



The Rainbow Outreach GLBT Resource Center Presents

the

GAYZETTE

News and Events for the GLBTA Communities

The Nebraska GLBT Democratic Caucus

CFEP would like to invite you to a fundraiser for:



The Nebraska GLBT Democratic Caucus

When: January 14, 2006. 6 PM-9PM

Where: Reading Grounds, located at 40th and Farnam-parking is available in the rear.

The Nebraska GLBT Democratic Caucus was organized in Lincoln at the request of the Nebraska Democratic Party. The Caucus works with CFEP (Citizens For Equal Protection) to advance the civil rights of the GLBT citizens of Nebraska. Recently, the Caucus was instrumental in electing Nebraska's first openly GLBT elected official, Barb Baier, as a school board member of Lincoln Public Schools. Come and meet Barb and the other board members of the Caucus and find out about politics in Nebraska, see the Reading Grounds, donate money and have some fun! Your donation to the Caucus is not tax deductible.

Hope to see you there!!!

Michael Gordon,
Executive Director,
Citizens For Equal Protection and Caucus member.

Chinese Police Shut Down Gay Festival

Gay.com U.K. Police in Beijing have shut down one of the

country's first gay festivals in a raid that took place on the cultural event's opening night.

Officers stormed the festival Friday, saying organizers did not have official permission to hold the celebrations.

However, those behind the event say the raid was more likely to have been a result of anti-gay sentiment from Chinese officials.

"The attitude in China is still very conservative," one film student told the Reuters news agency. "They say it's illegal, but what's illegal about wanting to understand more about these issues?"

The weekend-long event was to include films, plays and art associated with the issue of sexuality, as well as seminars and discussions.

It comes as the battle to open up China's position on lesbian and gay people rages in the country. Recently, movements have been made by officials to target gay men and raise awareness of HIV/AIDS.

However, the country has shut down gay Web sites that offer information to young LGBT people.

Senior 50+ Group to Begin Meeting

A new group is about to begin regular social meetings at the Rainbow Outreach GLBT Center, 1719 Leavenworth Street, starting Saturday, January 21st, from 7 until 11PM.

If you're 50 or older, or like to socialize with your older peers, share your experiences and viewpoints, then this group is for you. Not into the bar scene? Then stop in for a visit, enjoy some great conversation, and make some new friends. The event is free and open to everyone.

**Don't be an old Scrooge,
come on down and have
some fun!**



January 6, 2006 - January 20, 2006

Published every two weeks by the Rainbow Outreach GLBT Resource Center
P.O. Box 8583, Omaha, Nebraska 68108 (402) 341-0330
Web Site: www.rainbowoutreach.org email the GAYZETTE: news@rainbowoutreach.org

Jeremy & James
 Will be hosting Game Day at the Center
 1719 Leavenworth St
 Sundays: 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Come down and check out the games we have available or bring your favorite game and show us how to play.

Ages 5 – 105.

Parents bring the kids down and play or read some of the books in our Library while they play.

Helping the Center is Easier than Ever!

The Center is now accepting donations of household items that can be sold on eBay to raise money!

We accept donations during regular Center hours or arrange for local pickup.

We are currently accepting the following types of items:

Clothing & Accessories
 Working Electronic Equipment
 Houseware & Giftware
 Tools
 Jewelry
 Books
 Music CD's
 DVD's & VHS tapes
 Video Games
 And more....

If you are not sure if we can accept an item, call (402) 341-0330 and we will be happy to assist you!

Please Remember; All Donations to the Rainbow Outreach GLBT Center are TAX DEDUCTIBLE!!!



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GAYZETTE AD RATES, PRINTED COPY AND ON THE WEB

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

All ads must be camera ready. Payment must accompany ad. Checks should be made payable to Rainbow Outreach GLBT Resource Center. 10% Discount for on-going ads of any size. Payment and ads should be delivered to the Rainbow Outreach GLBT Resource Center, P.O. Box 8583, Omaha NE 68102 on or before the deadline or emailed to news@RainbowOutreach.org. Please email or call ahead to reserve space. We reserve the right to refuse any ad which we deem to be inappropriate.

Ad Deadlines: Friday, Jan 13, for Publication Jan 20th Friday, Jan 27, for Publication Feb 3rd

The River City Mixed Chorus

Presents

A Winter Wonderland

An evening of playful snow songs as well as classical choral music featuring the sights, sounds and the many moods of winter that will delight all ages.



January 21 & 22, 2006 7:05pm

First United Methodist Church
7020 Cass Street, Omaha, NE 68132

Ticket Information (402) 341-7464

\$15.00/Adults

\$12.50 Students/Seniors/Groups of 10 or more

\$17.00/At the door

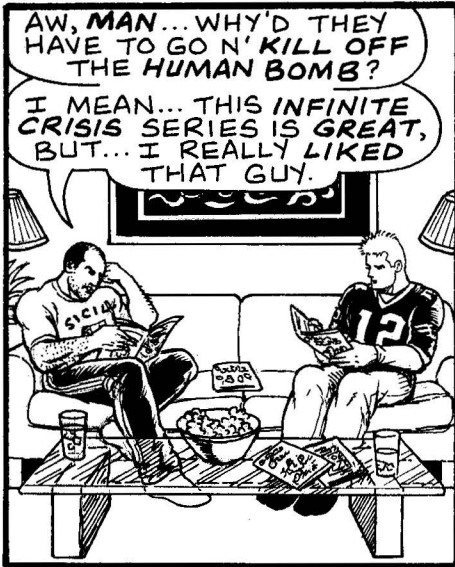
WWW.RCMC.ORG



Nebraska ARTS COUNCIL

The River City Mixed Chorus is a member of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses

Kyle's Bed & Breakfast by Greg Fox



AW, MAN... WHY'D THEY HAVE TO GO N' KILL OFF THE HUMAN BOMB?

I MEAN... THIS INFINITE CRISIS SERIES IS GREAT, BUT... I REALLY LIKED THAT GUY.



DAVE? EVERYTHING O.K.? YOU SEEM PRETTY QUIET TODAY.

I'M FINE, FERRELLI. HANGIN' OUT WITH YOU, READIN' COMIC BOOKS...

...THIS IS THE BEST.



SO, WHAT'S THE PROBLEM, THEN?

THE PROBLEM IS... ...I'M FALLIN' IN LOVE WITH YOU.

WHOA. WHY IS THAT A PROBLEM?



'CAUSE I'M WONDERIN' HOW LONG I HAVE UNTIL THE BUBBLE BURSTS.

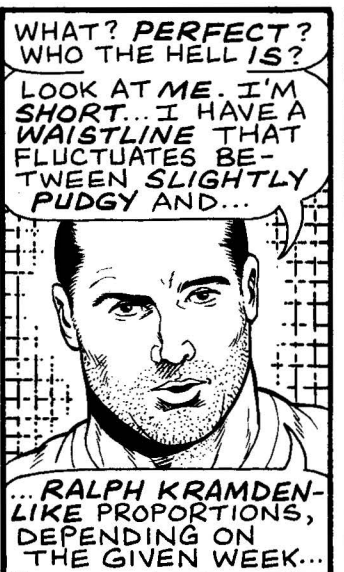
HOW LONG UNTIL YOU WAKE UP AND REALIZE YOU DON'T WANNA' BE STUCK WITH SOME DISFIGURED GUY IN A WHEELCHAIR.



LISTEN TO ME, DAVE... I DON'T THINK OF YOU LIKE THAT.

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW HAPPY YOU MAKE ME?

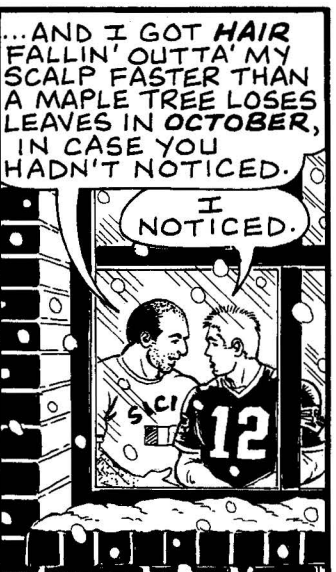
BUT... I'M NOT...



WHAT? PERFECT? WHO THE HELL IS?

LOOK AT ME. I'M SHORT... I HAVE A WAISTLINE THAT FLUCTUATES BETWEEN SLIGHTLY PUDGY AND...

...RALPH KRAMDEN-LIKE PROPORTIONS, DEPENDING ON THE GIVEN WEEK...



...AND I GOT HAIR FALLIN' OUTTA' MY SCALP FASTER THAN A MAPLE TREE LOSES LEAVES IN OCTOBER, IN CASE YOU HADN'T NOTICED.

I NOTICED.



GEE, THANKS. BUT YOU'RE STILL A HOT STUD.

YEAH, I KNOW. AND YOU'RE GORGEOUS.

HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?



BECAUSE IT'S TRUE. YOU'VE GOT THOSE BEAUTIFUL AMBER-GOLD EYES... THOSE STRONG ARMS... THAT COOL, SPIKY HAIR... THAT WARM SMILE.

AND... YOU THROW ATTITUDE AT ME BETTER THAN ANYONE I EVER MET.

BUT MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANY OF THAT... I JUST FEEL RIGHT WHEN I'M WITH YOU.



PLUS... YOU GET GREAT PARKING SPACES.

I KNEW IT... YOU'RE USIN' ME FOR MY HANDICAPPED PARKING STICKER.

THE TRUTH COMES OUT...

“Attention: Omaha area GLBT homeowners in trouble! There is a solution!”

Candice Zoucha - Omaha, NE

Many Omaha area gay and lesbian homeowners who have had trouble with credit cards and so on have found that there is *one* place in Omaha where they can be treated with respect.

No “better than you” attitude, no “b.s.,” no guilt just for being gay or lesbian.

At last, finding financial help doesn't have to be like a “coming out” at Thanksgiving dinner with everyone pointing fingers, and finding fault.

Mindy Hahne, of Service First Home Mortgage in Omaha's Midtown area works at a GLBT friendly outfit that specializes in helping Omaha area GLBT homeowners in need.

Hahne says she takes great pride in being gay and lesbian friendly. And treating the folks she helps like family.

“A lot of people in the GLBT community don't realize that even *without* gay marriage, or civil unions, there are already several equal protections in place for gay and lesbians as real property owners! Maybe because *no one else* wants to tell you about them!” Mindy says.

“Being gay or lesbian doesn't have to be a barrier to equal treatment anymore!” Hahne says.

Hahne has helped many gays and lesbians over the years, many personal friends.

“I am the one person in town that *specializes* in helping gay and lesbian folks with debt consolidation, cash out, credit repair and so on!” Hahne says.

“These are good people with damaged credit reports and/or hard to prove income! Not through any fault of their own! I *specialize* in helping the gay and lesbian community get a *fair shake* from the financial industry!” Hahne says.

Hahne says she has a lot of connections to Wall Street money, “I have personal relationships with investors *nationwide*, even *internationally*! Fair-minded people who want to fund loans for people with past credit problems!” she says.

“Many of them have a social conscience! And they take pride in helping gay and lesbians in particular! Just like I do! They use my *proprietary* system as their own little bit of “*social activism*!” Hahne says.

These investors are people who buy ‘pools’ of mortgages of 50 million dollars at a whack! 50 million bucks! It's taken me 4 long years and it's been *really* hard to find these ‘fat cats!’ People who are ‘like-minded’ about what I do for the Omaha gay and lesbian community!” Mindy says.

“Not only is it *illegal* to discriminate against the GLBT community, it's just plain *wrong*!” Hahne says. “The self-limiting perceptions held by some in the community are just as much of a problem as the crooked people who perpetrate the discriminatory practices themselves!” she says.

Hahne says, “It's my *personal mission* to change the mindsets! And to *liberate everyone* from the restraints!”

“I grew up in a house where we didn't have much money! And my parents understood just how money *really* works even less! Nowadays, it's a lot of fun for me to help people get control over their money and their lives!” Mindy says.

Mindy Hahne can be reached at 934.9248 x1010. “I'm *really busy*, so those who don't get a live answer from me need to leave a detailed message and then give me at least 24 business hours to return the call!” **Or to lean more, you can call 800-223-6724...option 1... then ext 8619.** Just listen in to the free-recorded message.

SFHMI is a Nebraska Residential Mortgage Licensee, an Equal Opportunity Lender, an ‘Honor Roll’ member of the Heartland Better Business Bureau and Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce.



Mindy Hahne with her dogs Piper and Emerson

Los Angeles Police Support The Gay Games

Larry Buhl, PlanetOut Network

The Los Angeles Police Department has become the first major law-enforcement sponsor of the Gay Games VII in Chicago, the department announced Thursday. Police Chief William Bratton said that he will allow officers to march in uniform during the games' opening ceremony, and the agency will recruit new officers at the games.

The decision marks the first time the department has recruited outside Southern California in four years. Gay Games attendees can take the first step in the hiring process, a written test, on July 18, 19, 20 or 22 at the Chicago Hilton.

At least 12 Los Angeles officers have signed up to compete in the games and plan on wearing their police uniforms during the events' opening ceremony. The LAPD will also be prominent in many of the promotional and marketing materials for the games, according to Gay Games VII Executive Director Brian McGuinness.

“I think this shows just how far things have progressed,” he told the PlanetOut Network. “We're moving beyond mere tolerance to outright acceptance and support from all areas of society.”

The LAPD has perhaps made the big leaps toward tolerance in recent years. Since the early 1990s, the LAPD has shifted from being hostile toward lesbian and gay officers to becoming what many see as a national model for integrating openly gay cops. Today, more than 150 gay LAPD officers are out, serving in virtually every division.

The LAPD participation in the Gay Games demonstrates the department's commitment to creating an open and inclusive workforce, according to Officer Michael Jolicoeur, the gay and lesbian coordinator for LAPD recruitment. “LAPD will continue to aggressively reach out to men and women from all races, economic backgrounds, and religious and sexual orientation.”

McGuinness added that he is courting the Chicago police department and other nearby law enforcement departments to participate.

Gay Games VII, to be held July 15-22, 2006, is a festival of sporting events for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender athletes. More than a tournament, the Gay Games is a gathering of the “international sports and arts community that changes lives, attitudes, and the very nature of competition,” said McGuinness.



The preceding is a paid advertisement.



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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


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Canadian Court OKs Group Sex in Clubs

Associated Press

OTTAWA -- Two Montreal clubs that cater to group sex do not breach standards of decency, Canada's Supreme Court has ruled. Wednesday's ruling, written by Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin, said group sex among like-minded adults in private does not meet the test of indecency.

The decision might make it easier for "swinger" clubs or gay bath houses to operate without the threat of police intervention or arrest.

The ruling dealt with two Montreal cases in which swinger-club operators were charged with keeping a bawdy house.

Canada's criminal code defines a bawdy house as a location that is kept for prostitution or indecent acts.

James Kouri and Jean-Paul Labaye were both convicted, but the unsettled state of the law was demonstrated clearly when separate Court of Appeal rulings upheld Labaye's conviction and overturned Kouri's.

The high court threw out Labaye's conviction and affirmed the Kouri decision.

"Entry to the club and participation in the activities were voluntary. No one was forced to do anything or watch anything. No one was paid for sex," McLachlin wrote in reference to the Labaye case.

"Brokeback" leads Golden Globes

PlanetOut Network

The "Brokeback Mountain" momentum picked up steam Tuesday in Los Angeles as the movie earned the most Golden Globe nominations of any film this year. Its seven nods include best dramatic film, best director and best actor (Heath Ledger).

The film -- about two cowboys who fall in love during the 1960s and carry on a secret romance over the next two decades -- has also received top honors from critics' groups in New York, Los Angeles and Boston.

Its other nominations include one for Michelle Williams as supporting actress for her portrayal of Ledger's wife, and nods for best screenplay, score and song.

The early awards suggest that "Brokeback Mountain" may be an Oscar contender, but Academy voters have never selected a gay-themed film as the best-picture winner.

"It's going to be a front-runner, but it really has a mountain to

climb, because never have we seen a gay romance in the best-picture race before," Tom O'Neil, of the awards site theenvelope.com, told the Associated Press.

Portrayals of LGBT characters, however, have been honored with Academy Awards, including William Hurt in "Kiss of the Spider Woman," Tom Hanks in "Philadelphia" and Hilary Swank in "Boys Don't Cry."

The Golden Globes are bestowed by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association. Winners will be announced Jan. 16, five days before polls close for Oscar voting.

Another nominee in the Golden Globes dramatic actor category is Phillip Seymour Hoffman, who portrays gay author Truman Capote in "Capote." Hoffman has already received many awards for his work in the film.

Felicity Huffman's portrayal of a transgender woman in "Transamerica" earned a best-actress Golden Globe nomination, adding to several other honors she has received for the film.

Gay Man Wins World Powerlifting Title

PlanetOut Network

Chris Morgan, one of the United Kingdom's best-known gay athletes, this month won the World Drug Free Powerlifting championship title.

Morgan, who competes at 75 kilos, or 165 pounds, completed three types of lifts for a total of 580 kilos, or 1,276 pounds, at the world championships in Turin, Italy, on Dec. 10-11.

He has previously won top honors at the British and Gay Games powerlifting competitions.

He said that although he has had many injuries and setbacks this year, winning both the British and world titles has made it a year of great achievement for him.

"To win a world championship title 'out' and 'proud' is a dream come true. I'd like to dedicate this gold medal to the memory of Matthew Shepard," he said. "I would like to thank my family, coach, Soho Gyms and the Gay Games for their unwavering support throughout my career."

He is preparing for more competitions in 2006 in which he will defend all his current titles.

Morgan works as a financial adviser and writes articles for Gay.com's money channel.

Miss Susan Advises Judge Squeamish

The following is an adaptation from *Miss Susan's Etiquette Tips for the Socially Conscious Judge: A Guide to Honorable Conduct Toward Gays and Lesbians in the Courtroom*, originally published in the St. Louis University Public Law Review in the Spring of 2005. The entire article is being published in the *Gayzette* in serial form by special arrangement with the law firm of Koenig & Tiritilli, P.C., L.L.O.

Dear Miss Susan,

I recently had a young professional mother come before me seeking to retain custody of her children. The evidence showed that she supports the Lambda Legal Defense Fund, the Human Rights Campaign, and the American Civil Liberties Union. She admitted on the witness stand that she often has private parties in her home on weekends when the children visit their father—parties where homosexuals are sometimes seen touching each other and kissing and fondling. It was so perverted that I almost had to call a recess and go to my private judicial toilet. Just the thought of it made me sick! Admittedly, there was no direct evidence that she was a lesbian (and she certainly didn't look like a lesbian). However, I think I should consider her apparent homoerotic tendencies when making my findings on the best interests of the children. This is a really important factor, isn't it?

Love,
Judge Squeamish

Dear Judge Squeamish,

I'm not sure I agree with your assertion that this woman has "homoerotic tendencies." Certainly, she has some gay friends and she donates money to gay-friendly organizations, but that doesn't necessarily make her a lesbian. It may simply indicate that she is open-minded and supportive of gay and lesbian rights. I am acquainted with many straight people who feel the same way. As a judge, you should be careful about making assumptions.

That being said, let's go ahead and assume for a moment that the mother in your case *is* a lesbian. There is a growing consensus in the legal community that a parent's sexual orientation is largely irrelevant in child custody determinations. For instance, in *Hassenstab v. Hassenstab*, the father sought a change in custody after the mother began an intimate relationship with another woman. In looking at this case, the Nebraska Court of Appeals examined prior custody cases involving heterosexual parents. In those cases, the Nebraska Supreme Court announced that a parent's sexual activity could not justify a change in custody "absent a showing that the minor child or children were exposed to such activity or were adversely affected or damaged by reason of such activity." The court of appeals determined that the same rule should apply to both heterosexual and homosexual parents. Since there was no evidence that the child had been exposed to any sexual activity or that she had been harmed by the relationship, the court found that custody should remain with the mother.

As in *Hassenstab*, it seems that the mother in your case has been suitably discreet, as any good mother would be. Although

gays and lesbians occasionally hug and kiss at her parties, it does not appear that her children were in attendance at those parties. Even if they had been present, I would hardly consider normal affection between consenting adults to be harmful to children. In *Pleasant v. Pleasant*, an Illinois court observed that "seeing two consenting adults hug and kiss in a friendly manner is not harmful to [the minor child]." The consenting adults in *Pleasant* were the child's mother and her female partner. Had the affection been heterosexual rather than homosexual in nature, I doubt you would have given it a second thought.

This leads me to my real point: I think you are uncomfortable with gays and lesbians. Please understand that this is merely an observation and not an accusation. The important thing for you to do is recognize your own discomfort and then move past it. As a judge, your paramount concern must be the best interests of the child. Putting aside your personal feelings about the mother's sexual orientation, you must ask yourself whether a change of custody is really warranted. Viewed from that angle, you may decide that this mother isn't so bad, even if she does support the American Civil Liberties Union.

Very truly yours,
Miss Susan

Miss Susan is a fictional advice columnist created by Bradley Z. Haumont and Susan Ann Koenig, two attorneys at Koenig & Tiritilli, P.C., L.L.O. based in Omaha, Nebraska. Please don't confuse Miss Susan with either of the authors. She is really much taller and much funnier than either of us.

DISCLAIMER. This column is intended for informational purposes only. DO NOT RELY ON ANYTHING YOU READ IN THIS COLUMN. IT IS NOT INTENDED AS LEGAL ADVICE. The legal principles discussed herein do not necessarily apply in the State of Nebraska. If you have questions, please consult an attorney.

Thank You From Emperor Dan & Empress Lana

On behalf of the Imperial Court of Nebraska and the Royal Family of Reign XXV, Dan and Lana would like to thank everyone who participated and helped us reach our goals through the holiday season.

In November, Food 4 Thought was highly successful providing food vouchers to clients of the Nebraska AIDS Project. December brought us to the annual Night of 1,000 Stars. Diane Joseph catered a fabulous meal at The MAX while guests enjoyed entertainment by Emperor Dan, Empress Lana, Princess

Royale Jennifer Jett and Czarina Mystic DeLight. The week immediately after, ICON hosted the annual Toyz 4 Totz which provides toys to children affected by HIV/AIDS. The following week, members of the ICON Board of Governors and the Royal Family shopped at Target on 132nd and Center courtesy of Jason Riddle.

Many thanks go out to the performers of each of these events. The Royal Family Members of Reign XXV, The ICON Board of Governors, Miss MAX Feleasha, Mr Max Scott, Miss DC's Montana, Mr DC's Mark, Empress of all Iowa Iris Aspire, Emperor of all Iowa James, Mark Weston, Helen Back, Erica LaRue, Ms HGRA Teri, Mr HGRA Pete, Miss Gay Omaha Holly Day, Miss Merry Christmas 2004 Chandler and Miss Merry Christmas 2005 Macy Riley, Mr PRIDE Johnnie Richards, Archbishop Michael Corey and members of the College of Monarchs; Phoenix Fallentino, Feleena Katx, Paco Perez, And More, Jeff McKenzie, Don Randolph, Monroe, Michael Lyons, Matt Finken, Crystal DeLight, Carla Peterson and Sharon Van Butsel. Please forgive us if we have forgotten anyone, but the list is forever long.

Thanks also goes out to those behind the scenes who helped make these events go off without any problems. Michele Korman, Annette Moeller, Paul Luckhurst, Jewels, the DJs at The MAX, the waiters and bartenders and anyone else we may have forgotten.

Thank you all for making these and all our future events a success.

Spanish Registrar Quits Over Gay Marriage

A Spanish justice of the peace has resigned his post because he doesn't want to officiate same-sex marriages, a task he finds "morally impossible."

Antonio Alonso had been a civil registrar in the town of Pinto, about 11 miles south of Madrid.

"I am resigning because it is morally impossible for me to marry homosexual couples, and I can therefore not apply that law," he told the EFE news agency Monday.

Alonso refused in October to marry a same-sex couple, and he appealed to Spain's constitutional court. The court rejected his case this month.

Since the law allowing same-sex couples to wed went into effect in July, three couples in Pinto have applied for marriage licenses, and Alonso has refused them.



Where Can You Find The Gayzette?

Omaha:

Connections, 1901 Leavenworth
 The Diamond, 712 South 16th Street
 DC's Saloon, 610 South 14th Street
 Dixie Quick's, Restaurant 20th Leavenworth
 Flixx 1019 South 10th Street Omaha
 Gilligan's Pub, 1407 Harney Street
 The Max, 1417 Jackson
 The Reading Grounds, 3928 Farnam Street
 Metropolitan Community Church, 819 South 22nd Street
 Omaha Mining Co., 1715 Leavenworth
 Mystery Bookstore, 1422 South 13th St
 Nebraska AIDS Project, 139 South 40th St
 Next Millennium, 2308 North 72nd Street
 Rainbow Outreach Metro Omaha GLBT Resource Center, 1719 Leavenworth St.

Lincoln:

Panic Bar, 200 South 18th Street (as available)
 Q Bar, 226 South 9th Street (as available)

Iowa:

Adult Emporium, 1 blk. So. of 32nd & Broadway, Council Bluffs
 Mikes Place, 162 West Broadway, Council Bluffs
 Wilson Resource Center, Arnolds Park, IA



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GAYZETTE COMING EVENTS

FRIDAY JANUARY 6TH

SCOTT SEVERIN ACCOUSTIC ROCK, free show at The Reading Grounds, 40th and Farnam, 8PM, for info call 502-2008, www.readinggrounds.com

SATURDAY JANUARY 7TH

LORD BYRON'S BAND, Steve Lovett and Andy Neely bring acoustic blues to The Reading Grounds, 40th and Farnam, 8PM, for info call 502-2008, free show, www.readinggrounds.com

FRIDAY JANUARY 13TH

ADULT ALTERNATIVE MUSIC, free show at The Reading Grounds, 40th and Farnam, 8PM, for info call 502-2008, Veronica Torraca and Jonathan Biccum performing, www.readinggrounds.com

FRIDAY JANUARY 20TH

THE AMAZING VOCALS OF DAVID POTTER ON GUITAR, free show at The Reading Grounds, 40th and Farnam, 8PM, info call 502-2008, www.readinggrounds.com

SATURDAY JANUARY 21ST AND

SUNDAY JANUARY 22ND

A WINTER WONDERLAND, presented by the River City Mixed Chorus at the First United Methodist Church, 7020 Cass St. at 7:05pm. Call 341-7464 for tickets or online at www.rcmc.org

SATURDAY JANUARY 21ST

SOCIAL FOR SENIORS 50+, 7 TO 11PM at the Rainbow Outreach GLBT Center, 1719 Leavenworth. Call 341-0330 for more information on their first meeting ever

THURSDAY JANUARY 26TH

MIDWEST BEST READING SERIES, at The Reading Grounds, 40th and Farnam, 7PM, for info call 502-2008, sponsored by UNO, featuring Jenna Lucas, free, www.readinggrounds.com

DARDEN SMITH ON GUITAR

free show at The Reading Grounds, 40th and Farnam, 8PM, for info call 502-2008, www.readinggrounds.com

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 23RD

MIDWEST BEST READING SERIES, David Phillip Mullins will be the guest of UNO's creative writing workshop. 7PM at the Reading Grounds, 3928 Farnam St., Call 502-2008 for details or check online at www.readinggrounds.com (free event)

SATURDAY MAY 13TH

GLBT CENTER ANNUAL PRIDE WALK, Raise money for the Center and

for your favorite qualifying group. Details will follow in later issues of the Gayzette.

SATURDAY JUNE 17TH AND

SUNDAY JUNE 19TH

SPIRIT AND SOUL, presented by the River City Mixed Chorus at the Strauss Performing Arts Center—UNO Campus at 7:05pm. Call 341-7464 for tickets or online at www.rcmc.org

FRIDAY JUNE 9TH TO 11TH

2006 NEBRASKA GAY PRIDE

WEEKLY EVENTS

Every Sunday

WORSHIP SERVICES:

DIETZ METHODIST 1423 S.10, Heartland Casual Coffeehouse 9:30am, Traditional Worship 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

NA RAINBOW GROUP, Narcotics Anonymous, every Sunday at 6PM, MCC-Omaha, 819 South 22nd St., for info contact Kip K. at 612-4648

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

UNITY CHURCH OF OMAHA, 3424 N. 90, Omaha, 9am and 11am services

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

LINCOLN WOMYN'S POTLUCK Cheryl 474-1937 11:30am-4pm

WIMMIN'S SHOW KZUM 89.3 12:30pm

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

GAMES DAY AT THE GLBT CENTER, 1719 Leavenworth, 1PM to 3PM

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

Every Monday

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

HIV TESTING, 7- 9:30pm, 139 S. 40th

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

A A GLBT "RAINBOW GROUP"

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

Every Tuesday

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

Every Wednesday

WORSHIP SERVICES MCC OMAHA, Bible Study, 7pm

UNITY CHURCH OF OMAHA, 7pm

HIV TESTS, 1-4 pm NAP, 13 9 S. 40

FRONTRUNNERS RUN/WALK 6:30pm, Elmwood Park Parking Lot by softball field, Omaha

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

KARAOKE W/ STACY 8:30pm DC's

Every Thursday

GILLIGAN'S PUB OPEN MIC NIGHT, sing to your hearts content, be a comedian for a night, it's an open mic night

HIV TEST 7- 9:30 pm, NAP, 139 S. 40th

KARAOKE 9pm, Connections

Every Friday

GLBT CENTER YOUTH NIGHT, 5PM to 7PM, for ages 13 to 23. Youth sponsored and organized activities, under adult supervision. Every Friday, excluding holidays.

FREE CONFIDENTIAL ANONYMOUS HIV TEST, UN-L 472-7447, 3-4:30pm, University Health Center Room 158D (in Radiology on the first floor), Orasure test, no needles, Lincoln NE

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

GLBT SEXUAL COMPULSIVE ANONYMOUS, (SCA), A program of recovery, 8pm to 9pm, call Joe at 932-8066 or Tony

at 933-1318

GILLIGAN'S PUB KARAOKE NIGHT,

have fun from 9 pm to 1 am

Every Saturday

GILLIGAN'S PUB KARAOKE NIGHT,

have fun from 9 pm to 1 am

GLBT BICYCLING CLUB OMAHA, For

details call Jeri at 614-6145

PROUD HORIZON YOUTH GROUP 4-

6pm, 291-6781 proudhorizons@yahoo.com

MONTHLY EVENTS

1st Friday

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

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

1st Saturday

CENTER WESTERN IOWA COMMITTEE,
1:30PM at the GLBT Center, 1719
Leavenworth, Omaha. For details, visit
rainbowoutreach.org

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

1st Sunday

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

2nd Thursday

PFLAG- OMAHA, 7pm, First United Method-
ist Church

2nd Saturday

CENTER EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE,
1:30PM at the GLBT
Center, 1719 Leavenworth, Omaha. For details,
visit rainbowoutreach.org

FREE MATINEE MOVIE, at the GLBT Cen-
ter, 1:30PM, Bring a snack to share, everyone is
welcome, 2nd and 4th Saturdays every month

LEARNING TO EXCHANGE POWER

L2EP@aol.com 2pm; DC's Saloon

2nd Sunday

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

OUUT SECOND SUNDAY SCREENING

(glbt film shown at 6:30pm followed by dis-
cussion) First Unitarian, 3114 Harney

3rd Monday

IMPERIAL COURT OF NEBR 6:30pm,
MCC-O, 819 S. 22 St., icon.impcourt.org

3rd Thursday

LES/BI/GAY BOOK DISCUSSION

GROUP, Village Inn, 78th & Dodge, 7
PM

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

CENTER LIBRARY COMMITTEE,
1pm to 2PM, GLBT Center, 1719 Leav-
enworth, for details see
www.rainbowoutreach.org

CENTER ACTIVITY COMMITTEE,
2pm to 3PM, GLBT Center, 1719 Leav-
enworth, for details see
www.rainbowoutreach.org

FLAT WATER BEARS 7:30pm, at the
Rainbow Outreach GLBT Resource
Center

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

LEATHER ENGINEERS—OMAHA
Monthly Beer Bust, 9pm, DC's Saloon

4th Saturday

FREE MATINEE MOVIE, at the GLBT
Center, 1:30PM, Bring a snack to share,
everyone is welcome, 2nd and 4th Satur-
days every month

LAST Sunday

REAL FAMILIES Omaha-area families
headed by gay/lesbian
parents, Margaux at 561-6738 or email
MargauxPolo@aol.com

Email Your Event to:
news@rainbowoutreach.org

Little David.....

.....is in the 5th grade. Yesterday morning when the teacher asked the children what their fathers did for a living. All the typical answers came up; fireman, policeman, salesman, etc.

The teacher noticed that little David was being uncharacteristically quiet and so she asked him about his father.

"My father's an exotic dancer in a gay bar and takes off all his clothes in front of other men. Sometimes, if the offer's really good, he'll go out to the alley with some guy and do it with him for money."

The teacher, obviously shaken by this statement, hurriedly set the other children to work on some coloring, and took little David aside to ask him, "Is that really true about your father?"

"No," said David, "He plays for the Eagles, but I was too embarrassed to say that in front of the other kids."

Quote Unquote

I'm not going to vacuum 'til Sears makes one you can ride on.
-Roseanne Barr-

Behind every successful man is a surprised woman.
-Maryon Pearson-

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.)**

RAINBOW OUTREACH GLBT RESOURCE LIST

OMAHA BASED

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

Citizens for Equal Protection 1102 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

Flat Water Bears, Box 3751, Omaha 68103 flatwaterbears@yahoo.com Hirsute men and admirers group

Front Runners/Walkers, 6:30pm, Elmwood Park Parking Lot by softball field, Omaha

GALO (Gay & Lesbian Org at UNO) www.angelfire.com/home/GALO contact: unogalo@hotmail.com or SPO (Student Organizations) at 554-2711.

Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network - Omaha, Box 641676, Omaha 68164, 712-325-0117 <http://www.glsenomaha.org>

GayLibrary.com, World Wide Resources

Heartland Gay Rodeo Association
Box 3354, Omaha 68103

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 556-9907, Board Meets 3rd Monday, 819 S. 22 www.icon.impcourt.org

Learning to Exchange Power, L2EP@aol.com; Social, educational group novices in Leather, S/M, B/D Lifestyle

Leather Engineers of Omaha (LEO) Box 8101, Omaha, 68108-8101 Gay men in leather lifestyle, Mt 4th Fri Gilligan's 7pm

LinOma Bares, Box 24547, Omaha 68124 Nudist/ Naturist Club for gay/bi men Info: Linomabares@yahoo.com or call Eric at (402) 553-5944 or Tim S (712) 527-5887

Mpower Program, 139 S. 40, Omaha 68131 email: mpower@nap.org website: www.mpower-nap.org phone: 402.552.9260x20, Holistic Gay Men's Health Program

Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha, 819 S. 22 St., Omaha 68108 345-2563, mccomaha@mccomaha.org Website: www.mccomaha.org Sunday Worship 11am, Wed Evening Bible Study at 7pm

NA Rainbow Group, Narcotics Anonymous, meets every Sunday at 6pm, MCC-Omaha Church, 819 South 22nd St

Nebraska AIDS Project, 552-9260 Watanabe Wellness Ctr, 139 S. 40, Omaha 68131, Testing Mon, Thurs Eve, Wed aft

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

Nebraska GLBT Events, Community Events Calendar web site, see www.NebraskaGLBTEvents.com

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

Omaha Bi Married Men Yahoo Group <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OmahaBiMarriedMen>

Omaha Nebr Gay Pride WebPage <http://ONGP.com>; email to: omahanebrgaypride@cox.net or ongp@cox.net

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 Hamer, 68131, 345-3039, www.ouut.org

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) Omaha Chapter Box 390064, Omaha, 68139-0064 291-6781 Website: www.pflag-omaha.org, email info@pflag-omaha.org Meet 2nd Thurs, 1st United Meth, 7020 Cass

Proud Horizons Youth Group, Sat Afternoon, info: (402) 291-6781 or email proudhorizons@yahoo.com

Rainbow Outreach GLBT Resource Ctr, 1719 Leavenworth, Omaha, 341-0330

Rainbow Bible Study, Fridays, 6-7:30pm, Lowe Ave Presbyterian, 1023 N. 40 St.

Rainbow Celebrations, Box 241733, Omaha, 68124, 402-212-6302 locally, 866-NE-PRIDE toll free, sponsors of annual Gay Pride & National Coming Out Day, see www.rainbowcelebrations.org

Real Families, Omaha-area families headed by gay/lesbian parents, meet last Sunday of every month. Info: Margaux at 561-6738 or email MargauxPo-lo@aol.com

River City Gender Alliance, www.genderalliance.com Social/Support Group for transgender/transsexual/cross-dressers and supporters

River City Mixed Bowling II 3pm, Sundays, Maplewood Lanes, Omaha Norma Harrison (402) 731-5706

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

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

Unity Church of Omaha 3424 N. 90, Omaha, Sunday worship: 9am, 11am Wednesday evening worship 7pm; 571-1344; www.unityomaha.org

WomenSpace, Box 24712, Omaha 68124 Newsletter, Concerts

LINCOLN BASED

GLBT and Ally Programs and Services at UNL, D. Moritz, Assistant Director, 402-472-1752 email: dmoritz2@unl.edu Located in Student Involvement Office of the Nebraska Union, Room 200.

Gay/Lesbian/Bi/Straight Alliance 2229 J St., Lincoln 68510 (402) 436-1301 ext. 232 Ruth Kupfer

Gay Men's Support Group, UNL Health Center, Counseling & Psychology, Rm. 214, Lincoln 68588-0618 472-7450

Lesbian, Bisexual and Questioning Women's Discussion Group, University of Nebraska, Lincoln Women's Center

(sponsor), Room 340, Nebraska Union, Lincoln 68588-0446. 402/472-5644.

Nebraska AIDS Project, 2147 S. 15th St. Lincoln, NE 68502. (402) 476-7000

Mixed Chorus, Rehearse 1st & 3rd Fridays, Unitarian Church, 6300 A, No auditions, Just a desire to sing, info contact Scott at sdorchid@neb.rr.com

Omaha Women's Riverboat Cruise, 4949 N. 73, Lincoln, 68507 467-5737

Parents, Friends of Lesbians & Gays, Cornhusker Chapter, Box 30128, Lincoln 68508, Meet 4th Tues, Unitarian Church, 6300 A, email to Barbara Kimberly, jbkiber@hotmail.com. Website: <http://pflag.ineb.org/>

Plainsmen, Support FtM's (Female to Male) Drag Kings TV Butches, 402-820-1267

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

SAGE, Box 22043, Lincoln 68542 Coffee House 2nd Sat, 6 - 9pm, Lesbian Videos 7:15pm, 3319 S. 46

Sexuality Education eXchange, University Health Ctr, 15th & U, Rm. 12h, 472-7447 or email: ptetreault1@unl.edu Comprehensive, inclusive sexuality/sexual health info, resources/referrals including sexual orientation, ally and diversity training.

Straight Spouse Support Grp 402-429-6094
Women In Trades/YWCA, 1432 N St., Lincoln 68508; 434-3494,

UNL Committee on GLBT Concerns, Contact Pat Tetreault, c/o University Health Center, 15th & U Streets, Rm. 12h Lincoln, NE 68588-0618, (402) 472-7447 or email: ptetreault1@unl.edu

Youth Support Group, (402) 434-9880

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

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

Iowa Based

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

CLASSIFIED ADS

Your Classified Ad Could be HERE!
20 WORDS/\$5 20¢ each additional word

Ads and Payment May Be Taken to the Resource Center, 1719 Leavenworth or emailed to news@rocc.org. No ad will be published until payment is received in full. Personal Ads Accepted for Those Seeking Relationships, Friendships, etc. NO ADS FOR SEX OR ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES. THE GAYZETTE Reserves the Right to Accept or Reject ANY Ad. Ads may be edited for spelling, grammar, or content.

Jail for Gay and Transgender Inmates to Close

David B. Caruso, Associated Press

NEW YORK -- One of the nation's few jail dormitories specifically for gay or transgender prisoners is closing on Rikers Island, prompting complaints from some activists who say it is a needed safe haven.

The unit stopped accepting new inmates last month at the direction of the city's Department of Correction Commissioner, Martin Horn. With only 56 inmates left in the unit Thursday, it could be shut entirely within the next few weeks, the department said.

Plans call for the specialized unit to be replaced with a new protective custody system that would be available to prisoners who feel threatened, regardless of their sexual orientation.

The change has alarmed members of some civil liberties and gay rights groups that note the new housing is likely to be more restrictive than the old unit.

"People should not be punished for wanting to be safe," said D. Horowitz, a legal fellow at the Sylvia Rivera Law Project.

The unit, reserved for prisoners in pretrial detention, opened on New York City's island prison complex in the late 1970s to assuage complaints about abusive treatment of gays. It has space for 146 prisoners but was holding 126 when it began emptying Nov. 28.

Correction Department spokesman Tom Antenen said the unit, which held only a fraction of the gay inmates at Rikers, was being done away with as part of a broader restructuring of the jail's prisoner classification system.

Jail administrators have no intention of ignoring Rikers inmates who say they feel threatened because of their sexuality, Antenen said.

"If that is the case, and they need to be protected from the general population, then we will endeavor to provide the best possible security," he said. That could include a "23-hour lockdown" or it might involve moving them to a different city facility.

Eighteen groups sent a letter to Horn on Thursday asking him to reconsider, including the Lambda Legal Defense and Education

Fund, the New York Civil Liberties Union and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Specialized housing units for gay prisoners are rare in the United States, although jails in a few other places do have them, officials said. The Federal Bureau of Prisons does not maintain such units anywhere in the country, nor do state prisons in New York.

Transgender activist Mariah Lopez said she knows firsthand the difference between the specialized unit and regular housing at Rikers, having been imprisoned in both on prostitution charges.

Outside of the protective unit, Lopez said she was subject to taunts and physical abuse, while inside guards and prisoners alike are "generally more sensitized" to issues of gender identity. "I can't conceive a Rikers Island without gay housing," Lopez said.

Learn To Be A Better Speaker

Would you like to become a better speaker? Does your non-profit group need help in recruiting and retaining members?

Elizabeth Hampton Brown, a National PFLAG staff member, will conduct a training on Saturday, Jan. 14, at First United Methodist Church, 7020 Cass St. The training, in Mead Hall at the church's west end, will start with coffee and rolls at 8:30 a.m. The Membership Recruitment and Retention session will start at 9 a.m.

At 10:45 a.m., she will focus on basic public speaking skills with emphasis on skills for people who are nervous about speaking alone to a large group. She will talk about telling one's personal story in a way that gets our message across. The free training, open to all, will end shortly after noon. If you would like to come, please call PFLAG leaders Bob and Betty Dorr at 333-7064 or email them at: bobcdorr@cox.net

At the monthly Omaha PFLAG meeting on Thursday, Jan. 12, Elizabeth will talk about What National PFLAG Does. The meeting, in FUMC's Mead Hall, will start with support time at 7 p.m. The program will begin at 8 p.m. Come for coffee and socializing at 6:30 p.m. Visitors always are welcome.

Elizabeth has responsibility for PFLAG chapters in 16 states including Nebraska and Iowa. Her work includes coordinating National PFLAG's public response to judiciary issues and to marriage and family issues.

Bob Dorr, president
Omaha PFLAG



Anti-Gay Group Targets New NBC Drama

Tom Musbach, PlanetOut Network

A television drama about an Episcopal priest, set to debut January 6th on NBC, has prompted protest from right-wing religious activists -- in part because the show features a gay character as the priest's son.

The American Family Association is urging members to send letters of protest to NBC about the show, "The Book of Daniel," which the group believes is not a favorable depiction of Christian people.

The series centers on a priest named Daniel Webster and his family. According to the AFA, Webster's family includes "a 23-year-old homosexual Republican son, a 16-year-old daughter who is a drug dealer and a 16-year-old adopted son who is having sex with the bishop's daughter."

The show is scheduled to air Fridays beginning Jan. 6.

In a plot device reminiscent of "Joan of Arcadia," the priest has visions of Jesus and frequent conversations with him. The AFA termed the show's depiction of Jesus "very unconventional."

On Tuesday, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation called "The Book of Daniel" a "witty and unconventional family drama" and applauded the show's gay character, played by Christian Campbell, as one of four noteworthy LGBT characters being introduced on TV next month.

"This is an offbeat, inclusive series -- inclusive of people of faith and inclusive of gay and bisexual people," Damon Romine, GLAAD's entertainment media director, told the PlanetOut Network. "It doesn't surprise me that the AFA would be afraid of this series -- it shows a family that's both deeply religious and loving and accepting of their gay son."

Aidan Quinn, who plays the priest, called the series "wholesome" in an interview published Tuesday by the Associated Press.

"I honestly don't think it's going to be nearly as controversial as some people may now be afraid of," Quinn said. "It just has the courage to deal with some of the real issues that go on in people's lives."

The series' openly gay creator, Jack Kenny, told the AP that the show is not about religion.

"The show is about a family," he said. "The fact that Daniel is a priest is secondary. The church is the backdrop. This is no more about religion than 'Six Feet Under' was about mortuaries."

South Africa High Court OKs Gay Marriage

Alexandra Zavis, Associated Press.

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa -- South Africa's highest court ruled Thursday it is unconstitutional to prevent gay people from marrying, paving the way for the country to become the first to legalize same-sex unions on a continent where homosexuality remains largely taboo.

But the Constitutional Court gave Parliament a year to make the necessary legal changes, disappointing activists -- some of whom have been waiting years to marry.

"We were thinking we would be calling our friends today and inviting them to our wedding," said Fikile Vilakazi, of the Forum for the Empowerment of Women, who proposed to her partner more than six months ago. "Now they are asking us to wait another year."

South Africa recognized the rights of gays in the constitution adopted after apartheid ended in 1994 -- the first in the world to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. But the government has opposed attempts to extend the definition of marriage in court to include same-sex couples.

There was no immediate comment from the government on Thursday's decision.

Heterosexual married couples in South Africa have numerous rights that are denied to gay couples, including the ability to make decisions on each other's behalf in medical emergencies and inheritance rights if a partner dies without a will.

Judge Albie Sachs, who delivered Thursday's ruling, said laws defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman are inconsistent with sections of the constitution "to the extent that they make no provision for same-sex couples to enjoy the status, entitlements and responsibilities they accord to heterosexual couples."

The court instructed Parliament to extend the definitions of marriage within a year, or else the words "or spouse" would automatically be added by the courts, the South African Press Association reported.

Judge Kate O'Regan agreed with the other 10 members of the court that same-sex marriage should be legal, but argued in a separate opinion that the court should effect the changes immediately -- a view shared by gay rights groups.

Vilakazi worried lawmakers could attempt to water down the decision but introducing a different category of marriage for same-sex couples. Proposals previously debated in Parliament include the introduction of civil unions, which would provide the same legal benefits as marriage without the religious ceremony, she said.

Thursday's ruling was in response to an appeal by the government against a Supreme Court ruling last year that said a lesbian couple's union should be recognized.

"South Africa has a very strong traditional and conservative population," said Steven Swart, spokesman for the tiny African Christian Democratic Party. "We as Christian Democrats believe we should treat all people with compassion, but there are certain guidelines that we stand by: Marriage is a union between a man and woman."

Canada, the Netherlands, Belgium and Spain are the only nations that allow gay marriage nationwide.

Rep. Frank Predicts Massachusetts Marriage Fight

Andrew Miga, Associated Press

WASHINGTON -- Massachusetts could face an "angry, divisive" fight if a proposed constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage reaches the 2008 state ballot, Rep. Barney Frank says.

The congressman blamed backers of the initiative petition for trying to provoke a new fight despite a lack of controversy over same-sex marriage.

"Basically, they're the disturbers of the civic peace," the Democrat said in a wide-ranging Associated Press interview Thursday. "We now have social peace in Massachusetts. They're the ones who want to stir it up ... This is a non-issue in Massachusetts."

The Massachusetts Family Institute said the 124,000 certified signatures it gathered for the petition, nearly double the number required, was a sign of strong public support for outlawing same-sex marriage.

"All they want is an opportunity to vote on the definition of marriage," said the group's president, Kris Mineau. "Now that the people have spoken, the good congressman has decided this is a divisive issue."

Before the amendment can be placed on the state ballot, it must be approved by at least 50 lawmakers during two separate sessions of the Legislature.

"I think by 2008, people will say, 'Do we really need to have an angry, divisive debate over a non-issue,'" Frank said. "The question for the 50 legislators is: Do they want to make this a front-page issue again, leading the TV news?"

Amendment supporters want to overturn a 2003 Supreme Judicial Court ruling that said denying marriage licenses to gays was unconstitutional. State-approved same-sex marriages began May 17, 2004.

Relaxing in his Capitol Hill office and wearing a dark blue polo shirt during the congressional holiday break, Frank, 65, also spoke about his personal and political future.

He said he plans to retire from Congress before his health starts to fail him. He wants to avoid becoming a public spectacle.

"I'm not going to get old in public," he said. "I've seen some great men, literally great men, deteriorate in public view ... I don't think you should do that."

Once he leaves politics, Frank wants to write books about issues such as capitalism, the legislative process and democracy.

"One goal is to retire early enough to write some books," he said. "I wish I could write more fluidly than I do. I can still talk a lot more easily than I write."

The congressman, however, does not lack political ambition.

If Democrats recapture the House, he hopes to become chairman of either the Financial Services Committee or Judiciary Committee, two highly coveted posts.

"That's a dream come true," Frank said.

He would run for Senate if Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., campaigns for president again in 2008 and his seat is open. But there's a caveat: Frank would not run if Democrats win the House in 2006.

"Yes, I would run for the Senate," said Frank, who chided others for masking their own political ambitions. "I have a new rule for politicians: try to avoid saying something that no one will believe."

Frank and other members of the Massachusetts congressional delegation jockeyed for Kerry's seat during the 2004 presidential contest briefly when it appeared Kerry might win.

Kerry's 2008 White House prospects will depend on President Bush's popularity, he said.

"For John to win, people have to say, 'I was wrong to vote for Bush over him,'" Frank said. "That's a hard thing to do ... So by the middle of 2007, John's chances depend to a great extent on how Bush is perceived."

Frank mocked Gov. Mitt Romney, a prospective 2008 Republican presidential candidate, for shifting positions on issues like abortion.

"He's stopped saying 'evolved' because the people he's courting don't like evolution," Frank said. "His position on abortion has been intelligently redesigned."

Frank said Romney is targeting conservatives who dominate the Republican presidential primary process, trying to become the right-wing alternative to Arizona Sen. John McCain.

"Romney sees himself as having the best chance to be an alternative to McCain," Frank said. "He's moved way conservative. That's his strategy."

Frank said he was not bothered by Romney's frequent out-of-state trips to test the presidential primary waters.

"What hurts the state is his belittling of the state -- his caricaturing and stereotyping of the state," he said. "That's damaging."

Start 2006 off With Something Big THE MAX

Friday January 6

TAKE IT OFF MEN!

**Underwear Night Is Back
And Start The Party Early
With Our Amateur Strip
Contest At 7**

Saturday January 14

CAN THEY FILL

FALEASHA'S SHOES?

**See What The Other Queens
Think Of Our Diva
As Miss Max Is Impersonated!**

Sunday January 15

**The Max's Pin-up Girl
Says Goodbye**

**Join Us For Faleasha's
Final Show as Miss Max 21**

COMING SOON

THE 2006

MISS MAX PAGEANT

**For More Information On Our Great Max Events
Visit Us At www.themaxomaha.com**