

The GayZette



Published every two weeks by the Rainbow Outreach Metro GLBT Center Omaha

Presbyterians Overwhelmingly Approve Marriage Equality

By Neal Broverman

The largest Presbyterian denomination in the nation, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Tuesday approved a marriage resolution on that amends its constitution to accept same-sex marriages.



A voice vote held in New Jersey had 86 regional bodies approving the new resolution and 41 opposed (one presbytery had a tie vote), reports The New York Times.

The church, which claims 1.8 million members and is based in Kentucky, has been moving to the left in the past few years; it cleared the way for partnered gay and lesbian pastors, elders, and deacons four years ago.

The latest change in policy also means Presbyterian ministers who previously performed same-sex marriages will not be prosecuted for ecclesiastical crimes by the church.

The new policy is a measured change. Conservative ministers will not be forced to perform same-sex marriages, while the new constitution will not be altered that drastically.

The church previously considered marriage as between "a man and a woman," while the new language considers marriage as a union of "two people, traditionally a man and a woman."

The Episcopal Church, the United Church of Christ, and the Quakers are some of the other denominations that have opened the door to same-sex marriage. The Reform and Conservative movements of Judaism have also hopped on the bandwagon.

How the Midwest Will Be Won for Equality

By Jonathan Winston Jones of The Heartland Project

Local activists in Nebraska say the Human Rights Campaign had for years been a long-distance ally. But as equality spreads to more places, its field organizers are reaching the front lines in Nebraska and other places in the middle of the country.



Drew Heckman, the HRC's first full-time field organizer in Nebraska, often cries in the town hall meetings they host. "After traveling around the state," Heckman said, "I can't look at the statistics for Nebraska without seeing a face now."

In Nebraska City, an hour's drive from where Brandon Teena was murdered, a lesbian told of being beaten up in high school and navigating her community with lingering fear.

In Omaha, a young gay man described being punched while walking down the street for no other reason than "looking particularly gay."

In Scottsbluff, residents shared how they felt "trapped between Matthew Shepard and Brandon Teena."

Their stories are what's behind HRC's October online survey of 670 Nebraska LGBT residents, a majority of whom said they suffer some form of discrimination. More than half, 57 percent, reported experiencing harassment in public places, and 41 percent reported harassment in the workplace. Forty-one percent of respondents experienced harassment in school, most frequently in high school.

HRC's efforts in Nebraska are part of an organizational push to address the challenges of the LGBT community in states

(Continued on page 2)

March 20th, 2015 - April 3rd, 2015

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largely untouched by significant advances in LGBT rights across the country. HRC plans to place a field organizer in Wyoming, for example, and is already working more closely in the South.

Marriage equality in Nebraska is still out of reach. This month the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals halted a lower court's ruling to end the state's ban on marriage for same-sex couples. With HRC's efforts on the ground, over 100 Nebraska businesses have signed onto a pledge to support equality in the workplace.

Pat Tetreault, director of the LGBTQA Resource Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, says HRC in Nebraska has already made advances. Tetreault, a lesbian activist in Nebraska for more than 20 years, cites the results of HRC's survey of LGBT residents as invaluable to her work. "We've had an ongoing relationship with them for years, but it's been hard to maintain a consistent connection there," Tetreault said. "Having a field organizer in the state helps you maintain that connection, and the national support makes a big difference."

For Nebraska and other similarly situated states, any progress on marriage equality often takes place outside of law-making and instead via institutions and businesses — and even there LGBT rights and protections remain weak or virtually nonexistent. The Movement Advancement Project, a Denver-based think tank tracking LGBT rights, characterizes Nebraska as one of the 14 remaining "low equality" states lacking both marriage equality and statewide non-discrimination laws on the basis of gender identity and sexual orientation.

Only one Nebraska municipality — Omaha — has an ordinance banning employment discrimination based on both sexual orientation and gender identity. Two other Nebraska cities — Grand Island and Lincoln — have protections based on



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sexual orientation alone for residents and city workers, respectively.

“When I was at the legislature listening to a committee hearing last year, I was really taken off guard to hear state senators saying being gay is a choice,” Heckman said. “It was a moment for me where I realized how much education we have to do.”

Recent statewide polling demonstrates that Nebraskans’ attitudes differ from the rest of the nation, with a December statewide poll by the Omaha World-Herald showing 54 percent of Nebraskans opposing marriage rights for same-sex couples. The trend in national polls shows the opposite, with a majority of Americans supportive of marriage equality since 2012, according to Gallup.

A native of Omaha, Heckman is no stranger to organizing in the state where he grew up. While pursuing a bachelor’s degree halfway across the country at Brown University, he started the Queer Nebraska Youth Network in 2010 and has developed relationships with other gay rights advocates on the ground.

And despite the challenging terrain, Heckman said HRC Nebraska is encouraged by the strength of the LGBT community across the state, even in rural areas, where some openly LGBT residents own businesses, are friends with city leaders, and “beloved” in their communities and churches.

Longtime LGBT advocacy organizations are also receptive to HRC’s investment in the state. “To be able to devote resources to a state like Nebraska instead of states with bigger populations is an important thing to do,” said Jordan Delmundo, director of development and Policy for the Nebraska AIDS Project.

Further, with Heckman’s groundwork, HRC Nebraska’s first initiatives in the state — building connections with businesses, faith leaders, and elected officials — are beginning to bear fruit. When three Nebraska state senators introduced bills in January to prohibit employment discrimination, permit foster parenting, and allow second-parent adoption, Heckman helped bring supportive businesses to the table, including food giant ConAgra and singer-songwriter Conor Oberst’s Saddle Creek Records label.

With the U.S. Supreme Court expected to soon weigh in on

the constitutionality of state bans on marriage for same-sex couples, Heckman sensed some LGBT Nebraska residents consider HRC late to the game. Still, Heckman anticipates more work ahead on the state and municipal level, and in the business community, to secure equal rights for LGBT Nebraskans at work and elsewhere even if the U.S. Supreme Court cements the road to formal marriage equality in the spring.

“HRC Nebraska is not a one-year campaign or a two-year campaign,” Heckman said. “We’re here until we don’t need to be here anymore.”

Betty Dorr, Who Promoted Gay Rights in Her Church and Community, Dies at 77

By Steve Jordon / World-Herald staff writer

Betty Davison Dorr, who devoted much of her life to encouraging equality for gay, lesbian, transgender and bisexual people, died Saturday in Omaha with family and friends close by.

Dorr, 77, was past president of the Omaha chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays and was a part of the United Methodist Church’s debate on gender issues in Omaha and nationally.

Robert Dorr, her husband of 57 years, said his wife died from an aggressive form of cancer that was detected after she had chest pains only 21 days earlier.

Dorr, a retired World-Herald reporter, said his wife became a gay rights advocate when the couple’s youngest son, Michael, revealed that he was gay. She worked especially with parents regarding their children’s sexual orientation.



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She was a member of First United Methodist Church of Omaha and a former national board member of the Reconciling Ministries Network, a group of Methodists formed to change church doctrine on the issue.

She organized the PFLAG speakers bureau and help line in Omaha. When members of her congregation were debating a position on same-sex marriages, she was co-chairwoman of a committee that offered educational information.

Jimmy Creech, who was pastor at the church from 1996 to 1998, came from his home in North Carolina last week to visit Dorr at the Josie Harper Hospice House. He was a controversial figure at the Omaha church because he performed same-sex marriage ceremonies in violation of church doctrine.

"Betty was a critical and crucial part of what happened," Creech said Saturday. "Without her, there would have been a void regarding why it was so important for the church to be open and accepting."

Church members were divided, he said, and Dorr spoke openly about her beliefs. "It took tremendous courage," he said. "She embodied what it meant to love without condition. ... She gave the congregation an understanding of what it meant" from the viewpoint of a layperson and a mother.

Some members left the Omaha church over the issue, and in 2000 the congregation voted to join the Reconciling Ministries Network.

Representing the network, Dorr would set up display tables at church conferences in Kansas and Nebraska and talk with people. For some young people in the small towns, her husband said, she was the only person they felt they could safely talk with about their sexual identity.

In the 1990s she was arrested twice at demonstrations regarding gay rights issues as part of groups that briefly blocked doorways, once at a national Methodist conference in Cleveland and once in Grand Island, Nebraska, at a church trial for Creech. The church eventually withdrew his credentials as a minister. Dorr pleaded guilty to misdemeanors and paid fines in both cases.

PFLAG President Patrick Heese said Saturday that Dorr spoke easily with groups about family issues regarding sexual identity and almost always wore a pin or article of clothing with a rainbow to symbolize a willingness to discuss the topic.

"She was endearing and had a way of setting people at ease," Heese said.

Bob Dorr said he remembers his wife frequently talking late into the night with a parent, often distraught, who had just discovered a son's or daughter's sexual identity. It was not an easy topic for people to discuss, especially decades ago, but he said Betty was able to answer questions and reassure people about the future.

"She would tell them that their son or daughter was the same person they were before they came out" and just as deserving of "unconditional love," Bob Dorr said.



Betty Dorr was born in Pueblo, Colorado, and studied nursing and education at the University of Colorado, moving to Omaha with her husband when he got a job at the newspaper. She was a special education paraprofessional for the Omaha Public Schools and Westside Community Schools, as well as a homemaker.

She shared son Michael's love of classical music and opera and traveled often to Chicago for his piano recitals or to see performances. The Dorr's also were active in square dancing groups in Omaha.

Michael Dorr died in 2006. Besides her husband, Betty Dorr is survived by sons David and Rick, and their families, including three grandchildren and one great-grandson, and a brother, Milton Davison, all of Omaha.

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Oklahoma Fights Back Against Antigay Bills

By Sunnivie Brydum

A bill that would have protected "ex-gay" therapy died today in Oklahoma's state House, where a Democrat Tuesday also introduced legislation that would require businesses refusing service to LGBT clientele to advertise their discriminatory practices.

The "ex-gay therapy bill," introduced as House Bill 1598 by noted homophobe Rep. Sally Kern in January, sought to ensure that any parent who wanted their children to undergo "therapy" to change their sexual orientation or gender identity would have the right to do so.



The bill, which died on the House floor today without a vote, was an attempt to defy growing nationwide efforts to ban the use of so-called conversion therapy on minors, as every major psychological and medical organization in the United States has said such therapy is ineffective and harmful. California, New Jersey, and Washington, D.C., have all banned the discredited practice's use on minors, and Colorado recently advanced a bill that would ban the practice as well.

"It is not often that we can say defeating a piece of legislation

actually saved lives, but with HB 1598, that is exactly what happened," said Freedom Oklahoma executive director Troy Stevenson in a statement Thursday. "The fact that this bill would have removed oversight and prohibited state intervention into extreme forms of child abuse was unconscionable. We owe a debt of gratitude to the fair-minded legislators who refused to allow it to even get a vote on the house floor."

Just two days earlier, an Oklahoma Democrat introduced an amendment to another antigay bill that seeks to secure a so-called license to discriminate against LGBT people, under the guise of "religious freedom." The legislation, filed as HB 1371 and authored by Rep. Chuck Strohm, is called the Oklahoma Religious Freedom Act and, if enacted, would ensure that no person be required "to participate in any marriage ceremony, celebration, or other related activity or to provide items or services for such purposes against the person's religious beliefs." The bill explicitly defines "person" as "a natural or juridical person, including but not limited to unincorporated nonprofit associations," opening the door for businesses and charities to turn away LGBT clientele.

But Tuesday, Rep. Emily Virgin (pictured) introduced an amendment to the bill that would require those businesses refusing to serve same-sex couples or LGBT customers to plainly state their discriminatory practices.

Any person (as defined above in the legislation) who is unwilling to serve individuals "based on sexual orientation, gender identity or race of either party to the marriage shall post notice of such refusal in a manner clearly visible to the public in all places of business, including websites," reads Virgin's amendment. "The notice may refer to the person's religious beliefs, but shall state specifically which couples the business does not serve by referring to a refusal based upon sexual orientation, gender identity or race."

The statewide equality group applauded Virgin's amendment for laying bare the discrimination inherent in the bill, disguised as "religious freedom."

"Thank you to Representative Virgin for calling out the level of segregation allowed under this legislation," Freedom Oklahoma's Stevenson said in a statement Tuesday. "If the state of Oklahoma is going to protect discrimination, then at the very least, businesses should be required to own their bias, and post it publicly for the world to see."

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Virgin's amendment has yet to be voted upon but could prove contentious in the Republican-controlled House and Senate.

ISIS Beheads 'Gay' Men in Iraq

By Thom Senzee

Images of additional antigay atrocities in ISIS-controlled territory have emerged, purportedly showing the beheadings of two allegedly gay men and one alleged blasphemer, African website News24 reports.



Details of the reported executions are vague at best, as the latest murders were announced via terrorist sympathizers who shared still images with captions describing the victims' "crimes." No independent confirmation of the executions has yet been obtained, notes News24.

The images depicting the latest acts of barbarism have become typical of the self-described Islamic State in Iraq and Syria's appetite for media coverage of the militants' violent reign: In multiple photos, a masked executioner holds a wide, long sword high over the outstretched necks of young men.

Another common feature in the latest series of grim images from the terrorist group — which many orthodox Muslim clerics have condemned as wholly un-Islamic — speaks less about human dignity than it does of morbid curiosity. At the increasingly frequent public executions of those accused of being gay, sizeable crowds have gathered to witness the brutality on display.

In the February execution of another man accused by ISIS of homosexuality, a crowd reportedly cheered as they watched him plunge from the top of a seven-story building.

The most recent murders also featured a prominent audience who turned out to watch the young men murdered in a traffic circle — this time reportedly by decapitation. The images show the condemned men, blindfolded and seated on their knees in the middle of a roundabout, reportedly in an unnamed Iraqi town in the country's Nineveh province.

It was not immediately clear why ISIS militants would sudden-

ly choose to behead men accused of being gay, rather than relying on the usual tactic of throwing the accused from the roof of "the tallest building in the city," then stoning them to death if they survive the fall, which militants have claimed is the punishment prescribed by ISIS's interpretation of Islam for the so-called crime of homosexuality. The vast majority of previous reports about ISIS executions of allegedly gay men have been through that method.

News of the group's latest antigay murders comes even as ISIS lost control of Tikrit, the Iraqi city whose biggest claim to fame is that is the birthplace and ancestral home of the country's late dictator, Saddam Hussein.

As LGBT blog Towleroad noted, claims about the victim's sexual orientation are all but impossible to verify. That is not only because being out in conservative Middle Eastern societies is highly uncommon, but also because ISIS militants are notorious for alleging homosexuality as a means to discredit and destroy political enemies.

San Francisco Evangelical Church Drops LGBT Celibacy Requirement

BY JAMES MCDONALD

City Church is the latest urban megachurch to make such a move

City Church service, photographed by Steven Sarfas

In a letter to members, senior pastor Fred Harrell Sr. and board members of City Church in San Francisco announced that they would no longer demand LGBT congregants be celibate. Across the religious spectrum, institutions have been struggling with the question of LGBT members who wish to engage with the church, but whose lifestyles are contrary to prevailing interpretations of scripture. City Church, which regularly sees 1,000 attendees at services across two locations in the city, is the third major urban-centered Evangelical church to change its attitude towards LGBT congregants this year. In January, GracePointe Church in Nashville and Seattle's EastLake Community Church both reversed their celibacy policy.

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The letter sent out by City Church reads:

“Imagine feeling this from your family or religious community, ‘If you stay, you must accept celibacy with no hope that you too might one day enjoy the fullness of intellectual, spiritual, emotional, psychological and physical companionship. If you pursue a life-long partnership, you are rejected.’ This is simply not working and people are being hurt. We must listen and respond.”

Reactions have been mixed, but Laura Turner, communications coordinator for City Church, said that the decision was a carefully considered one. She told the Religion News Service that the move is a result of more than nine months of debate and close examination of religious texts. Furthermore, she added:

“Churches are slowly coming to recognize that if God is bringing people to them who are LGBT they have to meet them where they are and not demand that they change. Telling LGBT people they have to change before they can become Christians is leading to depression, suicide and addiction and we won’t do that anymore.”



Lawyer In California Proposes Killing Gays With 'Sodomite Suppression Act'

By Cavan Sieczkowski, The Huffington Post

A lawyer in California has submitted a ballot initiative with the state Department of Justice calling for the death of anyone who engages in sodomy in the state, the San Diego Gay & Lesbian News reports.



The proposal by Matt McLaughlin, who lists his address in Huntington Beach, was received by the initiative coordinator at the Office of the Attorney General on Feb. 26. Enclosed was a \$200 check and the complete text of his "Sodomite Suppression Act." The act outlines seven measures relating to those who engage in same-sex sodomy, "a monstrous evil that Almighty God, giver of freedom and liberty, commands us to suppress on pain of our utter destruction even as he overthrew Sodom and Gomorrha."

McLaughlin recommends punishment by death, even though a judge ruled that California's death penalty is unconstitutional last June:

Seeing that it is better that offenders should die rather than that all of us should be killed by God's just wrath against us for the

(Continued on page 8)

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folly of tolerating-wickedness in our midst, the People of California wisely command, in the fear of God, that any person who willingly touches another person of the same gender for purposes of sexual gratification be put to death by bullets to the head or by any other convenient method.

The document goes on to push a ban on the distribution of "sodomistic propaganda" (we can only assume he was inspired by Russia, as some note) and on "sodomites" from serving in public office. He also wants the act to be "prominently" displayed in public school classrooms.

Ballot initiatives were added to the California Constitution in 1911 and allow for voters to propose constitutional amendments and statutes to be voted on by the larger populace. After an initiative is submitted, the sponsor must get signatures from five percent of the number of votes in the most recent gubernatorial election, Wonkette notes. That would be more than 350,000.

Kristin Ford, the press secretary with the Office of Attorney General Kamala D. Harris, told The Huffington Post they are in the process of reviewing the initiative.

Op-ed: We're Still Too Shy When Talking About HIV

By Dontá Morrison

You are out on the town and a handsome man catches your eye. He is breathtaking, and in your heart you pray that his conversational skills match his physique. Your heart skips a beat when he is able to complete a full sentence, and your mind instantly conjures images of your wedding on an island in Greece: cobalt blue waters, warm breezes, and white doves released in celebration of your union. You'll be enjoying a long life together filled with happiness, love, and sexual satisfaction.

That fantasy, however, can never be reality without first talking about sex, condoms, HIV, sexually transmitted diseases, and more. Isn't that a mood killer? Why do we always have to talk about this stuff? And when are we supposed to? During the first conversation?

There are many reasons why people — even in this day of instant communication — still have a hard time verbally expressing themselves. If a man is living with HIV, he may think, "If I tell too soon, this person I just met may share my business with the world." That is definitely reason for hesitancy, but it doesn't negate the fact that the talk needs to occur. It is also safe to assume that no one wants to be rejected for something so common within the gay community. Amazingly enough, however, there are many gay men who will have anonymous sex with men whose status they do not know, but then vehemently refuse to date or be in a relationship with people who are openly living with HIV, regardless of whether they're in care or not. That speaks volumes about HIV-related stigma and why so many men refuse to disclose. It also says a lot about the kinds of conversations we have, and the ones we don't.

Dating can be a complex and draining experience, especially for people who are intent on finding Mr. Right. Quite often, I hear friends boast with glee about their new suitors and wonder whether the only questions they asked they guys were:

"What's your sign? What do you do for fun? Are you full vegetarian or pescetarian?" I

know that during the get-to-know-you phase, people usually steer away from the real get-to-know-you questions that may shatter the dream of a beautiful courtship. Questions about sexual history, HIV, STDs, past relationships, and more are not easy to have in the beginning, but when exactly should they begin? Is it a second date discussion, or should it only be brought up when sex is a possibility? There's no definite answer, but I would say this to my friends, and anyone else: Say something. Start the conversation, even if it sounds awkward, even if you think he might not like it.

As gay men, we are bombarded with HIV statistics, messages, and images. The constant reminders to "be safe" and "use condoms" — or now maybe how we might take the little blue pill called PrEP — are a looming presence some of us would like to escape, especially when we're just trying to get to know someone. You would think this constant messaging would make conversations about HIV easier, but fear and resistance are still present, especially during the early stages of dating.

Those of us who are actively dating are weary of trying to figure out how to incorporate HIV, PrEP, condoms, or anything else associated with the responsibilities of gay sex into our conversations with other men. These can be taxing topics, especially for those on the disclosing end. Yet we know that it's necessary. Maybe if HIV became a normal, "by the way" conversation, people wouldn't be so resistant to having it. Maybe if we were taught that sex should be a positive, connecting experience with another person, this would feel as easy as asking a man his sign.

It all boils down to communication. Whether we are disclosing our HIV status or other need-to-know information, we should be willing to have these exchanges if healthy and honest relationships are what we truly desire. Talking is a way to overcome fear — to make a real connection — and to show that guy you meet what makes you stand apart from others. If you want that Greek wedding, what are you going to say?

DONTA MORRISON is an HIV advocate, blogger, and the host of the online radio show "Diggin Deep with Dontá." He is a program coordinator at APLA Health & Wellness's Gleicher / Chen Health Center in Los Angeles, where he oversees the R3VNG campaign, an HIV awareness initiative for young gay men of color.



Life Beyond Therapy

By Michael Kimmel

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Porn Detox

Porn Detox To detox is to eliminate poisons from our system. Too much “junk sex”, like too much junk food, can also poison our system. From talking to my clients, it seems like there is an awful lot of porn-focused sex going on in the LGBT community.



There's nothing wrong with porn: it's erotic, it can be exciting, you can use it to get off or to watch with a partner (or partners) to make your sex life even more interesting. But porn, like junk food, is best consumed judiciously.

Too much junk food and your body is unhappy. Too much junk porn and your mind is unhappy. It may feel good to get off on your favorite porn fantasies on a regular basis, but how does this affect how you interact sexually with REAL people?

For this reason, I have suggested to more than a few of my clients that they consider a Porn Detox. This is a term I made up to describe laying off the porn for a while to see what happens.

What I've noticed in my work as a psychotherapist to the San Diego LGBT community is that too much fantasy-based sex often makes real life sex seem lame. Not only that, but since porn sex is so artificial (e.g., the boring parts are edited out so only the best parts are on screen), some of us begin to believe that our sexual experiences with real people pale in comparison with what we see in porn.

Real people are much less predictable than porn: they aren't always in the mood when you are, they may not know just what to do that makes you feel good, they want you to do things that you may not be into. In short: real people are more work. Porn is easy; real people are not (pun intended).

Real people, however, can offer you much, much more. A lot of men and women in the community tell me that they're lonely. They long for someone to fall asleep with, wake up with, cuddle with. Only real people can offer you this.

So, how to find your ideal balance of real people sex vs. porn sex? I suggest some experimentation. If you are a habitual porn watcher, stop it for a while and do something else instead. You could get out of the house - on a walk, to a coffee shop - and be around some real people. Experiment.

Often, we masturbate to porn because we're bored. Or lonely. Porn is often a substitute for a more interesting life. Stop watching so much porn and you might learn something useful about yourself.

Please know that I am not against porn: I too enjoy porn on occasion, and there's nothing wrong with porn, it's what we do with it that makes it either a treat or a substitute for a more interesting life.

A little bit of porn is like something amazing from Extraordinary Desserts: you don't need much to enjoy the effects. If you ate at Extraordinary Desserts every day, it wouldn't be special for very long: you'd get bored with that too (plus you'd probably gain a few pounds).

On the other hand, if you rarely watch porn, but find your sex life is kind of boring, you might try a little of it. Watch it with your partner or by yourself. It can be an interesting addition to a sex life (with or without a partner) that may have become rather predictable. Watching some porn that isn't your typical thing, e.g., BDSM, leather, fetishes, could lead to a discussion that could make your sex life more interesting.

If you watch a lot of porn, cut back. Porn, like food, can be a substitute for a less-than-satisfying life. Don't just watch more porn and feel worse: try watching less porn and replace it with something that makes you feel better about yourself.

Porn detox - like junk food detox - may be a bit unpleasant in the short run, but, in the long run, it could really make your life a whole lot more fulfilling. Why not give it a try? I suggest that you start with a week and see what happens...



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Metro Omaha GLBT Center**
(mail address: PO Box 8583 Omaha NE 68108)

**We closed the Center as of
December 2nd, 2013.**

**The Gayzette will continue to
be published and our hotline
and web site will continue.**

**We appreciate the past sup-
port for the Center but it be-
came clear that it was time to
close and become a virtual
Center. We feel we can ac-
complish much more for the
GLBT community in this way.**

**Thanks,
George Broadway
Board Chair and Gayzette editor
Email: Gayzette@cox.net
Www.rainbowoutreach.org**

WEEKLY EVENTS

Every Sunday

WORSHIP SERVICES:
AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH,
ELCA, 3647 Lafayette Ave., Omaha GLBT
friendly, www.augustanalutheran.com

DIETZ METHODIST 1423 S.10, Coffee-
house 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, 9:30
a.m. "eclectic service" and 11:15 a.m.
"traditional service"

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

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

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

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

RIVER CITY MIXED BOWLING LEAGUE,
3pm, Maplewood Lanes, at 402-572-9393

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

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

WIMMIN'S SHOW, KZUM 89.3 12:30pm

Every Monday
A A GLBT "RAINBOW GROUP"
Meeting Place, 28 & S, Lincoln, 7:30 pm

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

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

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

Every Tuesday
HASTINGS COLLEGE ALLIANCE, meet
Tuesdays at 7PM (when college is in session).
Please contact Dr Antje Anderson at [aander-
son@hastings.edu](mailto:aander-
son@hastings.edu) or Judy Sandeen at
jsandeen@hastings.edu for further information.

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

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

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

FRONTRUNNERS RUN/WALK
6:30pm, Elmwood Park Parking Lot by softball
field, Omaha (402-804-8720)

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

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

NAP HIV TESTING, 250 South 77th St., by
appointment only on Wednesdays from 1:30 to
3:30pm

UNITY CHURCH OF OMAHA, 7pm

Every Thursday
NAP HIV TESTING 250 So. 77th., by
appointment from 1:30pm to 3:30pm and
Walk-In from 5pm to 8pm

Every Friday
LIVE & LET LIVE AA Meeting,
8:15pm to 9:15pm, Open to men and women,
at Underwood Hills Presbyterian Church, 851
North 74th Street

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

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

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

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

MONTHLY EVENTS

1st Monday

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

1st Thursday

GLBT PROFESSIONALS, meeting at
5:30pm in various locations. Email at: [GOg-
lbt@cfep-ne.org](mailto:GOg-
lbt@cfep-ne.org) or see www.GOglbt.org for
info

1st Friday

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

1st Sunday

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

SPIRITUAL FRIENDS OF LINCOLN

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

2nd Monday

NAP HIV TESTING
Respect Clinic, walk-in from 5:00pm to 7pm
—50th & Ames Ave.

2nd Thursday

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

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

3rd Monday

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

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

3rd Sunday

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

4th Monday

NAP HIV TESTING

Respect Clinic, walk-in from 5:00pm to 7pm—50th & Ames Ave.

4th Tuesday

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

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

Phone Ringing

'Hello?'

'Hi honey.
This is Daddy. Is Mommy near the phone?'

'No, Daddy. She's upstairs in the bedroom with Uncle Gabe.'

After a brief pause, Daddy says, 'But honey, you haven't got an Uncle Gabe.'

'Oh yes I do, and he's upstairs in the room with Mommy, right now..'

Brief Pause. 'Uh, okay then, this is what I want you to do. Put the phone down on the table, run upstairs and knock on the bedroom door and shout to Mommy that Daddy's car just pulled into the driveway.'

'Okay, Daddy, just a minute.'

A few minutes later the little girl comes back to the phone. 'I did it, Daddy.'

'And what happened, honey?'

'Well, Mommy got all scared, jumped out of bed with no clothes on and ran around screaming.'

Then she tripped over the rug, hit her head on the dresser and now she isn't moving at all!'

'Oh my God!!! What about your Uncle Gabe?'

'He jumped out of the bed with no clothes on, too. He was all scared and he jumped out of the back window and into the swimming pool. but I guess he didn't know that you took out the water last week to clean it.'

He hit the bottom of the pool and I think he's dead.'

Long Pause
Longer Pause
Even Longer Pause
Then Daddy says, 'Swimming pool?

Is this 486-5731?'

No, I think you have the wrong number.....

Channel Surfing

An older gay couple was at home watching TV. Gene had the remote control and was switching back and forth between the Fishing Channel and the Porn Channel.

John became more and more annoyed and finally said, "Gene, for God's sake! Leave it on the Porn Channel. You already know how to fish!!"

Don't Mess With ALEX

I was the guy with the black Burberry jacket that you demanded I hand over, shortly after you pulled the knife on me and my girlfriend. You also asked for my girlfriend's purse and earrings.

I hope you somehow come across this message. I'd like to apologize. I didn't expect you to crap in your pants when I drew my pistol after you took my jacket. Truth is, I was wearing the jacket for a reason that evening, and it wasn't that cold outside.

You see, my girlfriend had just bought me that Kimber Model 1911 .45 A CP pistol for Christmas, and we had just picked up a shoulder holster for it that evening. Beautiful pistol, eh?

It's a very intimidating weapon when pointed at your head, isn't it? I know it probably wasn't a great deal of fun walking back to wherever you'd come from with that brown sludge flopping about in your pants. I'm sure it was even worse since you also ended up leaving your shoes, cellphone, and wallet with me. I couldn't have you calling up any of your buddies to come help you try to mug us again.

I took the liberty of calling your mother, or

"Momma" as you had her listed in your cell, and explaining to her your situation. I also bought myself and four other people in the gas station this morning a tank full of gas on your credit card. The guy with the big motor home took 150 gallons and was extremely grateful! I gave your shoes to one of the homeless guys over by Vinnie Van Go Go's, along with all of the cash in your wallet..

I threw the wallet in a fancy pink "pimp mobile" parked at the curb after I broke the windshield and side window out and keyed the drivers side. I called a bunch of phone sex numbers from your cellphone. They'll be on your bill in case you'd like to know which ones. Ma Bell just shut down the line, and I've only had the phone for a little over a day now, so I don't know what's going on with that. I hope they haven't permanently cut off your service.

I could only get in two threatening phone calls to the DA's office and one to the FBI with it. The FBI guy was really pissed and we had a long chat (I guess while he traced the number).

I'd also like to apologize for not killing you and instead making you walk back home humiliated. I'm hoping that you'll reconsider your choice of path in life. Next time you might not be so lucky..

Alex

A Police Stop

John Brewer was stopped by the police around 2 a.m. and is asked where he is going at this time of night.

John replies, "I am on my way to a lecture about alcohol abuse and the effects it has on the human body, as well as smoking and staying out late."

The officer then asks, "Really? Who is giving that lecture at this time of night?"

The man replies, "That would be my wife."

Password

During a recent password audit by a company, it was found that an employee was using the following password:

"MickeyMinniePlutoHueyLouieDeweyDonaldGoofySacramento"

When asked why she had such a long password, she rolled her eyes and said:

"Hello! It has to be at least 8 characters long and include at least one capital."

We laugh -- but her I.D. is safe.

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>

Camp Kindle, Nebraska based summer camp for kids affected by HIV/AIDS, 877.800.CAMP, www.CampKindle.org

Citizens for Equal Protection 1105 Howard St. Suite 2, Omaha NE 68102, 398-3027 www.cfep-ne.org, email to: Michael@cfep-ne.org

Family Foundations Therapy for individuals, couples or families, for info call 558-3856

First Central Congregational Church UCC, 421 South 36th St., 402-345-1533, www.firstcentral.org, GLBT-affirming

First Lutheran Church, 542 So. 31st St., 402-345-7506, GLBT Friendly www.firstlutheranoma.org

First Unitarian Church, 3114 Harney Street, 402-345-3039, www.firstunitarian.org, GLBT Welcoming Congregation

First United Methodist Church, 7020 Cass St., 402-556-6262, www.fumcomaha.org, GLBT-affirming

Front Water Bears, (group disbanded)

Front Runners/Walkers, Wednesdays at 6:30pm, Elmwood Park Parking Lot by softball field, Omaha (402-804-8720)

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

GayLibrary.com, World Wide Resources

GOglbt Professionals, meeting at 5:30PM. Email at: GOglbt@cfep-ne.org or see www.GOglbt.org for info

Greater Omaha LGBT Democrats <http://omahalgbtDemocrats.wordpress.com> - contact Ken @ 402-686-6389 See also <http://ProgressiveOasis.com>

Heartland Pride www.heartlandpride.org, email: info@heartlandpride.org; meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 6:30pm to 8pm. @ D. Dale Clark Library

Ice Bowl Invitational Bowling Tournament (IBIT) P.O. Box 31838, Omaha, 68131 R. Hollendieck (402) 556-5556

Imperial Court of Nebraska, Box 3772, Omaha 68103, www.imperialcourtofnebraska.org

Inclusive Life 402-575-7006 www.inclusivelife.org Offering religious and non-religious care and services to all without exception. Weddings, Funerals, Coaching and Pastoral Care.

Learning to Exchange Power, no current info available

Leather Engineers of Omaha (LEO) not currently meeting

Metro Omaha Prime Timers, provides a welcoming and supportive environment to

mature gay and bi men and their fans to encourage participation in fun, cultural, educational or social activities. Email PrimeTimersEvents@gmail.com for more information & schedule. Also on Facebook as Metro Omaha Prime Timers

Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha, 819 S. 22 St., Omaha 68108 345-2563, mccomaha@mccomaha.org Website: www.mccomaha.org Sunday Worship 9:30am and 11:15am

NAMI - Community Mental Health Support for the LGBTIQ community 415 South 25th Ave, Omaha, NE 402-345-8101 or 877-463-6264

NA Rainbow Group, Narcotics Anonymous, meets Friday thru Monday at 10pm, MCC-Omaha Church, 819 South 22nd St

Nebraska AIDS Project, 250 So. 77th St., HIV testing and counseling

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

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

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

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

Omaha NE Gay Pride Web Page <http://ONGP.com>; email to: omahanegaypride@cox.net or ongp1@cox.net

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

River City Mixed Chorus, Box 3267, Omaha, NE 68103, 402-341-SING

Website: www.rcmc.org

Second Unitarian Church, 3012 S 119th St., Omaha, www.2uomaha.org, 402-334-0537, LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation

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

Temple Israel Synagogue, 7023 Cass St., 402-556-6536, member of the Union for Reform Judaism, GLBT inclusive

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

Youth Emergency Services, Inc. (Y.E.S.) Offices: 2679 Farnam Street, Suite. 205 Omaha, NE 68131, 402-345-5187, email to info@yesomaha.org

Y.E.S. Drop-in Center, 2057 Harney Street Omaha, NE 68102, 402-505-6922

LINCOLN BASED

GLBT and Allies coffee house, 3rd Fridays, Unitarian Church, 6300 A, 7:30 to 10:30pm

LGBTQ and Ally Programs and Services Resource Center, Pat Tetreault, LGBTQ Resource Center Director, <http://involved.unl.edu/lgbtqa> - 402.472.1752 or 402-472-1652 <http://www.unl.edu/health/sexuality>

Lincoln Women's Center, Lincoln 402/472-2597.

Nebraska AIDS Project, 1120 K Street Suite 100, Lincoln, NE 68508, (402) 476-7000

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

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

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

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

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

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

Straight Spouse Support Grp 402-429-6094

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

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

cglbtc
Women In Trades/YWCA, 1432 N St., Lincoln 68508; 434-3494,
Youth Support Group, (402) 434-9880

Iowa Based

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

Council Bluffs Community Alliance
www.councilbluffscommunityalliance.org

Council Bluffs Pride, www.councilbluffspride.org

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

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

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

Nationally Based

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

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The Hungry Homo

Creamy Pork Chops

Ingredients:

6 pork chops
salt, pepper, and garlic powder to taste
1/2 cup all-purpose flour
1 large onion, sliced 1/4 inch thick
2 cubes chicken bouillon
2 cups boiling water
2 Tbsp. all-purpose flour
1 (8 ounce) sour cream

Methods/Steps:

Season pork chops with salt, pepper, and garlic powder, and then press into 1/2 cup flour. In a skillet over medium heat, lightly brown chops in a small amount of oil.

Place chops in crock-pot, and top with onion slices. Dissolve bouillon cubes in boiling water and pour over chops. Cover, and cook on Low 7 to 8 hours. Preheat oven to 200 degrees F.

After the chops have cooked, transfer chops to the oven to keep warm. The chops are very tender so be careful that they don't fall apart.

In a small bowl, blend 2 Tbsp. flour with the sour cream; mix into meat juices. Turn slow cooker to High for 15 to 30 minutes, or until sauce is slightly thickened. Serve sauce over pork chops.

Makes 6 servings



Where Can You Find The Gayzette?

Omaha:

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

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

Homemade Orange Sherbet

Ingredients

1 1/2 cups orange juice
3/4 cup sugar
3 cups milk, scalded and cooled
1 (15 oz.) can crushed pineapple in natural juices

Methods/Steps

In a bowl, combine orange juice and sugar and blend thoroughly.

Add milk and mix.

Place in chilled ice cube trays without dividers or a shallow pan; freeze until mushy.

Place mixture in a mixing bowl and whip. Add pineapple and juices. Return to trays or pan and freeze.

Makes 16 servings



Kyle's Bed & Breakfast by Greg Fox



YOU'RE UP EARLY.

IT'S ALMOST 9:00 A.M., PRICE.

HOW DO YOU FEEL?



I'M ALL RIGHT. I MEAN...
...ASIDE FROM A SLIGHT HANGOVER...
... I'M IN A MUCH MORE CONGRUOUS STATE THAN I WAS LAST NIGHT.



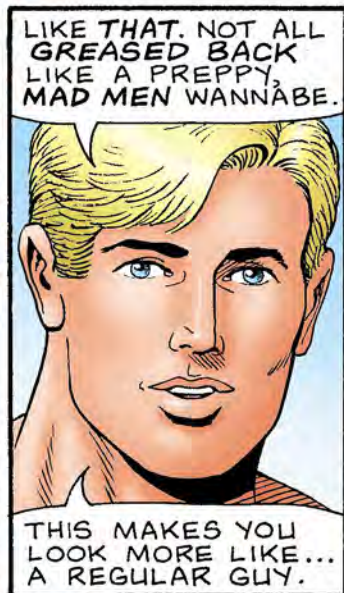
THANK YOU, BRAD... FOR LETTING ME SLEEP HERE.

IT REALLY... HELPED.



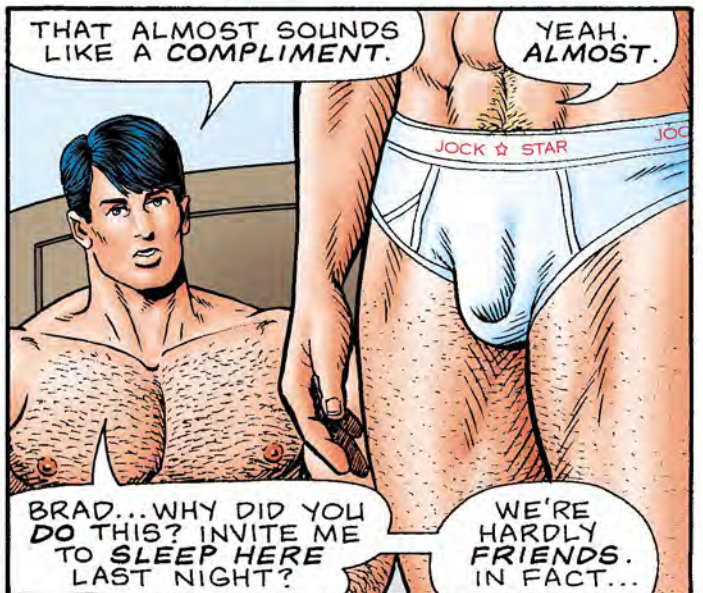
I LIKE YOUR HAIR BETTER LIKE THAT.

LIKE WHAT?



LIKE THAT. NOT ALL GREASED BACK LIKE A PREPPY, MAD MEN WANNABE.

THIS MAKES YOU LOOK MORE LIKE... A REGULAR GUY.

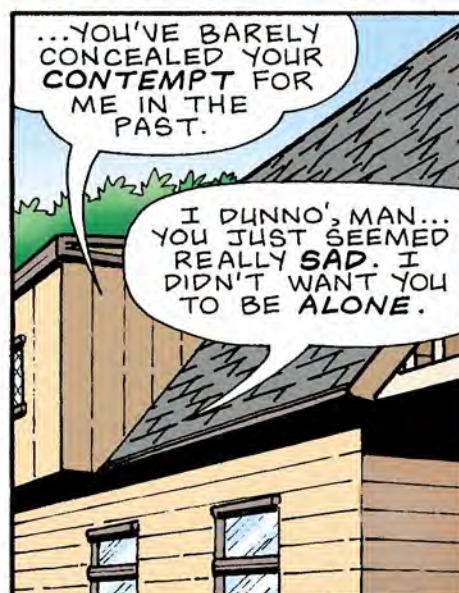


THAT ALMOST SOUNDS LIKE A COMPLIMENT.

YEAH. ALMOST.

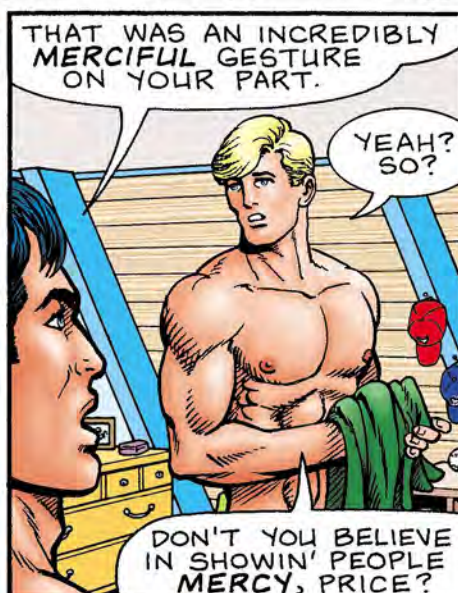
BRAD... WHY DID YOU DO THIS? INVITE ME TO SLEEP HERE LAST NIGHT?

WE'RE HARDLY FRIENDS. IN FACT...



...YOU'VE BARELY CONCEALED YOUR CONTEMPT FOR ME IN THE PAST.

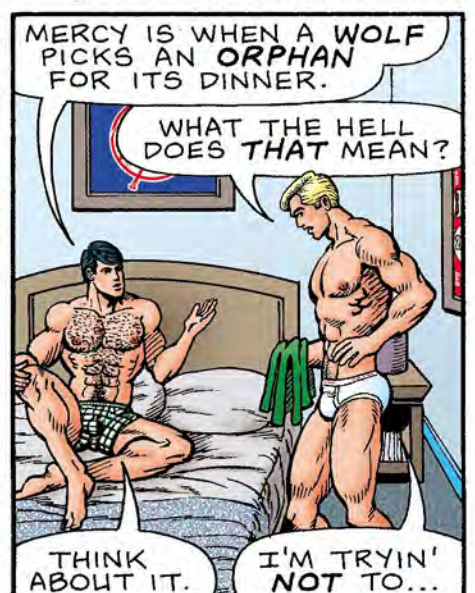
I DUNNO', MAN... YOU JUST SEEMED REALLY SAD. I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO BE ALONE.



THAT WAS AN INCREDIBLY MERCIFUL GESTURE ON YOUR PART.

YEAH? SO?

DON'T YOU BELIEVE IN SHOWIN' PEOPLE MERCY, PRICE?



MERCY IS WHEN A WOLF PICKS AN ORPHAN FOR ITS DINNER.

WHAT THE HELL DOES THAT MEAN?

THINK ABOUT IT.

I'M TRYIN' NOT TO...

The Naked Truth About Trans Man's Re-Creation of Adam Levine Photo

By Dawn Ennis

Perfect pecs. Chiseled abs. Sculpted muscles, up and down. Tantalizing tattoos. Small pink nipples that say “come hither.”

All that and much more of model Aydian Dowling’s buff body is on display in a portrait for next month’s issue of FTM Magazine, which will include a pull-out poster. The idea was the brainchild of FTM founder and CEO Jason Robert Ballard.

“He thought it could be powerful,” Dowling tells The Advocate. “I knew it was something me and my wife, Jenilee, would have to think about.”

Ballard envisioned a re-creation of Maroon 5 front man Adam Levine’s 2011 nude portrait for Cosmopolitan UK’s campaign to promote cancer awareness among men. Dowling’s pose will grace the spring issue of FTM to create awareness of trans men, and challenge stereotypes about transgender people and what they look like.

Like Levine, Dowling doesn’t pose nude for a living, and says being photographed naked “is a strange feeling, for sure.”

“I’m not a professional model of any kind, unless selfies count, so I wasn’t really sure what to expect leading up to the shot,” he says. “In some ways I really was never naked — my wife’s hands were covering the goods. It was just Jenilee, Jason, and I in the room. Small, comfortable, and naked.”

The result, especially when compared side by side with the picture of Levine, is a fascinating study in what we perceive to be masculine, with (almost) nothing left to the imagination.

The photograph has gone viral, appearing in print, on TV, and online, in venues including BuzzFeed and MSNBC. Dowling tells The Advocate he was floored by the reaction.



“To know it would be considered ‘viral’ is kind of crazy!” he says. “Even my mom has seen this shot! Hundreds of thousands of people that I have never even seen their face or known their name, but they know me naked. Overall, I must say it is empowering.”

And he says the power comes from the message that image sends: “Trans bodies are human bodies. We are everyone you wouldn’t ‘think’ we are. There is a misconception of what transgender is supposed to look like. We are all sizes, shapes, colors, and sexual identities. We are in every country, state, city, everywhere. We deserve visibility, human rights, and support.”

Dowling is an active member of the transgender community, as a speaker, a video blogger on YouTube where he documents his five years of transition, and the owner of Point 5cc, a clothing company that makes “stealth-style” fashions for transgender men. In addition, his company started the first national binder exchange program, and a fund to help trans men who want top surgery but can’t afford it.

The photograph may have given Dowling and his causes greater exposure, but he says the last thing he wants is for people to see him as an ideal. “I think it’s important that all transgender individuals know that my image is not what someone should or shouldn’t look like. It’s important people find this picture uplifting, and make transgender people proud.”

Nibble for NAP!

On the 2nd Tuesday of each month join us for dinner at a participating restaurant! A portion of the proceeds from each restaurant comes back to NAP!

4/14 - Spaghetti Works
(both locations)

5/12 - Varsity Sports Cafe
(96th & Q and Dundee)

More restaurants coming soon!



www.nap.org

nap
NEBRASKA AIDS PROJECT

250 South 77th Street, Suite A
Omaha, NE 68114

(Located behind McDonald's at 77th & Dodge Street)

www.nap.org

402-552-9260

RUNWAY WRAP UP

4.23.15

**TIP TOP
BALLROOM
1502 CUMING
OMAHA, NE 68102**

**DOORS OPEN 6:30PM
SHOWTIME 7:00PM**

**TICKETS: GENERAL ADMISSION \$15
RUNWAY SEAT \$30
RUNWAY TABLE \$500
(SEATS 10, INCLUDES COMPLIMENTARY
WINE AND CHEESE)**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER AS
A DESIGNER VISIT WWW.NAP.ORG**

**FACEBOOK.COM/NEBRASKA.AIDS.PROJECT
@NEAIDSPROJECT #RUNWAYWRAPUP2015**

