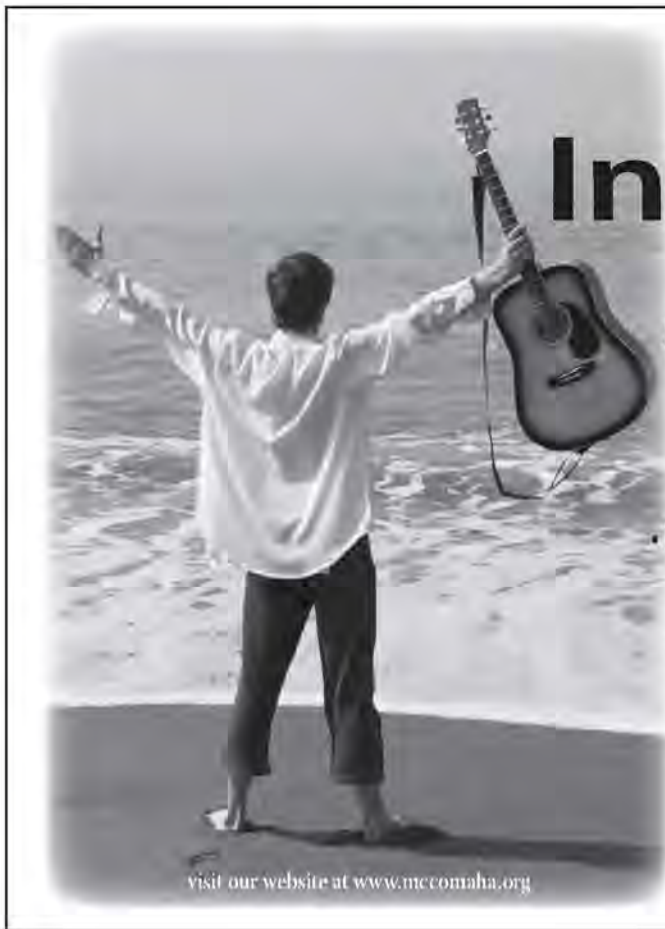
In 1985, at the breaking of publicity of the aids crises, the actor Rock Hudson came out to the world and admitted to suffering with the disease. He put a famous face upon an awaiting disaster hoping to save lives. At that time my grandfather was celebrating his 90th birthday. I was celebrating the birth of my oldest son. I went home to see my grandfather. I was still quite content in my denial, and he asked me what a homosexual was. I attempted to explain over the next hour and a half. He just couldn't understand. He was still mourning the death of my grandmother six years before, so I asked him how he felt about her. He told me she was his life and a part of his life ended

with hers. I explained that sometimes two men felt the same way, or two women, and that they would have children together if it were biologically possible. He became silent, then his eyes opened wide and he said, "that is what this is about?" "All this hatred, and the preachers teaching hate?" He began to cry, and he hugged me and said through his tears, "Who but God decides who we love. People are dying, we have no choice but to help!"

If I learned nothing else from my grandfather, I learned the true meaning of love. It doesn't choose, it just is... It is freely given, and unconditional. I think the late Heath Ledger, of Brokeback Mountain fame, said it best in a 2006 interview with Fordham University's The Observer, an unassuming Ledger said, "... [we] wanted to tell a story of someone who transcends the label of straight or gay; he's a soul that falls in love with another soul within the vessel of a man."

Our true struggle for our "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness lies within our right to be who we were created to be, with-in our right to love....beyond that, nothing else matters.....That truly is our PRIDE!

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The advance tickets are available until Friday May 16th and can be purchased through Shelley @ 402-658-2922 or shelleyhgra@wmconnect.com or Brady Hodge @ brady-bunch1970@hotmail.com. You can also purchase tickets, in advance, via our website www.HGRA.net through PayPal, but these tickets will cost \$21 to include shipping & handling charges. You can purchase tickets at the door on the day of the event for \$25.00 per person.

The party is from 6pm until 9 pm and we invite everyone from babies to baby boomers. Teens can hold their partners hands while skating. Children under 13 can rip and run through the Playdazium. All ages will enjoy the Lazer Tag.

We will also have some contests for the skaters, just to make it more of a "rodeo event". Contestants will skate around the floor and around cones to simulate "barrel racing", in and out of cones for "Pole Bending". We may even try some "calf roping" on skates!



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Volunteer Recruitment will also be held on

Saturday May 10th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. @ the Rainbow Out Reach Center 1716 Leavenworth Road Omaha, NE

Saturday May 24th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. @ the Rainbow Out Reach Center 1716 Leavenworth Road Omaha, NE

Saturday May 31st from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. @ the Rainbow Out Reach Center 1716 Leavenworth Road Omaha, NE

Volunteer Orientation

Thursday June 19th 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. @ the Lewis & Clark Landing 515 North Riverfront Drive

2008 Tom Mahony Pride Prom

Proud Horizons, Parents Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG Omaha), Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network (GLSEN Omaha) and the metropolitan Omaha Gay Straight Alliances will hold the fourth annual Tom Mahony Pride Prom for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth and their straight allies ages 13-23. The Pride Prom will be held Saturday, May 17 from 7-11 p.m. in Cary Hall at First United Methodist Church, 7020 Cass Street, Omaha, Nebraska. The dance will have a DJ, photographer, security officers and refreshments. The theme selected for this year's dance is Vampire Gothic. Admission is payable at the door and is \$6.00 per person or \$5.00 per person with a can of food donation. Food donations will go to the Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha's food pantry which provides services to the Nebraska AIDS Project and the community.

Pride Prom planners are expecting over 250 youth this year. To help make the prom a success, the prom committee needs the community's financial support. Please make checks payable to Proud Horizons. Donations may be sent to Proud Horizons, 15409 Shirley St. Omaha, NE 68144.

As part of PFLAG Omaha, Proud Horizons is a 501(c)3 organization and donations to the prom are tax deductible in accordance with applicable IRS regulations.

All groups and individuals will be given recognition at the prom for their donations. If you wish to remain an anonymous donor, please let us know.

Proud Horizons is a youth support group for LGBT youth and their allies and provides a safe space for youth to discuss life's issues with their peers and to create a social network. Proud Horizons is sponsored by PFLAG Omaha. For more information about Proud Horizons visit their Web site: www.proudhorizons.com or e-mail proudhorizons@yahoo.com

For more information about the Pride Prom, please contact Carrie Spencer at 402-880-8073, e-mail carrie1224@yahoo.com or proudhorizons@yahoo.com

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Reflections With Pastor Tom

Doubt

Doubt is not the opposite of faith. Certainty is the opposite of faith. Real faith, the faith that can move mountains, actually springs from doubt.



Many people who believe in God experience feelings of shame or regret over their doubt, as if they are letting God down. This is not the case. When we carry on our faith in the presence of doubt we are living in and transcending a very real paradox that all too often has trapped others.

The paradox is this: For every truly great accomplishment there was always a moment when it was said “this can’t be done, that is impossible.” Making the impossible possible, the invisible apparent and the hidden uncovered is what the faith journey is all about. It is about accepting our doubt and moving into it. Then we have an inspiring story to share.

I’ve met a lot of Christians, you know the kind, everything, and I mean everything, is “God’s will”. They can’t say a sentence without the word “Jesus” in it. They live in certainty. They have the entire world mapped out based on their certainty. They got God in a box. They have an answer for everything. The world is all about what is good/evil, right/wrong, heaven/hell and etc. Well, sooner or later an event in life (like a child or parent coming out of the closet) shatters their paradigm of certainty; they are left with nothing. Their “faith” was just a

house of cards. They lived a Christianity of answers instead of a Christianity of questions. People who rely on only science or only their own small life experience have often constructed the same house of cards. Yes, atheists and fundamentalist Christians are two different sides of the same coin. They are both all too certain of what “is” and what “is not.” That’s a dangerous and reckless place to be. The inflexibility of certainty is cause for debilitating inflexibility in a crisis.

The power of the Christ, the love of God and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit are in the journey not the destination. God is found just as often, perhaps more often, in our questions than in our answers. Through the journey, our doubt helps us to ask the right questions along the way. Our doubt keeps us flexible and can even inspire others. Doubt is truly part of faith’s foundation. When we doubt that something is, we affirm that something else might be. We create possibility.

One day, over twenty years ago, I doubted that God was an angry condemning old man sitting on a throne in heaven that dammed people to hell. That was the moment I began to understand God as love—as real true love. The faith I have today was born out of my doubt of yesterday.

Now, go . . . find faith in your doubt. Live your questions. Create possibility.

May God Bless & Keep You . . . Pastor Tom
pastortom@mccomaha.org

Next Issue: passion

(Gay Penguin Book, story Continued from page 1)

According to the ALA, at least 65 challenges last year led to a book being pulled.

In Louisville, Ky., a high school principal told 150 English students to drop "Beloved." Toni Morrison's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel about an ex-slave who has murdered her baby daughter. At least two parents had complained that "Beloved" includes depictions of violence, racism and sex.

In Burlingame, Calif., Mark Mathabane's "Kaffir Boy," a memoir about growing up poor and black in apartheid-era South Africa, was banned from an intermediate school after a parent complained about a two-paragraph scene in which men play boys for sex.

Australia to Remove Antigay Discrimination From 100 Laws

Australia will change a raft of federal laws to remove discrimination against gay couples but will stop short of allowing same-sex marriages, the government announced Wednesday. Under the changes, gay couples in long-term relationships would be treated the same as married couples on issues such as taxation, pensions, and welfare payments, Attorney General Robert McClelland said.

Gay marriage is a hot-button issue for many Australians, and gay rights advocates say it is a key test of authorities' willingness to end discrimination.

But McClelland said the Marriage Act would not be among the laws changed.

"The government believes that marriage is between a man and a woman," he said.

The changes -- to about 100 different laws -- will begin being introduced to parliament next month, and the process is expected to be completed by mid 2009, McClelland said.

Some examples of the changes include that children being reared by gay couples would be considered dependents of both adults for tax and unemployment benefits, and same-sex couples would be treated as a family unit for pension purposes.

Rights advocates welcomed the changes, though they said the government should go further and recognize gay marriages.

"Gay and lesbian Australians will not be fully equal until we are allowed the right to marry the partner of our choice," Rodney Croome of the Australian Coalition for Equality group told the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

The Most Reverend Peter Jensen, the Anglican archbishop of Sydney, who is a vocal opponent of gay marriage, said people in platonic relationships deserve the same benefits as gay couples under the law reforms.

"I hope this is not just pro-gay, so to speak, but pro-people ... in order to make sure there is justice for all Australians," Jensen told Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio.

(Continued next page)



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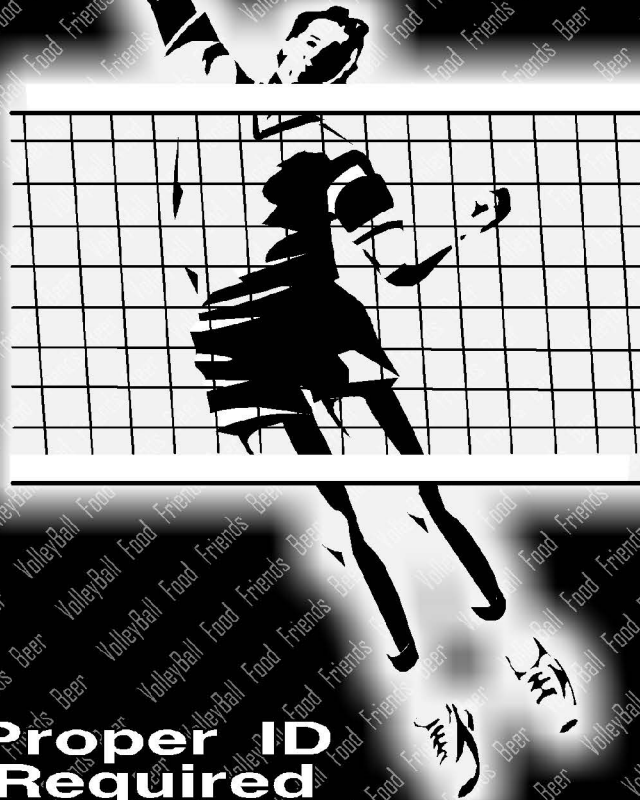
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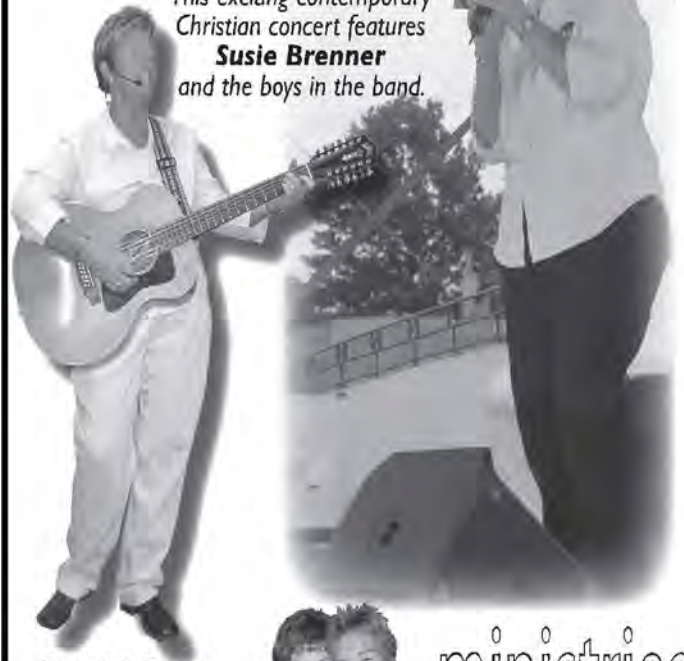
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One Month, Two Panels, A lot of Information

By Nicole Higginbotham

The month of April brought about a new motivation in spreading information on the GLBTQQI community with two educational summits.

The first, the Rainbow Outreach Youth Summit on April 19, was sponsored by the Rainbow Outreach Youth Board. Members of this board include: Shawn Jeffers, James Policky, Haley Osterloh, Justin Petty, Keith (LAST NAME PLEASE!!!) and Nicole Higginbotham.

This summit was mostly geared at educating the youth of the community (ages 13-23), but luckily, a couple of parents attended as well.

Jeffers, president of this organization, said, "I thought the panel was pretty good. It's going to tell the high school kids that didn't have GSAs that even though their high school didn't have one, the college or university that they go to might."

This event began at 8 a.m. with games and activities and had speakers like Anna Barron (IWCC GLASS organization); Matt Skuya (One Iowa); Rainbow Celebrations; Proud Horizons; PFLAG; and of course, the Rainbow Outreach Center.

Osterloh said that she liked that the activities helped to bring shy people out of their bubbles.

"I liked the icebreaker, because it helped people participate in the summit," Osterloh said.

She also commented on the Rainbow Celebration presentation, saying, "They had a lot of information about the PRIDE festival this year."

Jeffers went a different route with his thoughts. "[Anna Barron] She knew what she was talking about," said Jeffers. "She had a GSA come and talk too. I think it just told them [attendees] that even colleges had GSAs."

After this excitement ended, many sponsors, including: Advanced Security, CFEP, Cornhusker PFLAG, Michael Gordon, Tim Hopkins and the Nebraska Advocates for Justice and Equality, brought about the Fourth Annual Nebraska LGBTQ Summit.

Hosted at Mahoney State Park, this event began at 8 a.m. on April 26.

This summit allowed people of all ages to come and share their thoughts on how to get the gay community noticed in positive ways and how to get straight allies to feel more comfortable in participating.

There were several speakers at this event, including: Meredith Bacon, PFLAG, Proud Horizons, the River City Mixed Chorus, the Greater Omaha GLBT Professionals and others.

There were also many break-out sessions, where people of different backgrounds and walks of life had the opportunity to collaborate their thoughts and opinions on subjects such as these.

"I like the part where we split up into groups and discussed things," said Jeffers. "Everyone had their own point-of-view on everything."

Osterloh agreed with Jeffers, saying, "My favorite part was probably just being able to hear other peoples' points-of-view when we were in small groups."

For more information on the Rainbow Outreach Youth Summit, please call the Rainbow Outreach Center at (402) 341-0330 or e-mail Nicole Higginbotham at nicoleh872000@yahoo.com.

For more information on the state summit, sponsored by CFEP, please contact Tim Hopkins at (402) 483-6183 or e-mail him at optima2400@windstream.net

Same-Sex Marriages Face a Religious Obstacle

By Harold Jackson,
Philadelphia Inquirer

It seems like a more recent event, but it was 12 years ago that I received the phone call. I was at work in Baltimore.

Suddenly, on the line was a voice I didn't know telling me something I didn't want to hear. He explained that he was a friend of my brother's who lived in San Francisco. He said Calvin was dying of AIDS and didn't want his family to know.

It had been an easy secret to keep. Calvin had moved to the other side of the continent after graduating from a Midwestern university. We typically saw him once a year, at Christmas.

By the time I received the phone call, Calvin was bedridden, in the last stages of the disease. Of course, I kicked myself for not picking up any signs. But sometimes you see only what you want to see. I never questioned it whenever Calvin would shake off not feeling well as the onset of the flu or a cold.

That last Christmas, I did notice his somberness (we usually kidded each other unmercifully), but attributed it to the emphasis on faith he said he had added to his life. I remember his trying to teach my children a Gospel song he said he had made up himself.

When the phone caller told me Calvin was sick, I immediately made plans to go see him. There, I met the "roommate" who I then knew was Calvin's partner - the man who made sure he received the best home hospice care available. Only months later, Calvin died. I was glad he had someone who loved him with him during the ordeal. No one should be alone knowing death is so near.

I think of Calvin often. But he's come to mind a lot more in recent weeks, amid news that a bill to ban gay marriage in Pennsylvania is advancing in the legislature.

It would take a change in the state constitution to make same-sex marriage illegal, an arduous process that may not be achieved. The bill's sponsors don't seem to care. They want to discourage any counter attempt to legalize gay marriage in Pennsylvania.

Only Massachusetts has legalized gay marriage, but several states, including New Jersey a year ago, have granted same-sex couples civil-union rights.

Civil union, though, often is no substitute for marriage. That was the finding in February of a New Jersey commission that conducted three public hearings to find out how the more than

(Continued on page 17)

GAYZETTE COMING EVENTS

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 (mail address: PO Box 8583 Omaha NE 68108)

WALK-IN HOURS

Sundays	2:00PM - 8:00PM
Tuesdays	7:00PM - 9:00PM
Thursdays	7:30PM - 9:00PM
Fridays	6:00PM - 11:00PM

***Closed Most Major Holidays**
(402) 341-0330
www.rainbowoutreach.org

The GLBT Center welcomes gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and allied persons; we encourage all to attend GLBT Center events and activities. We celebrate unity and diversity - sexual orientation, gender identity, sex, race, religion, age, ability, ethnic and national origin.

FRIDAY MAY 9TH

30TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION, Dinner and Roast hosted by Pride IDOL. Misty Stokes, The Max, 6:30pm, see www.NebraskaPrideIDOL.com for tickets

FRIDAY MAY 16TH

COOKOUT AND CONCERT CELEBRATION, Fundraiser for MCC-Omaha and the Imperial Court of Nebraska hosted by Baron27, Stan Brown. MCC, 819 So 22 St, Food \$5.00, 5:30-7:00, and Concert 7:00-9:30.

SATURDAY MAY 17th

MISS GAY HEART OF AMERICA, Regional Prelim to Miss Gay America, 7-9PM at The Max

SUNDAY MAY 25th

PRIDE IDOL FINALS, the Max, 8pm www.NebraskaPrideIdol.com for details

SUNDAY JUNE 8th

GLBT NIGHT OUT PARTY, South Pacific, Omaha Community Playhouse, 5:30pm, contact Karli Newman for info & tickets at 553-4890 ext. 147

FRIDAY-SUNDAY JUNE 20th-22nd

NEBRASKA PRIDE 2008 in OMAHA

AUGUST 4TH THRU 10TH

CAMP KINDLE, NE session for kids affected by HIV/AIDS,

www.campkindle.org for info

WEEKLY EVENTS

Every Sunday

WORSHIP SERVICES:

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

CROSSROADS COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP, Meeting at the Rainbow Outreach GLBT Community Center, 1719 Leavenworth St., Fellowship starts at 6PM, services begin at 6:30PM, Everyone Welcome!

DIETZ METHODIST 1423 S.10, Coffeehouse casual downstairs at 9am, Traditional Worship at 11am

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

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

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

FIRST UNITARIAN 3114 Harney, 11am services

LOWE AVE PRESBYTERIAN, 1023 N 40 10am service

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF OMAHA 819 S. 22, 345-2563 Sunday Worship 11am & Wednesday Worship at 7pm

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

SECOND UNITARIAN, 10:30am Sunday service, 3012 South 119th St., Omaha NE

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

GAMES DAY AT THE GLBT CENTER, 1719 Leavenworth, 2PM to 4PM

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

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

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

WIMMIN'S SHOW, KZUM 89.3 12:30pm

Every Monday

A A RAINBOW RECOVERY, an AA group meeting at the MCCO Church at 6pm. Call 612-

4648 for more info. Starting April 10th 2006

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

RIVER CITY MIXED CHORUS RE-HEARSALS, 6:45PM—9:15PM, First United Methodist Church, 7020 Cass St.

WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP Confidential, meeting at the MCCO Church, 819 S. 22nd St, call 345-2563 for meeting times, all women are welcome

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.

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

WORSHIP SERVICES

MCC OMAHA, Bible Study, 7pm

UNITY CHURCH OF OMAHA, 7pm

HIV TESTING, 1:30pm to 4 pm walk-in NAP, 139 S. 40 St., results in 20 minutes, call 402-552-9260 for info

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

FRONTRUNNERS RUN/WALK

6:30pm, Elmwood Park Parking Lot by softball field, Omaha

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

KARAOKE W/ STACY 9:00 pm DC's

Every Thursday

DANCE LESSONS WITH GORDON 7-9pm, DC's Saloon

HIV TESTING 7-9pm walk-in, NAP, 139 S. 40th Same day results,

KARAOKE 9pm, Connections Bar

FREE CONFIDENTIAL ANONYMOUS

HIV TEST, UNL 472-7447, 2:30 to 4:30pm, University Health Center Room 164 (next to Pharmacy on the first floor), Orasure test, no needles, Lincoln NE, results in one week -

will close most of May and reopen May 30th 2008 - call for more info

Every Friday

AA ALTERNATIVE MEETING, 7pm, open to men and women, at Lowe Avenue Presbyterian Church in the basement, 1023 North 40th Street

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

GLBT CENTER YOUTH NIGHT, 6PM to 10PM, for ages 13 to 23. Youth sponsored and organized activities, under adult supervision. Every Friday, excluding holidays. 1719 Leavenworth Street

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

HIV TESTING 5-7PM walk-in, NAP, 139 S. 40th Same day results

NAP OUTREACH CENTER HIV TESTING 7 TO 10PM, walk-in, 2202 St. Marys Ave., Same day results

FREE CONFIDENTIAL ANONYMOUS HIV TEST, UN-L 472-7447, 2:30 to 4:30pm, University Health Center Room 164 (next to Pharmacy on the first floor), Orasure test, no needles, Lincoln NE, results in one week

RAINBOW BIBLE STUDY, 6 to 7:30PM, Lowe Ave. Presbyterian, 1023 No. 40th St.

Every Saturday

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

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

MONTHLY EVENTS

1st Tuesday

LINCOLN MIXED CHORUS 6:30pm, Unitarian Church, 6300 A, Lincoln

1st Thursday

GAY & BISEXUAL MEN'S SUPPORT AND DISCUSSION GROUP 7 to 8:30pm, Meeting in Lincoln first and third Thursdays of the month. Call 434-9880 / 476 9668 for location and information.

GLBT PROFESSIONALS, meeting at 6PM. Email at: omahaglbtprofessionals@cox.net

1st Friday

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

1st Saturday OR Sunday

HEARTLAND GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION, Meeting days and times may vary, call 402-505-3331 for info or see www.hgra.net for meeting schedules etc.

1st Sunday

GAY GUYS SPAGHETTI NIGHT, at a Lincoln restaurant, call 402-483-6183 to reserve a seat up until the day before

TRANSGENDER DROP-IN, 2 to 4pm at Rainbow Outreach GLBT Center, 1719 Leavenworth St.

2nd Wednesday

ACTS II WORSHIP SERVICE, 7pm, MCC Omaha, 819 S. 22nd Street

2nd Thursday

PFLAG-OMAHA, 7pm, First United Methodist Church

2nd Saturday

LEARNING TO EXCHANGE POWER L2EP@aol.com 2pm; DC's Saloon

2nd Sunday

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

OUT SECOND SUNDAY SCREENING (glbt film shown at 7pm followed by discussion) First Unitarian, 3114 Harney

3rd Monday

IMPERIAL COURT OF NE, Board of Governors meeting, 6pm, meeting at the Rainbow Outreach GLBT Community Center, www.imperialcourtofnebraska.org

PFLAG SOUTH CENTRAL

(HASTINGS, NE), Meeting on 3rd Mondays at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 7th and Marian St., 7PM, email to jsandeen@inebraska.com or call 402.462.2961 or 402.460.8696

3rd Tuesday

HIV TESTING AT THE PANIC, Lincoln NE, 7-10PM walk-in, same day results, 200 South 18th Street

3rd Thursday

GAY & BISEXUAL MEN'S SUPPORT AND DISCUSSION GROUP

7- 8:30pm, Meeting in Lincoln on the third Thursday of the month. Call 434-9880 / 476 9668, held at the Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, Lincoln NE

3rd Friday

GAY/BI SUPPORT GRP FOR HIV+ MEN 6-8pm NAP, 220 S. 17, Lincoln, 476-7000.

LINCOLN MIXED CHORUS 6:30pm, Unitarian Church, 6300 A, Lincoln

COFFEE HOUSE Unitarian Church, 6300 A, Lincoln

3rd Saturday

GAY/BI SUPPORT GRP FOR HIV+ MEN 6-8pm NAP, 220 S. 17, Lincoln, 476-7000.

3rd Sunday

TRANSGENDER DROP-IN, 2 to 4pm at Rainbow Outreach GLBT Center, 1719 Leavenworth St.

4th Tuesday

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

YOUTH HIV TEST Lighthouse, 2530 N, Lincoln, ages 13 to 18, FFI: 475-3220. 3-5:30 pm

4th Friday

LEO LEATHER ENGINEERS-OMAHA Not currently meeting.

Email Your Event to:
GAYZETTE@COX.NET

Can You Guess What It Is?

To make it stand,
you wet it !

To make it wet,
you suck it !

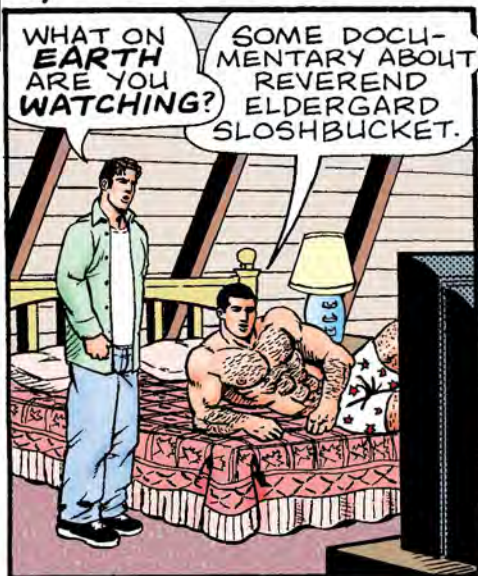
To make it stiff,
you lick it !

To get it in,
You push it!

Damn !!!!!!!

Threading a needle when you're
older is a BITCH!

Kyle's Bed & Breakfast by Greg Fox



WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU WATCHING?
SOME DOCUMENTARY ABOUT REVEREND ELDERGARD SLOSHBUCKET.



REVEREND ELDERGARD SLOSHBUCKET? ISN'T HE THE ONE WHO SAYS ALL GAY PEOPLE SHOULD BE SENT TO ICELAND?
GREENLAND.



WHATEVER. PLEASE... TURN IT OFF.
NO... LET'S WATCH THIS.
I WANT TO SEE HOW THE STUPID AND INTOLERANT LIVE.



UGH. YOU KNOW... I'M REALLY TRYING NOT TO BE JUDGMENTAL, BUT...



DON'T BE SO NICE.

THE GUY'S A HALF-WITTED, HYPOCRITICAL HATEMONGER.



...AND THE REVEREND LIKES TO TAKE LONG WALKS AT THE LOCAL PARK IN HIS SPARE TIME...

HEHE... PROBABLY TO PICK UP MALE PROSTITUTES.



BREYER...
ALWAYS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS BELOVED DACHSHUND HOTCAKE.

HOTCAKE??!



HIS DOG'S NAME IS HOTCAKE??!
OH MY GOD...

...NO! I CANNOT HAVE A DOG WITH THE SAME NAME AS THAT MAN'S DOG! I CANNOT!!!



WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
CHANGE IT.
CHANGE HIS NAME? CAN WE DO THAT?

SURE. HE'S ONLY HAD IT A FEW WEEKS. HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW IT YET.



BUT... IS IT RIGHT TO--

...AND THE REVEREND SAYS HOTCAKE IS TRAINED TO SNIFF OUT HOMOSEXUALS AND TERRORISTS.

WE'RE CHANGING IT...

Community Announcements

#####

If you have a life event, birth, death, adoption, anniversary, wedding, graduation, memorial or other special announcement that you would like to see in the Gayzette, send it to Gayzette@cox.net and we'll be happy to publish it here for free.



UNO Shows Support for GLBTQQI Peers

By Nicole Higginbotham

Silence among the GLBTQQI community was prevalent throughout the days of April 24 on the University of Nebraska at Omaha campus.

The reasoning behind this unusual occurrence was the National Day of Silence event, organized by John Carl Denkovich, UNO's director of the Agency of Gender and Sexual Orientation.

Started in 1996, by a group at the University of Virginia, this event is a national protest against the discrimination and harassment that GLBTQQI people face on a daily basis.

"I think its absolutely essential that we be ourselves," said Meredith Bacon, professor in the political science department and representative of the River City Gender Alliance.

Justin Petty, a student at ITT Technical Institute and a graduate from Ralston High School, said also spoke at UNO's Day of Silence event.

Petty said that when he did the Day of Silence last year, it was the first year that this school had participated, and 40 people decided to show their support.

"It was so amazing," said Petty. "I wanted to cry [because] I was so happy."

This year's Day of Silence event was nationally dedicated to Lawrence King, who, according to <http://www.dayofsilence.org>, "was shot and killed Feb. 12 by a classmate because of his sexual orientation and gender expression."

"To me the Day of Silence means I can stand up for what I believe in," said Sara Barnett, GLSEN Jumpstart/Central High School Student Leader. "It's about acceptance and respect.

**Challenge yourself.
Help us love the world.**

**Lowe Avenue Presbyterian
Church - 1023 N. 40th, Omaha**

**Bread for the World offering
of letters, May 18**

**Back to school clothing
Aug. 2nd**

Sunday worship 10 a.m.

**Rainbow Bible Study 6:30
p.m. Fridays.** (Now reading *Jesus,
the Bible & Homosexuality* by Jack Rogers.)

**Call the church at 551-5207 or
Cleve Evans at 733-1360 or
557-7524 for more
information.**

**Did you know that you can see the
entire *GAYZETTE* on our web site?**

Go to:

www.rainbowoutreach.org

**And click on the Publications link.
George W. Bush reads the Gayzette.
(Ok, he just looks at the pictures.)**



OMAHA PFLAG

Monthly Meetings: Second Thursday 7:00 P.M.
Location: First United Methodist Church
7020 Cass, Omaha, Nebraska
Web Site: www.pflag-omaha.org

P.O. Box 390064
Omaha, NE 68139-0064

HELPLINE
(402) 291-67681

(Same-Sex Marriage Obstacles story, Continued from page 12)

2,000 couples who had received civil-union licenses have fared. Their anecdotes revealed common problems. For example, same-sex couples are often denied health benefits because of a provision in the federal Defense of Marriage Act. In numerous situations,

hospital or social-services personnel either don't know that they should - or simply refuse to provide important information or assistance to a spouse in a civil union.

Perhaps, over time and with enough public education, some of these problems would go away. But homosexual couples who don't want to wait say the real answer is marriage.

And they want it now.

Based on the way I read the Bible - which may not be the way other Christians read it - I could not accept a same-sex couple as being married in the eyes of God. But the Bible also tells me not to mix religion and government.

Matthew 22:21 says: "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's."

For government, marriage represents a contract between two adults who have agreed to share a household and attendant responsibilities. There's nothing particularly holy about having a justice of the peace in a courthouse tie the knot. It's a legal proceeding that's called marriage.

A religious ceremony conducted by a member of the clergy under the authority of God is more than a legal proceeding. But it's called a marriage, too.

My church would not marry same-sex couples, and should not be forced to by government edict. But, to me, that doesn't mean gay couples should be denied a nonreligious marriage.

Neither I nor my church would recognize them as married under God, but they don't care about us. They care about getting the taxation, insurance and government-services benefits of being a legal pair.

Some would argue that to condone same-sex marriage in any form is to condone sin. I am no theologian, no preacher, but I do believe that we all sin and that all who don't repent and put their faith in Christ for salvation will face the same fate. That's gospel.

That our government gives us the freedom to sin does not absolve us from responsibility for our actions.

Even in those countries we look down on for mixing government and religion, there are sinners. Governments try, but they really can't legislate what they believe to be moral behavior. Each person will decide what is right, what is wrong, and which path he or she prefers. No government edict will make homosexuality go away. Neither will it be discouraged by ineffective "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" rules.

I didn't think of Calvin and his partner as married, but I never questioned that his partner should be bequeathed whatever Calvin wanted him to have. They had an understanding that was clear to me. I would never use marriage to describe their relationship, but if that's the word needed for government to recog-

nize a same-sex couple as a legal pair, then let it be. But leave the churches that don't recognize those "marriages" alone.

Where Can You Find *The Gayzette?*

Omaha:

Connections, 1901 Leavenworth	933-3033
DC's Saloon, 610 South 14th Street	344-3103
Dixie Quick's Restaurant, 1915 Leavenworth	346-3549
Flixx, 1015 South 10th Street Omaha	408-1020
Gnome's Bar, 1951 Saint Marys Ave	991-6470
The Max, 1417 Jackson St.	346-4110
Metropolitan Community Church, 819 South 22nd Street	
Omaha Mining Co., 1715 Leavenworth	449-8703
Mystery Bookstore, 1422 South 13th St	342-7343
Nebraska AIDS Project, 139 South 40th St	552-9260
Rainbow Outreach Metro Omaha GLBT Resource Center, 1719 Leavenworth St. (home of The Gayzette)	341-0330

Lincoln:

Panic Bar, 200 South 18th Street (as available)	435-8764
Q Bar, 226 South 9th Street (as available)	475-2269

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

Having a Blonde Moment....

There were these two blondes driving along the highway looking for a place to stop and picnic. The first blonde says, "Let's stop here, and have our picnic under that tree."

The other says, "No! Let's have it right here in the middle of the road."

They argued about it for a bit, but finally agreed to have it in the middle of the road.

All of a sudden, a car comes speeding towards them and has to swerve into the tree to keep from hitting them.

The one blonde says to the other, "See? If we were under that tree, we'd be dead now!"

Fitness Corner

By Ron Blake
Certified Personal Trainer



How can you save the world and maintain your health and wellness too? There are many ways to be environmentally friendly while staying fit and trim. Find that box of Crayolas and grab the crayon that is a mix between blue and yellow. Get ready to color your fitness green as I take you through some organic suggestions.

Keep only one water bottle and use it when you need it during those grueling workouts. Fill it with water from the kitchen faucet and purchase a filter if you are uncomfortable with its quality as it leaves the pipes. This should save on all the plastic bottles manufactured and the energy to produce that ample supply for the grocery shelves. Am I crazy or was water free back in the 80s?

Wear cotton or hemp clothing for your fitness routines. These materials are natural and much better for the ecology. Clothing made of these will cling to your skin when you sweat and will not be as convenient as the synthetic blends that wick moisture away from your body. However, you will be making friends with plenty of spotted owls and the good folks at the Sierra Club.

Join one of the environmental groups. Volunteer your time to pick up trash along a designated roadway. There are plenty of organizations that clean up the debris from litter bugging drivers. You can get a couple of hours of exercise from working a one mile stretch of asphalt. Hike up that pant leg and you might even elicit some wolf whistles from rubbernecking motorists.

Ride your bike to work. I will not have to twist your arm as much now as I would have two years ago. Four dollars a gallon for gas and it's a possibility on many people's radar screens today. Bike paths are everywhere these days. Call your city's park department and inquire about bikeways. Some workplaces can even accommodate your showering and storage needs. Get out the rubber band for that pant leg and get cycling.

Run outside and leave that treadmill for the TV watchers. Have fun with nature while you get that three mile run in on some beautiful trail somewhere. Find your quiet location and run with Bambi, Thumper, Flower, and the rest of the faunal gang. You will save all of that electricity to operate the treadmill and power those televisions in your health club. I'll take five kilometers for two in your alfresco section.

Use your towel more than once. I keep the same towel for several days. I only use it to dry off after my shower and then hang it to dry until I use it again for the next round of soap and shampoo. You will give your washer and dryer a much needed rest and will help the environment in the process. It is really recommended that you change towels though after about a week. I had a roommate in college once that....

You can probably find more ideas just by analyzing your daily habits and using common sense. Feel free to hang that picture

of Al Gore in your computer room if that will help with the flow of ideas. Good luck with your efforts to go green!

This health and fitness column is brought to you by that guy who revels in awkward pauses after party introductions. That guy is Ron Blake and he can be jostled from his reverie at www.goblakefitness.com.

(Australia Removes Discrimination from laws, Continued from page 7)

He said friends living together in long-standing platonic relationships "support and strengthen each other."

"There'd be many Christian people living like that, and I think that sort of thing could also be recognized," Jensen added.

The changes will bring the federal government more closely into line with state and territory governments, which have already passed laws recognizing same-sex couples in their jurisdictions.

Under state laws, long-term gay couples are recognized as de facto partners with some legal rights. But the federal Marriage Act defines the union as between a man and a woman.

Australia is in line with many countries in Europe that give some legal recognition to same-sex couples -- though few recognize gay marriages. In the United States, state bans on same-sex marriages or unions are widespread, though domestic partnerships are recognized in some places. (Rod McGuirk, AP)

Guyana Bars Reggae Artist for Violent Lyrics

Guyanese authorities have barred a Jamaican reggae artist known for antigay lyrics from performing in the South American country.

Interior Minister Clement Rohee says Bounty Killer is no longer welcome because gunfire erupted at an April 19 concert. Rohee announced the ban Monday. He says Bounty Killer's lyrics promote violence and celebrate criminal behavior. He also barred the Jamaican singer Movado.

Bounty Killer concerts earlier were scrapped in England and Germany because of protests over lyrics that include references to killing homosexuals. (AP)

Dear Employee:

As a result of the reduction of money budgeted for all department areas, we are forced to cut down on our number of personnel. Under this plan, older employees will be asked to take early retirement, thus permitting the retention of younger people who represent our future.

Therefore, a program to phase out older personnel by the end of the next fiscal year, via retirement, will be placed into effect immediately. This program will be known as S.L.A.P. (Severance of Late-Aged Personnel).

Employees who are SLAPPED will be given the opportunity to look for jobs outside the company. SLAPPED employees can request a review of their employment records before actual retirement takes place.

This review phase of the program will be called S.C.R.E.W. (Survey of Capabilities of Retired Elderly Workers).

All employees who have been SLAPPED and SCREWED may file an appeal with upper management. This appeal is called S.H.A.F.T. (Study by Higher Authority Following Termination).

Under the terms of the new policy, an employee may be SLAPPED once, SCREWED twice, but may be SHAFTEd as many times as the company deems appropriate. If an employee follows the above procedure, he/she will be entitled to get: H.E.R.P.E.S. (Half Earnings for Retired Personnel's Early Severance) or CLAP (Combined Lump sum Assistance Payment).

As H.E.R.P.E.S. and C.L.A.P. are considered benefit plans, any employee who has received H.E.R.P.E.S. or C.L.A.P. will no longer be SLAPPED or SCREWED by the company.

Management wishes to assure the younger employees who remain on board that the company will continue its policy of training employees through our: Special High Intensity Training (S.H.I.T.).

We take pride in the amount of S.H.I.T. our employees receive. We have given our employees more S.H.I.T. than any company in this area. If any employee feels they do not receive enough S.H.I.T. on the job, see your immediate supervisor. Your supervisor is specially trained to make sure you receive all the S.H.I.T. you can stand.

And, once again, thanks for all your years of loyal service with us!

The Management

What Are You Selling Here?

Two guys are sitting down for a break in their about-to-be-opened new store. As yet, the store isn't ready although the shelving is all in place.

One says to the other, "I'll bet any minute now some tourist is going to walk by, put his face to the window and ask what we're selling."

No sooner are the words out of his mouth when, sure enough, a curious fellow walks up to the window, has a peek, and asks, "What are you selling here?"

One of the men replies, "We're selling Assholes here."

Without missing a beat, the tourist says, "You must have had a good day, you've only got two left!"

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YOU!!**

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To Tomorrow

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Cindy Ridgway LCSW LMHP
702 N 129th Street Suite 130
129th & West Dodge Ste Rd
Omaha



Sasha Nicole
MGHOA 2007

SATURDAY MAY 17TH

MGHOA Revue Show
6pm Doors Open
7pm Show



Mikaila Kay
Miss Gay America
2008

SUNDAY MAY 18TH

**Miss Gay Heart of America
Pageant - "Funky Town"**
8pm



Rachael Erikks
MGA 2004
MGHOA 2003



Tumara Mahorning
MGHOA 1993



Kofi
MGHOA 1994



Victoria DePaula
MGHOA 2005

FRIDAY MAY 9TH

**Misty Stokes' B-Day
Party & Roast**
6pm Doors Open
7pm Dinner
8pm Roast

SATURDAY MAY 10TH

ICON's PR Ball
6pm Doors Open
7pm Show

SUNDAY MAY 11TH

"FRESH FISH"
Presented by:
Miss Chandler Chubbs
10pm

SATURDAY MAY 24TH

**Rainbow Celebrations
Benefit**
6pm Doors Open
7pm Show

SUNDAY MAY 25TH

**NEIA AIDS BBQ-Off Benefit
& Patio Party**
4-8pm

PRIDE IDOL FINALS
With Grammy Winner
Thea Austin
8pm

**THE
MAX**

THEMAXOMAHA.COM