

The Gayzette

Volume 1 Issue 23

APRIL 22 - MAY 5

Where Were You?

By Mitchell Anderson

Let me tell you why I will be marching at the Millennium March on Washington on April 30th. On March 7, California voted on the validity of my relationship. By a margin of 59 percent to 41 percent California, the largest state in the union, one-eighth of the country, declared that gay and lesbian relationships will not be recognized by the state should they be recognized elsewhere in the country. California allowed an arch-conservative state senator from Palmdale -- who rejected his gay son and didn't attend the funeral of his gay brother -- to set the moral agenda for California and, by proxy, the rest of the country.

Where were you? I volunteered for the No On Knight campaign for 10 months, trying to raise the consciousness of my brothers and sisters in the gay community. Until the very end of the campaign, I felt as if I was spitting into the wind. My words would go out and come back unheard. I ask you, my brothers and sisters, where were you? What I often heard was that this was a fight we shouldn't be in. I heard arguments about why marriage is a failed institution and we shouldn't be fighting to achieve equality in it. I heard that it was a losing battle and we would be better off spending our time and energy on other things. But mostly, I heard a deafening silence. A large, safe "protected" majority of the gay and lesbian community

stayed conspicuously silent in the face of a threatening anti-gay campaign. Whatever you think of gay marriage, Prop 22 was an anti-gay initiative. They won the election on the idea that they were protecting the "sanctity of marriage." Did you believe them? If you didn't, then where were you?

I live in Los Angeles, in a neighborhood where my life and relationship are respected and safe. Yet just up the road in Glendale, I talked to a gay couple who had been together for twenty-something years, living in a conservative neighborhood for most of that time and they were faced with a sea of "Yes on 22 -- Protect California's Family" signs all around them. They came home from work every day and had to face the specter of intolerance from their longtime neighbors. So while I may have been safe in my neighborhood, others very near weren't. This was a campaign that pit neighbor against neighbor, family member against family member. Ignorance and fear was the tactic Pete Knight used to mobilize the 43 percent of the electorate who describe themselves as social conservatives. Liberals could barely muster 18 percent. We can't just stay safe in our ghettos. Is that where you were?

I'm being hard on us for a reason. We are ready for the next fight, but it will require us to move out of our comfort zones. We have matured as community in many ways. We have weathered the storm of the AIDS crisis with courage and dignity. We have stared into the face of hate and discrimination for years and we are tired. But we must not fall into the comfort of complacency. Young people across the country look to us in our safe environment for protection and guidance. When we allow the forces of bigotry, misunderstanding and intolerance to win, as we did in the Prop 22 campaign, we send a powerful message to them that there is trouble, even in our meccas. I continue to be inspired by kids all over the country who, regardless of their sexuality, are establishing gay-straight alliances in their schools. We must take



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Where Were You? cont.

our cue from them and throw ourselves into the ring when it's called for.

Our continuing struggle for acceptance in the world must not stop at the edge of West Hollywood or the Castro. We must show our strength, our courage and our compassion in large numbers - first at the Millennium March on Washington, and then at the voting booth this November. This election season, gay and lesbian voters will outnumber Jewish and Asian American voters as a significant power bloc. We have a voice and it is our responsibility to be heard. Don't stay home. Don't accept their definition of who we are and what we require or deserve as Americans. There is no neutral position here. If you are not voting, lobbying, donating -- demanding to be treated equally, then you are working for the Pete Knights of the world. This coming election, this coming year, this coming decade is going to be about breaking through to complete equality, civil rights and acceptance for gay and lesbian people. It starts with your vote and grows from there. When you are asked in 10 years where you were during this incredible civil rights movement and during the Millennium March on Washington, let the answer be I WAS THERE!

Mitchell Anderson is an actor and activist living in Los Angeles.

**METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY
CHURCH
OF OMAHA**

**Easter Sunday
April 23**

6 AM Sunrise Service
7 AM Easter Breakfast
8:50 & 10:30 AM
Easter Worship

**Alleluia! He Is Risen!
Come Celebrate the Victory!**

Special Interest Events

Front Runners/Walkers are celebrating 10 years as an organization in Omaha. If you like to run, jog, or walk, this is the group of Gays and Lesbians for you. They also have been active and supportive of the community in Omaha since their beginning. So join us in wishing them a Happy Anniversary. If you want to know more about the Front Runners/Walkers, call their hotline-496-3658. Also if you want to know more about the special events they are planning for this anniversary.

HGRA Charity Ball 2000, May 20th Iowa State Fairgrounds Tourism Building. Proceeds go to the All Aids Iowa Benefit. The fun begins on Friday May 19th with a variety of shows at Faces, LTD. Blazing Saddle Saloon, Dally's Pub & Emporium. The Charity Ball will be held on the 20th, with a Tea Dance at Blazing Saddle to wind things up on Sunday the 21st. For more information contact an HGRA member or call Susie at 515-246-9726 or e-mail Charityball2000@hotmail.com

Mosaic Community Easter Celebration.

Mosaic Community is having an Easter Celebration on April 23rd at the Paxton Manor at 10:15 a.m., 14th and Farnam. For more information call 933-6672

Open call for new show cast.

There will be an open call for a new showcase Wednesday April 26th @ 8:00 at the MAX, 1417 Jackson. So if you are talented and want to be part of a HOT NEW REVUE, audition. For more information call Ammie Zahn @ 891-6369

P-FLAG is having their annual Putt-Putt Gulf tournament July 16, 2000 at 9112 West Center Rd. So come out and have some fun, and support those people who support you.

QUILT SHOWING

April 24-26, fifty panels of the NAMES Project Quilt will be on display at UNL.

CLUB M'S

15th and Farnam
Omaha, Nebraska

*Newly Remodeled with
expanded Dance Floor,
a proud supporter of
the GLBT community*

Hours:

Mon-Fri 1pm - 1am
Sat-Sun Noon - 1am

Regular Events:

Sunday 1pm: Movies
Sunday 7:30pm: Karaoke
Tuesday 8pm: Karaoke
Friday 8pm: DJ Gary
Saturday 8pm: DJ Gary

Karaoke provided by *Rising
Star Productions (Stacy)*

No Cover Charge for Regular
Events!

Happy Hours:

Mon-Sat 4pm - 7pm
Sunday Noon to 6pm

Lord Troy & Lady Monroe
and The Imperial Court of NE Present...



"Bonnets & Baskets"
Sun., April 23 8 - 10 PM

Club M \$2 Cover



Applications
Are Available Now
Call 345-2930
Applications
Must Be Received
By May 12, 2000

WANTED:

**MONARCH
APPLICANTS**

FOR
Emperor & Empress 20
Imperial Court of Nebraska

YOUR "FAMILY" JEWELER

Valerie J. Vawter

All types of Jewelry Repair
Custom Design

Platinum, Gold, & Sterling
Watch Bands & Batteries

Unique Inventory
Appraisals

New Selection of Men's 14k & Diamond Rings

6119 Maple St. M-W-F 9-5:30

Omaha, Ne 68104 T-Th 12-5:30

341-1094 Sat 9-3:00

Sharing space with Greg Bourne Clocks

The Millennium March on Washington, scheduled for April 30, 2000, will be the fourth national GLBT civil rights march to promote equal rights for all gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals. For more information on the March on Washington for Equality, visit the official website at www.mmow.org or write to MMOW2000@aol.com.

Gays need to stand up and be counted

FROM THE DETROIT NEWS

DETROIT NEWS, March 20, 2000
615 W. Lafayette, Detroit, MI, 48226

By Deb Price

Gay Americans have two valuable opportunities this spring to stand up and be counted: The U.S. census forms arriving in every mailbox and the April 30

Millennium March on Washington for Equality invite us to have a national impact by demonstrating our substantial numbers. Neither invitation is perfect. The census form offers only gay couples, but not gay single people a way to signal our sexual orientation. And march preparations have been plagued by infighting and missteps. Yet both the census and march are not-to-be-missed chances to draw attention to our community's strength and diversity. It's extraordinarily important for the gay census and march totals to be huge because one thing politicians know how to do is count. The pace of our progress toward full equality will depend, in large measure, on how many elected officials believe they must have gay support to keep winning.

California's exit polls no doubt caught savvy politicians' attention nationwide. In this month's presidential primary, self-identified gay people cast 11 percent of Democratic votes and 2 percent of Republican votes. Overall, the gay vote was 6 percent very likely enough to swing that must-win state when the White House is up for grabs in November. Let's reinforce that message of gay clout: * Millennium March: It hasn't been a thousand years since the last gay march on Washington; it just seems like it because we've made so much progress during the Clinton-Gore administration. We last gathered in 1993, celebrating Bill Clinton's arrival and the end of the hostile Reagan-Bush years. The march will help energize gay voters to fight to keep the White House in friendly hands. That's a key reason why it's time to put aside reservations about the march and instead make reservations to be in Washington, D.C., on April 28-30. "It is tremendously empowering to come to your nation's capital and stand on that mall and demand to be treated

equally," stresses march organizer Dianne Hardy-Garcia. "We do it to send a message to Congress, but we also do it for ourselves to empower and inspire ourselves." This year's highlights include lobbying Congress on Friday; a commitment ceremony for gay couples on Saturday and "Equality Rocks," a concert featuring Melissa Etheridge, Ellen DeGeneres and Garth Brooks.

* Census 2000: The Census Bureau began counting unmarried couples in 1990, listing the option "unmarried partner" for the first time. Joyce and I joined 150,000 other gay couples clearly a tiny fraction of the true total in leaping at the chance to be counted. This year, far more couples are likely to feel comfortable saying who they are. Even closet couples needn't be fearful because the Census Bureau is required by law to keep names confidential for 72 years. "Our families exist, and we must be counted," stresses Paula Ettlbrick of the Policy Institute of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Our single people ought to be counted, too. So, we need to tell Congress that the 2010 census should ask about "sexual orientation." Lawmakers are legislating in the dark when they make policies affecting gay people but don't even know how many there are because single people and couples who live apart aren't counted. The U.S. government will get obscure facts from the 2000 census like exactly > how many 73-year-old married Hispanic men live in Michigan. But it won't find out how many gay Americans are banned from serving openly in our nation's military. And the Congress that has not yet protected gay workers from discrimination won't find out how many gay people live in poverty. Nevertheless, if we gay couples identify ourselves in record numbers, Census 2000 will learn more than ever about our racial diversity, our incomes and our family responsibilities. The more we stand up for ourselves, the more our community will count.

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Mr or Miss or Ms

PRIDE 2000

A UNIQUE PAGEANT DESIGNED
TO FIND THE PERSON WHO BEST
REPRESENTS GLBT PRIDE

9PM MAY 21 @ THE MAX

All contestants compete for ONE title. Men, Women, Female Impersonators, and Transgendered Persons will all compete in the same 4 categories (Pride Wear, Prepared Speech, On Stage Interview, and Entertainment.) The one person with the highest total score will be named Mr or Miss or Ms Pride 2000 and will lead the fundraising efforts for the Pride Celebration in 2001. When Mr/Miss/Ms Pride steps down, he or she will receive a check for 20% of the amount he or she raises.

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?

TO FUNDRAISE ON A BIG SCALE?

TO SPEAK FOR THE GLBT
COMMUNITY?

TO COMPETE AGAINST THE BEST?

**MAYBE YOU ARE THE ONE
TO REPRESENT PRIDE 2000.**

If YOU are the best of the best, you have an opportunity to be rewarded generously for your hard work. When the Winner steps down, he or she will receive 20% of the total profits from the fundraisers he or she holds during the year. If you raise \$1000, you will receive \$200. If you raise \$10,000, receive \$2000. \$100,000, you get the idea.

APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE IN
LOCAL BARS AND ESTABLISHMENTS
AND MUST BE TURNED IN
BY MAY 15.

*Fund Raisers
For Iris Phoenix
Scholarship Fund
April 27-30, 2000*

Thurs., April 27

Connections

9 - 11 PM

Raffles & More

Fri., April 28

Omaha Mining Co.

6 - 8 PM

Spaghetti Feed

Fri., April 28

Gilligan's

10-Midnight

Singing & Karaoke Fun

Sat., April 29

The MAX

5 - 8 PM

Beer Bust & Food

Sun., April 30

DC's Saloon

4:30--6:30 PM Food

7 PM Show

What's Happening

Friday, April 21

Nebraska AIDS Project, Client Luncheon
Served by the Imperial Court of Nebraska

MCC-OMAHA 7pm: Good Friday Service

Sunday, April 23

MCC-OMAHA 6am: Sunrise Service
7am: Easter Breakfast
8:50 & 10:20 am: Easter Worship Service

CLUB M, 15 & Farnam
8-10pm: Lord Troy & Lady Monroe & ICON
"Bonnets & Baskets" \$2 cover

THE MAX
9:30pm: Miss Star Search 2000 EOY
From Kansas City: Victoria DePaula

Monday, April 24 – Wed, April 26
CENTENNIAL ROOM, NEBR UNION, UN-L
10am-8pm: "AIDS Memorial Quilt Display"
by Names Project of the Heartland
Call 402-474-2117 for details

Wednesday, April 26
THE MAX 8pm: Open Cast Call for New
Showcast, Ammie Zahn 891-6369

Thursday, April 27
CONNECTIONS Benefit for Iris Phoenix
Scholarship Fund 9-11pm: Raffles & More

Friday, April 28
OMAHA MINING COMPANY
Benefit for Iris Phoenix Scholarship Fund
6-8pm: Spaghetti Feed

GILLIGAN'S
Benefit for Iris Phoenix Scholarship Fund
10pm-Midnight: Singing & Karaoke Fun

Saturday, April 29
THE MAX: Benefit for Scholarship Fund
5-8pm: Beer Bust & Food

Jamie Anderson in Concert
All Souls Unitarian Church, Kansas City
ContactLindawilsonkc@earthlink.net

Sunday, April 30
Millennium March on Washington
UN-L Group Part of Millennium March

DC'S SALOON
Benefit for Iris Phoenix Scholarship Fund
4:30-6:30pm: Food 7pm: Show

Saturday, May 6
FRONT RUNNERS 10TH ANNIVERSARY
10am: Brunch at the Joslyn Art Museum
Admission Free, Brunch \$10
6:30-9:30pm: Annual Banquet
Trinity Cathedral, 109 N. 18 St.
Dinner \$30/person, RSVP to 496-3658

THE MAX
The Imperial Court of Nebraska
Prince & Princess Royale Ball
Cocktails: 5pm Show: 6-9pm \$5 Admission
Benefits Iris Phoenix Scholarship Fund

Sunday, May 7
THE MAX 9pm: "Hooray for Hollywood"
Stella Dallas and special guests

WEEKLY EVENTS

Every Sunday
Worship Services, First United Methodist
7020 Cass, 8:30am & 10:45am

Worship Services, MCC-Omaha
819 S. 22 St, Omaha, 8:50am & 10:20am

Worship Services, First Unitarian Church
3114 Harney Street, 11am

Worship Services, MCC-Lincoln
St. Mark's Episcopal, 14 & R, 6:30pm

RIVER CITY BOWLING LEAGUE
Mockingbird Lanes, 12:30pm

Karaoke with Stacy at Club M, 7:30pm

Every Tuesday
Men's Support Group, MCC-Omaha,
819 S. 22 St., 7:30pm – 9pm

Karaoke with Stacy at Club M, 7:30pm

Every Thursday
LESBIAN CENTERED
DISCUSSION GROUP 6:30pm – 8pm
For Info: Lesbiancen@village.com
Or call the Resource Center, 341-0330

Karaoke with Stacy at Connections

Every Friday
Friday Night Movies, Rainbow Outreach
GLBT Resource Center, 7:45pm

Wild Annie's Amateur Strip Contest
The MAX, 7-9pm

What's Happening

Every Saturday

Proud Horizons Youth Group
Regular Meeting: 4pm – 6pm
Sponsored by PFLAG: 291-6781 or
e-mail: proudhorizons@hotmail.com

MONTHLY EVENTS

1st Monday

Imperial Court of Nebraska
Royal Family Meeting
Stosh's Saloon, The MAX, 7pm

1st Friday

Shamanic Journey Drumming Groups
First Unitarian Church, 7-9pm

1st Saturday

River City Gender Alliance Meeting
Room Opens at 4pm, Meeting at 7pm
For Details Contact: 1-800-269-3444 or
rcga@tgforum.com

2nd Sunday

Bi Choice NE, Brunch & Discussion
McFoster's Natural Kind Café, Upstairs
1 – 3 pm, for Info Call Marcella: 592-4250

2nd Wednesday

Flat Water Bears The Diamond Bar,
7:30pm For Details: PO Box 3751, Omaha
68103 or flatwaterbears@geocities.com

2nd Thursday

PFLAG – Omaha Chapter
First United Methodist Church
7020 Cass, Mead Hall. 7pm

2nd Saturday

GLSEN Meeting 4pm

3rd Monday

Imperial Court of Nebraska
Board of Governors Meeting
MCC-Omaha, 819 S. 22, 6:30pm

3rd Saturday

Bi-Choice NE Social Night 7pm - ?
Members Homes, Teri Ann, 491-0238

4th Sunday

PFLAG – Omaha Meeting
First United Methodist, Mead Hall
7020 Cass, Omaha. 2pm

4th Tuesday

Names Project of the Heartland
E-mail AIDSQuiltOmaha@aol.com

4th Friday

Shamanic Journey Drumming Groups
Unity Church of Omaha, 7:15-9:15pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, May 13

MCC-Omaha, Organ Dedication & Concert,
7:30pm, Free Will Offering

Sunday, May 21

Laura Lee Benefit Show for HGRA
DC's Saloon

Pride 2000 Pageant, The MAX, 9pm

HGRA Charity Ball

Iowa State Fairgrounds, Des Moines

Monday, May 29

ICON Memorial Day Picnic, 12n-5pm
Vennelyst Park, 9100 N. 31, Omaha

Sunday, June 4

AIDS Walk Nebraska,
Omaha, Lincoln, Kearney, Norfolk

Sunday, June 11

Pride 2000 Parade & Festival, Omaha

GLBT Pride Show The MAX 9pm

Saturday, June 17

River City Mixed Chorus Concert

Friday, June 23 -- Sunday, June 25

Heartland Regional Gay Rodeo
Cass Co Fairgrounds, Springfield, NE

Saturday, July 15

The Imperial Court of Nebraska
Coronation 20: An Imperial Crystal Midnight
Masquerade: A Journey into the Millennium,
Sokol Hall, 6pm

Saturday, October 7

National Coming Out Day, Sokol Hall

Sunday, October 22

All Iowa AIDS Benefit, Des Moines, IA

Sunday, November 12

ICON Food 4 Thought The MAX, 9pm

Saturday, December 2 Night of 1000 Stars

Sunday, December 10

ICON Toyz 4 Totz The MAX, 9pm

Miss Nebraska National

8 PM

April 30

The MAX
1417 Jackson St.